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# The Pot Maker

## Summary

The Pot Maker is a story about a young girl named Sentila who wants to learn the traditional craft of pot making. In her village, pottery is an important skill, but it is not commonly taught to girls.

Sentila is curious and determined. She watches others and tries to learn by herself. A woman named Arenla, who knows the craft, notices her interest. Even though there are social expectations and challenges, Arenla eventually helps Sentila understand the process of making pots.

The story shows how Sentila practices again and again. At first, she struggles, but slowly she improves. Her hard work and passion help her gain confidence and skill.

In the end, the story highlights that skills should not be limited by gender and that dedication can help anyone achieve their goals.

### **Message of the Story:**

- Everyone has the right to learn and grow
- Passion and dedication are more important than rules or traditions
- We should respect and preserve traditional skills

### New Terms

- **Potter** – A person who makes pots and utensils from clay
- **Clay** – Soft, sticky soil used to make pots
- **Kiln** – A special oven used to bake and harden pots
- **Wheel (Potter's Wheel)** – A rotating device used to shape clay into pots
- **Mould** – A shape or container used to form something
- **Craft** – A skill, especially one that involves making things by hand
- **Tradition** – Customs or practices passed down from generation to generation
- **Skill** – The ability to do something well
- **Practice** – Repeating something to improve
- **Determination** – Strong will to achieve something
- **Encourage** – To give support or confidence
- **Struggle** – To try hard to do something difficult
- **Confidence** – Belief in oneself
- **Technique** – A method of doing something
- **Shape** – The form of something
- **Artisan** – A skilled worker who makes things by hand
- **Passion** – Strong interest or love for something
- **Gender roles** – Social expectations for boys and girls
- **Dedication** – Hard work and commitment
- **Traditional craft** – Handmade work passed through generations

## Reflect and Respond

I. Look at the pictures given below and identify the vocations. Now, list at least five more vocations.



Ans. Identify the vocations in the pictures -

- **The vocations shown in the pictures are:**
  - a. Basket weaver
  - b. Potter
  - c. Weaver
  - d. Carpenter
- **Five more vocations:**
  - a. Farmer
  - b. Teacher
  - c. Doctor
  - d. Tailor
  - e. Electrician

II. Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions and share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. What is common among these pictures?

Ans. All the pictures show people doing skill-based, handmade work. These jobs require practice, creativity, and traditional skills.

2. We refer to such skill-based work as

v \_ \_ \_ a \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ s.

Ans. vocations

3. Mention a few differences between handmade and machine-made products.

Ans.

Handmade Products	Machine-made Products
1. Made by hand	1. Made by machines
2. Unique and artistic	2. Same design (uniform)
3. Take more time	3. Produced quickly
4. Require more skill	4. Require less manual skill
5. Often more expensive	5. Usually cheaper

### CheckYour Understanding

#### I. Do you think pot making is easy? Why/Why not?

**Ans.** No, pot making is not easy because it requires skill, practice, and patience. A person must learn how to shape the clay properly on the wheel and give it the right form. Even a small mistake can spoil the pot.

#### II. Would Sentila be able to fulfil her dream of becoming a pot maker? Explain.

**Ans.** Yes, Sentila would be able to fulfil her dream because she is determined, hardworking, and eager to learn. She practises regularly and does not give up despite difficulties, which helps her improve her skills.

#### III. Do you think Mesoba and Arenla would support Sentila? Give a reason.

**Ans.** Yes, Mesoba and Arenla would support Sentila because they understand her interest and dedication. Arenla, in particular, guides her and helps her learn the craft, showing encouragement and support.

### CheckYour Understanding

#### I. Do you think Onula's support helped Sentila? Why/Why not?

**Ans.** Yes, Onula's support helped Sentila because she guided and encouraged her in learning pot making. Her support gave Sentila confidence and helped her improve her skills.

#### II. Sentila observes her mother making pots. What does this tell us about her?

**Ans.** This shows that Sentila is curious, attentive, and eager to learn. She learns by observing carefully and has a strong interest in pot making.

#### III. Arrange the following events of the story in the correct sequence. Share your answer with your classmates and teacher.

1. The village council called Mesoba to know about Arenla's unwillingness to teach pottery to Sentila.	
2. Arenla made a new batch of pots and asked Sentila to continue the work as she was unwell.	
3. Sentila observed how other expert potters crafted beautiful pots.	
4. Sentila was passionate about pottery but did not share it with her mother.	
5. Onula guided Sentila in the art of pot making.	
6. Sentila overheard her mother saying that pot making was a tiring job and that she earned very little from it.	
7. Onula observed two rows of pots inside the work shed, which she felt was the work of two people.	
8. Sentila learnt the art of pot making for a year from her mother, but was unsuccessful.	
9. Sentila was able to make pots quickly and skillfully, just one less than her mother's.	

Ans.

Step	Event
1	– Sentila was passionate about pottery but did not share it with her mother.
2	– Sentila overheard her mother saying that pot making was a tiring job and that she earned very little from it.
3	– Sentila observed how other expert potters crafted beautiful pots.
4	– Onula guided Sentila in the art of pot making.
5	– Sentila learnt the art of pot making for a year from her mother, but was unsuccessful.
6	– Arenla made a new batch of pots and asked Sentila to continue the work as she was unwell.
7	– Sentila was able to make pots quickly and skillfully, just one less than her mother's.
8	– Onula observed two rows of pots inside the work shed, which she felt was the work of two people.
9	– The village council called Mesoba to know about Arenla's unwillingness to teach pottery to Sentila.

### Critical Reflection

One Point Learning

I. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Pounding the stubborn clay inside bamboo cylinders to soften it, is also tedious. So many times I've dropped the mould out of sheer exhaustion and have had to start all over again. It takes months to bring out a batch of pots after so much labour. And the reward? A few rupees. But if Sentila learns weaving, she can make much more money besides providing enough cloth for the family. Weaving is not messy like pot making and can be done indoors in all seasons. Also, the time spent on weaving one shawl is much less and the return is handsome.

(i) Choose the correct reason for the given assertion.

(A): The effort in making pots is far greater than the returns.

A. The process of pot making is quite tiresome and long, and one hardly earns much.

B. The process of pot making is exhausting, takes a long time, yet gives a sense of satisfaction.

Ans. A. The process of pot making is quite tiresome and long, and one hardly earns much.

(ii) Why does Arenla want Sentila to learn weaving?

Ans. Arenla wants Sentila to learn weaving because it is less tiring, cleaner, quicker, and gives better income than pot making.

(iii) State one advantage that weaving has over pot making, as per the extract.

Ans. Weaving can be done indoors in all seasons.

(iv) Choose the sentence that uses the word 'handsome' in the same way as in the extract.

A. My father is a handsome man.

B. They will make a handsome profit selling this property.

Ans. B. They will make a handsome profit selling this property.

(v) 'And the reward?' What is the author's purpose of using a question mark here?

Ans. The question mark is used to show disappointment and highlight how little reward is received after so much hard work.

2. Onula saw her taking out some clay and the implements from her basket quietly. She watched Sentila's clumsy efforts to make a pot and noticed that Sentila was too tense. As a result, the clay seemed unable or unwilling to yield the right shape. When Sentila wearily let the misshapen lump fall flat on the ground, Onula went to her and said, "Don't worry, little one, I shall teach you how to make a perfect pot." Sentila watched in amazement as Onula fashioned a beautiful pot and asked her to try again.

(i) Complete the sentence with an appropriate reason.

• Onula feels Sentila's effort at making a pot is clumsy because \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans. Onula feels Sentila's effort is clumsy because she was too tense and inexperienced.

(ii) Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence.

'Don't worry, little one, I shall teach you how to make a perfect pot.'

• This shows that Onula was \_\_\_\_\_.

A. sincere and generous

B. forgiving and thoughtful

C. thoughtful and generous

D. forgiving and sincere

Ans. C. thoughtful and generous

(iii) Which among the following is the effect of a cause?

A. As a result, the clay seemed unable or unwilling to yield the right shape.

B. Onula saw her taking out some clay and the implements from her basket quietly.

Ans. A. As a result, the clay seemed unable or unwilling to yield the right shape.

(iv) 'Onula fashioned a beautiful pot.' Here, the word 'fashioned' means \_\_\_\_\_.

(created/styled)

Ans. created

(v) How might Sentila have felt when she saw 'the misshapen lump fall flat on the ground'?

Ans. Sentila might have felt disappointed, upset, and discouraged.

II. Answer the following questions.

1. Describe the process of pot making followed by expert pot makers, as observed by Sentila.

Ans. Expert pot makers first prepare and soften the clay, then shape it carefully on the wheel. After that, they smooth, dry, and bake the pots to make them strong and usable.

2. What warning was given to Mesoba by the village council?

Ans. The village council warned Mesoba that skills like pot making should not be kept secret and must be passed on, as they belong to the whole community.

3. How did Sentila feel when she failed at pot making even after a year of training with her mother?

Ans. Sentila felt sad, discouraged, and frustrated, but she did not give up her dream.

4. 'Onula stood there for a long time as if trying to absorb a new phenomenon'. Explain.

Ans. Onula stood for a long time because she was surprised and impressed by Sentila's hidden talent and improvement, which seemed like something new and remarkable.

5. 'The tradition and history of the people did not belong to any individual,' what does this symbolise?

Ans. It symbolises that traditional skills and culture belong to the entire community, not just one person.

**6. What is the significance of the concluding line of the story, 'A new pot maker was born'?**

**Ans.** It means that Sentila finally became skilled and confident, fulfilling her dream of becoming a pot maker.

**7. What is the role of perseverance in pursuing one's dreams? Elaborate with reference to Sentila.**

**Ans.** Perseverance means never giving up despite failure. Sentila kept trying even after many failures, and with determination and guidance, she finally succeeded. This shows that hard work and patience lead to success.

### Vocabulary and Structures in Context

**I. Read the highlighted words in the following sentences from the text.**

**8.** She taught Sentila how to dig the clay with dao, load it on to her carrying basket...

**9.** Sentila was a quick learner and turned the clay into malleable dough. Pounding the stubborn clay inside bamboo cylinders to soften it ...

The highlighted words describe the tools and materials required in the process of pot making.

Now, classify the words/phrases given in the box as shown in the table below. One example for each category has been done for you.

<i>dao</i>	dough	pounding	bamboo
clay	kiln	spatula	basket
cylinders	rotating	bed of hay	shaping

Tools/Implements	Raw Materials	Process
<i>dao</i>	dough	pounding

**Ans.**

Tools/Implements	Raw Materials	Process
dao	clay	pounding
basket	dough	shaping
spatula	bamboo	rotating
cylinders	bed of hay	

**II. Notice the use of the following words in the text.**

pittance      rupees      reward      return

These words relate to livelihood and economic aspects that are crucial for any enterprise/business/vocation.

Work in pairs and find the meanings of the following words related to economy. You may refer to a dictionary.

bankrupt	credit	currency	debt
fiscal	inflation	investment	interest

Now, frame sentences using each word.

Ans. Meanings & Sentences -

• **Meanings:**

1. **Bankrupt** – having no money; unable to pay debts
2. **Credit** – money borrowed or ability to borrow
3. **Currency** – money used in a country
4. **Debt** – money owed
5. **Fiscal** – related to government money or finance
6. **Inflation** – rise in prices over time
7. **Investment** – putting money to gain profit
8. **Interest** – extra money paid for borrowing

• **Sentences:**

1. **Bankrupt** – The company went bankrupt due to heavy losses.
2. **Credit** – He bought the phone on credit.
3. **Currency** – The currency of India is the rupee.
4. **Debt** – She is trying to repay her debt.
5. **Fiscal** – The government announced a new fiscal policy.
6. **Inflation** – Inflation has increased the cost of living.
7. **Investment** – He made an investment in a new business.
8. **Interest** – The bank charges interest on loans.

IX. Read the following sentences from the text. The main clause has been underlined and the subordinate clause has been circled.

- ... she realised that the pot was ready.
- She intuitively sensed that something momentous had

Subordinate clauses that act like nouns and perform the same functions as subject or object are called **noun clauses**.

1. Complete the following sentences with suitable noun clauses.

- i. The elders emphasised that \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. Mesoba explained why \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. Onula's promise was that \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Sentila observed her mother carefully when she was shaping the mouth of the pot, which \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. The kiln, where \_\_\_\_\_, required careful attention to prevent over-or-under firing.

Ans. Complete the sentences

- i. The elders emphasised that pot making should be shared with everyone.
- ii. Mesoba explained why Arenla did not want to teach Sentila.
- iii. Onula's promise was that she would teach Sentila pot making.
- iv. Sentila observed her mother carefully when she was shaping the mouth of the pot, which helped her learn the technique.
- v. The kiln, where the pots were baked, required careful attention.

2. Read the following sentences from the text. Underline the main clause and circle the subordinate clause.

- i. Arenla took Sentila to the riverbank where the grey and red clay was found.
- ii. She started on the next one, and like a sprinter who had suddenly found momentum...
- iii. ... skills such as pot making, which not only catered to the needs of the people...

Subordinate clauses that act like adjectives and give further description of the noun in the main clause are called **adjectival** or **relative clauses**.

**Ans.** Main Clause & Subordinate Clause

- i. **Main:** Arenla took Sentila to the riverbank  
**Subordinate:** where the grey and red clay was found
- ii. **Main:** She started on the next one  
**Subordinate:** like a sprinter who had suddenly found momentum
- iii. **Main:** skills such as pot making  
**Subordinate:** which not only catered to the needs of the people

**3. Complete the following sentences with suitable relative clauses.**

- i. Sentila, whose \_\_\_\_\_, practised the craft diligently.
- ii. The village council, where \_\_\_\_\_, sought an explanation for Arenla's reluctance.
- iii. The potter's hands, which \_\_\_\_\_, shaped the clay into beautiful creations.
- iv. Arenla, her mother, wanted her to learn weaving, which \_\_\_\_\_.
- v. Mesoba went home and discussed the matter with Arenla, who \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans.** Relative Clauses

- i. Sentila, whose determination was strong, practised the craft diligently.
- ii. The village council, where important decisions were made, sought an explanation.
- iii. The potter's hands, which moved skillfully, shaped the clay.
- iv. Arenla wanted her to learn weaving, which was easier and more profitable.
- v. Mesoba discussed the matter with Arenla, who was hesitant to teach Sentila.

**4. Read the highlighted words in the following lines from the text.**

- Onula saw her taking out some clay...
- ... make as many pots as they could.
- ... did not belong to any individual.
- Slowly she walked away from this place of wonder.
- ... they would not have enough days of sunshine ...

The highlighted words are determiners. Determiners are words that come before nouns and specify something about their quantity, definiteness, or ownership.

Here is a list of the most frequently used determiners —

- a, an, the (Articles)
- this, that, these, those (Demonstratives)
- my, our, your, his, her, its, their, one's (Possessives)
- one, two, three, etc. (Definite numerals)
- some, any, no, all, both, much, many, few, less, several, little (Indefinite numerals)
- each, every, either, neither (Distributives)

(i) Find out some more determiners from the text.

Ans. some, many, enough, this, that, her, their

(ii) Fill in the banks with suitable determiners. The first two blanks have been done for you.

- A. The florist arranged five bouquets for her clients, that were displayed in \_\_\_\_\_ elegant floral shop.
- B. The carpenter crafted \_\_\_\_\_ unique tables, and \_\_\_\_\_ became the centrepiece in \_\_\_\_\_ furniture collection.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ apprentices in \_\_\_\_\_ culinary class demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_ knife skills during the intense cooking session.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ sculptures were displayed at \_\_\_\_\_ art exhibition, showcasing \_\_\_\_\_ diverse artistic skills.

Ans.

- A. The florist arranged five bouquets for her clients, that were displayed in an elegant floral shop.
- B. The carpenter crafted many unique tables, and they became the centrepiece in his furniture collection.
- C. Each of the apprentices in the culinary class demonstrated their knife skills.
- D. All of the sculptures were displayed at the art exhibition, showcasing many diverse artistic skills.

## Listen and Respond

- I. I. You will listen to a man speak about stone statues. As you listen, complete the given paragraph by filling in the blanks with the exact words you listen to. (Transcript for teacher on page 261)
- A statue is carved to create a shape that is 1. \_\_\_\_\_. Among the many things stone is used for making stone 2. \_\_\_\_\_ is one of them. India has some of the most 3. \_\_\_\_\_ stone sculptures, as is obvious from its many stone monuments across the country.

Ans. Fill in the blanks:

1. three-dimensional      2. statues      3. finest

- A statue is carved to create a shape that is three-dimensional. Among the many things stone is used for, making stone statues is one of them. India has some of the most finest stone sculptures, as is obvious from its many stone monuments across the country.

- II. You will now listen to the man speaking about some steps involved in making stone statues. As you listen, select the six correct steps out of the nine given. (Transcript for teacher on page 261)

- carve to remove large unwanted portions of the stone
- set up the different tools
- measure the weight and dimensions of the statue
- leave the statue in water to firm up overnight
- refine the creation within the stone
- choose the stone
- begin carving from the centre
- detach the creation from the stone as the final statue
- work to bring out the imagined shape

Ans. Correct Six Steps

- carve to remove large unwanted portions of the stone
- set up the different tools
- refine the creation within the stone
- choose the stone
- detach the creation from the stone as the final statue
- work to bring out the imagined shape

## Speaking Activity

- Work in pairs and choose two characters from the story—Sentila and one other character [Arenla, Mesoba, Onula, or a village elder].
- Prepare to speak from the chosen character’s perspective based on information from the story and the understanding of the intentions of the characters.
- Prepare a role-play between Sentila and the chosen character. The conversation between the characters should cover the following points.
  - Sentila’s desire to learn pot making
  - the challenges she faces
  - the advice or perspective the other character offers
- Students can use direct quotes from the story and creatively expand on the characters’ thoughts and feelings.

You may use the following sentence prompts.

- I feel/felt \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- I wish/wished \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- When you said/did \_\_\_\_\_, it made me feel/think \_\_\_\_\_ because...

Ans. Role Play: Sentila and Onula

- **Sentila:** I feel very happy and excited because I want to learn pot making. It has always been my dream.
- **Onula:** I understand your feelings, Sentila. I feel proud of you because you are eager to learn such a beautiful skill.
- **Sentila:** I wish my mother would teach me because I want to become a pot maker like her.
- **Onula:** I know it is difficult for you. When your mother refused, it must have made you feel sad and discouraged.
- **Sentila:** Yes, when she said pot making is tiring and not rewarding, it made me feel confused and hurt because I truly love this work.
- **Onula:** Do not worry, little one. I feel that hard work and patience will help you succeed. I will guide you.
- **Sentila:** Thank you! I feel more confident now because you are helping me.
- **Onula:** Remember, Sentila, learning takes time. When you practise regularly, you will improve.
- **Sentila:** I will not give up. I wish to become a skilled pot maker one day.
- **Onula:** And I believe you will. Your dedication will surely make your dream come true.

## Writing Task

### Reflective Writing – Identifying Skills and Passion

Reflective writing encourages introspection and thoughtful exploration of personal experiences, skills, and aspirations. It helps individuals gain deeper insights into themselves and their goals through structured reflection.

I. Follow the steps given below to create a write-up about your skills and passions.

- **Step 1: Introduction** Reflect on your passions and the skills you currently possess or are developing. Consider why these activities or interests are meaningful and enjoyable to you.
- **Step 2: Describing skills** Describe specific activities or practices you engage in to nurture your skills. This could include hobbies, classes (art, music, coding, etc.), workshops, or personal projects.
- **Step 3: Passion into profession** Identify which of these skills you believe have the potential to turn your passion into a profession. Explain why you think these skills are crucial or advantageous in your chosen field.
- **Step 4: Examples and reflection** Provide examples or anecdotes that illustrate how your skills and passions complement each other. Reflect on how these experiences have shaped your career.

aspirations and personal growth.

- **Step 5: Conclusion Summarise your reflections. Discuss any insights gained about yourself, your skills, and your career ambitions through this exercise.**

**Ans.** Reflective Writing – Identifying Skills and Passion

1. Introduction: I have always been interested in creative activities like drawing and writing. These passions make me feel happy and relaxed because they allow me to express my thoughts and imagination. I enjoy learning new skills and improving myself through practice.
2. Describing Skills: To develop my skills, I regularly practise drawing and try to improve my handwriting and writing style. I also participate in school activities, complete assignments, and sometimes watch videos or read books to learn new techniques. These activities help me grow and become more confident.
3. Passion into Profession: I believe that my skills in creativity and communication can help me in the future. For example, I can choose a profession like a designer, writer, or teacher. These skills are important because they allow me to express ideas clearly and think in new ways.
4. Examples and Reflection: For instance, when I complete a drawing or write a good paragraph, I feel proud of my work. These experiences motivate me to keep improving. They also help me understand that hard work and practice are necessary to achieve success. My skills and passions together shape my goals and give me direction.
5. Conclusion: In conclusion, this reflection helped me understand my strengths and interests better. I realised that my passion for creativity can guide my future career. With dedication and continuous effort, I can turn my skills into something meaningful and successful.



One Point Learning



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