

**S. No 9 B.A.Part-3 English (Hons) Topic Story of *Pygmalion* Dr
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Pygmalion has an interesting opening. The very opening scene of this play presents almost all the main characters: they are Eliza, the flower girl; Prof Higgins, the phonetician; Col-Pickering, Mrs Eynsford Hill with her son Freddy and daughter Clara.

Elizabeth Doolittle is still in the portico. She wants more money from Col-Pickering in Cockney accent. Prof Higgins says that in three months he can make the flower girl talk like a duchess, or what is even more difficult like a sales girl. Then Pickering gives the flower girl a handful of money and goes with Higgins. But the flower girl is still there. Then Freddy, who has gone to fetch a taxi for his mother and sister comes with a taxi, but by then his mother and sister have already left the place. The flower girl hires that taxi and drives home.

Next morning the flower girl comes to the laboratory of Prof Higgins for taking lessons from him. She offers Higgins a shilling per hour for teaching her pronunciation so that she may get into a flower shop instead of selling flowers in the street. At first, Higgins tries to dismiss her offer, but after the persuasion of Pickering, he accepts the girl as the subject of an experiment. He tells Mrs. Pearce to take care of Eliza. She has to keep her clean. She has to arrange her clothes. Then Alfred Doolittle, the father of the flower girl comes. He enters the room with an air, as if he were trying to save his daughter from dishonour. Higgins accuses him of sending his daughter, first, and then,

following her in order to blackmail him. He asks Alfred Doolittle to take away his daughter. It was not expected. Then Alfred Doolittle asks for five pounds as the cost of his daughter for staying at his home. Prof Higgins understanding him a man without principle, gives him ten pounds but he refuses the tenor. He is satisfied with five pounds only. Elisa appears in a clean Japanese dress. Her father, at first, doesn't recognize her, but later, when he recognizes her, he becomes proud of her fine appearance.

Eliza turns out a good and receptive pupil. She proves herself a good student of Phonetics. Higgins is always ready to reward her for better pronunciation and chide her for her Cockney accent.

After some months Prof Higgins visits his mother. He tells his mother how he has trained Eliza. He tells his mother that the girl has been taught to behave like a duchess. When Mrs. Higgins expresses her eagerness to know about the girl; Higgins announces that she is to come there. He further informs his mother that Eliza has been trained to talk about weather and health only. He asks his mother to judge her ability. Mrs. Higgins seems to be worried about the pronunciation. Though the pronunciation of the girl is o.k., she is lacking in matter. She does not know much of what she speaks. Before the arrival of Eliza, two guests-Mrs and Miss Enysford Hill arrive. Prof Higgins is introduced to them.

At last Eliza comes, she is beautifully dressed, and she moves about with dignity. She casts her impression on Mrs Higgins and the Enysfords. As directed by Higgins she confines her talk to health and weather only. Her pronunciation is correct but suddenly she moves into Cockney dialect to talk about the affairs of her family. When Eliza talks about her father, she talks in Cockney dialect, which amuses Freddy highly. In the end she takes leave from everybody. When she is about to go to her taxi, Freddy, eagerly goes out to catch a glimpse of her face. Then the Enysfords take their leave.

Higgins asks his mother about her opinion of Eliza. She replies that the girl betrays her social status in every sentence. Higgins accepts that her grammar needs improvement. He explains how he has given her training. But his mother thinks that Higgins and Pickering have created problems for the poor girl by teaching her the manner and style of a higher society without providing her the income for it. But

Higgins and Pickering are not at all worried. They are confident of getting her some satisfactory job. But Mrs. Higgins is worried about her future.

After some weeks, Eliza is tested. She is taken to the party of an ambassador in London. Pickering takes her there as his adopted daughter. Higgins goes with them. Eliza creates a sensation there by her beauty and perfect pronunciation of English. Nepommuck, a Hungarian, who was once a pupil of Higgins, is also there. The ambassador's wife asks Nepommuck to investigate Eliza. When he makes the report, Higgins is being questioned by the hostess. Nepommuck declares that Miss Doolittle is a fraud. He asserts that Eliza is not an English girl, although, she talks with a perfect pronunciation. Prof Higgins says that Eliza is an English girl from slum, who has been trained by a phonetician to pronounce correctly. The ambassador and his wife agreed to Nepommuck's remark.

From the party, they return home late. Higgins and Pickering feel relieved. They are satisfied with the performance of Eliza at the party. As both of them are tired, Pickering leaves the laboratory and goes to his bedroom. Higgins also proceeds towards his bedroom. They congratulate each other on the success of Eliza, but they do not greet Eliza. As both of them are tired they go to their beds. According to the term Higgins wins the bet on the success of Eliza. Eliza is there; she feels herself neglected. So she gets angry. She becomes puzzled and feels hurt. She begins to cry bitterly. Higgins comes back. He walks up to her. She accuses him of ignoring her. She says that she would have been better off as a flower girl. She insists on asking about her future after the experiment is over. Higgins consoles her that she needs not to worry about her future. She is a beautiful girl and her mother may find a beautiful and suitable husband for her, or Pickering can help her to start a flower shop. But his answer could not satisfy Eliza.

Eliza is still angry. She is ready to leave the laboratory in her angry mood. She asks Higgins whether her clothes belong to her or to Pickering. She does not like to be called a thief, if she takes any of them with her. Higgins feels hurt, too, but he replies that everything belongs to her except the jewels which are borrowed. Then she immediately hands over him the jewels. She also returns to him the

ring which was purchased for her. Then Higgins departs from there in an angry mood. He curses Eliza for her ungratefulness.

Then Eliza leaves the house of Higgins in a walking dress. She does not like to take anything from there. Opposite to the house, she finds Freddy, who tells her that he stands there for a long time every night waiting for her. Eliza turns to Freddy, for consolation in distress and they embrace each other. A policeman warns them and so they walk on. Thereafter they embrace each other again; then another policeman interferes with them. In the end they decide to spend the night in a taxi, and they go to Mrs. Higgins in the morning.

Next morning Prof Higgins and Pickering reach Mrs. Higgins' house, frustrated and excited. She receives them and informs Eliza, about their arrival. Prof Higgins goes up to meet his mother. Pickering goes to telephone the police about Eliza. Mrs. Higgins tells her son that Eliza must have been frightened or ill treated. Any way she is entitled to leave them if she likes. They tell Mrs. Higgins that they have informed the police about the absconding of Eliza. Mrs. Higgins scolds them for their foolish behavior. She also says that Eliza has complained against their cruel behavior. Mrs. Higgins suggests them that they should have thanked, patted, and flattered Eliza after her success. Then Miss Eliza comes before Higgins and Pickering. She ignores Higgins and respects Pickering. Higgins becomes angry. He abuses her.

Then Alfred Doolittle appears there in a marriage suit. He announces that he has become rich. He is going to marry in church. He invites his daughter, Mrs. Higgins, Prof Higgins and Pickering to attend his wedding party.

When Prof Higgins finds Eliza alone in the house; he goes to her. He explains that his manners are not bad as he treats everybody in the same way. He will miss her. He requests her to return to his laboratory. But Eliza declares her intention of marrying Freddy. She has decided to earn money by teaching pronunciation. Higgins calms down and praises her for her desire of independence and self reliance.