

**PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL  
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI  
LESSON NOTES**

**School:** Penang Sangam High School

**Year/Level:** 10

**Subject:** English

**Week:** 15

<b>Strand</b>	Literature
<b>Sub Strand</b>	Novel
<b>Content Learning Outcome</b>	-Examine and discuss the available genres and use the most appropriate integrated approach to enforce learning

**Novel: The Village by the Sea**

**Author: Anita Desai**

### **SETTING**

The setting is a poor fishing village called Thul, on the western coast of Bombay near a town called Alibagh. Part of the story also takes place simultaneously in the city of Bombay where Hari runs off to. The characters' world is changing. It is becoming more and more industrialised. In this society, skilled labour is increasing replacing agriculture as the main means of making a living.

### **Themes:**

1. **Progress:** can have both positive and negative effects on people. Positive progress alleviates the harsh conditions of life whereas negative progress can have devastating effects.
2. **Survival:** we need to learn to adapt so we can survive the changes around us.
3. **Hard work and Perseverance:** hard work and perseverance pays off in the end. We can find success through hard work.
4. **Kindness vs Selfishness:** some people prey on others for their personal gain while there are still people in the world who are willing to help out of the goodness of their heart.
5. **Love:** love for family is quite evident in this story. It drives the main characters to take risks in an attempt to help their family members.
6. **Self-motivation and Self-reliance:** people truly succeed when they are self- driven and really have a desire to succeed.

**Style:**

1. **Method of Narration:** the story is told in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person omniscient (Eye of God).
2. **Imagery:** the author employs elaborated descriptions which in turn appeal to the readers' senses helping them visualise the events of the story.
3. **Use of Vernacular:** personalises the characters and their speech is realistic.
4. **Symbolism:** Hari returning home before Diwali, similar to Lord Rama's return, a sign of hope.  
Hari learning to fix watches; changing with time and circumstances.

Questions.

- 1) Is this novel appropriate for year 10 students? State your reasons.

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- 2) What good values do you learn from Hari?

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- 3) Identify and discuss two styles of writing used by the author?

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- 4) Discuss the setting of this novel.

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- 5) Did you like the ending of the novel? State your reasons.

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