

The Postmaster

Rabindranath Tagore

How does Tagore make one character’s practical departure become another character’s emotional catastrophe?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	The Postmaster - Ratan and the postmaster at separation

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	The postmaster said: "I am going away to-morrow, Ratan."
END	then she ran away out of sight.
PASSAGE ID	sec-tagore-postmaster-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how unequal understanding between characters creates irony and pathos.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The postmaster treats departure as a decision and offers compensation; Ratan experiences it as abandonment. Their different interpretations make the ending painful without requiring melodrama.

MARK

Underline the postmaster’s practical reasoning. Circle Ratan’s responses. Box the moment money or explanation fails to meet the emotional need.

NOTICE

- What problem does each character think must be solved?
- Why does the same event mean something different to each?
- How does restraint make the ending stronger?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Tagore make one character's practical departure become another character's emotional catastrophe? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Tagore builds pathos through asymmetry: the postmaster believes he can close the relationship practically, while Ratan understands it as belonging. The failed exchange exposes how little he recognizes what she has lost.

EVIDENCE

Use one practical gesture by the postmaster and one response from Ratan.

WATCH FOR

Do not simply say the ending is sad. Explain why the two characters inhabit different meanings.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 12 · LESSON 346

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WORK

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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	The Postmaster - Ratan and the postmaster at separation
PASSAGE ID	sec-tagore-postmaster-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

The postmaster said: "I am going away to-morrow, Ratan."

END

then she ran away out of sight.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline the postmaster's practical reasoning. Circle Ratan's responses. Box the moment money or explanation fails to meet the emotional need.
2. NOTICE What problem does each character think must be solved? Why does the same event mean something different to each? How does restraint make the ending stronger?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Tagore make one character's practical departure become another character's emotional catastrophe?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.