**ENGLISH HANDOUT 2/3**

**2020-2021**

**An Alien Hand(Supplementary Reader)**

**class VII**

**I Want Something in a Cage**

**L.E. GREEVE**

**An odd day on a usual routine.**

“A nasty morning,” volunteered the shopkeeper. He clasped both hands across his melon-like stomach, and smiled importantly. The stranger’s suit though new looking was cheap and ill-fitting. He had close-cropped hair. His eyes moved all around in the shop. He wanted to purchase something in a case.

The stranger who came to Mr. Purcell’s shop had been released from jail after ten years of imprisonment so he was not sure of what to buy. He just asked for something in a cage. When Mr. Purcell interrupted and asked “ you mean a sort of pet”. “I mean what I said,” snapped the man. “Something in a cage. Something that is small.” When Purcell asked if it could be a rat, the visitor replied that a bird would be alright, pointing out suspended cage which contained two snowy birds (Doves).

**One who has suffered knows the plight of the suffering.**

He then asked for price for doves. “Five-fifty,” came the prompt answer. The man did not like the amount he charged for them. He put forward a five-dollar bill to offer. Purcell smiled magnanimously (generously) after calculating the profit he was going to have.

The man picked up the cage and constant chattering had annoyed him. He asked the owner if all the noise did not upset him/

Mr. Purcell looked surprised. He could hear nothing unusual. The customer glared. “I mean all this caged stuff. Drives you crazy, doesn’t it?” Mr Purcell drew back. Either the man was insane, or drunk. He said hastily, “Yes, yes. Certainly, I guess so.]

The staring eyes of the visitor came closer to Mr. Purcell and asked “How long d’you think it took me to make the five dollars?” Though the merchant wanted to order him out of the shop, he heard himself dutifully asking, “Why—why, how long did it take you?”

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