

UNIT 5 LESSON 1

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

ACTIVITY II REVIEW WRITING

'Post Early For Christmas' is a one act play by R.H.Wood. It shows some humorous incidents that take place inside a small post office in an English village. The play mainly focuses on how the last minute hustle and bustle creates confusion everywhere that leads to spoiling a precious gift.

The play centres around a parcel that is mistaken for a time bomb. In the opening of the play, we find Mrs. Smith followed by Mrs. Jones visiting the post office. The next funny character to visit the post office is an old gentleman. He mishears everything said to him and so the conversation between the assistant and deaf old gentleman with his unsuitable responses breaks out a roar of laughter. His comment that the assistant is a bit deaf – evokes laughter among the readers. Then an old lady comes seeking medical help for her cat mistaking the post office for a clinic for sick animals. Then comes Mrs. Higgins and her son Bertie who stares at everyone. His role also enables humour through some funny talk with his mother.

The play takes a turn after the farmer flashing out newspaper reports about the finding of bombs disguised as Christmas parcel in a London Post Office. This creates terror in the mind of everyone. At this moment a tourist visits to send a parcel to his friend. It brings climax to the play. He is much concerned about the handling of the parcel. The funny sound from it alarms the people. In the light of the events reported in the newspaper, they confirm their suspicion on hearing the tickling sound and the police is called and the parcel is immersed in water to defuse the bomb. The foreigner comes back then to take back his gloves which he unknowingly left there. He is shocked to see this. When asked, he reveals that the parcel contains no bomb but a precious time piece, a gift for his friend. Then he leaves the post office saying that he is to file a complaint about this. On hearing this, the assistant also leaves the Post office quitting her job. She says that animals don't do such silly things and so she is take up a job in the animal

dispensary. Seeing the series of events that take place in the post office, one may feel what the assistant said is right.

The trivial incidents and casual talks give the play a humorous touch which evokes fun and laughter. The title 'Post Early for Christmas' is also suitable to the play. It gives a warning to the people who hurry to the post office at the last minute to send Christmas gifts. To some extent, the ending of the play is an outcome of not following it.