



**INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2026-27)**  
**CLASS – IX**  
**QB – THE POT MAKER**

## **INTRODUCTION**

“**The Pot Maker**” by **Temsula Ao**, tells the story of a young girl who is determined to follow her passion despite physical, social, and emotional challenges. It also shows how skills and traditions are passed from one generation to another. The story explains that work is not only a way to earn money but also a source of identity, pride, and tradition.

## **SUMMARY:**

### **1. Sentila’s Dream**

Sentila, a young girl, dreamed of becoming a pot maker like her mother and grandmother. However, her mother Arenla wanted her to learn weaving instead because weaving was easier, cleaner, and more profitable. Pot making required hard physical labor such as collecting clay from a distant riverbank, carrying heavy loads, and working for months to produce a batch of pots that earned only a small amount of money. Because of this, Arenla did not want her daughter to suffer the same hardships.

### 2. Secret Interest in Pot Making

Despite her mother’s wishes, Sentila secretly visited the village potters to observe their work. She was fascinated by every stage of the process—mixing clay with water, pounding it to soften it, shaping it on the wheel, and carefully firing it in a kiln. Watching the pot slowly emerge from a shapeless lump of clay filled her with excitement. Her frequent visits soon became the talk of the village, and the elders felt that traditional skills like pot making should be passed down to the next generation. After the village council spoke to Sentila’s father, Mesoba, Arenla eventually agreed to teach her daughter.

### 3. Struggles in Learning

Arenla began teaching Sentila how to collect clay and prepare it for pot making. Sentila quickly learned the basic preparation but struggled with shaping the clay into a pot. Even after many attempts and almost a year of practice, she could not succeed. Her failures made her feel ashamed and discouraged, while her mother silently watched her efforts.

### 4. Help from Onula

Later, Sentila stayed in a girls' dormitory supervised by a kind widow called Onula. One evening, Onula saw Sentila practising pot making alone and noticed that the girl was too tense. She guided Sentila calmly and demonstrated how to shape a pot properly. With this encouragement and guidance, Sentila successfully created her first beautiful pot and gained confidence.

### 5. The Birth of a New Pot Maker

One day, while working with her mother, Sentila finally mastered the skill and made several pots with great speed and precision, almost matching her mother's work. Sadly, when she went to tell her mother, she found Arenla had passed away. Later, Onula discovered two rows of identical pots in the shed—one made by Arenla and the other by Sentila. She realized that a new pot maker had been born, carrying forward the family tradition.

### **THEME**

*The Pot Maker* celebrates the power of passion, perseverance, and the preservation of cultural heritage through traditional craftsmanship. Through Sentila's determination to become a skilled pot maker despite obstacles and repeated failures, the story highlights the dignity of labour, the importance of following one's true calling, and the responsibility of passing traditional knowledge from one generation to the next. It also explores the conflict between practical concerns and personal dreams, ultimately showing that dedication, patience, and the guidance of a mentor can help individuals achieve excellence while keeping cultural traditions alive.

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:**

#### Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (15 Questions)

#### **1. What was Sentila's greatest ambition?**

- a) To become a farmer
- b) To become a pot maker
- c) To become a trader
- d) To become a teacher

**Answer: b) To become a pot maker**

#### **2. Which of the following best describes Sentila's attitude towards learning pottery?**

- a) Careless and impatient
- b) Curious and determined
- c) Proud and arrogant

d) Indifferent and lazy

**Answer: b) Curious and determined**

**3. Why was Sentila attracted to pottery?**

- a) It earned a lot of money.
- b) She admired the beauty and skill involved in making pots.
- c) His parents forced him to learn it.
- d) She wanted to leave the village.

**Answer: b) She admired the beauty and skill involved in making pots.**

**4. Which quality helped Sentila succeed?**

- a) Laziness
- b) Pride
- c) Perseverance
- d) Anger

**Answer: c) Perseverance**

**5. What was one major challenge Sentila faced?**

- a) Lack of interest
- b) Repeated failures while learning pottery
- c) Lack of money
- d) Illness

**Answer: b) Repeated failures while learning pottery**

**6. What does pottery symbolize in the story?**

- a) Wealth
- b) Modern technology
- c) Cultural heritage and creativity
- d) Entertainment

**Answer: c) Cultural heritage and creativity**

**7. What role did Onula play in Sentila's life?**

- a) Competitor
- b) Friend
- c) Mentor and guide
- d) Merchant

**Answer: c) Mentor and guide**

**8. Which value is most strongly conveyed through the story?**

- a) Revenge
- b) Determination
- c) Jealousy
- d) Fear

**Answer: b) Determination**

**9. The story highlights the importance of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) quick success
- b) preserving traditional skills
- c) avoiding hard work
- d) becoming rich

**Answer: b) preserving traditional skills**

**10. Sentila finally became successful because she \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) inherited Mesoba's workshop
- b) practised patiently and learned from her mistakes
- c) became wealthy
- d) left the village

**Answer: b) practised patiently and learned from her mistakes**

**11. Which literary theme is central to the story?**

- a) Adventure
- b) Mystery
- c) Passion and perseverance
- d) Humour

**Answer: c) Passion and perseverance**

**12. What message does the story give about failure?**

- a) Failure means giving up.
- b) Failure is a stepping stone to success.
- c) Failure should be avoided.
- d) Failure is permanent.

**Answer: b) Failure is a stepping stone to success.**

**13. Which of the following best describes Sentila?**

- a) Impatient and careless
- b) Honest, hardworking and determined
- c) Proud and selfish
- d) Lazy and irresponsible

**Answer: b) Honest, hardworking and determined**

**14. What helped preserve the tradition of pottery?**

- a) Government support
- b) Passing the skill from one generation to another
- c) Machines
- d) Foreign trade

**Answer: b) Passing the skill from one generation to another**

**15. The story mainly encourages readers to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) avoid risks
- b) respect skilled artisans and follow their passion
- c) seek wealth only
- d) ignore traditions

**Answer: b) respect skilled artisans and follow their passion**

**Section B: Assertion and Reason (5 Questions)**

**Directions:** Choose the correct option.

- a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

16. Assertion (A): **Sentila eventually became a skilled pot maker.**

Reason (R): **She continued practising despite repeated failures.**

**Answer: a**

17. Assertion (A): **Pottery is presented as more than just an occupation.**

Reason (R): **It represents cultural identity and artistic tradition.**

**Answer: a**

18. Assertion (A): **Sentila gave up learning pottery after his first failure.**

Reason (R): **She believed success required patience and dedication.**

**Answer: d**

19. Assertion (A): **Onula played an important role in Sentila's journey.**

Reason (R): **Good guidance helps learners develop their skills.**

**Answer: a**

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20. Assertion (A): **The story suggests that traditional crafts have no place in modern society.**  
 Reason (R): **The story encourages preserving traditional knowledge and craftsmanship.**

**Answer: d**

## **REFERENCE TO CONTEXT**

*A. "Sentila did not disclose her fascination with pot making at home as she had overheard a conversation between her parents one night."*

**1. Why did Sentila hide her interest in pot making from her parents?**

- a) She was not interested in pottery anymore.
- b) She feared that her parents would not approve of her choice.
- c) She wanted to surprise her parents with her skills.
- d) She wanted to learn another craft.

**Answer:**

**b) She feared that her parents would not approve of her choice.**

**2. What does the word 'fascination' in the extract mean?**

- a) Fear or dislike
- b) Strong attraction or interest
- c) Confusion or doubt
- d) Anger or disappointment

**Answer:**

**b) Strong attraction or interest**

**3. What can be inferred about Sentila's character from this extract?**

- a) She was careless and impatient.
- b) She was determined but sensitive to her parents' opinions.
- c) She was unwilling to learn new things.
- d) She did not value family relationships.

**Answer:**

**b) She was determined but sensitive to her parents' opinions.**

**4. Why did Sentila choose not to reveal her desire immediately? Answer in 30–40 words.**

**Answer:**

Sentila kept her interest in pot making a secret because she had overheard her parents' conversation and understood that they might not support her decision. She wanted to pursue her passion but was hesitant to disappoint them.

B. "Gradually, Sentila's visits became a topic of village gossip. People wondered why Arenla was refusing to teach the skill to her daughter."

**1. Why did Sentila's visits become a topic of discussion in the village?**

- a) She stopped visiting the pot maker.
- b) People were curious about her frequent visits and her interest in pottery.
- c) She wanted to leave the village.
- d) She had become a famous pot maker.

**Answer:**

**b) People were curious about her frequent visits and her interest in pottery.**

**2. What does the phrase "a topic of village gossip" suggest about the villagers?**

- a) They were supportive and encouraging.
- b) They were curious and discussed matters related to others.
- c) They ignored Sentila's activities.
- d) They disliked traditional crafts.

**Answer:**

**b) They were curious and discussed matters related to others.**

**3. Why were people surprised that Arenla was not teaching the skill to Sentila?**

- a) Arenla did not know pottery.
- b) Pot making was considered an important traditional skill that was usually passed on.
- c) Sentila was not interested in learning pottery.
- d) The village had stopped making pots.

**Answer:**

**b) Pot making was considered an important traditional skill that was usually passed on.**

**4. What does this extract reveal about the importance of traditional skills in the community?**

**Answer in 30–40 words.**

**Answer:**

The extract shows that traditional skills like pottery were valued by the community and were expected to be passed from one generation to another. The villagers' curiosity reflects their concern about preserving this important cultural practice.

C. "She watched Sentila's clumsy efforts to make a pot and noticed that Sentila was too tense. As a result, the clay seemed unable or unwilling to yield the right shape."

**1. Who does 'She' refer to in the extract?**

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- a) Sentila's mother
- b) Sentila's friend
- c) The experienced pot maker who observed Sentila's work
- d) A villager

**Answer:**

**c) The experienced pot maker who observed Sentila's work**

**2. Why was Sentila unable to shape the clay properly?**

- a) The clay was of poor quality.
- b) She lacked interest in pottery.
- c) She was nervous and too tense while working with the clay.
- d) She did not want to learn the skill.

**Answer:**

**c) She was nervous and too tense while working with the clay.**

**3. What does the phrase "the clay seemed unable or unwilling to yield the right shape" suggest?**

- a) The clay had magical qualities.
- b) The difficulty was caused by Sentila's lack of confidence and experience.
- c) The clay was unsuitable for making pots.
- d) Pottery was impossible to learn.

**Answer:**

**b) The difficulty was caused by Sentila's lack of confidence and experience.**

**4. What does this extract reveal about the learning process of a traditional skill? Answer in 30–40 words.**

**Answer:**

The extract shows that mastering a traditional skill like pottery requires patience, practice, and confidence. Sentila's initial failures were a natural part of learning, and with proper guidance and perseverance, she could gradually improve her skills.

*D. "As usual, Arenla completed a batch quickly and asked Sentila to take over. Complaining that she had a headache and a backache, she went out telling Sentila to try and make as many pots as she could."*

**1. What does Arenla's action of asking Sentila to take over indicate?**

- a) She wanted to discourage Sentila from learning pottery.
- b) She wanted Sentila to practise and gain confidence in making pots.

- c) She wanted to stop making pots herself.
- d) She was angry with Sentila.

**Answer:**

**b) She wanted Sentila to practise and gain confidence in making pots.**

**2. Why did Arenla leave Sentila alone with the task of making pots?**

- a) She was unwilling to teach her anything.
- b) She wanted Sentila to learn through independent practice and experience.
- c) She had completed all her work permanently.
- d) She wanted Sentila to leave the place.

**Answer:**

**b) She wanted Sentila to learn through independent practice and experience.**

**3. What quality of Arenla is reflected through her decision in the extract?**

- a) Impatience
- b) Jealousy
- c) Wisdom and understanding
- d) Carelessness

**Answer:**

**c) Wisdom and understanding**

**4. How did this experience help Sentila in her journey of becoming a pot maker? Answer in 30–40 words.**

**Answer:**

This experience gave Sentila an opportunity to practise pottery independently and understand the skill better. By working on her own, she gained confidence, learned from her mistakes, and gradually improved her ability to shape pots successfully.

*E. "Slowly she walked away from this place of wonder, as she considered it to be, because she believed that she had just witnessed a profound revelation in the two batches of still moist pots, standing side by side in perfect symmetry inside the shed."*

**1. Why did Sentila consider the place a “place of wonder”?**

- a) It was a beautiful natural location.
- b) She witnessed the beauty and perfection of the pots made through the art of pottery.
- c) It was a famous tourist place.
- d) She found valuable objects inside the shed.

**Answer:**

**b) She witnessed the beauty and perfection of the pots made through the art of pottery.**

**2. What does the phrase “a profound revelation” refer to in the extract?**

- a) A sudden discovery of hidden treasure.
- b) A deep understanding of the beauty, skill, and creativity involved in pottery.
- c) A secret shared by the villagers.
- d) A new method of making pots.

**Answer:**

**b) A deep understanding of the beauty, skill, and creativity involved in pottery.**

**3. What does the “perfect symmetry” of the pots suggest about the art of pottery?**

- a) It requires only physical strength.
- b) It is a meaningless activity.
- c) It requires precision, patience, and artistic skill.
- d) It can be mastered without practice.

**Answer:**

**c) It requires precision, patience, and artistic skill.**

**4. What change does this moment bring in Sentila’s attitude towards pottery? Answer in 30–40 words.**

**Answer:**

This moment deepens Sentila’s admiration and respect for pottery. She realises that making pots is not merely a physical task but a creative art requiring patience, dedication, and skill. It strengthens her determination to master the craft.

### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

*Answer these in 30-40 words.*

1. Why was Sentila determined to become a pot maker despite facing difficulties?
2. How does Onula influence Sentila's journey towards becoming a skilled pot maker?
3. What qualities of Sentila help her achieve her dream? Support your answer with examples from the story.
4. How does the story highlight the importance of preserving traditional crafts and cultural heritage?
5. What message does Temsula Ao convey through *The Pot Maker*? Explain.

### **ANSWERS**

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1. Sentila was deeply fascinated by the art of pottery and wanted to master the skill. Although he faced failures and challenges while learning, his passion, patience, and determination encouraged him to continue until he achieved success.
2. Onula plays the role of a mentor and guide in Sentila's life. Through her knowledge, experience, and encouragement, she helps Sentila understand the techniques of pottery and inspires her to develop patience and dedication.
3. Sentila achieves her dream because of her perseverance, hard work, and willingness to learn. She does not give up after failures but continues practising pottery with determination, gradually improving her skills and becoming a successful pot maker.
4. The story shows that traditional crafts like pottery carry the history, creativity, and identity of a community. By learning and practising pottery, Sentila helps preserve an important cultural tradition and ensures that the skill continues through generations.
5. Temsula Ao conveys that passion, dedication, and perseverance can help individuals achieve their dreams. The story also reminds readers to respect traditional occupations and value the skills of artisans who preserve cultural heritage through their work.

### **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Describe Sentila's journey from a learner to a skilled pot maker. What qualities helped her achieve success?
2. How does *The Pot Maker* highlight the importance of traditional occupations and cultural heritage?
3. Explain the role of Onula in shaping Sentila's future as a pot maker.
4. "Passion and perseverance are the keys to achieving success." Discuss this statement with reference to *The Pot Maker*.
5. What values and life lessons can readers learn from *The Pot Maker*? Explain.

### **ANSWERS**

1. Sentila's journey in *The Pot Maker* is a story of determination, patience, and dedication. She was deeply interested in learning the traditional art of pottery and wanted to become a skilled pot maker. However, mastering the craft was not easy, and she faced many difficulties and failures during the learning process. With the guidance of her mentor, Onula, Sentila continued practising and improved her skills gradually. Her curiosity, perseverance, and willingness to learn helped her overcome challenges. Her journey shows that true success comes through continuous effort and commitment. Sentila's achievement also reflects

the importance of respecting traditional crafts and preserving the knowledge passed down through generations.

2. *The Pot Maker* highlights the value of traditional occupations by showing pottery as an art form connected to the identity and culture of a community. The story presents pottery not merely as a means of earning a livelihood but as a skill that requires creativity, patience, and years of practice. Through Sentila's efforts to learn pottery, the author shows how traditional knowledge can be preserved and passed on to future generations. The relationship between the learner and the experienced craftsman reflects the importance of sharing cultural wisdom. Temsula Ao reminds readers that traditional crafts deserve respect because they represent the history, creativity, and unique heritage of a society.

3. Onula plays a significant role in shaping Sentila's future by becoming her teacher, guide, and source of inspiration. As an experienced pot maker, Onula possesses deep knowledge of the craft and helps Sentila understand the techniques and patience required for pottery. She encourages Sentila to continue learning even when she faces difficulties. Onula's guidance teaches Sentila that becoming a skilled artisan requires dedication, discipline, and continuous practice. Their relationship represents the importance of a mentor in helping a learner discover and develop their abilities. Through Onula's support, Sentila not only learns pottery but also understands the value of preserving a traditional art form.

4. The story *The Pot Maker* strongly supports the idea that passion and perseverance lead to success. Sentila's dream of becoming a pot maker is not achieved easily. She faces challenges and failures while learning the complicated art of pottery. However, her strong interest and determination motivate her to continue practising. Instead of becoming discouraged, she learns from her mistakes and improves with time. Her dedication, along with the guidance of Onula, helps her become successful. The story teaches readers that talent alone is not enough; consistent effort, patience, and the courage to overcome failures are essential for achieving one's goals.

5. *The Pot Maker* teaches several valuable lessons about life. The story encourages readers to follow their passion and remain committed to their goals despite difficulties. Sentila's journey shows the importance of patience, hard work, and learning from failures. It also teaches us to respect traditional occupations and appreciate the efforts of skilled artisans who preserve cultural heritage. The bond between Sentila and Onula highlights the importance of guidance and sharing knowledge with others. Through the story, Temsula Ao conveys that every form of honest work has dignity and value. The chapter inspires readers to remain determined and respect the traditions and skills of different communities.