ABOUT MOVERS – SALMAN RUSHDIE (Pag.178-179)

**ES.1**

1. In the extract, speaker and writer are the same person: Salman Rushdie.
2. He thinks native’s resentment about immigrants is connected to the latters’ victory against gravity.
3. He compares gravity with belonging.
4. He thinks that roots are a myth designed to keep us in our places.
5. To fly and to flee.
6. He imagines what would happen if pharmaceutical industries developed anti-gravity pills.
7. The pill would make migrants of us all.
8. Specific garments.
9. Gravity is what makes it hard for somebody to free himself from his roots and emigrate.
10. The best thing is their hopefulness; the worst is that they ignore their past and origins.

**ES.2**

He experiences the fate of every person who departs from his/her own nation and arrives in an all new reality. In other words, he’s been both a migrant and a newcomer.

**ES.3**

Mr Rushdie metaphorically describes that a man is just like a tree and roots represent his sense of belonging to his nation.

**ES.4**

Gravity is a physical force attracting everything inside the planet towards the Earth’s centre. Because of the existence of the ground, one could superficially say that such force makes everything stay attached to soil. Belonging is instead an abstract force, which has somehow the same effect as gravity on people: indeed it makes it hard for someone to leave his/her native land and flee/fly away somewhere else.

**ES.5**

He plays with words “fly” and “flee”, both referring to the sense of freedom which emigrants long for.

**ES.6**

The narrator describes an absurd future where scientists have developed anti-gravity pills, allowing every user to escape from planetary attraction and head for any destination through the sky.

**ES.7**

As far as I can tell, the narrator hasn’t given any hint about him being in favour of migration. On the other hand, I got the impression that he would rather suggest to live an existence close to one’s own “roots”, for they are being left aside (“We have floated upwards from history, form memory, from Time).

**ES.9**

According to Bruce Chatwin man found more convenient to exploit brain reactions after consuming alcohol or hallucinogens as means to depart from reality and take mental journeys far away. It could be compared in some way to Salman Rushdie’s anti-gravity pill, for they are both chemical substances able to make one take off to new places.

However, as Chatwin highlighted, a travel should be more like a path for self-discovery; they ought to be instructive and therefore lengthened in time, not only short moments which are definitely of no use for somebody who desires to experience an inner growth.

I believe Chatwin’s thesis is definitely true and easy to agree with, because it conveys what a real journey should be: a time of fulfilment. Of course, it is not always possible to travel into the wild or unspoilt places untouched by man, but it is possible instead to make of travel a teaching experience.

OVERVIEW (Pag.179)

**ES.1**

1 Customs duties;

2 Raw materials;

3 Smuggling;

4 Bribery;

5 Satire;

6 Coffeehouse;

7 Common sense;

8 Morals;

9 Vice;

10 Virtue.

**ES.2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Noun** | **Adjective** |
| Stability | Stable |
| Traditionalism/tradition | Traditionalist |
| Elegance | Elegant |
| Wit | Witty |
| Materialism/material | Materialistic |
| Response | Responsive |
| Hierarchy | Hierarchical |
| Heredity | Hereditary |
| Privilege | Privileged |
| Individualism | Individualistic |
| Pessimism | Pessimistic |
| Optimism | Optimistic |

**ES.3**

The Whigs were formed in 1660–1685 with Charles II; descendants of the Parliamentarians; supported by the wealthy and commercial classes; fought for commercial

development, a foreign policy, religious toleration; became the Liberal Party in the 1860s.

The Tories emerged in 1679–80; descendants of the Royalists; supported by the Church of

England, the landowners fought for the divine right of the king; became the Conservative Party

in 1832.

**ES.4**

In the past, every minister used to have the same weight and power as all the others, but in time one among the rest took the lead on his colleagues and that figure came to be known as the Prime Minister.

When ministers started to have their meetings without the King’s presence, the place where they used to gather took the name of “the Cabinet”.

**ES.5**

1 Walpole was a Tory landowner. F. He was a

Whig landowner.

2 T

3 T.

4 Walpole’s government ended when George II

came to the throne. F. George II relied on him.

5 T.

6 William Pitt was a Tory. F. He was a Whig.

7 T.

**ES.6**

1. It was a materialist society.
2. Its political institutions were hierarchical,

hereditary and privileged.

1. Elections were largely controlled by the local

landowners.

1. Politicians often practised bribery either with

money or with the promise of jobs.

1. Eighteenth-century society championed

individualism.