**Lesson Name- PACKING**

**By- Jerome K. Jerome**

**Introduction of the lesson- PACKING**

**INTRODUCTION**

This story is an extract from Jerome K. Jerome’s novel ‘Three Men in a Boat’. The narrator of the story and his two friends decided to go on holiday. The question of packing the things for the journey arose. The author thought that he was an expert in packing. lie asked his friends, George and Harris to leave packing to him. When he had finished packing, certain things remained out. He opened the bag again. In the same way, he had to pack and unpack time and again. The packing was still not complete. Harris and George undertook to do the rest of the job. But they were also not expert in packing. They damaged a number of things and did the job shabbily. At last, the packing was complete by 12.50 in the night. They went to bed with the intention of waking up at 6.30 in the morning.

**Introduction: (2)**

 “Packing” is an extract from Jerome K. Jerome’s novel Three Men in a Boat’. This is a humorous extract about the confusion and mess created by people who are inexperienced in the art of packing. It exposes the utter clumsiness of the three friends – Jerome, George, and Harris. They consider themselves to be skilled in the art of packing but, in reality, all of them have little knowledge about working in an organised manner.

Hence, to the great amusement of the reader, the small job of packing is carried out by them with many a jerk and jolt.

**THEME**

 “Packing” is based on the theme that routine tasks are not as easy as they seem to be. The humorous account amuses the readers with the chaotic and confusing situations created by the clumsiness of three friends, all of whom consider packing to be child’s play.

**TITLE**

“Packing” is an appropriate title for this extract from the novel ‘Three Men in a Boat’. It forms one of the chapters of the novel. The three men are – Jerome, George and Harris. They have to go on a pleasure boat journey and have to pack for it. All three of them think they are ‘past masters’ in the art of packing, but all they end up creating is an utter mess. They are disorganised, unplanned, foolish, careless and unsystematic and cannot properly pack a thing. They blame each other for being poor at packing and each boasts of his packing acumen. Thus, the extract is all about packing and, therefore, the title is appropriate.

**CHARACTERS**

**Jerome**

Jerome is the narrator of the story and the entire gamut of events are depicted from his point of view. He is overconfident and rates his packing skills a bit too high. He is also arrogant and expects his friends to carry out the tedious part of packing while he sits back and passes orders. His friends, however, do not take him seriously and finally, he has to struggle while trying to pack the bag. Jerome is both clumsy and forgetful. He first forgets to pack the shoes and they can’t recall if he has put in his toothbrush or not. He unpacks the bag twice clumsily to accommodate the missing items. When his friends fumble while packing the hamper, he sits at the edge of the table and watches them because now it is his turn to have fun at their expense. However, he is an ordinary boy who ignores the shortcomings of his friends in the same way as he ignores his own.

**George and Harris**

 George and Harris are the friends of the narrator, Jerome. Both of them are as clumsy, ill-organised, forgetful and casual as Jerome. They commit mistakes even while doing ordinary tasks and keep repeating their mistakes. Like Jerome, they too are mistaken about their talent to pack stuff and are over-confident about their performance. They damage or spoil many things like cups, pies, tomatoes, butter and lemons while packing the hamper. Their action amuses the readers, especially when they misplace the butter and search for it all over the place. Somehow, in spite of making a fool of themselves, while packing for the trip, they don’t believe in any blame game and ignore each others’ mistakes.

**Montmorency – the pet dog**

Montmorency is the pet dog of the three friends – Jerome, George and Harris. He is a pampered pet and knows no restrains on his behaviour. His animal instinct to probe everything creates a nuisance for his masters. He likes to be a part of all the activities going on in the house and gets excited to see the boys packing things. He doesn’t mind being shouted at and does not even respond when they try to move him away from the packed stuff. He is a super energized pet and ’10 amount of scolding dampens his enthusiasm. He may ill-trained temperamental, destructive and meddlesome but he is loved by the readers as much as his masters.

His presence in the story makes it more interesting and amusing’.