

WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL- PATULI

CLASS – XI

SUBJECT- ENGLISH LITERATURE

CHAPTER- SHORT STORY: SALVATORE

**ANSWER KEY**

1. Salvatore is the protagonist of William Somerset Maugham's story. The character of Salvatore evolves into an **epitome of true love and affection**.

Salvatore, being the eldest brother, used to **take care of his two younger brothers** as a responsible guardian. It was **out of a sense of love and affection**. He would not let them venture too far into the sea. He would also dress them up when they had to climb up the hot hill for the midday meal.

Salvatore fell **madly in love with a pretty girl**. They were affianced but could not marry till Salvatore had completed his compulsory military service. When he became a sailor in the navy, he wept like a child. He felt dreadfully homesick and **parting from the love of his life shattered him**. He used to write **long passionate letters** telling her how much he missed her and longed to see her.

When he fell ill with rheumatism that made him unfit for further military service, his heart was filled with joy as he could go back to his island of birth and meet the girl whom he loved deeply.

When he returned home, he was happy to see his parents and brothers waiting for him on the jetty. As soon as they met, there was a great deal of hugging and kissing. Boundless was Salvatore's love for his family, home and the girl he loved.

On being rejected by his lady love, he was so heartbroken that he wept on his mother's bosom. He was terribly unhappy but he did not blame the girl who refused to marry him.

Salvatore got married to Assunta and they had two sons. Assunta never ceased to be touched by his gentle sweetness. He was a rich storehouse of love and affection to his children. He loved them with all his heart and took delight in spending time with them. He brought them down to the beach to give them a bath. He would dip them in the water very tenderly and laugh away his time with them.

Salvatore had a pleasing personality. He had a good word for everyone even when he was assailed by the terrible hardships of life. Though he was an ordinary fisherman, he possessed nothing in the world except the quality of goodness tinged with the colour of love and affection that he radiated abundantly for his near

and dear ones.

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2. The title of the story 'Salvatore' by William Somerset Maugham is **direct and apt**. Salvatore is a popular **Italian name which means "saviour"**. Literally "saviour" is **someone who is kind, generous and filled with goodness**. The **protagonist** of the story, a humble fisherman, **had all these qualities to be called Salvatore**.

The **entire story is a descriptive biography** of a fisherman from the narrator's point of view. **The title here represents the protagonist of the story**, Salvatore, a fifteen year old boy when the story begins and a middle aged man with a wife and two children at the end of the story. We are given **a glimpse of his childhood**, his acting as a **nursemaid to his two younger brothers**, his **passion for the girl he loved**, his **military service** where he feels homesick and falls ill due to **rheumatism**, his being **rejected in love** because of his illness, his **marriage to another girl Assunta**, his **hard work** and his **childlike moments with his children**.

The story of Salvatore ends here. The narrator then directly addresses the readers to convey his message about why he told the story. He says **Salvatore is an epitome of goodness**, the inner beauty of a man. This is **a rare quality of a man's character which makes Salvatore**

so special in the eyes of the narrator and the readers alike.

The prose does nothing but narrate the story of a good human being, the titular character Salvatore, who has set an example by his virtues of calmness, forgiveness, broad-mindedness, mental strength and ability to stay happy and positive in all situations.

There could not have been a better title than the name of the character when the author's sole purpose is to present the character before the readers and show a special quality in his character. Maugham seems to glorify the character of Salvatore by naming the story after him. Therefore, the title of William Somerset Maugham's story 'Salvatore' has been just and apt, given the purpose of the piece, i.e., to highlight the life of Salvatore and the rare quality of goodness that he exhibited.

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