



CLASS IX
ADDITIONAL ENGLISH
CHAPTER 1 - FORGETTING
(ROBERT LYND)

NOTES

In his essay “Forgetting”, Robert Lynd talks about the root causes of forgetting. He further explains the different items/articles usually forgotten by people. He is amazed at the efficiency of human memory and says that modern man can remember almost everything that he is expected to remember from morning till he goes to bed.

Though efficient, in certain matters human memory works less than its usual perfection. Here comes the cause of forgetting. For example, most people forget to take medicine but not meals that serve as perfect reminder for the pills. Though it is said that a perfect remembering machine is seldom a man of first intelligence; however great writers and great composers of music have been men of exceptional power of memory. The poets, according to Lynd, have had better memories than the stakeholders. Memory, indeed, is half the substance of their art. On the other hand, statesmen seem to have extraordinary bad memories. At the same time, ordinary good memory is so common that a man who does not possess it is regarded as eccentric. The writer, then, concludes that most of us are born with prosaically efficient memories; otherwise the very institution of family cannot survive in any great modern city.
