

ENGLISH



PRINCESS SEPTEMBER

~Summary~

-by Somerset Maugham

"Princess September" is written by **Somerset Maugham**, abridged from "**Princess September and the Nightingale**". Like usual Maugham's works, this story is based on the **conflict of human emotions**.

The **King and Queen of Siam** give birth to **several daughters** and name them in the order of the months, with the last being **Princess September (the Protagonist)**. On one of his birthdays, the King presents to each of his daughters **a parrot in a golden cage**. The parrots become much talked about in the palace until September's parrot dies in the cage, and she befriends a **Nightingale** out of the blue.



While the parrots can **only utter a few words**, the songbird can **enchant the crowd with distinctive songs**. The Nightingale **now grabs all the attention**, much to the **dismay** of the other eight princesses. Hence the sisters **manipulate** September into **shutting the bird in a cage**, citing the **hawks** and **snares** in the kingdom.

The songbird's **plea** goes in **vain**. Nevertheless, the bird is locked in a cage, thereby **refusing to sing or eat**. However, on witnessing the bird's **plight**, September goes **against** her sisters' **misadvise** to free the bird. The bird, in return, **promises to visit** her often and **sticks to its vow**.

The bird, when let free, comes back with the **loveliest of songs**. The rapport between the bird and Princess **grows beautifully**, and so does the Princess. On the other hand, the eight princesses grow to be **ugly** and **disagreeable**.

At the end of the story, Princess September is married to the **King of Cambodia**, being carried off on a **white elephant** while the other eight princesses are married off to the less-worthy **councillors of the King** with a **pound of tea** and a **Siamese cat**.

~Conclusion~

Princess September teaches students that freedom is the birth right of every living being. No amount of expensive items, money or worldly comforts can make up for the loss of freedom of any living creature. Presenting the CBSE Class 8 English It So Happened Prose Summary of Princess September that must have helped 8th standard students to have a detailed understanding of the chapter.