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Subject:- English (M.A Sem-1, CC-4, Unit-4)

Topic:- Tom Jones : Henry Fielding.

* Discuss the character of Tom Jones.

Ans) Fielding applies a great deal of economy and precision in the portrayal of his characters. His characters are not always equally real. Some of them are somewhat broadly painted portraits of his conceptions and are not acceptable to us as they are. But all these men fit perfectly into the roles assigned to them in the plot. Much the same combination of formula and observation went into the creation of the young man Tom. Tom Jones is the hero of Fielding famous novel. In fact the novel is a life history of Tom Jones from his birth till his marriage. It is on Tommy that the novelist has built the dome and the base of his structure. Almost all the events revolve around him.

Tom Jones is first appeared in the novel as a foundling; he is found mysteriously on the bed of Mr Allworthy wrapped in a sheet. A lot of hum-

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drum goes on about his legal parents and at the end Jenny Jones and Mr. Partridge are blamed for it.

It is for his parents' fault that he suffers so much misery and scorn. But Mr. Allworthy adopts him and then he starts his life ~~in~~ with Allworthy, his sister, Miss Bridget, her husband Captain Blifil and her son Master Blifil. But Tom, the foundling, makes his own way to success and is the victim of scorn which every foundling had to face in the eighteenth century England. But he wins the reader's sympathy as he is obviously a lad of complete good nature.

In his early age, Tom Jones has been convicted of three robberies of robbing an adolescent, ~~he has already~~ of stealing a duck, and of picking Master Blifil's pocket of a ball. He has also shot a partridge in the manor of a neighbour for which he has been badly beaten. Here we find another aspect of him for the safety of the gamekeeper he does not confess anybody's presence with him. He is strong willed person and always keeps his promise.

He is very obstinate and stubborn. He is not only deficient in outward tokens of respect but also careless in these matters. He does not pay proper respect to his tutors, partly because they do not command them.

He can utter lies frequently, can beat ladies, can pick up quarrels on petty things. He is fond of hunting, he can have equal fondness for the bottle, can seduce any girl when tempted by her beauty and charms. His affairs with Molly Seagrass and Mrs Waters and Lady Bellaston are highly objectionable when considered from the ethical and moral points of view. But he equally knows how to take responsibility and take care of others.

When Molly was in trouble, he finds it his responsibility and taken her child's blame on him. He protected Mrs Waters from the hands of a ruffian. He even sold his house and a Bible also to help the Gamekeeper because he has lost his job due to helping him. So the entanglement of Tom Jones ~~considered~~ this poor girl as having sacrificed with the ladies of fashion is excusable partly because of his youth and mainly because of his handsome and bright personality which at once attracted women.

His love for all those who come in his contact is real and natural. ~~Thus~~ His affection for anybody is not selfish or greedy. Billfil loves Aleworthy and Sophia for the sake of their money. But Tom is content to love for the angelic passion called light, Good, Truth. His love for Sophia Western is also genuine. It grows naturally and

gradually. He has made it clear to Sophia, "I fear no destruction, but the loss of Sophia ----- Indeed I can never part with you indeed I cannot." He could have eloped with Sophia but he does not, only, because that could ruin Sophia.

A certain Mrs Hunt proposed him to marry her, Lady Bellaston wants to get him, they all are rich. But neither wealth nor beauty, nor praise could shake Tom's love for Sophia. His love was not not love that alters when its alteration finds. That's why his love is rewarded and he win her love lady at last. Sophia too regards him as a perfect man and says, "I know none with such perfections. So brave and yet so gentle, so witty, yet so inoffensive; so humane, so civil, so genteel, so handsome." Even Mrs Miller regards him as the best and worthiest of all human beings."

Tom Jones is indeed "a gallant, a young man of generous disposition." He does not quarrel with Mr Allworthy at his will and the distribution of wealth. He rather leave that place ~~etc~~ and when it is proved that he is also a son of Miss Bridget and brother of Blifil, he forgives Blifil and thus show his big heart also. He is a character which is to be judged on the basis of intentions shown, though he is willed and not only on the actions performed.