**THE INTERVIEW – [PAGE-70)**

**1. Formidable- inspiring fear or respect through being**

**impressively large, powerful, intense or capable**

**2.Reputation – the opinion generally held about someone or**

**something.**

**3. Medieval- relating to the Middle Ages**

**4. Aesthetics- a branch of philosophy that deals with nature and**

**appreciation of beauty**

**5. Fiction – Literature describing imaginary events and people/**

**invented story**

**6. Staggeringly- to an astonishing or shocking degree**

**7. Intellectual – the ability to think logically and understand things.**

**8. Superstardom – good zodiac sign.**

**9. Philosophical- relating or devoted to the study of the**

**fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and**

**existence.**

**10. Impression – an idea, feeling or opinion.**

**11. Pursue – follow**

**12. Ethical - relating to moral principles**

**13. Eliminate – remove**

**14. Fist - a person's hand when the fingers are bent in towards the**

**palm and held there tightly, typically in order to strike a**

**blow or grasp something.**

**15. Interstices - space, gap**

**16. Elevator - a lift**

**EXPLANATION:**

The following is a part of an interview of the Italian novelist named, Umberto Eco. He said that he wrote novels on Sundays. Mukund Padmanabhan from The Hindu newspaper interviewed him. Umberto Eco was a professor at the University of Bologna, Italy at that time. He was famous for his thoughts on semiotics (study of signs and symbols), interpretation of writings and the beauty of the Middle Ages. Later, he turned to write fiction. He wrote a variety of literature - fiction, academic texts, essays, books for children and articles for newspapers. He rose to fame in the year 1980 when his book titled ‘The Name of the Rose’ became a bestseller.

The interviewer begins by praising Umberto Eco and quoting the words of David Lodge where he mentioned that it is out of his capacity to understand how one person (here, Umberto Eco) could be good at so many things.

Umberto replied by specifying that maybe it looked like he did a multiple distinct tasks, but according to him, he was always doing the same thing.

Mukund curiously asked him about the ‘same thing’ that Eco found himself doing.

He found it difficult to put it into words but began by saying that he had specific philosophical interests that he continually sought to pursue through his academic works and novels. Talking about his books for children, they all talked about non-violence and peace, which were again based on ethics. Then, he talked about his secret - that he worked in empty spaces of time. He called them interstices. According to him, these empty spaces were very crucial. If you remove the empty spaces from the atoms or from the universe, the universe would be very compact, just as big as his fist. So, if he was expecting someone over, that is, someone was coming to his house and the guest took the elevator from the ground floor to his flat on the third floor, as Umberto waited for the guest - that time was an interstice and he used that interstice to write an article. That is how he worked in such empty spaces of time which many people waste by sitting idle and waiting.