

## CHAPTER

# 1

# A Letter to God

(G.L. Fuentes)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What did Lencho hope for?

**Ans.** There was a great need for rain water for the crops. So Lencho hoped for a rain shower for his crop field to yield a huge production.

2. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?

**Ans.** As soon as the rainfall began, the wind became strong enough, to lead to a hailstorm. As a result of it, Lencho's crop fields got withered. The crop fell down, and the trees had shed their leaves. The flowers had fallen from the trees. All the crops got destroyed in Lencho's field's.

3. What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped?

**Ans.** When the hail stopped, Lencho was extremely disheartened and depressed, and his soul was full of immense sadness. He was quite numb.

4. Who read the letter?

**Ans.** As soon as Lencho posted the letter, the postman read the letter. He was also an employee at the post office.

5. What did the postmaster do then?

**Ans.** When the postmaster received Lencho's letter, he was amazed at his unshakable faith in the God and thus, to maintain and retain it, he decided to collect money from his friends and colleagues to help Lencho at the time of his need.

6. What made Lencho angry?

**Ans.** The money that Lencho received made him angry. He was angry because the money, he found, was less than what he had asked for from God.

7. What was the need for Lencho to write a letter to God?

**Ans.** Lencho was in great need of money. So he wrote a letter to God, as God was the ultimate hope for him in his despair. His crops were destroyed completely due to hailstones. So, Lencho needed money to sow a new crop and support his family. He had no other way but God.

8. Lencho did not want the money to be sent through mail. Why?

**Ans.** Lencho, a poor farmer, did not want that God should send money through mail because he suspected the post office employees of stealing 30 pesos as, he hoped, God had sent him 100 pesos.

9. Do you think that Lencho was right to call the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks'? Why or why not?

**Ans.** No, Lencho was not right in calling the post office employees a 'bunch of crooks' as the post office employees did not steal money. On the contrary, they had contributed money to send to Lencho.

10. How much money did Lencho need? How much did he get?

**Ans.** When everything was lost, Lencho needed one hundred pesos so that he could sow his new crop and support his family. But Lencho could get only a sum of seventy pesos, which was less than what he had requested to God.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?

**Ans.** Seeing the rain shower, Lencho was extremely delighted. Everything was going as per Lencho's plan, and he was completely confident that his harvest would yield substantial profits. This was the reason why he referred to the droplets as new coins, the larger ones being equivalent to ten cents and the smaller ones, five cents. It shows his happiness.

2. **Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?**

**Ans.** Lencho was a person of great determination. He had unwavering faith in God. This was the reason why he decided to write a letter to God. He wanted to convey his grievances to God. He intended to ask for 100 pesos for survival and sowing of crops, which was necessary for his life.

3. **Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?**

**Ans.** No, Lencho was not surprised at all on seeing the letter from God because this is what he was expecting. His faith was so deep that he was not surprised. On the other hand, he became angry when he found that the amount was less than what he had asked for. He asked for 100 pesos, but he could get only 70 pesos.

4. **The postmaster has no relationship with Lencho, yet he helps him. Why and how?**

**Ans.** Though the postmaster has no relationship with Lencho, yet he helps Lencho because he is a religious man, and he does not want to break Lencho's faith in God. The postmaster helps Lencho by collecting money from the post office employees and his friends. He himself also shares a part of his salary, collects money from his friends and other employees and sends the collected money to Lencho through a letter.

5. **What do you think, did the letter reach God? Why did the postmaster send a reply to Lencho?**

**Ans.** The fact was that the letter did not reach God. It reached the hands of post office employees. But the postmaster replied to the letter on behalf of God. He considered it his duty and collected as much money as he could to send to Lencho. The reason why the postmaster replied to Lencho was that he realised that Lencho had firm belief and faith in God. He did not want Lencho's faith in God to be broken. So he not only wrote a letter to Lencho but sent money also.

6. **What made Lencho think that the post office employees were a bunch of crooks?**

**Ans.** In the second 'A letter to God', Lencho requested

God not to send the rest of the money through mail because the post office employees were a bunch of crooks. He thought so because, in his opinion, God could not have made a mistake nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested. So he thought that the rest money had been taken by the post office employees.

7. **"The only thing the earth needed..... ." What 'only thing' the earth needed?**

**Ans.** In this chapter Letter to God, the 'only thing' that the Earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower. In fact, it was very necessary to irrigate the fields of ripe corn, which were dotted with flowers. If it happened so, it might bring Lencho a good harvest which might bring a huge profit to him.

8. **"Lencho's soul was filled with sadness." Why?**

**Ans.** After the hailstorm, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. The field was so white, as if it had been covered with salt. There was not a single leaf on the trees. The corn was completely destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants and nothing was left in the field. That's why this year, his family and he would have to go hungry. There was no help to him except help from God.



### Long Answer Type Questions

1. **How can you say that Lencho had firm and unshakable faith in God in spite of his difficult situation?**

**Ans.** It is a true fact that Lencho had a firm and unshakable faith in God. His character also inspires us to have faith in God. It also inspires a human being to remain calm and quiet in a difficult situation. Lencho always worked hard in his field. He had to support his family and himself. When he needed a shower and rain, it started soon as per his expectations, but the shower turned into a hailstorm and his crops were completely destroyed. Now he was extremely worried about how he would support his family for the whole year, but he had an unshakable faith in God. So he decided to write a letter to God, who was the ultimate source of help in this difficult situation. His faith was so deep in God that he was sure to receive a reply from God and when he received the letter from God he was not surprised at all, but soon he became angry because he found only seventy pesos while he had demanded a hundred pesos and that's why he wrote another letter to God making a complaint and calling the post office employees a 'bunch

of crooks' while the fact was that the post office employees had collected the money to maintain his belief in God. Such was his faith and belief in God. He believed that God could not make any mistake, so post office employees had stolen his money. All this shows that Lencho had a firm and blind belief in God. He thought that God could never make any mistake and that's why he wanted that God should send him the rest of money, but He should not send this money through mail because the post office employees could steal his money again.

**2. Describe Lencho's feelings after a heavy rain and hailstones.**

**Ans.** In the beginning, when there was a shower, Lencho was extremely happy. He thought that the raindrops falling from the sky were new coins. The big drops were of ten cents, while the little ones were five cents. He was extremely satisfied and was continuously looking towards his ripe corn with its flowers. But when the rain did not stop, he became worried about his fields. He began to think that this rain should pass quickly, otherwise it would leave nothing. In the whole valley, there was nothing except the hailstones which had fallen from the sky. The field was completely covered with hailstones. The garden, the hillside, the corn field, and the entire valley was covered with hailstones. It seemed that the entire field had been covered with salt. When the rain was over, Lencho came in his field and saw that there was not a single leave on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers

were gone from the plants. He was very sad. He stood in the middle of his field and thought that the attack of locusts would have left more than what he had now. The hail had left nothing and this year he and his family would have to starve. When his crop was completely lost, Lencho had only one hope: help from God. So, he decided to write a letter to God so that God might help him, and he might sow his fields again. That's why he wrote a letter to God. When he received the money from God, he was not surprised at all. Such was his firm belief in God.

**3. Write a character sketch of the Postmaster.**

**Ans.** In the story *A Letter To God*, there is a postmaster who is a fat and amiable fellow. When he got a letter addressed to God, he heartily laughed, but immediately, he turned serious. Tapping the letter on his desk, he began to think about what deep belief the writer had in God. He himself wanted to have a deep faith like, Lencho, in God. He didn't want to shake the writers' faith in God, so the postmaster came up with an idea and this idea was that the letter should be answered, but when he opened it, he found that it was evident that to answer it, he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his decision. He determined that he would answer the letter. For this purpose, he asked money from his employees, friends and he himself gave a part of his salary, and finally he was able to send seventy pesos to Lencho in the name of God. But he could not collect the entire money that was requested in the letter.



# Dust of Snow

(Robert Lee Frost)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Who composed the poem 'Dust of Snow'?**  
**Ans.** Robert Frost composed the poem 'Dust of Snow.'
- What is the significance of time in our lives?**  
**Ans.** The significance of time in our lives is that lost time never returns again. So it is necessary for us to spend our time in production and construction of our life as well as the life of others.
- What is a 'hemlock tree'?**  
**Ans.** Generally, a hemlock tree is a poisonous tree which bears white, small flowers. This tree generally stands for sorrow, but here the poet has used the symbolic meaning of this tree for happiness.
- What does the poet suggest the human beings to remember?**  
**Ans.** The poet suggests the human beings to remember that nature and its objects have the ability to make one happy and come out of hopelessness.
- What did the poet save?**  
**Ans.** The poet was able to save a major portion of his day, which he might have destroyed in his depression.
- What is the message of the poem 'Dust of Snow'?**  
**Ans.** The poem expresses the significance of small things in changing one's mood. Through this poem, we get a message that we should hope for the best even in the worst of situations.
- What is the significance of hemlock tree?**  
**Ans.** The hemlock tree symbolizes death and fear. It does not signify anything positive.
- How has the dust of snow affected the poet?**  
**Ans.** The dust of snow changed the poet's mood from bad to good and gladdened his heart. He felt joy after the shower of dust of snow.



### Short Answer Type Questions

- "And saved some part of a day, I had rued." Explain the line.**  
**Ans.** In the beginning of the poem, the poet was depressed and hopeless. He was sitting under a hemlock tree lost in depression when suddenly a crow shook the branch of the tree and the dust of snow began to shower on him. This small and simple incident changed his mood. He was now in a joyful mood. Then, he realised that if he had not gone through such a small incident, he would have regretted on destroying his whole day in the mood full of sadness and depression.
- How did the poet feel before the change of mood? Why did he feel so?**  
**Ans.** In the poem "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost, the poet feels despondent and weighed down before the change of mood. He feels this way because he is burdened by the troubles or disappointments he has experienced in his life.
- What is the observation of nature of the poet in the poem 'Dust of Snow'?**  
**Ans.** The poet's observation of nature is quite true, that nature has a power of healing. Robert Frost is a nature poet. It is the observation of the poet that he has presented crow and hemlock in a very beautiful way, while they are associated with bad omens or death and fear. They are a source of joy. He conveys that everything in the world is beautiful and natural.
- How does Robert Frost show in the poem 'Dust of Snow' that human judgments can be misleading to the people?**  
**Ans.** Through the poem 'Dust of Snow', Robert Frost conveys the idea that human judgements on certain issues can be misleading. There are no things in the world which are completely negative or positive. It

depends on the human tendency. There are certain objects and things in nature that people associate with negativity, while they may be quite pleasant, as crow and hemlock are in the present poem, which instantly changed the mood of the poet.

**5. What is the message of Robert Frost through the poem 'Dust of Snow'?**

**Ans.** The message of Robert Frost through the poem 'Dust of Snow' is that even little things can bring multiple changes in our lives. Ordinary incidents of joy also have a capacity to bring major changes in the mood of people. The poet also conveys the idea that joys and sorrow always go together, so we must never lose hope. The poet also throws light on the nature that always brings happiness to human beings.

**6. How can you differentiate between Robert Frost and other poets of nature?**

**Ans.** There is a tremendous difference between Frost and other nature poets. Other nature poets elaborate the natural objects and well-known beautiful things. They just describe the natural objects, but Robert Frost is a poet who perceives life in natural objects. Such a unique thought makes him different from other poets. Frost remains supreme amongst nature poets.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Why does the poet use quite uncommon tree and bird to convey his message?**

**Ans.** In the poem "Dust of Snow," Robert Frost, the poet uses the phrases "a dust of snow" and "a hemlock tree." These choices contribute to the overall imagery and meaning of the poem.

Firstly, the mention of a "hemlock tree" adds a symbolic significance to the poem. Hemlock is a type of evergreen tree, known for its dark, needle-like foliage. In this context, the hemlock tree can be interpreted in the form of sorrow or despair. The situation of the "dust of snow" falling on the hemlock tree suggests a moment of redemption or solace in the face of negativity. The contrast between the purity of the snow and the darkness of the hemlock tree highlights the power of nature and its potential to uplift the human spirit. The use of these uncommon and contrasting elements contributes to the poem's power of nature to change. The poet

finds beauty and peace even in the most ordinary and unexpected natural things.

Secondly, the phrase "a dust of snow" is an example of Frost's ability to find beauty and meaning in insignificant things. By describing snow as "a dust," Frost emphasizes its delicate nature. The use of the word "dust" suggests something ordinary and unremarkable, but when combined with "snow," it transforms into a metaphor for the transformative power of nature. The poem conveys the idea that even a small encounter with the natural world can have a profound impact on one's perspective.

**2. Discuss the themes presented by the poet in this poem.**

**Ans.** The poem 'Dust of Snow' presents different themes. The poem revolves round the themes of hope, life, the healing touch of nature and a positive attitude. Through the poem, the poet wants to convey the idea that a human being should never give up hope. The poet happily and quickly comes to the conclusion that some part of his day has been saved because of the dust of snow that fell on him. He no longer thinks that his day is wasted. Instead of it, he is now full of hope, vigour and zeal. He has been able to save the rest of the day.

Further, the poem presents the healing quality of nature. Earlier, he was depressed because something wrong had happened in his life. But nature's healing touch made him happy and blissful. The poem presents the positive perspectives in the life of the poet. First, the poet's perspective changes as soon as he feels snow on his shoulder. Because he was sad, so everything around him was gloomy and dark. Secondly, the poet suggests that we can think either positively or negatively about an event or thing, depending on our attitude. The poet presents two negative images—crow and hemlock tree, but the poet turns them into positivity to justify the theme of the poem. Thus, the poem becomes a poem of hope and blissfulness.

**3. How can you say that small things in life make significant changes in our life? Answer the question with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow'.**

**Ans.** Robert Frost is a nature poet. He paints different imageries through small incidents. In the present poem also, he presents a small incident of falling snow, but it has a tremendous effect on the



poet. This little thing brings a significant change in poet's life. The poet proves that even a small incident can have a huge impact in our lives. The poem 'Dust of Snow' beautifully presents this fact. The poet's mood is transformed because of a small event, in which there was a shower of dust of snow on his body when he was sitting under the hemlock tree. Such an insignificant event changes his sad and depressed mood into a blissful and joyous one.

The poet wants to convey the idea that just like the simple movement of the crow, the simple things in our lives can make all the difference. Our simple and small acts of kindness can brighten a person's day and life, that can change one's future. Our small acts of charity can have big changes, just like the poet is enlightened by the event who had wasted some part of his day in his sorrows, but makes his life happier. The only thing that we require is a willingness to cure and care for others. In fact, the things of less importance are not insignificant, they can cause us to have a spirit that is willing to change the lives of others and thus, we can get success.

4. **What are the symbols present in the poem 'Dust of Snow'? Do these symbols serve the purpose?**

**Ans.** The poem 'Dust of Snow' presents different symbols. The poet has presented mainly three symbols in the poem. They are the hemlock tree, the crow and the dust of snow. Hemlock is a poisonous tree which may cause death. Thus, the hemlock tree is a symbol of death. It brings disaster in one's life. The second symbol the crow, is considered to be the ugliest bird. It is also associated with bad omen. People begin to think that something wrong is going to happen when they see a crow. Another important symbol is the dust of snow, which indicates natural joy and bliss and happiness.

Out of these three symbols, the poet presents two negative symbols to represent the negative aspect of the mind. But the third symbol, the showering of dust of snow by the crow, certainly improves the mood of the poet. The poet wants to convey the idea that even something that we generally associate with negativity can have a positive effect. Thus, it is true that Frost has used these symbols in a very profound and meaningful sense to exhort the people never to be pessimists. A person must be optimistic every time.



# Fire and Ice

(Robert Lee Frost)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What are the two contrasting ideas that may cause destruction of the world?

**Ans.** The speaker weighs up two different scenarios for the end of the world. Some people think the world will end in fire, whereas others think ice is more likely.

2. How does the direction in the poem change?

**Ans.** As soon as the naturalistic ends to the world are suggested, the poem changes direction and makes it clear that fire and ice are symbols—not of natural disasters, but of humanity's ability to create disasters of its own.

3. Why does the poet think fire to be an image of warfare?

**Ans.** Through his personal experience, the poet knows desire to be a powerful, destructive force. Humanity, then, could bring about the end of the world through passion, anger, violence, greed, and bloodlust. Indeed, the "fire" seems like an image of warfare, too.

4. Why does the poet feel that the world may be destroyed twice?

**Ans.** The speaker feels that human beings have such a great capacity for destruction, as they can bring about this destruction more than once. Here, the speaker presents "ice" as another method for ending it along with hatred.

5. What does Fire stand for?

**Ans.** Some people believe that the world will end because of fire. Here, fire stands for extreme desire, anger, greed etc. present within human beings.

6. What does Ice stand for?

**Ans.** Ice stands for the human emotions of hatred, intolerance etc. and there are so many people who favour ice.

7. What will happen if there are climate changes and

people fail to act?

**Ans.** A contemporary reading could map climate change onto "ice" here. If people fail to act over humanity's effect on the climate, it will gradually, but assuredly, bring about destruction.

8. What may be the prime cause of the destruction of the world?

**Ans.** According to the poet, war may be a prime cause of destruction of the world, and so the poem is gently suggestive of the kind of wars that could bring the end of the world.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why does the poet hold with those who favour fire? UP Board: Year 2023, Set- 6:817(DM)

**Ans.** The poem does not clearly mention the poet's personal preference, but the poet holds with those who favour fire because fire represents passion, desire, and the intense emotions that drive human actions. The poet's emphasis on fire suggests his inclination towards the fiery aspects of human nature.

2. How does the poet put Hatred, Desire, and the End of the World together?

**Ans.** The poet puts Hatred, Desire, and the End of the World together. There is no doubt that despite its light and conversational tone, *Fire and Ice* is a bleak poem that highlights that human beings themselves will be responsible for self-destruction. The poem is such a work of writing as prophecies about the end of the world and explains two possible reasons for this end, and they are fire and ice. The speaker uses these natural elements as symbols for desire and hatred, respectively, arguing that both emotions left unchecked have the capacity to destroy civilization itself. Thus, the world will come to an end.

3. How does the poet present the contrasting ideas in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

**Ans.** The poet presents contrasting ideas of fire with ice. Fire symbolises man's desires, greed and lust. The poet says that when a man goes after his desires only and cares for nothing else, the world can be destroyed by this fire of desires and lust. On the contrary, ice symbolises man's indifference, intolerance and hatred. These feelings also give rise to conflicts and stop us from being altruist. Man becomes selfish only.

**4. What is the message that the poet wants to convey through 'Fire and Ice'?**

**Ans.** The message that the poet wants to convey is that there is nothing eternal in this world. The poet concludes that the world will come to an end in fire because people are so indulged in desires and passions, which are the emotions of fire. Then, he concludes that the world will equally be destroyed by ice because intolerance and indifference are also plenty in human beings.

**5. How does the poet present two different views about the end of the world?**

**Ans.** The poet presents two different views about the end of the world. The poet says that some people believe that the world will come to an end with fire. Here, fire is the symbol of passion, desire, greed and lust. On the contrary, some people have a firm belief that the world would come to an end with ice. Here, ice is the symbol of hatred, insensitivity and intolerance. These are two different views that will cause the end of the world.

**6. Why does the poet seem to support those people who favour fire?**

**Ans.** The poet seems to support those people who believe that the world will come to an end with fire. Frost connects fire with desire, greed and lust. According to the poet, these human instincts are very powerful and can bring a quick end to the world. According to the poet's personal experience, the world will end because of fire as he has personally observed man to incline into desire, greed, lust etc.

**7. What warning does Robert Frost give to human beings?**

**Ans.** Robert Frost is an emotional poet. He wants the world to flourish. So he gives a warning to the human beings and says that they should not forget the harsh and bitter reality that everything in this world is mortal and death is inevitable. It is certain to come to everyone someday. So, men should not be too desirous or too indifferent towards one another.

**8. The poet feels that today's world is full of conflicts.**

**Human beings fight over various trivial issues, and there is no peace in the world. Explain on your reading of the poems 'Fire' and 'Ice'.**

**Ans.** The poet feels that hatred is a predominant issue in today's world. Even a neighbour has hatred for his neighbour, a brother hates his own brother. Nobody is ready to tolerate and forgive the other. As a result of this scenario, we live in a very fragmented world. If greed, lust and hatred continue, our lives and our beautiful world will come to an end. The poet says that if we have to save the world, we will have to learn how to forget and forgive. We must have an enormous amount of love and compassion and learn to get along with each other in spite of our differences.

**9. Why does the poet not use the positive aspects of fire?**

**Ans.** It is true that the poet does not use the positive aspects of fire in the poem. He does not include the positive associations of fire like warmth and light which are necessary for human life on the Earth. These symbolic positive qualities are completely absent from the poem. The reason behind it is that the poet's implicit belief is underscoring the positive aspects and claims that one way or another, humanity is fated to bring about the end of the world.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. What are the two darkest traits of humanity in the poem 'Fire and Ice' by Robert Frost? Discuss and give a well reasoned answer.**

**Ans.** Frost was a poet of symbols. He presents two contrary and darkest traits of humanity. He says that human beings have a vast capacity to hate one another. They also have the capacity to be shown by insensitivity, lust or desire. The poet says that the greater capacity of the two evils is lust or desire. The poet clarifies his statement by saying desire holds the first position in regard to the destruction of the world. He says so because he provides a powerful statement on the subject of greed and jealousy. To prove his statement, Frost says that desire is the trait of humanity that is most powerful to lead to its destruction. He says that desire is the representative of the greatest problem which causes the rise of war, which ultimately brings ruin to the humanity. Again, the poet says that the attribute of hatred



also has the same capacity to harm the humanity. Nevertheless, he gives less importance to hatred but does not ignore its power of having it as a strong weapon to lead to the destruction of the world. Thus, the poet gives equal importance to both the darkest traits of humanity.

**2. How can you say that extreme behaviour can bring the end of the world very soon? Discuss with reference to 'Fire and Ice' by Robert Frost.**

**Ans.** The poem *Fire and Ice* is a symbolical poem. The poem highlights that extreme behaviour is sufficient to bring the end of the world very soon. The poet puts his two different views in this regard. The poet clearly declares and puts his views that the end of the world would come very soon, and it will happen due to the extreme behaviour of the human beings. The poet says that his first view is fire, which is the symbol of deep passions and emotions. According to the poet, desire sometimes becomes so intense that the people lose even their calmness and peace of mind. The poet, without hesitation, says that the fire of desires is always uncontrolled, and it can lead to the destruction of humanity.

The poet puts his another view regarding it and says that ice is also powerful enough to end the world. He says that ice represents hatred, indifference and insensitivity. Such behaviour as hatred, rigidity and coldness gives rise to different kinds of issues. Due to coldness or ice, all positive human emotions, which include human kindness, sympathy, love, warmth and consideration for others, come to an end. Thus, the poet warns the human beings that if they do not show sympathy to others and continue such type of behaviour, it will not only bring death to this world but also to the humanity as a whole.

**3. How does the poet correlate his view about the end of the world with that of scientific view point?**

**Ans.** Robert Frost has his own view about the end of this world. No doubt he has his own interpretation of it. But scientists also think about the end of this world. They also support that there are two possible reasons for it, and they hold the same view point. The scientists tell the two reasons for the destruction of the world. They say that the world will come to

an end either by fiery fire or the age of ice. Some scientists believe that the world would be destroyed by fierce fire, while some other support the view that a coming age of ice or the extremity of cold would destroy all living organisms on the earth's surface. Thus, they are of the opinion that either the extremity of heat or fire will lead to natural calamities like Tsunamis, volcano eruptions or earthquakes on the surface of the Earth and all these disasters will cause the end of the world one day. On the other hand, ice may also melt from the snowy mountains due to global warming. We all know that the temperature of the Earth is increasing day-by-day, which will finally shrink the world. As a result, the entire world will come to an end due to icy water one day. Thus, Frost wants to warn the human beings to be aware of the upcoming disasters which the humanity is going to face in the near future.

**4. What does 'Fire' and 'Ice' stand for and what is the general opinion regarding the world?**

**Ans.** The poet presents two different symbols for the destruction of the world. He provides two possible causes that will bring the end of the world. The poet is an emotional person, so he points more towards the emotional and sentimental side of the issue and wants that such a disaster should never befall on humanity. For him, fire is a symbol of deep passion and burning desire to possess everything in the world, while ice is a symbol of coldness and hatred in human behaviour. He is in favour of both the arguments and says that either the deep burning passion or the cold, hatred and jealousy factor will lead to the path of destruction. He is sure of the destruction of humanity one day. The poet believes that the destruction will come because of fire and if anyhow this fails, then ice will end the world. The love and affection that people have for one another will turn into intolerance and hatred. There will be a rat race of climbing up the ladder of success and being better than the other, people will hate each other. These negative emotions will become so strong that it will cross all the love and lead to the destruction of humanity. Thus, the poet thinks both the aspects equally important.



## CHAPTER

## 2

# Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

(Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Name the party that Nelson Mandela joined.**  
**Ans.** The name of the party that Nelson Mandela joined was the African National Congress.
- When did Nelson Mandela become the President of South Africa?**  
**Ans.** Nelson Mandela, the freedom fighter, became the President of South Africa on May 10, 1994.
- Name the two anthems that were sung on 'that day.'**  
**Ans.** The two anthems that were sung on that day were 'Nkosi Sikeleli Africa' and 'Die stem'.
- Where did the inauguration ceremony take place?**  
**Ans.** The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria.
- What were the colours that were used in the new flag of South Africa?**  
**Ans.** The colours that were used in the new flag of South Africa were black, red, green, blue and gold.
- How did the site look like?**  
**Ans.** It was the site of rainbow colours, which was a gathering of different colours and different nations.
- What had been the African soil for decades?**  
**Ans.** For decades, the African soil had been the seat of White supremacy.
- Who was Zenani?**  
**Ans.** Zenani was the daughter of Nelson Mandela.
- What did Mandela pledge?**

**Ans.** Mandela pledged to obey and uphold the constitution.

- What do the people of South Africa have achieved?**  
**Ans.** The African people have at least achieved their political emancipation.



### Short Answer Type Questions

- What was the pledge taken by Nelson Mandela?**  
**Ans.** The pledge taken by Nelson Mandela was to liberate all the black people from the continuing bondages of poverty, deprivation, suffering and racial discrimination. He also took a pledge to end apartheid in South Africa.
- What is 'extraordinary human disaster' according to Mandela?**  
**Ans.** According to Mandela, the 'extraordinary human disaster', was the practice of apartheid which was in practice in South Africa. It resulted that there was racial segregation based on colour, due to which the black natives suffered a lot. They were not allowed to enjoy any freedom or human right in South Africa.
- What were the views of Mandela about oppressor and oppressed?**  
**Ans.** Mandela had a broad outlook about his people. He always thought that both the oppressor and the oppressed are deprived of their humanity. He said that the oppressor was a prisoner of hatred and locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow mindedness. He always desired people to live with dignity and respect. So he wanted that both of them should be liberated and should be given the opportunity to flourish.

4. **What was the Mandela's thinking about his brothers and sisters?**

**Ans.** Nelson Mandela loved his brothers and sisters. When he grew up, he realised that his brothers and sisters, the people of his community, he himself and the people of the nation were not free. It resulted that his hunger for freedom became great now, which he earlier wanted for himself. Now, his only desire was to get for freedom of his entire community and his country.

5. **Could an African fulfil the twin obligations, according to Mandela?**

**Ans.** According to Mandela, no African could fulfill the twin obligations—personal and social. Mandela was experienced in this matter, so he said that only white people in South Africa could do so. The black natives of South Africa were not free even to live like a human being. If they tried to fulfill their obligations, they were considered as rebellions and severely punished and isolated.

6. **Describe apartheid and its effects on the people of South Africa.**

**Ans.** 'Apartheid' was a political system that discriminated against people according to their colour and race. The policy of apartheid made a deep and lasting wound on the South African people. The wound created the racial discrimination, so it had a lasting and bad impression which was full of terror, oppression and torture on the black people of South Africa.

7. **Why does Mandela call the site "a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations?"**

**Ans.** Mandela calls the site "a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations" because the site was full of eminent leaders and dignitaries from across the world. These leaders did not follow the colour, race and religion. They had gathered to celebrate the victory over the apartheid regime. They were also supporters of peace, justice and human dignity for each and every one on the globe.

8. **Mandela made a promise in the beginning of his oath-taking speech. What was it?**

**Ans.** Mandela made a promise to obey and uphold the constitution. He also promised to devote himself to the well-being of his nation and his people. At the beginning of his oath-taking speech, Mandela promised to make his nation free from poverty, deprivation, oppression and discrimination of all kinds. He was against the practice of apartheid.

9. **What was decades of oppression and its effect?**

**Ans.** The policy of apartheid had decades of

torture and oppression. This oppression created an unintended effect on the black people of South Africa. These people were fighting against the unjust policies of apartheid. Thus, so many patriots, such as Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, Bram Fischer, etc. were produced out of the oppression. These patriots had extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity.

10. **What did Mandela think about freedom in his childhood?**

**Ans.** In childhood, Mandela used to think about ordinary freedom. It was simple freedom – freedom to run in the fields, to swim in the clear stream, to roast mealies and ride the broad backs of slow moving bulls. This was a boyish thought which almost every child has.

11. **Mandela thinks of 'true freedom.' What do you think, what is it?**

**Ans.** According to Mandela, 'true freedom' means freedom to realise one's true potential ability while leading a life full of respect, equality and dignity. The 'true freedom' is not being able to do what one wants without any interference. Mandela wanted to achieve this freedom.

12. **What did the display of jets and military salute symbolise?**

**Ans.** There was a spectacular show of South African jets and troop carriers over the Union Buildings. The highest generals of the military and police saluted President Mandela. It was a clear demonstration of the military's loyalty to democracy as well as to a free and fairly elected government.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **When Nelson Mandela was a young man, he joined the African National Congress, which transformed his life. Why did he join this party? What do you come to know about his character from this incident?**

OR

**Who was Nelson Mandela? Why did he fight with the white rulers of his country?**

[Board 2023/ set 1: 817 (DH)]

**Ans.** Nelson Mandela was a freedom lover boy. He felt the cruelty of whites. So, he joined the African National Congress because he had well acquainted with the fact that the basic freedom was not available to blacks. They could not live as human beings. They were punished and isolated from the society. He was unable to tolerate it. He transformed the life of his people by achieving freedom for his people to

live their lives with dignity and self-respect. Nelson Mandela was a simple fellow and law-abiding person, but his people were in the paws of slavery. They had to endure much pain. They were forced to endure racial discrimination. All these sufferings ignited the fire in Mandela's heart. He taught boldly and fearlessly. Now he was the worshipper of patriotism, self-respect and dignity that transformed his life completely. When he became the President of South Africa, he promised to transform the life of his countrymen also.

2. **What are the twin obligations to society that Mandela mentions in this chapter? Can one fulfill these obligations? How?**

**Ans.** It is a fact that man is a social animal, and he has some social obligations to perform in society. Mandela talks here about twin obligations that should be fulfilled. The first obligation is towards his family, to his parents, to his wife and children. If one does not fulfill these responsibilities, he is not entitled to live in society. The other obligation is towards his people, to his community and to his nation. He emphasizes that we all live in a civil society, so each one of us has this responsibility to fulfill these obligations. But Mandela knew that in a country like South Africa, it was not possible to fulfill these obligations freely because there was discrimination on the basis of race and colour and torture for the black Africans in their own country. That's why Mandela took an oath to make his people free from all types of bondages.

3. **What are the human qualities that Nelson Mandela points out in his speech. Which qualities are most impressive for you? Are these qualities rare nowadays? Give a well-reasoned answer.**

Or

**Who was Nelson Mandela? What ideals did he set out for the future of South Africa in his inauguration speech?**

[Board 2022/ set 1: 817 (AH)]

**Ans.** Nelson Mandela was a true lover of his country. He spent a lot of time of his life in prison, but he did not bow down. He had high human qualities. But in the truest sense, nowadays, those human qualities that Nelson Mandela points out in his speech are hardly and rarely found. Today, people almost lack qualities like altruism, love, compassion and truthfulness. According to Nelson Mandela, these are essential human qualities. Without these

qualities, a man can't claim to be a human being. Nelson Mandela fought against the discrimination that was imposed on the people of South Africa. Nelson Mandela firmly believes that those who are oppressors lack the qualities of a human heart. The real human being is the one who has love, kindness and respect for all. Thus, Mandela gives emphasis on the qualities of the human heart.

4. **Nelson Mandela paid a tribute to the black people who sacrificed their lives for attaining freedom for their country? How? Can we do it for our country? Discuss.**

**Ans.** Nelson Mandela had to spend a major part of his life in prison. He had to fight against the inhumane government in South Africa. They used to make discrimination on the basis of colour of skin. This practice was called apartheid. Nelson Mandela fought against this cruel policy of apartheid. But it was a true fact also that he was not the first leader to initiate this movement. The struggle had been continuing for a long time. Mandela also joined them and succeeded. But he was a humanitarian, so he did not take entire credit for his success. He recognized the contribution of other freedom fighters also and paid them a befitting tribute. He called himself simply the sum of all those Africans patriots who had laid their lives to attain the path of success. He missed all of them and expressed his gratitude towards them. Thus, he did not forget them at all.

5. **Do you think there is colour or caste prejudice in our own country? How can we uproot it? What is your stand on it? Should we discriminate on the basis of caste or colour?**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, It is a true fact that there is no colour or caste prejudice in our own country. All the citizens of India are equal before the law. Nevertheless, discrimination on the basis of caste has not yet been uprooted from the minds of the people. The same happens when the question of education arises. Though we have got independence, all our people have not yet achieved the freedom of education. Also, in many places, girls are not given all the basic rights, including the right of education. Our government should take initiatives to give all the rights to every citizen of the country, including girls and women. Then, our beloved country will become a land of dreams.



# A Tiger in the Zoo

(Leslie Norris)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why does the poet repeatedly use the word 'brilliant'?

**Ans.** The poet repeatedly uses the word 'brilliant' to show the contrast. The brilliant stars in the sky are free, while the brilliant eyes of the tiger are inside the cage. He is quite helpless.

2. Discuss the two qualities of the tiger.

**Ans.** The two qualities of the tiger are that he has vivid stripes on his body and soft velvet pads. His movements in the cage look majestic when he slowly and quietly moves in his cage.

3. How can you define the word 'patrolling'?

**Ans.** 'Patrolling' is a word which means to go around an area at regular intervals to check the safety and security of the area.

4. What is the reason of tiger's quiet rage?

**Ans.** The reason of the tiger's quiet rage is that he has been locked in a cage and his freedom has been curtailed. He feels helpless, so he feels agitated but can do nothing.

5. What is the tiger doing in the cage?

**Ans.** The tiger is moving slowly and quietly along the length of the cage.

6. What would the tiger have been doing if he were in the jungle?

**Ans.** The tiger would have been hiding in the shadows of trees. He would be either sliding through the tall grass or sitting by some water hole waiting for his hunt.

7. Why does the tiger ignore the people who have come to visit him?

**Ans.** The poet thinks that the tiger ignores the people who have come to visit him because he considers them that they do not have feelings to help him come out of the prison.

8. The poet suddenly shifts the focus of the poem to the wild. Why?

**Ans.** The poet wants to present the contrast between

the present state of the tiger and the natural place of its existence. So he suddenly shifts his attention to the wild.

9. How does the tiger terrify the people?

**Ans.** The tiger terrifies the people by growling at them and showing his teeth and claws. It makes the people terrified.

10. What is the suggestion of the poet through these lines?

**Ans.** The suggestion of the poet through these lines is that the tiger should be allowed to live in his natural habitat in the jungle. He should not be confined in the cage.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the contrast between the tiger in the zoo and the tiger in its natural habitat.

**Ans.** The tiger in the zoo lives a confined and controlled life, restricted by artificial surroundings. His natural instincts are suppressed, and he suffers from boredom and lethargy. In contrast, the tiger in his natural habitat experiences freedom, hunts for its food, and exhibits its true wild behaviour. It adapts to its environment, maintaining a balanced ecosystem, and embodies the essence of its species.

[UP Board Set 3: 817 (DJ)]

2. What message does the poet want to convey through the poem?

**Ans.** Through the poem, the poet wants to convey the miserable state of life led by the animals in the zoos. He compares the life of the tiger in the zoo with its life in its natural habitat. Like all other human beings, the animals also have the right of freedom and should not be confined in the cages. They should be allowed to run freely in the wild. Human beings should not exploit them for their own benefit.

3. What are the activities of the tiger behind the bars of his cage?

**Ans.** The activities of the tiger behind the bars of his



cage are that he is stalking along the length of the cage, ignoring visitors, hearing patrolling cars and staring at the brilliant stars shining in the sky. He wants that someone should come to him to make him free from the confinement.

**4. What is the reason of the tiger's snarling around the houses at the edge of the forest?**

**Ans.** There are two reasons why the tiger snarls around houses at the edge of the forest:

First, the villagers, being terrified, will not disturb the peace of the forest and that of the tiger.

Secondly, villagers will avoid killing the animals for money or just for fun.

**5. The tiger expresses his rage quietly. Why?**

**Ans.** The tiger expresses his rage quietly because he is in the state of confinement, so he can do nothing from behind the bars of his cage. He is helpless. He cannot use his strength to get out of the cage. Though he has physical strength in abundance, he cannot come out. He is no longer free as he was in the jungle earlier.

**6. What does the tiger do in his cage?**

**Ans.** The tiger is confined in a concrete cell where he can do nothing but hardly take a few steps along the length of the cage. He is in a sad mood. He doesn't take any notice of the visitors who have come there to visit him. With his brilliant helpless eyes, he keeps on staring at the brilliant stars in the sky as if wishing himself to be free.

**7. How can you describe the tiger when he is in the wild?**

**Ans.** The tiger is a wild animal. He prefers to live in the jungle. When he is in the wild, he looks majestic. He freely lies in the shade of trees and hunts. He moves near the water pond because food is in plenty there. He hides in the long grass. Sometimes he also growls and terrorises or scares the villagers.

**8. How do the villagers feel the presence of the tiger?**

**Ans.** The tiger is a ferocious animal. He creates his terror among the villagers by roaring around their houses, as they are located near the jungle. When the villagers hear his growling, they hide in their houses. He frightens them by showing his white, sharp teeth and claws whenever he wills.

**9. Where does the poet want the tiger to live?**

**Ans.** The poet wants and thinks that the jungle is

the natural habitat of the tiger, so he should have been in the jungle. In the jungle, he could be hiding in the shadow, quietly moving in the long grass near the water pond for prey. He should also be freed from the confinement to live his life in his own way.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. What are your views about the confinement of the wild animals into cages?**

**Ans.** My views in this regard are crystal clear, that no animal should be confined. It is injustice to confine wild animals into cages. The natural habitat of the wild animals is the wild. They are not meant to be caged and displayed in the zoos for a bit of coins. We all know that the majestic species of tiger is on the verge of extinction. Once, they used to roam proudly and freely in the jungles. They were not afraid of anything. But with the passage of time, they have been subject to live a life in confinement. It is also true that they also have the right to roam free like all other living beings. Confinement of living beings is a crime which leads to depression and misery. Moreover, their offspring lose their hunting capabilities as they are not trained to hunt in the wild. As a result, they would not be able to feed themselves. Besides, confining wild animals creates a disturbance in the whole ecological system. Thus, the poet wants to convey his idea to let the animals run freely in the wild.

**2. Every human being has a love for freedom, which is the natural instinct. Elaborate.**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, every human being loves to live a life of freedom. It is a natural instinct of everyone in this universe. No one wants to live as a slave or in captivity. Freedom is liked by every living being. The tiger in this poem is also a living creature, but he has been kept in a cage. He is sad and feels helpless. He yearns for freedom. He could neither rest nor walk freely because the cage was too small. He does not like to be disturbed, so he ignores visitors, as he knows that none of them will help him to be free. He does not have free area to move. No prey is available for him as he had when he was in his natural habitat. His staring at the shining stars in the sky reflects his desire to be free. Thus, the poet wants to convey the message that the animals should not be kept in the captivity.



## CHAPTER

## 3

## Two Stories about Flying

## I. His First Flight

(Liam O' Flaherty)



## Important Questions



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was the young seagull feeling tired?

**Ans.** The young seagull was feeling tired because he was weak because of hunger and he made a successful attempt for his first flight.

2. Why was the young seagull afraid?

**Ans.** The young seagull was afraid of flying over the sea.

3. What do you understand by the phrase, 'this green flooring'?

**Ans.** The green flooring' describes the green surface of the sea.

4. What do you understand by the phrase 'on his ledge'?

**Ans.** The phrase 'on his ledge' describes the rock, which was a narrow and flat piece of rock that sticks out from a cliff. The young seagull lives on this rock.

5. What was the action of the young seagull's mother?

**Ans.** The action of the young seagull's mother was that she swooped past him and made a loud noise with her wings.

6. For how much time had the young seagull been alone?

**Ans.** The young seagull had been alone on his ledge for twenty-four hours.

7. The young seagull was afraid, but what did he feel the next moment?

**Ans.** In spite of being afraid, the next moment, the

young seagull felt his wings spread outwards.

8. Why was the whole family taunting the young seagull?

**Ans.** The whole family was taunting the young seagull for his cowardice. He was not ready to fly at any cost.

9. What was the young seagull's father doing?

**Ans.** The young seagull's father was preening the feathers on his white back.

10. What did the young seagull pretend to do out on his ledge?

**Ans.** The young seagull pretended to be falling asleep and watched stealthily his brothers and sister lying on the plateau.



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. What message does Liam O' Flaherty want to convey to his readers and students?

**Ans.** In "The First Flight," Liam O' Flaherty conveys the message of courage, perseverance, and the importance of facing one's fears. The young seagull's journey symbolizes the challenges of stepping into the unknown, but through determination and the support of others, success and growth can be achieved.

2. How did the seagull's parents help him to try to make his first flight?

**Ans.** The young seagull's parents wanted him that he should fly. For this purpose, they tried hard to make him fly. They not only scolded him, but also

threatened to let him starve. But the young Seagull could not gain the courage to fly. Then, they taunted his cowardice. Finally, the young Seagull's mother tempted him with food and, maddened because of hunger, this resulted in making him fly.

**3. How did the young seagull and his family celebrate his first flight?**

**Ans.** Because of his fear, the young seagull was unable to fly, but when he started flying, he was filled with joy and delight. His family came near him and began to fly around him. They celebrated the young seagull's first flight. They screamed with joy and praised him. They offered him pieces of dog fish to eat. Thus, he could be able to satisfy his hunger.

**4. What were the young seagull's parents doing the day before?**

**Ans.** The day before, the young seagull's parents made his brothers and his sister perfect in the art of flying. They were trying hard to make them learn. They were teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. But the young seagull couldn't gain courage.

**5. Why did the young seagull cry 'Ga, ga, ga?' Did his mother oblige him?**

**Ans.** The young seagull cried "Ga, ga, ga" during his first flight due to fear and uncertainty. He sought reassurance from his mother. Instead of obliging, his mother encouraged him to continue and assured him that he could fly. Through perseverance, the young seagull eventually learned to fly confidently.

**6. How did the young seagull get over his fear of flying over the sea?**

**Ans.** The young seagull was not ready to fly, but he got over his fear of flying over the sea when his family left him alone on the ledge to starve. His mother was tearing pieces of fish. By seeing his mother with food, he could not control his hunger. He was forced to attempt his first flight to get food. So he dived to get the food offered by his mother.

**7. "The sight of the food maddened him". What does this suggest?**

**Ans.** The young seagull was extremely hungry. Thus, the phrase "The sight of the food maddened him" suggests that the young Seagull was so hungry that he was unable to control his hunger. As the

young Seagull was afraid to fly, his parents refused to give him any food. So, when he saw food, his hunger increased that even maddened him.

**8. Describe the young seagull's experience when he had his first flight.**

**Ans.** While trying to get his food, when the young Seagull fell from the ledge, he was filled with fear. But soon, his wings spread out and he found himself flying. Upon realising that he could be able to fly and finally he was flying, the young Seagull was overjoyed. He screamed with joy as he was no longer afraid of flying.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. We see the transformation in the young seagull at the beginning and at the end of the chapter. Compare and contrast two different forms of the same Seagull in the chapter.**

**Ans.** We see the transformation in the young seagull at the beginning and at the end of the chapter. The young seagull was not the same bird at the beginning and at the end of the chapter. When the story starts, the young seagull was all alone on his ledge. His two brothers and sister had flown away the day before with their parents, but he had been afraid of flying with them. Whenever he tried, he was seized with fear. He felt certain that his wings would never support him. His father and mother flew constantly scolding and taunting him. They were threatening to let him starve on his ledge if he did not fly. He was maddened because of hunger and dived towards the fish. After trials and errors, his wings spread outwards. He was soaring gradually downward, forgetting all his hesitations and fears. He could float on the ocean now. He was no more a coward one now. His success was welcomed by his family, as he has conquered his fear of flying. All the family was overjoyed.

**2. The young seagull's family loved him to the core of their heart. Give a well reasoned answer.**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, the seagull's family loved him to the core of their heart. The young seagull had two brothers and a sister. His parents flew in the company of them, leaving him alone on the ledge because he could not gather his courage to fly with them. His parents could give him food, but they

refused until he tried to fly. They wanted him to fly and dive himself for his food. They did so out of their deep love. They threatened to let him starve.

The parents were absolutely right because they wanted to teach him the importance of confidence and self-reliance. They wanted him to do his work himself. So, it was important for him to learn to fly, dive and search for his own food. When he started flying in the end, his family was overjoyed. So, the attitude that the seagull family showed to him was actually their love, care and concern for him. Thus, the seagull family loved him to the core of their heart.

**3. How did the young seagull come out of his fear? Who taught him to come out of his fear and learn the art of flying?**

**Ans.** It was the mother of the young seagull who helped him to come out of his fear. His mother taught him the art of flying, who left him hungry for

a long time. His family left him alone. He felt all alone there. He was extremely hungry. They tried hard to make him fly, but he never showed the courage. His mother thought another trick and knowingly tore a piece of fish and flew to him with it but stopped at a distance. The young seagull was surprised, but he dived at the fish and started falling downwards.

In the beginning, the seagull was scared. He screamed with fear when he dived. But soon he felt his wings spread outwards and he began to fly slowly downwards and upwards. When all the family members called the young seagull to accompany them. As the young seagull landed on the green sea, his legs sank into it. He tried to fly again, but he was tired and weak because of hunger. Finally, his feet sank into the green sea and his belly touched the surface of the sea and then, he was floating on it. Now, he was no more afraid.



## CHAPTER

## 3

## Two Stories about Flying

## II. The Black Aeroplane

(Frederick Forsyth)



## Important Questions



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was the narrator shocked when he heard the woman's words?

**Ans.** The writer was shocked when he heard the woman's words because she told him that there was no other aeroplane flying that night. She had seen on the radar only one aeroplane which belonged to the narrator.

2. What was the condition of the weather when the pilot started flying his aeroplane?

**Ans.** When the pilot of the Dakota aeroplane started flying his aeroplane, it was a clean weather. The moon was shining in the east and the stars were visible in the sky. The sky was clear without clouds.

3. What was the purpose of the writer going to the control centre?

**Ans.** The purpose of the writer going to the control centre was that he wanted to ask about the black aeroplane, so he could thank the pilot for saving his life.

4. Why did the pilot start flying his old Dakota aeroplane over back to England?

**Ans.** The pilot was very fond of his family, so he started flying his old Dakota aeroplane over France and back to England because he wanted to enjoy his holiday and morning breakfast with his family.

5. Why was the pilot frightened again?

**Ans.** The pilot was frightened again because he came to know that the fuel was not sufficient to reach the destination, as it was enough only for next

five to ten minutes to fly.

6. What was the strange incident when the pilot was about 150 kilometres away from Paris?

**Ans.** When the pilot of the old Dakota aeroplane was about 150 kilometres away from Paris, he saw storm clouds in the sky.

7. Why did the pilot feel happiness to find his Dakota behind another aeroplane in the black clouds?

**Ans.** The pilot felt happiness because he found his aeroplane behind another aeroplane in the black clouds, which was helping him come out of the storm clouds.

8. What does the author compare the clouds to?

**Ans.** The author compares the clouds to black mountains.



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is the message that the narrator wants to convey to the students and the readers through the lesson 'the Black Aeroplane'?

**Ans.** The message that the narrator wants to convey to his readers is that they should never lose hope in the most hopeless situation. The narrator was really in such a hopeless situation when he lost contact with Paris control and all his instruments were dead. It was the mysterious pilot who helped him and gave him a hope to survive in such a situation. But this mysterious pilot was none but his own peaceful mind, inner conscience and his experience that guided him in that stormy night.

2. What were the thoughts of the narrator while flying



**his aeroplane during the night?**

**Ans.** During night time, when the sky was clear and the stars could be seen twinkling, the pilot of the Dakota aeroplane felt peace in being above a country that had fallen asleep while he was flying over France to England. It was half past one in the morning, and he was fantasizing about holidaying with his family.

**3. How was the narrator enjoying while he was flying his aeroplane back to England?**

**Ans.** The narrator was feeling calm and contented while flying his aeroplane back to England. It was the only aeroplane in the sky. He was enjoying the sight of the moon and the stars in the clear night. The narrator was also excited because he knew that if he reached on time, he would be able to have a good breakfast with his family.

**4. What troubles did he start to face?**

**Ans.** It was so dark because of the storm that nothing was visible outside the plane. He started losing control of the aeroplane. The compass and other instruments had also stopped working because of the bad weather. He became helpless. He could do nothing in this night.

**5. What was the ray of hope during the night in those troubles?**

**Ans.** The narrator tried calling the Paris Control Agency, but couldn't connect because of the weather. When everything failed, he saw a ray of hope, seeing another aeroplane. He felt relieved when he saw another pilot's face and willingness to help him escape the storm. He thought to himself that the other pilot was very kind as he knew that the pilot of Dakota was lost in the sky, and he was trying to help him.

**6. How did the narrator come out of the storm clouds?**

**Ans.** The other pilot took his plane ahead of the lost aeroplane to make it easier to follow, while the author followed him like an "obedient child." He was also panicking because there was very less amount of fuel left. It was only then that he started coming out of the storm and could see the runway to land his plane safely.

**7. Why did the narrator follow the pilot of the other aeroplane?**

**Ans.** The narrator followed the pilot of another aeroplane because he had lost his way in the storm

clouds. Its pilot signaled him to follow him. He thought he was trying to help him. So he followed the black aeroplane, to get out of the clouds safely.

**8. Why did he pilot of the old Dakota contact to the Paris control? What instructions did he receive?**

**Ans.** When the Dakota aeroplane was flying over France, the pilot thought of informing the Paris Control personnel about its presence and for instructions. He informed the Control Agency, to which they replied with further instruction on directions. The control room at Paris instructed him to turn 12 degrees towards the west.

**9. Why did the narrator want to meet the pilot of the black aeroplane?**

**Ans.** The pilot of the black aeroplane had saved the narrator's life by guiding him out of the storm clouds. The narrator had landed safe and sound at the airport. This was the reason why the narrator wanted to meet the pilot of the black aeroplane because he wanted to thank its pilot.

**10. Why was the narrator surprised when he went to the control tower?**

**Ans.** The author did not know where he had landed, but was not afraid of leaving his plane unattended. He headed straight into the control room to ask about the other pilot. To his utmost surprise, the lady informed him that there was no other plane in the sky except his because of the bad weather. He is left astonished with a lot of questions unanswered in his mind.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Write a character sketch of the Unknown Pilot.**

**Ans.** The pilot of the other plane is a unique figure in the story. He is flying the black aeroplane. The unknown pilot helped the narrator find his way in the storm and make a safe landing. He is helpful who helped the narrator in the dark stormy night. The mysterious pilot had no other purpose. He only wanted to help the narrator so that he could make a safe landing through the storm. The unknown pilot had a selfless attitude. He did not require anything from the narrator. He did not expect anything in return for his help, not even acknowledgement. Undoubtedly, the unknown pilot is a mysterious figure. He did not disclose his identity. As soon as the narrator made a safe landing at the airport, he

disappeared. Thus, the identity of the unknown pilot remains a mystery at the end. We don't know who he is and where he came from. Even the narrator could not thank him.

**2. Why did the narrator say that 'everything was going well, it was an easy flight?'**

**Ans.** In the story, The Black Aeroplane, everything was quite smooth and clear. The pilot was flying his own Dakota aeroplane over France to go to England. While flying at this time of night, the atmosphere around him was very quiet. It was a clear night and the moon was coming in the Eastern sky and the stars were shining. The pilot of the aeroplane enjoyed a smooth flight over a serene countryside. While flying his Dakota, the narrator was dreaming of his holiday and looking forward to having English breakfast with his family. He contacted the Paris control centre for directions and was asked to turn 12 degrees to the west.

In total, the flight was extremely easy and comfortable. No problems have yet been encountered and it was an enjoyable journey. At this time, the narrator said that everything was going well, it was an easy flight. He was quite happy.

**3. How can you say that the story 'The Black Aeroplane' is a mystery story?**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, it is true that The Black Aeroplane is a mystery story. The narrator of the story was flying his old Dakota plane. It was a clear night sky. The flight was quite easy in the quiet sky. However, very suddenly and mysteriously, he saw black storm clouds in the sky. He did not have much more fuel, so he could neither fly over the clouds nor go back

to Paris. Then, he decided to enter the storm clouds. Inside the storm clouds, everything was dark. The narrator could not see anything outside the plane. It was again mysterious that all the equipment of the plane had stopped working, and the narrator was lost in the unknown sky. Suddenly, a mysterious black plane with no lights on its wings appeared. Its pilot guided and asked him to follow through the black clouds. He took him out of such a dangerous situation and led him to land safely at the airport. After the narrator had landed, he wanted to thank the pilot for helping him. But he was surprised to know that only his aeroplane was seen on the radar. Hence, 'The Black Aeroplane' is completely wrapped in a mystery.

**4. Why did the narrator decide to head his plane right into the storm?**

**Ans.** Now, the Dakota plane of the narrator had crossed Paris when he started seeing clouds in the sky. The narrator knew it well that the presence of clouds was unsafe to travel by air because there were chances of a storm. They were so huge and dark that the pilot compared them with "black mountains". He knew he couldn't pass them as it was impossible to go above them or escape with the amount of fuel that was left in the last tank. The right decision could have been to fly back to Paris safely. But the pilot wanted to meet his family as soon as it was possible. He desperately wanted to be with his family and have that English breakfast he had been dreaming all day long. This was the reason that he took the risk of not going back. Thus, he headed the plane right into the storm in spite of facing so many risks.



# I. How to Tell Wild Animals

(Carolyn Wells)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who is the noble wild beast here?

**Ans.** The noble wild beast is Bengal tiger here.

2. How does the tiger look?

**Ans.** The tiger looks like it is coloured with black stripes on a yellow ground.

3. Name the poem and the poet.

**Ans.** The poem is "How to Tell Wild Animals" and it has been composed by Carolyn Wells.

4. Which is the biggest beast of the cat family?

**Ans.** The largest big cat is the Siberian tiger, which can weigh an astonishing 660 pounds and stretch more than 10 feet from nose to tail.

5. How does one identify the Asian Lion?

**Ans.** The Asian Lion is identified by its size, colour and roar. It is a large tawny beast.

6. How does an Asian Lion reacts on seeing a man?

**Ans.** When an Asian Lion sees a man, it roars and takes no time in killing him.

7. Where is the Bengal Tiger found in India?

**Ans.** Bengal Tigers are usually found in the mangrove forest of India and Bangladesh, especially in the gigantic delta region of both these countries.

8. How can you differentiate between the Bengal Tiger and a leopard?

**Ans.** Bengal Tiger has black stripes on its yellow body, while the leopard has round black spots on the body.

9. How can you recognise the leopard?

**Ans.** The leopard can be recognised by its spots on the skin.

10. How can one recognise that he is meeting a bear?

**Ans.** One can recognise that he is meeting a bear by

its hard hug.

11. Whom can you meet around the yard?

**Ans.** I can meet a bear around my yard.

12. Where does a novice may get confused?

**Ans.** A novice may get confused in differentiating between a hyena and a crocodile.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. According to the poet, humour is a perfect medicine for all diseases. Discuss the statement.

**Ans.** It is a true fact that humour brings health for all diseases. The poet also describes about wild animals in a funny manner. All the dangerous and wild beasts like lions, tigers, leopards, bears, hyenas, crocodiles, chameleons have been portrayed humorously. The poet describes their dangerous activities in such a manner that they produce laughter. She does so to bring better medicine for each and every one.

2. What information does the poet give us about a chameleon?

**Ans.** About a chameleon, the poet informs us that a chameleon is found on a tree. It is a creature which can change the colour of its skin according to the atmosphere and surrounding. It is very difficult to see a chameleon even on a bare tree because it changes its colour according to the colour of the tree. Thus, it remains hidden from the human eyes.

3. How does the poet distinguish between a hyena and a crocodile?

**Ans.** The poet explains us to identify a hyena and a crocodile and how to distinguish between them. A hyena is an animal who seems to be laughing. The poet says that if a creature greets a person while smiling merrily, then that creature is hyena. On the contrary, if you find a creature who sheds tears

while swallowing a person or its victim, then it is a crocodile. A crocodile seems to be shedding tears at the time of hunting.

**4. How can we identify a bear?**

**Ans.** We can identify a bear if he hugs us. The poet says that if, while walking round the courtyard of your house, if you meet there a creature who hugs you very tightly, very hard, then you should be sure that it is a bear, though while embracing he may kill you.

**5. How can a man know that the beast is a leopard?**

**OR**

**Describe some features of the leopard.**

**Ans.** A man can know the beast to be the leopard through body. A leopard has spots on its body. It is a fierce, dangerous and powerful animal. It has the quality of leaping again and again on its victims. It leaps over its prey at once and eats the victim without delay.

**6. How can you identify the beast to be the Bengal tiger?**

**Ans.** The poetess again explains the way to identify the Bengal tiger. She says that a person can easily identify the Bengal tiger when he encounters a beast with black stripes on a yellow body, meets and eats him. In this way, he can easily identify the beast to be the Bengal tiger.

**7. How can you identify that the beast is the Asian Lion?**

**Ans.** The poet explains the way to identify the beast in a very humorous way and says that if a person goes to the jungles in the East and if he encounters a large and brownish wild animal that roars over him while killing him, then the dying man can know that it is an Asian Lion.

**8. What are the special characteristics of a chameleon?**

**Ans.** Chameleon can be defined as a garden lizard. Its special quality is that it changes its colour as per the surroundings. The quality to change its colour helps the chameleon to escape from its enemies. Apart it, this creature does not have ears and wings.

**9. The poet in the poem 'How To Tell Wild Animals' uses the terms 'noble' and 'wild' for the tiger. Why?**

**Ans.** The poet addresses the Bengal tiger as noble as well as wild in the poem 'How To Tell Wild Animals.' The reason behind it is that the tiger hunts the other animals only when it is hungry, while other animals hunt every time. Bengal tiger does not do so, that's why she calls him to be noble and wild.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Elaborate the statement 'Appearances are deceptive.' on the basis of the poem, 'How to Tell Wild Animals.'**

**Ans.** In Carolyn Wells' poem "How to Tell Wild Animals," the central theme of "Appearances are deceptive" is vividly explored through a playful and witty portrayal of various animals. Wells describes wild animals who are deliberately misleading the reader. For example, the fierce and dangerous tiger is depicted as noble and mild, a hug in the dark would be a bear, when confused between a hyena and a crocodile, the former would emit a merry smile, while the latter would weep tears.

By using exaggerated and contradictory descriptions, the poet urges us to question our initial impressions and look beyond superficial attributes. This serves as a valuable life lesson, reminding us that forming judgments based solely on appearances can be misleading and unfair. In a broader context, the poem prompts us to approach situations and individuals with an open mind and a willingness to discover the truth beyond the surface. Ultimately, "How to Tell Wild Animals" reinforces the timeless wisdom that appearances can be deceptive, and genuine understanding requires a deeper exploration beyond what meets the eyes.

**2. Each of us also has some special qualities which make us quite different from others, like some special qualities of the animals. Do you agree with this statement? Give an answer with reference to the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals.'**

**Ans.** It is true that the poet has put her different colour of imagination in the poem. She has used the selected words and expressions to describe the qualities of the animals and to create humour. She creates humour when she says, 'A noble beast greets you.' At this time she has used this statement for "The Bengal Tiger", "A Bear hugs you" is used to describe a bear, while through the statements "Crocodiles weep and Hyena smiles" she describes these animals. Thus, she creates humour in the poem. Undoubtedly, each of us has some special qualities which make us quite different from others. For example, we meet many people every day. Our meetings become so frequent that we begin to recognize the people with them only through their voice or through their special habits. These

distinctive qualities give each and every one a unique identification. Thus, we can say that the statement is absolutely right and to the point.

**3. How can you say that the poet expresses her love and affection for the wild animals in the poem 'How To Tell Wild Animals'?**

**Ans.** 'How To Tell Wild Animals' is a humorous poem in which the poet describes various wild animals in a very funny way. The poet has described their special characteristics, body colour and special actions of each and every animal. All these qualities show that the poet has a deep knowledge of the wild animals. She has described them in a unique way. The poet has described so many wild animals,

like the Asian lion, the Bengal tiger, the leopards, the bear, the hyena, the crocodile and the chameleon in amusing manner. In the poem, we come to know about different features of various animals through the description of these animals. The poem is not only entertaining but also informative to the readers. Through the poem, the poet wants to warn the readers to be aware of the wild beasts whenever they go into the forest for their entertainment. If they have the knowledge of the animals, they can safeguard themselves against the danger from any of the wild beasts. That's why we can say that the poem is humorous and informative, and the poet has a deep knowledge of animals and their behaviour.





# II. The Ball Poem

(John Berryman)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- What does every man need to know one day?**  
**Ans.** Every man needs to know one day that loss may occur to him, and he would have to bear it up. He will have to experience the loss in the future.
- Why does the poet say 'O there are other balls'?**  
**Ans.** The poet says so because the loss of the ball is of a major consequence to the boy which can't be regained.
- Why are the eyes of the boy desperate?**  
**Ans.** The eyes of the boy look desperate as he is sad to see his ball gone into the water forever.
- Where did the ball go after bouncing?**  
**Ans.** After bouncing, the ball straight dropped into the water.
- What does 'In a world of possessions' mean?**  
**Ans.** This phrase means that everybody has a habit of having possession of things or materials in their names.
- How was the boy affected by the loss of the ball?**  
**Ans.** The boy was very much troubled at the loss of his ball. He stands still, trembling and staring at his ball. He could do nothing for this loss.
- What is the significance of the word 'ball'?**  
**Ans.** 'Ball' in the poem signifies the boy's innocence and happy young bygone better days.
- Why was 'he' trembling and staring down?**  
**Ans.** He (the boy) was trembling and staring down as he had lost his ball. He was very sad and unhappy, as he had no experience of loss.
- 'He senses first responsibility'—What responsibility is referred here?**  
**Ans.** The 'responsibility' referred here, relates to learning what it is like to experience grief at the loss of a much loved possession.



### Short Answer Type Questions

- How did the boy lose his ball?**  
**Ans.** The boy lost his ball while playing with it. The boy bounced his ball but while bouncing, it went down the street and from the street, the ball fell into the water. In this way, the boy lost this ball, which was a great loss for him.
- Why does the poet say that 'Money is external,' it cannot buy everything?**  
**Ans.** The poet gives the poem a philosophical touch, and in doing so he believes that money cannot buy each and everything. It can bring just external happiness by buying us possessions, but it cannot make a boy recover from his unhappiness due to the loss of a loved one or valued thing. Money can enhance happiness, but money itself is not happiness.
- Why does the poet say "I would not intrude on him?" Why doesn't he offer him money to buy another ball?**  
**Ans.** The poet says so because he does not want to intrude on him because through this incident, the boy can get a chance to learn the real truth of life. He has to learn to accept the loss in the future. The poet here means by the term loss that this is the most important thing or relationship in human life.
- What was the reaction of the boy after losing the ball?**  
**Ans.** After losing the ball, the boy was very upset. He was filled with grief and sadness. The sadness affected him greatly. He was stunned. He could not move and stood there just like a statue. He was overpowered with grief, so he was trembling and staring down where his ball had been lost. He could not utter a single word.
- How does the boy sense his first responsibility?**  
**Ans.** The boy was very upset at the loss of his ball.

He had sensed his lesson of his first responsibility. He experienced the loss of something and learnt how to cope up with it. He was able to understand the nature of loss. It means now he will be more responsible and vigilant to avoid losing something in future.

6. **Why does the poet say that it is important for everyone to experience loss to stand up after it?**

**Ans.** The poet says so because he believes that nothing is eternal. Everyone will have to experience the loss to help him bear it. The loss also teaches him how to recover from loss and stand up boldly. It will remind him to protect and preserve his possessions. Thus, the density of grief will be reduced.

7. **What is John Berryman's message to the readers through this poem?**

**Or**

**Write the sum and substance of the poem, "The Ball Poem".**

**Ans.** Through the poem, John Berryman, the poet, wants to convey the importance of loss and responsibility in life. He says that each of us should learn our responsibility and how to cope up with the loss. He also wants us to learn the things that will get lost from time to time, we cannot replace them all.

8. **How can you say that the lost ball stands for the metaphor of the boy's lost childhood?**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, the lost ball stands as a metaphor of the boy's lost childhood. The boy has lost his ball and is saddened by the loss of it. He says that the ball will never be found again. This loss leads to the loss of the childhood, as the boy learns that he will have to learn and experience the loss in life-the losses that will never be recovered.



### Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Have you ever lost something you liked very much? Write a paragraph describing how you felt then and how you got over your loss.**

**Ans.** Loss or winning is a part and parcel of our life. So in our life, we always lose something or gain something. The same happened to me a few days ago when I lost my purse somewhere. It was

a beautiful purse and it was my birthday gift. I was deeply attached to it. I used to put it in my pocket and every time I kept with me. I used to put my paper of identification as well as money in it but one day anyhow I found that it was not in my pocket. I could not find out where I had lost it, and not even any clue how to get it again. My emotions to the wallet were deep. Apart of it I was thinking of the identification papers which might get into some wrong hands. It might be a heavy loss for me. I was thinking deeply how to get it again. I asked all the family members and neighbours if they had seen my wallet anywhere. In spite of trying my best, I couldn't get it back. After a few days, gradually, the memory of the wallet faded, and I came to my normal life. One day when I was searching for something in my almirah, I got that purse which was put under the cover inside the safe. I found my money and papers of identification inside it. Then, I decided never to part with it and always keep it in my eye and care.

2. **It has often been said that you learn more from losing than you do from winning. It really gets your attention and it really motivates you. Describe.**

**OR**

**Loss is an essential and significant experience of everyone's life. Explain.**

**Ans.** It is a true fact that each and every human being experiences a loss at some point in his life. The loss may consist of a beloved, or a parent or a close relative or a belonging or even a pet. Human beings always have a tendency of getting attached to things, and the loss of things or people close to their hearts cause grievance. But it is also sure that one person or thing must not pull us down. Loss or winning in life is an essential and significant experience, and no one can escape from it in life. It is boldness of the person to suffer loss, and he again learns to deal with it and moves on. If we keep thinking about our loss or lament over that loss, we can never come out of it. It will only affect us psychologically and will bring severe consequences in our life. Brooding over a loss will never help in bringing things back to normal. Loss is inevitable, which cannot be avoided. Once a loss occurs, one must grieve, but only for a short while. Thereafter, one must get over it and move on in life. The life must go on.



## CHAPTER

## 4

# From the Diary of Anne Frank

(Anne Frank)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why did Anne Frank say that 'Paper has more patience than people'?

**Ans.** Anne Frank, a thoughtful girl, did not want her writings to be read, so she said that 'Paper has more patience than people' because the paper can confide one's secrets and it listens carefully and silently without disclosing any secret.

2. Why did Anne Frank not feel peace even when she had loving parents, relatives and friends?

**Ans.** Anne Frank did not feel peace because she did not have any true friends, even after having so many people.

3. Why did Anne decide to write a diary?

**Ans.** Anne decided to write a diary to express her feelings without being exposed and to confide.

4. Who was the long-awaited friend of Anne and Why?

**Ans.** Kitty, the nickname of the diary, was the long-awaited friend of Anne because she had no true friend in her life with whom she could share her thoughts and feelings.

5. What does Anne Frank provide in her diary?

**Ans.** Anne Frank provided a brief life sketch of her life, her family and her grandmother in her diary.

6. When and where was Anne Frank born?

**Ans.** Anne Frank was born on June 12, 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany.

7. With whom did Anne and Margot, her sister, stay in Aachen and Why?

**Ans.** Anne and Margot, her sister, stayed with their grandmother in Aachen because their parents had emigrated to Holland.

8. According to Anne, what is the main feature of an essay?

**Ans.** According to Anne, The main feature of an essay is 'to give convincing arguments' in support of the necessity to talk. She says that the arguments should be understood by everyone.

9. What are the arguments of Anne in the essay?

**Ans.** The arguments of Anne are that talking is a student's trait and she got it from her mother, so about this inherited trait, she could do nothing.

10. Why did Mr. Keesing, her teacher, ask her to write another essay?

**Ans.** Mr. Keesing, the Maths's teacher of Anne Frank, asked her to write another essay as punishment because she had not stopped talking in the class. She always used to talk in the class.

11. Why did Anne take help from her friend Sanne to write the essay?

**Ans.** Anne took help from Sanne to write the essay because she wanted to write something new and inventive. Her friend suggested her to write the essay in verse. So she took help from her.

12. Why did the father duck kill the baby ducklings?

**Ans.** The father duck killed the baby ducklings because they (baby ducklings) quacked too much.

13. What happened when Mr. Keesing read the essay written by Anne Frank?

**Ans.** When Mr. Keesing read the essay written by

Anne Frank, he understood the feelings of Anne and her inheritance, so he allowed her to talk. He also started to make jokes thereafter. He changed himself.



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Anne Frank? Where did she write a diary?

[UP Board 2023/Set-2: 817(DI)]

**Ans.** Anne Frank was a Jewish girl who along with her family moved to Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 1933 but when the Germans occupied the Netherlands in 1940, the Frank family went into hiding to avoid persecution. Anne Frank and her family lived in the 'Secret Annex' in Amsterdam from July 1942 to August 1944. During this time, Anne kept a diary in which she recorded her thoughts, feelings, experiences and observations about life in hiding, her personal studies and her future.

2. What does Anne Frank say about her father and grandmother in her diary?

[UP Board 2023/Set-3: 817(DJ)]

[UP Board 2023/Set-7: 817(DN)]

[UP Board 2023/Set-4: 817(DK)]

**Ans.** In her diary, Anne Frank speaks highly of her father Otto Frank, praising his kindness, understanding and the strong bond they share. She describes him as her most adorable person and source of support during their time in hiding. Anne mentions her relationship with her grandmother and tells that it was for her wellbeing and she always longed for her safety and security.

3. Why was Mr. Keesing, a teacher, annoyed with the author?

**Ans.** Mr. Keesing Anne Frank's Maths teacher, was annoyed with her due to her talkative nature and tendency to talk back in class. Anne's this nature clashed with his disciplined approach. Additionally, Anne's habit of challenging authority and her inclination to joke disrupted the classroom atmosphere. Thus, her behaviour frustrated Keesing and he was annoyed with her.

4. Why does Anne Frank think that paper has more patience than people?

[UP Board 2023/Set-6: 817(DM)]

**Ans.** Anne had loving parents, a sister and thirty other people. But she was a shy, introvert girl. She did not have friends. She wanted someone with whom she could share her secrets. When her friend gifted her a red and white diary, she found a real

friend in her diary 'Kitty' because she realized the truth that paper has more patience than people. So she could confide more ideas in her diary than in people because people are not always interested in listening to what you are telling them.

5. What prompted Anne to keep a diary? What name did she give to it? [UP Board 2022/Set-1: 817(AH)]

**Ans.** The motivation that prompted Anne to keep a diary was to have a trusted friend. In her diary, she could confide in and express her thoughts, feelings, and experiences while living in the Secret Annex. Anne Frank began keeping a diary on her 13th birthday, June 12, 1942, while in hiding with her family during World War II. She named her diary "Kitty."

6. Describe about Anne Frank's early education.

[UP Board 2022/Set-6: 817(AM)]

**Ans.** Anne Frank's early education took place in Frankfurt, Germany. She attended the Montessori School there until the age of 11, where she was a bright and curious student. When her family fled, her education was disrupted. In Amsterdam, she started her education, where her love for writing and literature continued to develop before her family went into hiding.

7. What are your views about Mr. Keesing as a teacher?

**Ans.** Like most teachers, Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher. He actually believed in taking actions with good intentions to reform and develop the students. He tried his best to control Anne's bad habit of talking too much in the class. But soon he was convinced that her habit would not be corrected. Nor would it affect her studies, so he began to overlook her shortcoming.

8. Margot and Anne stayed with their grandmother. Why and where?

**Ans.** When Anne was only four years old and his sister Margot was only seven years old, they had to stay with their grandmother in Aachen. It was the time when her parents migrated to Holland. Their parents wanted to settle down before calling them. Both the girls were called there one by one after a few months of staying with their grandmother from Aachen to Holland.

9. What were Anne's feelings about having a diary?

**Ans.** Anne Frank was only a 13 years old teenager. She felt that writing a diary was a strange experience. She was afraid that no one would be interested in reading the diary of a teenager. People would think that she might have many people to talk to, but in reality, she didn't have any person to talk. That's

why she felt that having a diary was her need so that she could share her feelings and secrets with someone.

**10. How can you say that Anne Frank was an intelligent girl ?**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, Anne Frank was an intelligent girl. She was only thirteen years old but her diary shows she was matured beyond her age. She decided to write a diary because she felt that paper was more patient than people. Only an intelligent person can think so deeply and wisely. Moreover, she proved the necessity of talking. When she was punished again and again, she defended her habit as hereditary. In the end, she wrote a fine, funny poem and turned the joke on her teacher. This act may be done by only an intelligent girl, and so was done by Anne Frank. Thus, she was an intelligent girl.



### Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch about her family? Does she treat 'Kitty' as an insider or an outsider? [UP Board 2023/Set-3: 817(DJ)]**

**Ans.** Anne Frank provides a brief sketch of her family in her diary to introduce her family background and relationships, making her entries more understandable. Anne Frank tells that she has a very lovely and caring family. Her parents and her elder sister loved her a lot. There are about thirty people whom she can call friends.

She treats Kitty, her diary, as an insider. By addressing her entries to "Dear Kitty," Anne personifies her diary as a trusted friend. She expresses her thoughts and emotions openly, creating a sense of companionship during her time in hiding and reflecting her longing for connection and understanding with other people.

**2. Why did Anne Frank maintain a diary?**

[UP Board 2022/Set-3: 817(AJ)]

**Ans.** Anne was a thirteen year old girl. She belonged to the Jewish community. She thought that she could confide more in her diary than people because the diary might be her true friend. She did not know

anyone with whom, she could share her feelings and thoughts.

Although she had so many friends and also spent good times with them, She was unable to share her views and thoughts with them. She also had a loving family and a good home. However, she never found anyone to confide her secrets. She believed that nobody would be interested enough in her feelings and views.

When Anne got her diary, she was overwhelmed. She decided to share everything with it. She treated her diary as her best friend. She was sure that her diary would keep her life a secret and would not react as people did. So, she confided everything in the diary, be it her family, her fears, her loneliness, her life etc. Thus, Kitty, the diary, was an important part of her life that helped Anne overcome her loneliness and her fears.

**3. Why did Mr. Keesing punish Anne Frank? What was the punishment? How did Anne finally escape herself from the punishments of Mr. Keesing?**

[UP Board 2022/Set-4: 817(AK)]

[UP Board 2022/Set-7: 817(AN)]

**Ans.** Mr. Keesing was a strict, discipline loving teacher. He was Anne's Maths teacher. He was annoyed with Anne's talkative nature in the class. So, he decided to punish her by giving her extra homework. The punishment was that Anne was to write an essay on the topic 'A Chatterbox'. Anne wrote the essay, giving very amusing arguments in it. Mr. Keesing liked the essay. But Anne again talked in the class, so he gave her the task of writing another essay on the topic 'An Incurable Chatterbox'. After writing this essay, Anne did not get any punishment for two lessons. But during the third lesson, he was very annoyed again and so he asked her to write another essay on the topic 'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox'.

Anne wrote the essay in verse form with the help of Sanne, her friend. Mr. Keesing liked the poetic-essay and came to know that this habit would not affect her studies adversely. Then, he did not punish Anne after that. On the contrary, he also used to crack jokes in the class.





# Amanda!

(Robin Klein)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why is Amanda's mother so careful for her?

**Ans.** Her mother doesn't want to be regarded as a mother who scolds her daughter every time. So she expects Amanda to put up a happy face all the time. The whole poem revolves around the aspect of how we present ourselves in the society.

2. What is the purpose for which Amanda is getting instructions?

**Ans.** Amanda's mother is a very caring lady, so she is giving instructions as a part of Amanda's upbringing. Through these instructions, her conduct and manners are being refined to lead a happy and prosperous future life.

3. What do you think whether Amanda is really sulking?

**Ans.** No, Amanda is not sulking in the real sense. She just doesn't care about instructions given to her because she is lost in a world of her own dreams in which she does not pay attention to anyone.

4. What are these instructions being given to Amanda in the first stanza?

**Ans.** The instructions being given to Amanda are not to bite her nails and not to sit lazily with drooping shoulders.

5. Why does Amanda not want to let down her bright hair?

**Ans.** Amanda does not want to let down her hair because she is well acquainted with the story of Rapunzel in which all the misfortunes are brought to her by letting down her hair. Amanda wishes to live all alone. She wants to lead a carefree life without any disturbance.

6. Why are the instructions given within brackets?

**Ans.** The instructions are given within brackets

to reveal the inner thoughts of Amanda. These brackets present a direct visual contrast between what Amanda is saying and what her mother is instructing. Thus, the difference is exposed through brackets.

7. Why does Amanda wish to be an orphan?

**Ans.** Amanda wants to be an orphan because in her thoughts, she is taking refuge in her imagination. She wishes to be an orphan to escape away from scolding and questioning by her parents. She wants to roam aimlessly in the streets and draw patterns using just her bare feet on the soft soil.

8. What is a mermaid? What role do they have in the poem?

**Ans.** A mermaid is a mythical creature with a fishtail which lives in water. In the poem, this is a part of Amanda's fantasy in her own world. As mermaid sails in a sea carelessly and effortlessly, so does Amanda long for a life of her own.

9. Why is Amanda not looking towards her mother when she is giving instructions to her?

**Ans.** Amanda is not looking towards her mother when she is giving instructions to her because she is lost in her own thoughts and is paying no attention to instructions being given to her.

10. What do you understand by the term 'silence is golden'?

**Ans.** Through the poetic device metaphor, the poet is estimating the worth of silence in the line 'silence is golden'. Amanda seeks peace and calmness in her life, which is absent from her in reality. So these words exhibit the importance of silence.

11. Why is Amanda's mother so worried about her acne?

**Ans.** Amanda's mother is so worried about her acne because she gives much importance to the physical beauty of Amanda in her house. Amanda does not

know the importance of physical beauty, so her mother is taking care of it like other mothers.



### Short Answer Type Questions

**1. What do you think about the title of the poem?**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, the title of the poem 'Amanda' is quite appropriate. The entire poem revolves round Amanda, a little girl, who is constantly scolded by her mother. Throughout the poem, the focus is on Amanda, who lives in her world of imagination. In this world, she lives a free and peaceful life without any interruptions.

**2. Write a short note on the scolding nature of Amanda's mother.**

**Ans.** The nature of Amanda's mother has a scolding and rebuking nature. We find her every time giving instructions to Amanda. She always tries to find faults with Amanda. Her mother constantly tells her what to do and what not to do. Such a scolding behaviour, adversely affects Amanda, who feels that her freedom is restricted. It is her mother's nature that forces her to escape into her imagination where she may get peace and freedom, what she can't find at home.

**3. Why does Amanda want to become a mermaid, an orphan, or Rapunzel?**

**Ans.** Amanda wants to become a mermaid, an orphan or Rapunzel to live a life of freedom and liberty. Her mother constantly scolds her. So, she wants to escape from it. She wants to wander into her own world of imagination, where she could live a peaceful and tranquil life. She wants to be all alone also. As a mermaid she would be the sole resident of a beautiful sea and as an orphan, she would enjoy freedom. Finally, as Rapunzel, she would live a carefree life in the tower.

**4. Discuss the central theme of the poem.**

[UP Board 2023/Set-2,5: 817 (DI, DL)];

[UP Board 2023/Set-5: 817 (DL)];

[UP Board 2022/Set-2, 4, 7: 817 (AI, AK, AN)]

**Ans.** The central theme of the poem 'Amanda' by Robin Klein is that children love freedom. They want to enjoy their lives. They do not tolerate any kind of restrictions on their activities. The poem exhibits that to make their children well-behaved and good mannered in the society, parents often give too many instructions. They also impose restrictions on them. Such behaviour is always harmful for the children for their development in life.

**5. What are the issues about which Amanda's mother scolds her?**

**Ans.** Amanda's mother scolds her about the

following issues:

- Her mother continuously asks her to sit properly and not to bite her nails with her teeth.
- Amanda is ordered not to eat chocolates.
- Amanda is asked to clean her room as well as her shoes.
- Amanda is also asked to finish her homework in time.
- Amanda's mother points out her for not paying attention to her.
- Her mother scolds her for her sulking and moody behaviour.

**6. Do you think Amanda's at fault in the poem?**

**Ans.** No, it can be clearly claimed that Amanda is not at fault. She is constantly instructed and scolded by her mother. Her mother has restricted her freedom. Amanda desires the peace and freedom in life, but she finds herself unable to get them. So, she escapes into her own world of imagination, where she enjoys the calmness and blissful life.

**7. Why does Amanda always seem to remain moody?**

**Ans.** It is a true fact that Amanda seems moody most of the time. But it is also true that circumstances have turned her into such a condition. She is scolded every time, so she prefers to live in her own world of imagination. For this reason, she does not pay attention to her mother. Amanda wants to spend her time in her world of fantasy to escape away from the continuous scolding of her mother. She remains in day dreaming which makes her look moody and uninterested in anybody.



### Long Answer Type Questions

**1. What does the girl yearn for? What does this poem tell you about Amanda?**

[UP Board 2023/Set 4: 817 (DK)]

**Ans.** In "Amanda" by Robin Klein, the poem conveys Amanda's yearning for freedom and self-discovery. Through vivid imagery and introspective lines, Amanda appears to seek escape from societal constraints and expectations. Her desire to get freedom and liberty gives us a way to handle our children. The poem portrays Amanda as a little girl who longs to explore her individuality. Perhaps she is feeling a sense of confinement in her current circumstances. She is again and again scolded and rebuked and, as a result, escapes to the world of imagination and dream. She is yearning for exploration and an identity of her own. No doubt, her inner struggles and aspirations make her a complex character. She wants to lead a life of her own. The poem tells us and highlights that the

children should be given more freedom and liberty.

**2. What is the message of the poet through the poem 'Amanda' ?**

**Ans.** Through the poem 'Amanda', the poet wants to convey her idea that every child is special in himself. So he requires a great amount of care, patience and love to be brought up. Such an understanding should be developed between parents and children. The children must be given freedom and liberty as they learn the best from their own experiments and experiences. If the children learn some bad habits, it should be removed carefully. If parents judge each and every action of a child, it becomes more harmful.

In the poem, the little girl Amanda goes through constant scolding for her habits. Consequently, the girl desires freedom and liberty for her choice. The lack of freedom makes Amanda upset and moody. So she escapes and begins to wander into her world of imagination. She enjoys the things, which she is deprived of in reality. Thus, the poem 'Amanda' gives a lesson that the parents need to take a more gentle approach regarding their children. They must have more patience.

**3. What does Amanda do when the scolding nature of her mother becomes unbearable?**

**Ans.** Amanda's mother has a very harsh treatment towards Amanda. When she encounters this situation, she escapes into her own world of imagination. Her world of dreams gives her freedom and peace that she tries to find out in reality. But she is constantly scolded and rebuked by her mother. Her mother continuously instructs her for her ill-manners and laziness. She wants that Amanda should amend her behaviour. She is again and again instructed not to bite her nails, not to eat chocolates, to clean her room and so on. This is the reason why Amanda escapes into the world of imagination and romance when her mother gives instructions. She is

lost in her daydreams. It is her shield and defence of her against the harsh realities that she undergoes through. The behaviour of Amanda's mother leaves a harmful impression in her mind. She needs freedom and peace which find expression in her dreams and imagination of a carefree and happy life as an orphan, mermaid and Rapunzel where she will get no one to control her. Outwardly, Amanda may seem moody and upset, but in reality, it is not so. She wants to escape, only to avoid scolding and rebuking every time.

**4. What is the importance of proper upbringing to a child? Answer with reference to the poem 'Amanda' by Robin Klein.**

**Ans.** Proper care and upbringing is essential for the child to develop as a true citizen of the country. Upbringing plays a vital role in the personality development of a child. Robin Klein in her poem 'Amanda' gives the importance of 'proper' upbringing. This is the first and foremost duty of the parents to develop good moral values and principles in a growing child. But ironically, the poem displays how a child feels disturbed and upset because of constant instructions and restrictions.

Amanda is a little girl in the poem who goes through such a situation. She is scolded for her different habits. She is given no freedom and space for herself in life. Due to this reason, she enters her world of fantasy and imagination. In her world of imagination, she tries to find out freedom and peace. She struggles to pacify her longings. She imagines herself as a mermaid, the only resident of a beautiful sea, an orphan who is free to do anything whatever he likes. In the end, she wants to become Rapunzel, a mythical character who lived in a tower peacefully. Therefore, this is the responsibility of the elders/parents that they must maintain a balance between duties and rights. They should provide them with good manners, but along with good manners, they should also provide them with freedom and liberty.



## CHAPTER

## 5

# Glimpses of India, Part-1

## A Baker from Goa

(Lucio Rodrigues)



### Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What did the baker do after his musical entry in the village?

**Ans.** The baker used to greet the lady of the house with 'good morning' and then place his basket on the bamboo to deliver the loaves of bread.

2. What is the baker called in Goa?

**Ans.** The baker is called 'pader' in Goa, as per the Portuguese culture. In the olden times, they wore traditional dresses called Kabai.

3. Why is the baker essential for the Goan people?

**Ans.** The baker is essential for the Goan people because most of the celebrations and festivals depend on the supply of bread which is produced by the bakers only.

4. How is bread an important part of life in Goa?

**Ans.** Bread is still important in Goa because we can see the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves still today. The ladies of the house prepare sandwiches on the occasion of their daughter's engagement. Most of their festivals and other occasions will become meaningless without the loaves of the bread.

5. How can you say that the baker and his family always looked happy and prosperous?

**Ans.** Baking was indeed a profitable business in the olden days. The baker and his family never starved. Their plump physique was an open proof that they were happy and prosperous. They led a happy life.

6. What are the elder people in Goa nostalgic about?

**Ans.** The elder people in Goa are nostalgic about the good old days. Those old days were the Portuguese days when the people liked the bread of different types which were given to them by the Portuguese who still retain the importance in Goan culture and tradition.

7. Why did the children run at the arrival of the baker?

**Ans.** The jingling thud of the baker's bamboo woke the children up from their sleep. They would run to meet and greet him to get bread bangles or sometimes sweet bread of special make and of their choice.

8. How can you say that baking was a profitable profession?

**Ans.** We can say that baking was really a profitable profession by the fact that bread was an important part of the food of the Goan people. That's why the bakers earned well and kept servants. They never starved. Their families looked happy and prosperous.

9. What can you say about the presence of the paders still in Goa?

**Ans.** The presence of the paders in Goa even today is evident by the fact that still there are mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Apart from it, those age-old time-tested furnaces still exist which baked the loaves of bread.

10. How did the pader treat the kids who surrounded him?

**Ans.** The pader was a gentle man, so he treated the kids who surrounded him very kindly. Sometimes, he used to push them aside with a mild rebuke to deliver the bread.

**11. How did the bakers maintain their accounts?**

**Ans.** The bakers maintained their accounts on the basis of monthly records. Their accounts, were maintained on some wall in pencil.

**Short Answer Type Questions****1. What do you know about the role played by the baker in the narrator's childhood?**

**Ans.** When the narrator was a child, he would come to know about the arrival of the baker from the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his bamboo stick of the baker. He would run to meet and greet him. The children, in his time, tried to surround the basket but were pushed aside until the bread was delivered to the maid. Then they were allowed to choose their bread-bangles only.

**2. What was the peculiar type entry of the baker?**

**Ans.** The entry of the baker was very peculiar. He used to make his musical entry with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specially made bamboo stand. He used to support the basket on his head with one hand and with the other hand, he banged the bamboo on the ground. He would greet the lady of the house and then place the basket on the bamboo. Such was his peculiar entry.

**3. What symbols do you find in Goa about the Portuguese way of life still today?**

**Ans.** In historical perspectives, Goa was once ruled by the Portuguese. They were fond of loaves of bread, so they were famous for preparing them. When they left Goa long ago, they also left this culture in Goa. This is the reason why the traditional work of the bakers can still be seen in Goa. The furnaces in which the bread was baked still exist there. So many other symbols are also found there even now.

**4. What memories do the author recall when the baker used to visit his village?**

**Ans.** The author has a lot of memories of his childhood. He recalls that a baker used to visit the village twice a day. He was the author's friend and guide. The author used to wait for his arrival. He used to carry a bamboo stick. The sound of this stick used to wake up the author and other children from their sleep.

**5. How can you say that the village baker was very important for special occasions in the villages of Goa?**

**Ans.** It can be undoubtedly said that the village baker was especially important for festive occasions.

The villagers were much fond of the sweet bread known as 'bol.' Marriage gifts were meaningless without these sweet breads. Sandwiches, cakes and bolin has were necessary for Christmas and other festivals. These were made with the bread. These items used to enhance the charm of the occasion.

**6. What do you know about the dress of the bread-sellers?**

**Ans.** The bakers or the bread-sellers wore a peculiar dress. It was a special type of dress. It was called as 'kabai.' It was a single-piece long frock. It was long enough to reach down to his knees. During the narrator's childhood, bakers wore trousers which were shorter than full-length pants and longer than half pants. It was their traditional dress.

**7. When did the baker collect his bills? How were they prosperous?**

**Ans.** The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. In the household, the baker's monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall with a pencil. Baking was a profitable business in those days. Their plump bodies showed that they were prosperous. Their families and workers never starved.

**8. How can you say that the makers of the famous Goan loaves of bread are still there?**

**Ans.** The writer tells us that many of those who used to eat loaves of bread, have died by now, but their makers still exist. The mixers, the moulders and those who baked the loaves are still there in Goa. The furnaces have not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of the baker's bamboo can still be heard in the morning at some places. These bakers still exist in Goa. The family profession is still carried on. They are known as paders.

**9. Discuss the attitude of the baker towards (i) the lady of the house, (ii) the children, (iii) the maidservant?**

**Ans.**

(i) As soon as the baker arrived, first of all, he would greet the lady of the house, addressing her with "Good morning" and then place his basket on the vertical bamboo before her.

(ii) He used to push aside the children with a mild rebuke. He didn't give the loaves of bread to children.

(iii) The loaves of bread were delivered to the maidservant of the house.

**10. Why didn't the children care to brush their teeth or**



**wash their mouths properly?**

**Ans.** The children did not care to brush their teeth or wash their mouths properly because the jingling thud of the pader and his musical entry in the morning would wake up the children from their sleep. Soon they used to run to greet and meet him. They didn't even care to brush their teeth or wash their mouths. There was no need of doing any such thing. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all. So they didn't need to wash their mouths.



### Long Answer Type Questions

1. After reading the story 'A Baker from Goa', do you think our traditions, heritage, values and practices are the roots that nourish us? Why/why not?

**Ans.** 'A Baker from Goa' is an interesting story which gives the reminiscences of his childhood. The story also highlights the importance of the traditional practices in every walk of life but in particular in Goan village, it tells us about making loaves of bread for every occasion and festival of the Goan people. This tradition continues even today. This shows how our traditional practices can keep us and correlate us to our past, past culture and heritage. It is a true fact that traditional moral values shape our personality and character. They also provide us with emotional support. They enable us to face difficult situations with courage and boldness and make us mentally strong. These traditional practices also have an impact on our attitude and behavioural pattern towards the other people in society. The other people also behave in the same way as they perceive others doing so.

2. In an earlier time, why was it absolutely necessary to have a "baker's furnace" in a Goan village?

**Ans.** In an earlier time, it was absolutely necessary to have a "baker's furnace" in a Goan village because the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread had

made a permanent impact on Goan people and soil. It may be possible today that the consumers of those loaves of bread might have vanished, but the makers of the loaves—the bakers, still have an important place in the Goan society. There are mixers, moulders and those who bake the loaves in the Goan village. The age-old time-tested furnaces which exist till date can be found in the villages of Goa. The bakers are still important because this important production is produced only by bakers. According to the custom, the lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes and bolinhas are necessary for Christmas and other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is still essential. Furnaces in Goa are the symbol of continuity of life in Goan villages.

3. When we read about the joys that the narrator had in his childhood and compare them with the children of today who are keen to enter adulthood, what idea do you form in your mind?

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, the time of the past was an enjoyable time. The children of that time used to enjoy their life, but today we see the keenness of the children to enter adulthood as soon as they can. No doubt it is desirable today. The reason behind it is that the children these days are in a hurry to enter their adulthood. They have access to modern technology. They have mobile phones and the Internet in their hands today. This is the reason why they are learning things earlier than usual. They are getting matured before their age. The adverse effect of this advancement is that they are losing their childhood and missing the joys that it brings, life and vitality with it. In our personal opinion, it is advisable they should grow at a slow pace and enjoy their childhood to the utmost. If the children are devoid of their childhood or those who miss out their childhood can never be complete adults. So, the children should be taught not to hurry to be an adult. They should grow at a natural speed.



## CHAPTER

## 5

# Glimpses of India, Part-2

## Coorg

(Coorg is coffee country, famous  
for its rainforests and spices)  
(Lokesh Abrol)



### Important Questions



#### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why do the langurs and the squirrels drop partially eaten fruit in the river?

**Ans.** The langurs and the squirrels drop partially eaten fruit in the river because they enjoy the splash and ripple effect created by the fruit when they drop and hit the water.

2. Which animals can you see in Coorg ?

**Ans.** We can see macaques, malabar, squirrel, langurs, slender loris and wild in elephant in Coorg.

3. Which is the river that flows from the hills of Coorg?

**Ans.** The river that flows from the hills of is the Kaveri river.

4. Why is Coorg so famous?

**Ans.** Coorg is famous for its evergreen spices, rainforests and coffee plantations.

5. What is a special favour granted only to the people of Coorg even now?

**Ans.** The people of Coorg are the only people in India who are permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

6. Which traditions exhibit the rich culture of the people of Coorg?

**Ans.** The rich culture of Coorg people is most apparent and exhibited in their martial traditions, religious rites and marriages.

7. What kind of stories do the people of Coorg always ready to tell?

**Ans.** The people of Coorg are always ready to tell the tales of valour related to their sons and fathers.

8. Which story is generally told about the people of Coorg?

**Ans.** The story told about the people of Coorg is that the people of Coorg were the descendants of Alexander's army, who settled in Coorg when return became impossible.



#### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Which area is inhabited by a proud martial race and wild creatures? [UP Board 2023: Set-5: 817 (DL)]

**Ans.** Coorg, located in Karnataka, is inhabited by the Kodavu people. They are often referred to as a proud martial race, known for their historical valour and warrior traditions. This picturesque region is also home to diverse wildlife, including elephants, tigers, and various bird species. Coorg's unique blend of rich culture, stunning landscapes, and indigenous wildlife makes it a captivating destination.

2. What is the main crop of Coorg?

[UP Board 2022: Set-5: 817 (AL)]

**Ans.** The main crop of Coorg is coffee. The region's mild climate, high elevation, and fertile soil provide ideal conditions for coffee cultivation. Coffee plantations are a prominent feature of Coorg's landscape, contributing significantly to its economy and cultural identity. The lush green coffee estates attract tourists, offering a glimpse into the region's agricultural heritage and scenic beauty.

3. What do you know about the background of the people of Coorg?

OR

**How do the people of Coorg differ from the Hindu mainstream?** [UP Board 2023: Set-6: 817 (DM)]

[UP Board 2022: Set-2: 817 (AI)]

**Ans.** The people of Coorg are believed to be of Greek or Arabic origin. This theory is believed because of their dressing style. They wear a long and black coat with an embroidered waist belt known as Kuppia which is similar to the kuffia worn by Arabs and Kurds. Another theory is that some people of Alexander's army settled here while returning from the south. That's why their culture, as well as rituals, are very different from the ones that are followed by Hindus.

**4. What are the adventurous sports at Coorg?**

**OR**

**What is Coorg famous for?**

[UP Board 2023: Set-2: 817 (DI)]

[UP Board 2022: Set-1: 817 (AH)]

[UP Board 2022: Set-3: 817 (AJ)]

**Ans.** There are many adventurous sports at Coorg. The tourists who visit Coorg to relax in the natural beauty of the place also get attracted towards these adventure sports activities available. The main sports activities are like river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain climbing. The hills have various paths formed by footsteps of walkers who trek there. All these things make Coorg an attractive place.

**5. What are the animals found in Coorg?**

**OR**

**What are the animals you are likely to see in Coorg?**

[UP Board 2022: Set-4: 817 (AK)]

**Ans.** The tourists who get a chance to visit Coorg, are fortunate enough. It is so because while taking a walk in this region, they find a variety of animals around them. Birds, bees and butterflies fly around them while squirrels and langurs keep an eye on them from the trees. Wild elephants can also be found in Coorg. Thus, the place becomes extremely charming.

**6. What do you know about Coorg?**

**Ans.** Coorg is a beautiful place—so beautiful that it seems like a piece of heaven that has drifted away from God's kingdom and has settled on the Earth. It is somewhere between Mysore and Mangalore. It is an area with low hills of unequal height. The men are brave warriors, the women of Coorg are pretty. The place has a variety of wild animals too. Indeed, Coorg is a matchless place on the Earth.

**7. What do you know about the climate of Coorg?**

**Ans.** Coorg, known as Kodagu also, is the smallest district of Karnataka. More than 30% of the area of Coorg is covered with evergreen rainforests. Coorg receives rain for the most part of the year. But in the monsoon season, it gets more than average rain.

The period from September to March is ideal for visiting Coorg because the weather, at this time, is pleasant and there is some rain which makes it more charming. The air is filled with the strong fragrance of coffee due to the abundant coffee plantations in Coorg.

**8. What do you know about the nature of the people of Coorg?**

**Ans.** The people of Coorg are very welcoming and warm in nature. They always tell entertaining stories of their ancestors. They love to be independent. They are very brave, which is evident from the fact that the Coorg Regiment in the Indian army has received the maximum number of gallantry awards. The first chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa also belonged to Coorg. It is also a fact that due to their bravery, only people of Coorg are permitted to carry firearms freely without a licence.

**9. What are the benefits of the forests of Coorg?**

**Ans.** The forests in Coorg are very beneficial for the place. The evergreen forests and hills of Coorg provide water to the river Kaveri, a major river in South India. A large freshwater fish called Mahaseer is found in these waters and is looked for by the birds who eat it with very charm. Squirrels and langurs play in these waters by throwing half-eaten fruits, whereas elephants enjoy bathing in it. The mahouts of these elephants rub their body.

**10. What do you know about India's largest Tibetan settlement?**

**Ans.** If we want to have an overall look at the beautiful city of Coorg, we must climb up to the Brahmagiri hills. Coorg is surrounded by astounding places of beauty like the island of Nisargadhama and Bylakuppe where India's largest Tibetan settlement has been formed. Monks wearing red, orange and yellow coloured garments can also be seen in the district of Coorg. Undoubtedly, their lifestyle is a fascinating view for the travellers and visitors. A mix of diverse cultures can be seen here, which represent the heart and soul of India. The people, at Coorg, are very welcoming and warm to their guests.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. How can you say that unity can be found in diversity on the surface of the Indian way of life?**

**Ans.** After reading the chapter, it is apparent that unity is found in diversity in India. Coorg is the best example of this unity in diversity. Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is among the most beautiful regions of India. Its location, people and natural features add to the diversity of the Indian

way of life. Coorg is called a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. There are numerous beautiful rolling hillsides that are always filled with evergreen rainforests, plants of spices and coffee plantations. A famous and pious pollution free river Kaveri flows in Coorg along with many species of birds, insects, and animals. Nature has chosen this place for her dwelling with full glory and grandeur. The martial traditions, rituals and rites of Coorg show a mixture of Arabic and Greek culture owing to Greek and Arabic descent. Coorg is a home to many courageous men as well as religious Buddhist monks. Also, there are many other tourist destinations that add to its glory. All these features of Coorg together add to the diversity of the country. Thus, unity in diversity is apparent on the surface of India.

2. **Why do you think that the Coorgis still maintain their traditional practices even today?**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, it is important to maintain the traditional practices. It is important because by following the traditional practices, we are able to restore our ancient decency. So is with the Coorgis. The Coorgis have kept their ancient tradition even today. If the people of Coorg had not followed it, their tradition would have perished long ago. Nobody would have been able to remember them today if they had destroyed their culture and traditional practices. Their traditional martial forms, religious rites and marriages are still in the existence. The Kodavus even today wear their traditional dress which resembles the dress of Arabs, which they call Kuppia. These traditional practices are extremely important in maintaining moral values amongst people. They have an impact on shaping the character and behaviour of the people. These practices bind us together in our social life.



## CHAPTER

## 5

# Glimpses of India, Part-3

## Tea from Assam

(Arup Kumar Dutta)



### Important Questions



#### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. How can you describe the magnificent views of the tea estate in Assam?

**Ans.** The tea estates in Assam are full of beauty. The bushes are spread like a sea against the backdrop of densely wooded hills. Amidst the orderly rows of tea, doll-like figures were plucking tea leaves.

2. Which state did Pranjol belong to?

**Ans.** Pranjol belonged to Assam, a beautiful North-Eastern State of India.

3. How long does the second flush or sprouting period last?

**Ans.** In Assam, There are two flushes or sprouting periods. The second sprouting period lasts from May to July.

4. What was Pranjol's father?

**Ans.** Pranjol's father was the manager of a tea garden at Dhekiabari in upper Assam.

5. Why was Rajvir going to visit Assam?

**Ans.** Rajvir had been invited by his classmate Pranjol, who belonged to Assam, to visit his home during the summer vacation. So he was going there.

6. Where were Pranjol and Rajvir going?

**Ans.** Pranjol and Rajvir were going to Assam to visit Pranjol's home in the summer vacation. Rajvir was going on the invitation of Pranjol.

7. Where was the Tea Estate of Pranjol's father located?

**Ans.** The tea estate of Pranjol's father was located at Dhekiabari.

8. What could Rajvir see as far as his eyes could see?

**Ans.** Rajvir could see tea bushes as far as his eyes could see.

9. When did tea come to Europe?

**Ans.** Tea came and introduced to Europe in the sixteenth century.

10. According to Rajvir, how many cups of tea are drunk daily throughout the world?

**Ans.** According to Rajvir, over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk daily throughout the world. Tea has been a popular beverage.

11. Why did Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids?

**Ans.** Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during his meditations.

12. When was tea drunk first in China?

**Ans.** First of all, Tea was drunk in China in 2700 B.C.



#### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What does the writer say about "Tea from Assam?" [UP Board 2023/ Set-1: 817 (DH)]

**Ans.** The author describes about tea of Assam in this chapter "Tea from Assam." Here he describes how tea is grown in tea estates. He tells us the complete process of tea plantation from the garden to the hands of drinkers. He tells how tea is grown, plucked, processed and finally turned into a popular beverage. He also includes legends related to tea.

2. What was the result of the incident when Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids, according to an Indian legend? [UP Board 2023/ Set-4: 817 (DK)]

**Ans.** According to Indian legend, once there was a Buddhist ascetic, Bodhidharma who used to feel



sleepy during meditations. So he cut off his eyelids. When Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids, ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. When the leaves of these plants were put in hot water and consumed, they banished sleep.

3. **Where were Pranjol and Rajvir going? What was Pranjol's father there?**

[UP Board 2022/ Set-2: 817 (AI)]

OR

**Where were Rajvir and Pranjol going and why?**

[UP Board 2022/ Set-5: 817 (AL)]

**Ans.** Pranjol and Rajvir were fast friends in the school of Delhi. Pranjol belonged to Assam, a North Eastern state of India. Rajvir was his classmate. Pranjol's father was the manager of a tea-garden in Upper Assam. Pranjol invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation. That's why both of them were travelling to Assam by a train.

4. **Why was Rajvir so much excited?**

**Ans.** Rajvir was so much excited to see vast fields full of green plantations. He had never seen so much greenery before. He was looking at the beautiful scenery. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eyes could see. There were vast green tea gardens on both sides of the road. The orderly rows of bushes were pruned to the same height. Rajvir was really excited to see the magnificent view.

5. **Why did Pranjol's father say in surprise that Rajvir had done his homework before coming there?**

**Ans.** When all of them were travelling to Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Rajvir saw that a tractor was pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves. At this, Rajvir asked Pranjol's father if that was the second flush or sprouting period. Rajvir again told that the second sprouting period lasts from May to July and yields the best tea. Such detailed information about tea leaves surprised Pranjol's father. He told Rajvir that he seemed to have done his homework before coming there.

6. **How has tea become a popular beverage?**

**Ans.** It is a common belief that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. Words like '*chai*' and '*chini*' are Chinese words. Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century. In the beginning, it was used more as a medicine than as a beverage. Tea is decidedly a very popular beverage in the world. More than eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. At every platform in India, you can hear

vendors crying "*Chai-garam*". The people can't resist buying the steaming hot cups of tea.

7. **How does Rajvir describe the tea-garden when he reaches Dhekiabari?**

**Ans.** When Rajvir reaches Dhekiabari, he sees that on both sides of the gravel road were acres and acres of neatly pruned tea bushes. The second sprouting period was going on. Women in a large number wearing plastic aprons were plucking new tea leaves and putting them in the bamboo baskets which were hanging on their back. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery. He called it a 'magnificent view'.

8. **What is the Chinese legend regarding tea?**

**Ans.** There is an ancient Chinese legend about the discovery of tea. It is said that a Chinese emperor had the habit of drinking boiled water. One day, a twig from the fire fell into the pot in which water was being boiled. It gave a delicious flavour to the water. It is said that those were tea leaves. Thus, it was the first tea ever prepared. In this way, it is believed that tea was first prepared and taken in China.

9. **What information was given by Pranjol's father to Rajvir about Assam Tea Estate?**

**Ans.** Pranjol's father was the manager of a tea garden in upper Assam. He showed Pranjol and Rajvir the acres of tea bushes, all neatly pruned to the same height. Groups of women pluckers, with bamboo baskets on their backs to put tea leaves in, were plucking the newly sprouted leaves. They were wearing plastic aprons

10. **Which tea is considered to be the best tea? Why?**

**Ans.** Assam tea is considered to be the best tea for its flavour, deep aroma and good taste. Assam has the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. The weather and environmental conditions are perfect here to grow tea plants. The second sprouting season lasts from May to July. The best tea is produced during this season.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **What are the various legends about the origin of tea, as described in the lesson 'Tea from Assam'?**

[UP Board 2022/ Set-7: 817 (AN)]

**Ans.** The lesson describes so many legends about the origin of tea. Two of them are the most popular. They are presented here: According to one story,

a Chinese emperor discovered tea by chance. He always boiled water before drinking because he drank only boiled water. One day, a few leaves off the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water. As a result, it gave a delicious flavour to the drink. It is said that those were tea leaves. According to another Indian legend, Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, fell asleep during meditations. So he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. When the leaves from these plants were put in hot water and drunk, they banished sleep. It is believed that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. Words like 'chai' and 'chini' are Chinese. Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century. At first, it was used more as a medicine than as a beverage.

**2. What landscape did Rajvir notice while sitting on the train?**

**Ans.** Assam has the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. Rajvir was fascinated by the scenic beauty of the place. There were vast green tea gardens on both sides of the train route. The tall trees were at the back of the gardens in the forest on the rolling hills, which were giving a shape of beauty and charm. There were large groups of women with bamboo baskets on their backs. They were plucking the newly sprouted tea leaves from the plants and storing them in the baskets. These women plucking tea leaves were looking like dolls. On the way, he saw people drinking tea. He also saw an ugly building with smoke coming out of its chimneys. Rajvir was received by Mrs. and Mr. Barua, parents of Pranjol, and was taken to Dhekiabari Tea Estate.

On both sides of the gravel road were acres and acres of neatly pruned tea bushes. It was the second sprouting period. Rajvir was spell bound to see the beauty of the scene.

**3. How can you say that Rajvir had done a lot of homework regarding tea and its history? Support your answer with the statement of Pranjol's father.**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, it was Rajvir's first visit to Assam. He had never visited a tea estate ever before in his life. He was a classmate of Pranjol who belonged to Assam. His visit to Dhekiabari Tea Estate was on the invitation of his friend Pranjol whose father was the manager of the tea estate. But Rajvir seemed to have done a lot of homework and reading about tea and tea plantations before coming to Assam. Even Pranjol was not so acquainted with tea plantation so much. He told Pranjol that tea is one of the most popular beverages in the world, and more than eighty crores of cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. Then, he saw an ugly building with smoke billowing out of it. It was a tall building. Seeing the building, he at once told that they were entering a tea garden. Actually, he had been reading as much about tea as he could. He narrated different legends regarding the discovery of tea leaves in India and China. Rajvir impressed and surprised Pranjol's father with his deep knowledge of tea-leaves. When he saw a tractor pulling a trailer load of tea leaves, he recognised that it was the second-flush or sprouting period. He also knew that it continues from May to July and yields the best tea. All this knowledge of Rajvir surprised Pranjol's father.



# The Trees

(Adrienne Rich)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why are the trees stumbling over one another?

**Ans.** The trees are stumbling over one another because they are in a hurry to move outside after breaking the glass. They want freedom from bondages.

2. Who is the poet of 'The Trees'?

**Ans.** The poet of 'The Trees' is Adrienne Rich, who has written nearly twenty volumes of poetry. She has been called a feminist and a radical poet.

3. Why do you think the whispers will be silent?

**Ans.** The poet wants to convey her idea that the whispers will be silent because the trees will move outside to the forest to make themselves free from the bondages.

4. How can you explain the line 'No sun bury its feet in shadow?'

**Ans.** According to the poet, the forests were empty, so sunlight could reach the grounds directly. Because there are no trees, so they cannot hide the sunlight in the shadows of the trees.

5. What is the significance of Oak trees?

**Ans.** The Oak is a vast and important tree. It is cherished across the world as a symbol of wisdom, strength and endurance.

6. Why are the twigs getting stiff?

**Ans.** The twigs are getting stiff because of the pressure they apply on the glasses to break it and go out in the forest.

7. What are lichens?

**Ans.** A lichen, or lichenised fungus, is actually two organisms functioning as a single, stable unit. These are crusty patches on tree trunks.

8. Why do the roots work all night in your opinion?

**Ans.** In our opinion, The roots work all night so that they can get freedom for themselves from the walls which have been put around them by human

beings.

9. Why does the poet call the forests empty forest?

**Ans.** The poet calls the forests to be empty forests because these forests are devoid of trees, and it is so because humans have destroyed the forests for building cities and for other uses without taking care of Nature.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is the reason of the trees to move outside?

**Ans.** The reason of the trees to move outside is that they want to set themselves free from the walls, those walls that have been created by human beings around them. Their natural habitat is the forest. So they don't like any other place to live other than the forest. That's why they are making efforts to go into the forest.

2. What are the changes that the departure of the trees from the house would bring to the forest?

**Ans.** There will be a lot of changes if the trees depart towards the forest. The departure of the trees from the house to the forest would result in the birds sitting on their branches again. The insects would get some new hiding places in them, and the sun would be able to hide its rays in the shadows of trees. The empty forest will become full of trees and there will be a balance in nature. The ecological balance would be sustained.

3. Why do you think the trees that have been described are not useful for birds or insects in the first stanza?

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, the trees described in the first stanza are not useful for birds or insects. It is so because they are decorative plants. They are used in the decoration of homes. Such ornamental plants or trees are kept in the house in the form of sculptures,

paintings or pictures. No birds or insects can sit or hide on them. Therefore, they do not serve the purpose of nature. That's why the poet thinks them to be useless.

4. **Describe the struggle of the roots, leaves, small twigs and long boughs to free themselves and break open the artificial barriers created by man.**

**Ans.** The poet is a nature lover person. In the poem, she describes that the trees and their roots, leaves, small twigs and long boughs struggle a lot to get themselves free from the bondages. All these put in a lot of efforts to break the artificial barriers created by human beings. The roots of the tree struggle all night. They want to escape through the cracks of the veranda floor. The leaves put a lot of pressure on the window glass to break them to go out. The small twigs have become hard due to applying a lot of pressure to free themselves. The boughs or the large branches of the trees have shrunk and bent due to being inside the walls and under the roof. They want to expand themselves, but they have no space. They are also trying to break open the roof and come out of the house. But their helplessness does not permit them to be free.

5. **What whispers does the poet feel that fill her head?**

**Ans.** The poet's head is filled with the whispers. The poet tells us about the whispers. These whispers that fill the head with the poet are of the smell of the leaves and lichen that reaches her in the form of voices into the rooms of her house. These whispers represent the silent struggle of the trees. This is the struggle that the trees do to free themselves from the clutches of man. Trees are now revolting to move to the forests, i.e. their natural habitat. They can feel their freedom in the forest only.

6. **What happens when the forests depart from the house? What changes take place by the morning?**

**Ans.** According to the poet, when the forests depart from the house, they find the night outside very fresh and charming. The sky is clear with the whole moon shining brightly. The moonlit night gives a spellbound charm. The poet expects that during the night the trees will move out of the house. So, by the morning, the trees will reach the forests that were earlier treeless. They will feel the enjoy of freedom.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **The trees in the poem stretch out their branches, break barriers and struggle hard to move out in the open in their natural environment. Analyse the efforts that one puts in to break away captivity and strive for freedom.**

**Ans.** The poet is a feminist poet. She says that a lot of efforts are put in to break away from captivity, no one likes captivity. Everyone likes to enjoy freedom. Freedom is considered much more important than any kind of comfort, growth or development. The poet says that in spite of having all kinds of riches in, the world has no meaning without freedom. Freedom is essential for all living beings, including men, birds or trees. All living beings strive for freedom and feel happy when then they are free from bondages. 'The Trees', also presents the intensity of the efforts put in by the trees to break away from the bondage of man. They are struggling hard to get freedom. All parts of a tree, be it roots, leaves, small twigs and its long boughs stretch out to the maximum to break away from the enclosed walls of the house. They struggle hard to move out of the house. They want to go into the open-natural environment. Man also does the same efforts to get freedom. Not only man, but all other living species do the same. So many countries all around the world are struggling for their freedom. People of these countries give their lives for freedom. Therefore, one can say the freedom is gained after a lot of effort and sacrifice.

2. **The poem 'The Trees' presents a conflict between man and nature. Man is responsible for the degradation of the natural growth of plants and trees. If Nature is tried to confine, it also rebels. Justify the statement.**

**Ans.** There is a constant conflict between man and Nature. In this conflict, man has caused much harm to Nature. With the advance of civilisation, man has learnt how to acquire a lot of material goods, but he has forgotten the importance of Nature. In fact, man is nothing without Nature. But man has become so selfish that he has cut large forests. He has done a lot of other disastrous activities to show himself advanced in civilisation. Man thinks that Nature is weak. But

everybody knows that nature is so powerful that it can destroy everything of the world. When it rebels against man, it destroys everything that man has created for himself. The Trees present this powerful revolt of Nature against man. The poem presents that the tree destroys the house. The window glass is broken and the floor of the veranda is cracked. The house that was decorated by man with different kinds of trees, is destroyed by the same trees when they start revolt. It is the duty of man to understand the feelings of trees, no matter how powerful he is. It is true that he can never be powerful enough to overpower Nature. The Nature is omnipotent. Any attempt of man to control or confine nature, will end in failure and complete destruction. Man can never survive by going against Nature. Nature is powerful enough to remind man that, by spoiling nature, he has invited a threat to his own peaceful existence. Man and Nature will have to go hand in hand.

**3. What message does Adrienne Rich want to convey through the poem, "The Trees"?**

**Ans.** The poem 'The Trees' highlights the importance of trees. It also tries to give a message of afforestation. It suggests that man should plant more and more trees. Trees are the natural habitat of different kinds of birds and insects. Without trees, the birds would not have a place to sit, insects will have no place to hide, and the sun would not be able to cast its rays in the shadows. The saplings give us enjoyment of their beauty as they adorn the surroundings of our houses. But slowly the tree grows vast and then, it becomes unable to be confined. It spreads its roots, its branches and leaves and seems to yearn to go

outside where it can live and grow without any restrictions. It wants to lead a life of its own. The tree, then, loses all its beauty inside the house. It serves many purposes outside. It becomes a space for natural species of plants, animals, birds, insects etc. they survive on the branches of the tree. It is welcomed into nature by the strong winds and the moon. The poet wants to emphasize that trees need to be kept alive. They should be looked after well. But it is also the responsibility of man that he should not imprison trees inside the house. They look beautiful in their natural habitat, that is outside of the house.

**4. Describe the struggle of the roots, leaves, small twigs and long boughs to free themselves and break open the artificial barriers created by man.**

**Ans.** The poet is a nature lover person. In the poem, she describes that the trees and their roots, leaves, small twigs and long boughs struggle a lot to get themselves free from the bondages. All these put in a lot of efforts to break the artificial barriers created by human beings. The roots of the tree struggle all night. They want to escape through the cracks of the veranda floor. The leaves put a lot of pressure on the window glass to break them to go out. The small twigs have become hard due to applying a lot of pressure to free themselves. The boughs or the large branches of the trees have shrunk and bent due to being inside the walls and under the roof. They want to expand themselves, but they have no space. They are also trying to break open the roof and come out of the house. But their helplessness does not permit them to be free.





## CHAPTER

## 6

## Mijbil the Otter

(Gavin Maxwell)



## Important Questions



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Where was the otter got from?

**Ans.** The otter was got from Tigris marshes in Iraq.

2. What was the condition of the airline to board the otter in the aeroplane?

**Ans.** The condition of the airline was that Mij should be packed in a box and put on the floor in the aeroplane so that it could not do harm to any of the passengers.

3. What did the author come to know at the Consulate-General?

**Ans.** At the Consulate-General, the author came to know that his mail had not arrived, while his friend's mail had arrived. So he had to wait for his own mail.

4. What game had been invented by Mij?

**Ans.** Mij was an intelligent otter. He used to put the ball on one end of the suitcase and ran to catch it when it slid to the other end. This game was invented by him. He used to play this game very curiously.

5. What was the behaviour of the otter for the first twenty-four hours?

**Ans.** For the first twenty-four hours, the behaviour of the otter was indifferent and stayed as far as possible from the narrator.

6. What was the condition of the box when the narrator returned after lunch?

**Ans.** When the narrator returned after the lunch, there was complete silence inside the box, but blood was coming out from the airholes and around the lid. The author was afraid of the situation.

7. Why was the otter named as 'Maxwell's otter'?

**Ans.** The otter belonged to a race that was previously unknown to science. So, he was named by zoologists

as *Lutrogale Perspicillata Maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter.

8. Why could the author not help Mij despite his weary condition?

**Ans.** The author couldn't help Mij despite his weary condition because he had to leave for the airport soon. There were hardly ten minutes to reach the airport.

9. What was the special characteristic of the otter?

**Ans.** The special characteristic of the otter was that he liked to play with water every time.

10. Why were the airport officials angry with the author?

**Ans.** The airport officials were angry with the author because he arrived late at the airport. They had to wait for the author to board on the plane.

11. Why did the author make a body-belt for the otter?

**Ans.** The main reason of the author to making a body-belt for the otter was to take him on a lead to the bathroom easily.

12. How did the narrator take the airhostess in his confidence?

**Ans.** The narrator was late to reach the airport. Apart it, he had an animal with him. So he told everything to the airhostess about the events that had happened in the last half an hour. She took him in a positive way and then, she was in his confidence.

13. What was the favourite pastime of Mijbil, the otter?

**Ans.** The favourite pastime of Mijbil, the otter, was to shuffle the rubber ball using all his four legs. He used to be very busy in doing so.

14. Why did the woman scream in the aeroplane?

**Ans.** The woman screamed in the aeroplane as she thought that there was a rat inside the plane, while it was otter who had freed himself from the author.

**15. How was Mij being taken to London?**

**Ans.** Mij was being taken to London by packing him in a box of eighteen inch square.

**16. How did Mij spend his time in London?**

**Ans.** Mij spent his time playing with his own selection of toys-ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit and a terrapin shell. Playing with the marbles was his favourite pastime.



## Short Answer Type Questions

**1. What were the activities of Mij while walking on the streets?**

**Ans.** On the streets of London, Mijbil used to follow Maxwell. He developed certain habits of his own during those walks. He went with him like children playing, running and touching things in the street mischievously. He would take Maxwell near the wall of a primary school and then jump on it, which distracted the pupils and the staff of the school. It was his own style.

**2. How did the author discover the first characteristic of the otter?**

**Ans.** The author discovered the first characteristic of the otter, that the otter liked to play with water. He was fond of water. When he was taken to the bathroom, he went in the water with joy for at least half an hour. He even used to plunge, jump and roll in the water to have fun and joy.

**3. Why did Maxwell get his mail after five days, and what did he do to get it?**

**Ans.** Maxwell was curious to get his mail, but he could not get. After five days, he sent a message to England but for three days, he got no reply. He tried to telephone but due to some problems he was not able to get a reply. Then he had to wait.

**4. What was the rotation of Mij to spend his time?**

**Ans.** The rotation of Mij to spend his time was that he spent his time in playing. He spent hours shuffling the rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player. His real play was when he used to juggle small objects between his paws. Marbles were his favourite toy for his pastime. He took enjoyment in his playing.

**5. What was the problem of communication to the author when there was a delay in the arrival of his mail?**

**Ans.** The narrator felt a lot of troubles to communicate because it was the time when telephone lines had to be booked twenty-four hours in advance. On the

first day, the line was out of order, on the second day, the exchange was closed because of a religious reason and on the third day, there was another breakdown. So he could not communicate.

**6. What was the 'real play' of the otter, according to the writer?**

**Ans.** According to the writer, the real play of the otter, was lying on his back and juggling with small objects between his paws. He remained busy for a long time in his play. Mijbil would roll two or more marbles up and down on his wide, fat belly without dropping even one to the floor like an expert player.

**7. What was the physical appearance of the otter?**

**Ans.** The physical appearance of the otter was that he looked like a small dragon belonging to the middle ages. His body was covered with symmetrical pointed scales of mud. A soft velvet fur like that of a chocolate-brown mole was visible between the scales of the otter.

**8. What was the incident of Mijbil in the box?**

**Ans.** When the writer put the otter in the box, he had injured himself. He felt too much troubles in the box. He tried to escape from it so in doing so, he had torn the metal lining of the box into shreds. As a result, he hurt himself due to which he was covered in blood. The writer felt pity on him.

**9. How did Mijbil and the author come close together?**

**Ans.** Mijbil and the author came closer together during the second night. At this time, Mijbil came to Maxwell's bed soon after midnight. He remained asleep between the knees of Maxwell until morning. Thus, their bond of love started.

**10. What was the pastime of Mij when he was staying in London?**

**Ans.** When Mij was staying in London, his favourite pastime was to play for hours with his own selection of toys. His favourite toys were ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit and a terrapin shell that the writer had bought from his native Marshes. He remained busy in his play.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Why do you think the otter was not friendly at first with the narrator? Can you relate this to human nature as well?**

**Ans.** It is true that at first, the otter was not friendly with the narrator. The otter had seen the writer for the first time. He was brought to a new place. The surroundings were also new. So the otter was

uncomfortable in the beginning. He neither knew the narrator nor the place, which made him stay aloof and indifferent. He did not come to the author. But, as soon as he adjusted with the surroundings, he became friendly and came closer to the narrator during the night.

We can correlate it with the human nature too. This is very similar to the human nature, as it is not easy to mix and mingle with strangers easily. We have to know their nature first and foremost. The human beings also take a lot of time to understand others. Only then, they become friendly with them. Until or unless they feel comfortable in the company of others, they try to stay away from that person. So it can be said that the otter almost behaved like human beings. He behaved just like humans do.

2. **It is a true fact that in the name of rules and regulations, basic human values are ignored, but people like the airhostess in 'Mijbil the Otter' an oasis in the desert of hopelessness. What are the virtues that you find in the airhostess?**

**Ans.** It can be said freely and frankly that in the name of rules and regulations, people forget and ignore the basic human values that they must have. But there are some people, like the airhostess in the story 'Mijbil the Otter,' who prove themselves as an oasis in the desert of hopelessness. The airhostess showed the value of being friendly and full of humanity. She related and empathised with the situation and troubles being faced by the narrator. She understood the feelings of the narrator as well as the otter. She even suggested the narrator to place the otter on his knees. This shows that apart from being professional, she was also a caring lady. She was friendly to her passengers. She did not just want to do her job but felt responsible in it. She knew how to fulfill her duty as a person and as a professional. She helped Maxwell find Mijbil during the flight.

The airhostess was so a caring lady that she did all that she could do for Maxwell and the otter. She was kind-hearted, considerate and hardworking. Even when Mijbil created chaos in the aircraft, she was calm and had a charming smile. The writer also remained calm and cool because of her behaviour. Such an attitude makes a person respectable and successful in life. The writer also appreciated her open heartedly.

3. **How can you say that a life without a pet is rather lonely? Elucidate your answer with evidence from the lesson 'Mijbil the otter.'**

**Ans.** In the heart-warming story of "Mijbil the Otter" by Gavin Maxwell, the profound bond between a human and a wild otter exemplifies the idea that life without a pet can be lonely. The narrative revolves around the author's deep connection with Mijbil, a playful and endearing otter he adopts. Through their shared experiences and adventures, Maxwell discovers that Mijbil is not just a pet, but a true companion who brings joy and meaning to his life. Maxwell's loneliness before Mijbil's arrival is palpable, as he longs for companionship in the desolate wilderness of Iraq. Mijbil, with his mischievous activities and affectionate nature, fills this void, offering a sense of purpose and solace. Their bond transcends the barriers of species, highlighting the emotional richness that a pet can bring to one's life.

"Mijbil the Otter" serves as a poignant reminder that pets, even those from the wild, can alleviate loneliness, foster a sense of connection, and enrich our existence. It showcases the transformative power of companionship, underscoring the notion that life without a pet can indeed be a lonelier journey.

4. **How can you describe the bond of relationship between Mijbil and the narrator.**

**Ans.** The story 'Mijbil, the Otter' well describes the age-old relationship between man and animal. According to the story, the narrator, got an otter and named it as Mijbil. The writer put him as a pet animal. In the beginning, Mijbil did not show any interest in his surrounding, but by and by, he started playing in it. He developed a unique and lovely bond of relationship with the narrator. The narrator was a kind-hearted person, so he took very good care of his pet. He was careful to get his pet entertained. So, he bought for him so many toys, including marbles, rubber balls, fruits etc. He even made sure to take Mijbil to play in water after realising his pet's fascination with water. The otter used to play in water for hours. The writer was a keen observant of his pet's habits and traits. He encouraged Mijbil to do what he liked and also took him for a walk every day. The otter was quite comfortable in the house of the narrator. Mijbil was happy with his owner. He used to follow the narrator when he was called. Even when he was scared in the box and in the aircraft, he found contentment with the narrator. All this shows that both of them understood and loved each other. They had a special bond of love between them.



# Fog

(Carl Sandburg)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who has written the poem 'Fog'?

**Ans.** The poem 'Fog' has been written by Carl Sandburg.

2. How is the fog looking over the harbour and the city.

**Ans.** According to the poet, the fog can be perceived over the harbour and the city. It is sitting on its knees like a cat.

3. Discuss the characteristics of fog.

**Ans.** So far as Fog concerns, fog is a visible aerosol consisting of tiny water droplets or ice crystals which have been dropped in the air at or near the Earth's surface. Fog can be considered a type of low-lying cloud, usually resembling stratus. It reduces visibility.

4. What do you mean by the little cat feet?

**Ans.** The little cats represent the silent and careful steps of a cat and eat comes in a silent manner, so is the fog. Fog also comes silently, resembling the steps of a cat.

5. Mention some of the different breeds of cats.

**Ans.** Some of the different breeds of cats are:  
1. Sphynx Cats 2. Persian Cats 3. Scottish Fold Cats  
4. American Shorthair Cats 5. Maine Coon Cats 6. British Shorthair.

harbour, and it looks as if it were carefully watching at the whole city.

2. If we compare, what are the similarities between fog and a cat?

**Ans.** If we compare, there are a lot of similarities between fog and cat. The poet compares the fog to a cat because of their similar movements. The way fog comes and surrounds the city and harbour and looks over it silently is very similar to the steps of a cat and the way it sits by folding its knees. Thus, they are both very similar to each other.

3. How does the poet describe the fog vividly?

**Ans.** The mysterious grandeur of the fog's appearance and disappearance prompts the speaker to describe the moment in a vividly imaginative, metaphorical way. The memorable poem that results, suggests the power of being immersed in, and open to, nature's mysteries.

4. What is the image that the poet gives to the fog? Justify the similarities of image with that of fog?

**Ans.** The poet describes the fog as a living creature. He compares it to the image of a cat. The fog covers a place suddenly and also disappears suddenly, just like the movements of a cat. The fog remains over any area of the city like a cat sitting by folding her knees. Just like a cat who cannot sit and relax in one place, the fog is also a temporary visitor to a place. They both are always on their moves.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. How can you say that the poem 'Fog' presents fog as full of opposite forces?

**Ans.** It is a true fact that the poem 'fog' presents fog as full of opposite forces. In the poem, the poet presents fog as coming and going quietly and silently in the manner of a cat. In contrast to this secretive nature, fog is overpowering. It spreads over to the



### Long Answer Type Questions

1. How can you say that difficulties come, but they do not stay forever, they are momentary? Write your answer on the basis of the poem 'Fog'.

**Ans.** The writer is a visionary poet. In the poem 'fog', he presents the natural phenomenon of fog as a temporary visitor who visits a place for a small-time. It comes like a cat stealthily and spreads over the harbour and city, but soon leaves the place in

the same manner in which it comes. In other words, it leaves the place as quietly as it comes. It does not stay permanently at a place to trouble anyone. According to the poet, difficulties are also similar to fog. Difficulties are temporary, just like fog. They come to life for a short while and disappear like fog. They do not stay forever. Difficulties leave people hopeless and shattered, and the people give up and lose all their confidence. It requires a lot of courage to face problems and solve them without being depressed. In such a scenario, one must remember the inherent temporary nature of difficulties to being hopeless or lose courage. A man should think that the difficulties will soon disappear like fog.

2. **How is the poem 'Fog' different from the perspective that nature has many wonders, but people take it for granted and never pay attention towards it?**

**Ans.** While describing nature, the poet says that nature has many wonders and beauties in herself.

She is full of mysterious and fascinating sceneries and phenomenon. But it is the man who never cares for nature, and he has taken her for granted. He never pays any attention towards nature. In the present poem, the poet differs in his perspective. Whenever he peeps into the heart of nature, he is spell bound and amazed at the wonders of the beautiful nature. He takes utmost pleasure in Nature and her phenomenon. He is overwhelmed when he sees the glorious nature. This sight captures his attention. He is fascinated by seeing fog. He is so amazed by fog that he not only writes about it, but also thinks of its resemblance with other natural things. On his close observation, he finds the fog similar to a cat. The fact that such a resemblance found by the poet shows how connected he is to nature. The poem acts as a motivation for people who do not pay any attention to nature. It is an exhortation to the people who do find any solace in the presence of nature.





## CHAPTER

## 7

## Madam Rides the Bus

(Vallikkannan)



## Important Questions



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. How did Valli react to the conductor for his helping hand?

**Ans.** Valli refused to take help from the conductor and said that she would get on the bus by herself. She added that she was not a child.

2. How did Valli feel while standing at the doorway?

**Ans.** While standing at the doorway and watching the street gave Valli many new experiences. She felt joyous and her dreams being fulfilled.

3. Why did the conductor offer Valli his hand of help?

**Ans.** The conductor offered his helping hand to Valli so that she could get on the bus easily.

4. How was Valli different from other children of her age?

**Ans.** Valli was different from the children of her age in many ways, as she was not interested in playing any elaborate games or making friends.

5. What, according to the writer, has been called 'fortune' for Valli?

**Ans.** According to the writer, the bus fare, which was thirty paise only and was considered to be a small sum, has been called a 'fortune' for Valli.

6. How can you describe the source of unending joy for Valli?

**Ans.** The unending source of joy for Valli was the sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers. This sight filled Valli with extremity of rapture.

7. What was the time to complete her journey to reach back home?

**Ans.** The time to complete her journey was one

hour thirty minutes in which she could complete her return journey.

8. What was the most fascinating thing for Valli?

**Ans.** Valli was a simple village girl. The most fascinating thing for Valli was watching the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town, about six miles away from her village.



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. How did Valli manage to slip away from her home?

**Ans.** Valli was a calculative girl. She had calculated the whole time that if she left her house at one o'clock, she would be back by two forty-five. This was the time she could be away without the knowledge of her mother because at this time, her mother used to have a short nap. Thus, she slipped from her house and boarded the bus without being noticed by anyone.

2. What was Valli's remark when she heard the conversation between her mother and her aunt?

**Ans.** Valli anyhow wanted that they should not ask her about her being absent from her house, so she only smiled. When Valli heard the conversation between her mother and her aunt, she remarked that she agreed with what they said about things happening outside without their knowledge. Thus, she could be able not to divert their conversation from the topic, and she was asked no at all.

3. What were the feelings of Valli's friends that were the cause of jealousy of Valli?

**Ans.** Valli's strongest desire was to have a ride on the bus. One of her friends had already visited the city. When she described her experience to Valli,

Valli was not ready to listen to her. Because of her deep jealousy, she did not listen to her and shouted 'Proud! Proud!'. In fact, she did not want to listen to anybody about the bus journey.

**4. How did Valli react when she saw the dead cow by the roadside?**

**Ans.** Valli was on her bus ride to the city. When she saw the dead cow by the roadside, she was extremely depressed and sad. The memory of the dead cow haunted her. She was completely depressed. Her enthusiasm was gone. She no longer wanted to look out of the window. Then, she kept silent.

**5. What was the advice of the conductor to Valli when she was on the bus ride?**

**Ans.** When Valli was on her bus ride, the conductor advised her to sit on her seat properly to avoid any kind of harm on the turns of the bus. He also told her that she had taken a full ticket and need not stand on the seat. Moreover, she could have hurt herself while standing on the seat and watching outside.

**6. What was the favourite pastime of Valliammai?**

**Ans.** Valliammai or Valli in short, was an eight-year-old girl who lived in a village. She was a matured girl, but she didn't have any playmate of her age to play with. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front of the doorway of her house. She used to watch the happenings in the street outside from there.

**7. What was Valli's mother doing when Valli came back from her bus ride?**

**Ans.** When Valli came back from her bus ride, she found her mother conversing with one of her aunts. They were discussing the things happening outside the world. Valli didn't want that they should know about her being absent from the house. So she only smiled.

**8. What was the most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street?**

**Ans.** The most fascinating thing that Valli saw on the street was that she had a habit of watching outside in the street the new passengers boarding the bus every day. The arrival of the bus twice a day was the most fascinating scene in the street for Valli. She watched the passengers boarding the bus. She used to listen to their conversation after the bus journey. The sight of the bus was a source of continuous joy for Valli.

**9. Why did Valli not get down from the bus when she reached the town?**

**Ans.** When Valli reached the town, she did not get off the bus at the bus station. Even the conductor asked her to do so, but she didn't do so because she had to go back to her village by the same bus. Apart

to it, she did not have money to buy things from there or to get some drink because she had only the money that was sufficient for her return journey.

**10. How did Valli's desire creep into her mind?**

**Ans.** Valli's heartfelt wish was to have a ride on the bus. She used to perceive the bus going to the city and coming from there. She also used to listen to the passengers' conversation carefully. She heard about the city and many more things through them. Hearing them all, a small wish crept into her mind and became a desire. She wanted to have a ride on the bus.

**11. Why did Valli not like the elderly woman while her riding on the bus?**

**Ans.** While riding on the bus, the elderly woman treated Valli as a child, which Valli did not like. She asked her many questions. She suggested to Valli that it was not proper for a child to travel all alone. Valli did not like her appearance, chewing betel and unnecessary interference. She rebuked her, saying that she was not a child, and she could take care of herself. She didn't like the behaviour of the old lady.

**12. Why was the reason for Valli to collect the information about the bus?**

**Ans.** Valli's strong desire to ride on the bus enforced her to be determined to have a ride on the bus. She planned her journey to the city by the bus. That's why she needed information about the city. So, she started collecting information about the distance, time and fare for the smooth and safe journey.

**13. What was the treatment of the conductor to Valli? What was her reaction when the conductor called her 'My Fine Madam'?**

**Ans.** When Valli got into the bus to fulfil her desire, the conductor treated her as a child. He thought her to be a child. When the conductor asked her who was coming behind her, Valli very confidently told him that it was none but she only. She asked the conductor to give her a ticket. The conductor was a jolly fellow. So he called her 'Madam' jokingly. Valli did not like him treating her as a child. Her temperament made the conductor call her 'Madam'. He had, by now, understood that Valli was a matured girl.

**14. What was the information that Valli collected for her bus journey?**

**Ans.** Valli wanted to fulfil her desire, so she collected some details of the journey. The information that she collected was that the city was six miles from her village, the fare was thirty paise one way, the trip took forty-five minutes one way to complete. Through this information she could plan her journey by the bus in an easy way without any difficulty.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. How can you say that Valli's journey to the town is also her induction into the mystery of life and death? How do such real experiences of life make us mature?

**Ans.** It is a fact that Valli's journey to the town is a unique experience for her. It may also be called her induction into the mystery of life and death. When she was going to the town, and she was on her way to, she saw a cow running very fast in the middle of the road. She was right in front of the bus. That's why the bus had to crawl instead of running fast. Valli was very happy. She began to laugh. She kept on laughing until her eyes began to shed tears. She saw life in the image of a cow. Her young age understood as much she could at this tender age.

Undoubtedly, our life is full of curious things. Our life gives us happiness and enjoyment. But she had a reverse experience on her return journey. On her way back home, she saw a dead cow lying on the road. It was hit by some fast moving vehicle. Valli recognised it. It was the same cow that she saw while going to the town and which filled her life with happiness and joy a short while ago. But right now, she was upset. She realised the futility of life. She also realised how death can change the things. Something that was lovable and charming a short while ago had lost all its charms. It's a great lesson of life. Such real experiences make everyone matured. The message of the story is that we should not be proud of anything. Everything is transitory.

2. How did Valli react to the elderly man and woman in the bus?

**Ans.** Valli was a curious girl of eight years. She was extremely eager to have a visit to the city by riding the bus. She had no money for the ride, so first of all, she saved money. One spring afternoon, Valli got into the bus to the town without telling anybody in her house. She wanted to see the world outside. But the canvas blind of the bus covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on her seat. An elderly man addressed her as 'child' and asked her to sit down on the seat, otherwise she would fall. She might get injuries on her body. This annoyed Valli. At once, she replied that she was not a child. She had paid the full fare of the bus. Again, when she was enjoying her bus ride, a woman entered and sat beside her. She was repulsive and asked Valli a few questions. She also suggested that Valli should not

have come on the ride all alone. Valli did not like her, so she asked her not to bother for her. She was matured enough to care for herself.

3. What did Valli long for? What did she do to fulfil her desire?

**Ans.** Valli was an eight-year-old, sensitive girl. She was all alone because she did not like to mix and mingle with others. She had no playmates of her age with whom she could play. Her favourite pastime was to stand at the front door of her house and watch what was happening outside. Her special attraction was towards a bus. This bus ran from her village to the nearest town. She had a strong desire to ride the bus. Gradually, she began to long for the bus ride to see the world outside. She started to collect information about the bus ride, and she came to know that the fare of the bus was thirty paise one way. Soon she started to put her desire into action. She thriftily saved the money needed for the purpose. She required sixty paise to reach home back. For this, she had to resist her temptation to buy peppermints, toys etc. She also finalised the time of her bus journey and one afternoon she boarded the bus to the town. It was the time when her mother used to have a nap in the afternoon. Thus, she could be able to fulfil her heartfelt desire.

4. What do you understand by Valli's refusal of the conductor's offer of a cold drink with stern looks, though she might be willing to have one?

**Ans.** Though Valli was at her tender age of eight only, yet her behaviour was that of a matured girl. When the bus reached the town, all the passengers got off the bus, but Valli went on sitting in the bus. By the end of the journey, the conductor had also got quite fond of her. He seemed quite familiar with her. When the bus reached its destination, the conductor went to the nearby stall to have something to drink. When he saw Valli sitting in the bus, he offered to bring one cold drink for Valli as a treat from him to her, but Valli refused sternly. She didn't have much, but she had the feeling of self-respect. She was not ready to take obligation to anybody else. Undoubtedly, such a conduct from an eight-year-old girl shows her good upbringing. It is a lesson for all the children not to be greedy and live within our own means. We must not get tempted by the attractions and things of others, however strong they may be. It is always wise to spend money judiciously. Children must not waste their pocket money on unwanted items. They should be carefully taught about it.

# The Tale of Custard the Dragon

## (Ogden Nash)



### Important Questions



#### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why did everyone in the house laugh at the dragon?

**Ans.** Everyone in the house used to laugh at the dragon because Belinda tickled him unmercifully. All the other animals enjoyed in this activity.

2. Why is the pirate called a victim?

**Ans.** The pirate is called a victim because he met his death in the hands of Custard, who ate him up and left no traces of his existence.

3. What is the number of the pets of Belinda?

**Ans.** Belinda owns four pets. They are a kitten, a mouse, a dog and a dragon.

4. What was the reaction of the creatures in the house after Custard gobbled the pirate?

**Ans.** The creatures in the house after Custard gobbled the pirate became happy and Belinda hugged Custard. Ink and Blink started to dance around him with joy.

5. What were the names of the kitten and the mouse?

**Ans.** The name of the kitten was Ink and the name of the mouse was Blink.

6. What sounds were produced through Custard's body?

**Ans.** The sound that were produced through Custard's body were unique. His tail clashed like irons in a dungeon, and he moved with a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm.

7. Why does the poet compare the dragon's mouth with a chimney?

**Ans.** The poet compares the Dragon's mouth with a chimney because he spits fire from his mouth.

8. Why did Ink and Mustard ask Custard's age?

**Ans.** Ink and Mustard asked for Custard's age because he was crying for a safe cage to live in.

9. What do you know about the bravery of the kitten and the mouse?

**Ans.** According to the poet, the kitten and the mouse

were so brave that they could scare away even lions. They were quite fearless.

10. What was the appearance of the dragon?

**Ans.** The appearance of the dragon was very peculiar. He had spikes on top and scales underneath. His mouth seemed to be a fireplace and his nose looked like a chimney. His appearance was very dangerous, as his toes looked like daggers because of their long nails.

11. Why did the house begin to shake?

**Ans.** The house began to shake because Belinda laughed so loudly that its sound reflected in all the four directions.

12. What was the colour of the Belinda's house?

**Ans.** The colour of Belinda's house was white. It was a little house.

13. What is the actual meaning of 'Blink' which is the name of a mouse in the poem?

**Ans.** The actual meaning of the word 'blink' is to shut and open eyes frequently in quick succession.

14. Why did Custard want, and he used to cry for a nice safe cage?

**Ans.** Custard was a very timid and coward dragon. So he used to cry for a nice, safe cage.



#### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What did the creatures in the house do when the pirate was seen coming?

**Ans.** When the pirate was seen coming, Belinda cried for help. She became pale with fear. She was unable to do anything. Mustard ran away with a terrified cry. Ink hid himself in the bottom of the house. Blink disappeared in his hole. But Custard did not do so. It was only Custard who jumped in front of the pirate to face him. He fought with him and showed the courage to the pirate. He killed the pirate without being fearful.

2. How can you say that Custard did not match his



**physical appearance?**

**Ans.** It is a true fact that Custard did not match his appearance. He was very dangerous in his appearance, but actually he was a coward. He always cried for a nice and safe cage. All the other animals used to laugh at him because they were not so. Everyone laughed at him for his cowardice.

**3. How did Custard face the pirate?**

**Ans.** Custard showed himself to be a coward, but he was not so. When the pirate came in Belinda's house, all the pets hid themselves. But custard did not do so. He jumped in front of the pirate to fight against him. He even clashed his tail. During this fight, the pirate shot two bullets at him, which missed its aim. Even then, Custard was not afraid. Finally, Custard ate him and left no trace of him. Thus, he won the fight.

**4. Who was Custard? Why did he cry for a 'nice, safe cage'?**

**Ans.** Custard was Belinda's pet dragon. He was so coward that he required a safe cage. He always cried for peace and safety. So he needed a cage because of his meek and cowardly nature.

**5. How did three of the pets of Belinda boast of their bravery after killing the pirate?**

**Ans.** Three of the pets of Belinda boasted about their bravery after the pirate had been killed by the dragon, Custard. At this, all the other pets of Belinda started making excuses for their cowardice. Mustard said that if he had not been nervous, he would have been twice as brave as Custard. Ink and Blink also boasted that they would have been thrice as brave as Custard. But it was only Custard who did not boast, even after killing the pirate.

**6. Why was Custard, the dragon, given a name of Percival?**

**Ans.** Percival was a knight in the army of mythical king Arthur. Percival ran away because of fear. Custard, the dragon, was also teased as Percival by Ink, Blink and Mustard for his timidity. He was also like Percival because he was quite fearful like Percival. The animals teased him as Percival. Custard was meek and always cried for a nice, safe cage.

**7. Where did Belinda live, and who were her companions?**

**Ans.** Belinda lived in a little house which was white in colour. She used to live there with her four pets and a red wagon. She was very fond of her pets. She had a black kitten named Ink, a grey mouse named Blink, a yellow dog named Mustard and a coward

dragon named Custard. Apart to these, she had a wagon.

**8. What was the attitude of Belinda and her pets to Custard for killing the pirate? How did Custard react to the reactions of other pets?**

**Ans.** In the beginning, when Custard killed the dragon, Belinda and her pets were grateful to Custard, but it was only temporary. Soon, they realised that they had been making fun of the dragon. After expressing gratitude to Mustard, Ink and Blink started giving excuses for their cowardice and things went back to normal, as it was before the pirate incident. After it, they did not have an attitude of gratitude. Custard, the dragon reacted in a humble manner. He accepted that all other pets were braver than he. It was only he who was a coward.

**9. What do you know about the bravery of everyone in the house?**

**Ans.** According to the poet, everyone in the house was brave. Only the dragon was an exception. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears. Ink and Blink were brave enough to chase even lions away. Even Mustard was as brave as an angry tiger. In talking about all these creatures, everyone was brave. It was only Custard, the dragon who was a coward.

**Long Answer Type Questions****1. Express your views about making fun of others. Do you think that making fun is a good practice? Express your views in the context of Custard, the dragon.**

**Ans.** It is a true fact that one should never make fun of anyone on the basis of one's lifestyle and choices. We must always remember that choices and preferences can depend on unexplainable factors. It is true with the poem. In the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon', Custard makes one such choice. He always wishes for a nice and safe cage. He prefers to live in comfort and safety. But instead of listening to his voice, Belinda and her other pets always laugh at him and make a fun of him. From their point of view, he is a coward for choosing to stay in a cage. Custard, the dragon, soon proved that his choice of comfort doesn't make him a coward. In fact, instead of all the 'brave' pets of Belinda, it was the dragon who fought the pirate bravely and killed him. It was Custard who showed courage to



face the pirate and kill him. Therefore, realise that outward appearance may be deceptive. Just like the dragon who appeared to be a coward but was actually courageous. All the other pets boasted to be brave, but in fact they all were cowards. So we should never make fun of others.

2. **Write a character sketch of Belinda on the basis of 'A Tale of Custard, the Dragon' by Ogden Nash.**

**Ans.** Belinda, from Ogden Nash's "A Tale of Custard the Dragon," is a young girl with a courageous and adventurous spirit. She lives in a world of dreams, where her bravery shines brightly. Despite the fantastical creatures around her, Belinda demonstrates a caring and nurturing nature, especially towards her pet dragon, Custard. She evolves from a timid character into a fearless protector, exemplifying the idea that inner strength can overcome outward appearances. Belinda's character teaches us about the power of friendship, acceptance, and the surprising capabilities that lie within us when faced with challenges. She is the heart and soul of the tale, embodying resilience and kindness.

3. **Express your views that certain qualities like bravery and courage are situational and spontaneous. They lie hidden in the hearts of men.**

**Express your views with reference to the poem, "The Tale of Custard, the dragon".**

**Ans.** The poet puts this question before his readers in a very unique way. It is true that bravery and courage are situational and spontaneous. They are shown at the time of need. This fact has been aptly conveyed in the poem "The Tale of Custard the Dragon". Truly, the dragon was considered a coward. All the other pets laughed at him for crying for a nice, safe cage. He never boasted of his bravery, and Belinda and her other pets used to make fun of him. Belinda, Ink, Blink and Mustard claim to be brave. They boasted about it. They even made fun of Custard's cowardice. But when the pirate came, at that time it was necessary to show their courage, but none of them could face the danger. They ran away to hide themselves in some corner of the house because of fear. Then, only Custard dared to face the frightening pirate. He not only fought the pirate but also killed and ate him up. It was a dangerous situation to which Custard spontaneously responded. His courage and bravery came out in a threatening situation. Hence, it is true that qualities like courage and bravery are situational and spontaneous. They are not expressed in words, they have to be shown in the battlefield.



## CHAPTER

## 8

## The Sermon at Benares

(Betty Renshaw)



## Important Questions



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. What does the sermon reflect, which was preached by Buddha?**

**Ans.** The sermon preached by Buddha reflects Buddha's wisdom that there is one inscrutable kind of suffering that a human being has to suffer.
- 2. How does the weeping or grieving make us full of sadness?**

**Ans.** The narrator says that weeping or grieving makes our pain greater than before. So, if he goes on feeling pain and suffering, he will make himself sick and pale and tired.
- 3. Who was Gautama Buddha?**

**Ans.** Siddhartha, who later became Gautama Buddha, was a prince. He was born in North India.
- 4. According to the narrator, how can a person seek peace?**

**Ans.** According to the narrator, the person who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, complaint and grief from his heart.
- 5. When was Gautama Buddha married?**

**Ans.** Gautama Buddha was sent to his study. So he married after his schooling at the age of sixteen years at his coming back.
- 6. What did the people reply when Kisa Gotami asked about the death of a family member in the house?**

**Ans.** The people asked Kisa Gotami not to revive their grief. They told her that there was no house where some beloved one had not died. They also asked her not to remind them about their deepest grief.
- 7. How many days were spent by Gautama Buddha to get enlightenment?**

**Ans.** Gautama Buddha spent seven days after taking his vow to get enlightenment. He took a vow that he would sit until enlightenment came to him.
- 8. Why did Gautama Buddha go out in the world to seek enlightenment?**

**Ans.** Gautama Buddha went out to seek enlightenment because he was highly moved by seeing the sufferings of man in the world.
- 9. What did Kisa Gotami ask the owner of the house before taking the mustard seeds in her hands?**

**Ans.** Kisa Gotami was extremely sad over the death of her son. She asked everyone before taking the mustard seeds whether a family member had ever died in their family, and the people thought her to be mad.
- 10. What were the thoughts of Gautama Buddha when he encountered with the different stages of life?**

**Ans.** Gautama Buddha was extremely upset and worried when he encountered the different stages of life as a sick man, an aged man, a funeral procession and a monk begging here and there for alms.
- 11. How does the narrator describe Benares in the lesson?**

**Ans.** The narrator has described Benares in the lesson as the most holy and pious place where people go and dip in the river Ganges.
- 12. What did Buddha do while sitting under the tree?**

**Ans.** While sitting under the tree, Gautama Buddha began to teach and share his new understandings. These teachings were related to the salvation of human beings.



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. **How did Kisa Gotami realise that life and death is a normal process?**

**Ans.** When Kisa Gotami could not get mustard seeds, she realised that the process of life and death is a normal process in the world. When she went from house to house but was unable to find any house where nobody had died, she was tired and hopeless. She sat down at the wayside and began to think. She realised that human lives flicker and extinguish again and again like the city lights. This is the process of human life.

2. **What was the preaching of Buddha about death and suffering?**

**Ans.** When Buddha got enlightenment, he began to preach. He said about death and suffering that they are part and parcel of human life. No one in the world can avoid this truth. We have to meet our destined end one day. Whoever has come to the world, will have to die one day. In the hour of grief, we must always remain calm and composed. Grief should not be powerful enough to overcome us. Those who are wise enough, never complain or lament over their loss, howsoever great it may be. They accept the truth and are blessed with it. So, wisdom lies in the fact that people should not get suffering of life and death. People should not be distressed by pain, suffering and death, they are common to all.

3. **What do you know about the first sermon of Buddha?**

**Ans.** It is known to all that Gautama Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, which is regarded as the holiest city where people come for dipping in the river Ganges. People think themselves to be fortunate to have a dip in the holy river. The sermon reflects the knowledge and wisdom of Buddha about a kind of suffering.

4. **What transformed Buddha after observing the sufferings of the world?**

**Ans.** Buddha was extremely moved when he observed the sufferings of the world. He was so moved that he went out into the world to find enlightenment. When he was 25 years old, he went for hunting one day. On the way, he saw a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession and finally a monk begging for alms. All these scenes affected him so deeply that he went out into the world to seek enlightenment.

5. **What was the reason for Kisa Gotami's sadness? What did she do in her extreme grief?**

**Ans.** Kisa Gotami had a son who died. So, she was

sad over the death of her only son. In the extremity of her grief, she went from one house to another house in order to find medicine for her son that could revive him to life. But nobody could provide any medicine because her son was dead. All the people knew that anybody, once dead, could not be revived.

6. **How did prince Siddhartha get a new name as Buddha?**

**Ans.** Prince Siddhartha got a new name when he sat under a big peepal tree. Under the tree, he took a vow that he would stay there until he got enlightenment. He got enlightenment after seven days. He began to teach and share his new understandings and wisdom. Then, he called the tree the Bodhi Tree and he himself came to be known as Buddha.

7. **What did the Buddha start to do when he had attained enlightenment?**

**Ans.** When the Buddha had attained enlightenment, he started teaching and sharing his new understandings. He knew that this world is full of sorrows and sufferings. So, he spread his preachings and exhortations far and wide so that people could come to know the truth. He shared his knowledge and wisdom with people through his teachings. People were impressed by his wisdom.

8. **What is the greatest grief of life, according to Kisa Gotami?**

**Ans.** Kisa Gotami was a grief stricken lady. According to her, the greatest grief in life is the death of one's loved ones. She was moved on the death of her only son. But she realised that instead of lamenting on it, the wise should accept the truth of death. Weeping over a grief will only increase the pain and suffering of mind of a person.

9. **What is your acquaintance with the early life of Buddha?**

**Ans.** According to the narrator, it is known about the early life of Buddha that he was born in a royal family. He lived a luxuries life. The name of his childhood was Siddhartha. When he was twelve years old, he was sent for the study of Hindu sacred scriptures. After four years, he came back to his palace where he got married to a princess. The couple had a son. Their days were passing happily.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Why was Kisa Gotami in so much grief? What did she learn in the end?**

[UP Board: 2023/Set-6: 817 (DM)]

[UP Board: 2022/Set-2: 817 (AI)]

Or

**Why did Gotami go to the Buddha? What lesson did he teach her?**

**Or**

**How did the Buddha make Kisa Gotami realise the reality of death?**

**Ans.** Kisa Gotami was a grief stricken lady. She had lost her only child. So she became very sad. She carried her dead child in her hands and went to her neighbours so that they may provide her some medicine which might bring her dead son to life. She was unable to accept the fact that her child was dead. She could not tolerate the departure of her only son. It was then that someone suggested her to go to Gautama Buddha. She went there. She was very hopeful that Gautama Buddha would bring her dead son to life. Gautama Buddha asked her to collect a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had ever died. She went from one house to another, but was unable to find a single house where no one had died. All the people were sad over the death of some near and dear ones.

In this way, now, she began to realise that death is a part and parcel of life. Everyone, who is born in the world, is bound to die one day. Thus, Buddha changed her mind and understanding of death. Buddha told her that only the wise do not grieve. They accept the reality of their destiny. Mourning and lamentation bring only pain and sufferings to human beings. Those who are calm and composed obtain peace of mind. They will be free from sorrows. They will always be blessed. In this way, Kisa Gotami could be able to get her strength to overcome her grief. Now, she had attained peace and tranquillity.

- 2. Personal losses are a part and parcel of life. Instead of wailing on them, we should move on in life. This message of Gautama Buddha has become more relevant in modern times. Do you agree? Why/why not?**

**Ans.** Gautama Buddha preached and exhorted the people to live a peaceful life. Everyone accepts it that what Gautama Buddha preached to humanity. It is a valuable lesson for life. It is also important even today. In modern times, people have a lot to explore and move with the world at the same pace. If people don't understand the practical aspect of life, they will be under stress. They will feel sorrows and sufferings. It would affect their personal and professional lives. People of today will have to understand that everyone who is born will have to

die one day. No one escapes from death. There is no use of being sad or crying over the loss. People should remain calm and composed in adverse circumstances and situations. They should face the truth and move on in life. The today's world has become more complex than before. So we have to accept the truth of life and death. We should think about the younger generation and the persons who are alive. If they do not understand the same, they will be more unstable in life.

- 3. How did Gautama Buddha convince Kisa Gotami that death is unavoidable?**

**[UP Board: 2023/Set-1: 817 (DH)]**

**Or**

**What did Kisa Gotami learn about 'Death?'**

**[UP Board: 2023/Set-2: 817 (DI)]**

**Or**

**What lesson on death and suffering did the Buddha teach Gotami in the chapter, 'The Sermon at Benares?'**

**Ans.** When the fame of Gautama Buddha spread far and wide, people began to come to him for peace and solace. He also began to teach them about the sorrows and sufferings of life. The lesson on death and suffering that Buddha taught Gotami was that these are part and parcel of human life. No one can avoid this truth. No one can escape from death. One has to meet one's destined end one day. Whoever has come into this world will die one day. Thus, in the hour of grief for a loved one who has died, one must remain calm and composed. Kisa would also have to keep patience. If one keeps calmness and peace of mind, one may lead a peaceful life. So one should have no complaints about the destiny. Otherwise, they will feel pain and suffering more and more. The persons who are wise should never complain or lament over their loss, including the loss of their loved ones. They should never try to bring back to life their loved ones who are dead because this is against the rules of Nature. Kisa Gotami wanted to bring back her son to life, but could not do so because it was impossible. Wise men accept the truth and overcome their sorrow. Persons who overcome their sorrow will be blessed. So, wisdom is in the fact that people should not get distressed with pain, suffering on death. In this way, Gautama Buddha could be successful into pacifying Kisa Gotami.

# For Anne Gregory

(William Butler Yeats)



## Important Questions



### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Write the name of the poet of 'For Anne Gregory.'**  
**Ans.** The poet of 'For Anne Gregory' is William Butler Yeats, an Irish nationalist poet.
2. **What do you mean by external beauty?**  
**Ans.** External beauty is the symbol of the physical appearance or beauty of the person. It denotes how the person looks and appears to be to others.
3. **Why does Anne want to change her colour of hair?**  
**Ans.** Anne wants to change her colour of hair to show that external beauty is not real and permanent. It is only internal beauty that is real and permanent.
4. **What does the text prove?**  
**Ans.** According to the poet, the text proves that only God is capable of looking beyond external beauty, he looks only into the soul of a person.
5. **What do you mean by the term 'ramparts'?**  
**Ans.** Ramparts refers to the protecting wall that is constructed around the fort to save it from the enemies. Here, it has been used metaphorically to show the lock of hair around the ear of Gregory.
6. **Who had found a 'text'?**  
**Ans.** An old religious man had found a text.
7. **What does the poet mean by, "love you for yourself alone and not your yellow hair?"**  
**Ans.** The poet means to say by these lines that young men will love Anne Gregory for her beautiful external beauty and looks, and not for her real character or the beauty of her soul.
8. **Who is the speaker of the line "But I can get a hair-dye"?**  
**Ans.** The speaker of these lines is Anne Gregory, who has been talking to the poet.



### Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Who are the two persons between whom this conversation in the poem takes place? What is their conversation about?**  
**Ans.** The marvellous poem 'For Anne Gregory' is written by a famous Irish poet W. B. Yeats, which he has presented in a conversational form between Anne Gregory and another speaker. Though his identity is not disclosed but when we go into the poem, we assume that it is the poet himself. The poet tells Anne Gregory that young men would come to her in throngs to love her, being impressed with her outer beauty or her beautiful yellow hair. They will not love her for herself or her inner beauty. This is the reality of life that people are impressed with the outer beauty. Thus, their conversation takes place about inner beauty and outer beauty.
2. **What did the old religious man want to prove?**  
**Ans.** According to the poet, the old religious man declared to him that he (the old religious man) had found a text the previous night. In this text, it is clearly written that it is only God who is capable of looking beyond external beauty. All the human beings are always attracted towards the physical appearance of a person and are not capable of looking beyond external beauty. The old man wants to prove through the text that only God can love a person for his or her inner beauty or the beauty of soul.
3. **According to the poet, the young man says "great honey-coloured / Ramparts at your ear." What does he mean by these lines? Why does he express his idea that young men are "thrown into despair"?**  
**Ans.** The young man says these words "great honey coloured/ Rampart at your ear" to express his ideas that the yellow-coloured hair of the girl is very



beautiful, and it covers her ears like a protective wall around a fort or a castle. Young men may fall in love with Anne because of such beautiful hair and her physical beauty, and if she rejects them, they may be thrown into despair.

4. **Why does the girl say that she can change the colour of her hair? Why does she want to do so?**

**Ans.** According to the poet, the hair of young woman is yellow in colour. When the poet tells her that young men would love her because of her physical beauty, she says that she can change the colour of her hair to brown, black or carrot by using a hair dye. She wants to do so to get rid of the lover who loves her for the yellow—coloured hair. She needs only a true lover who should love her for her inner beauty, not the external beauty.

5. **Why does the poet say that the young men would never love Anne Gregory for 'herself alone'?**

**Ans.** The poet says that the young men would never love Anne Gregory for 'herself alone' or for her inner beauty because they would be attracted to her external beauty. He again says that her outward appearance, i.e. her yellow hair, is so beautiful and attractive that no man can ignore her physical beauty. That's why they would not pay attention to her inner beauty or the beauty of her soul.

6. **How can you define the proverb 'All that glitters is not gold' with context to the present poem?**

**Ans.** 'All that glitters is not gold' is an aphorism taken from the famous drama of Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, in which the dramatist wants to convey the idea that all those things which are very shining and glittering like gold can never be gold. Their inner value is not so much as they seem outwardly. The same theme is stated by the poet in the present poem. The poet says that everything that looks precious or true outwardly turns ugly and valueless inwardly.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **How does the poet give importance to the inner beauty and not the physical appearance in the poem 'For Anne Gregory'? Elaborate with reference to the poem.**

**Ans.** The poem is a marvellous piece of artistic beauty in which the poet presents a conversation between Anne Gregory and another speaker who is supposed to be the poet. The poet, through this conversation,

clearly conveys his idea that everybody should give importance to the inner beauty that is the beauty of the soul, not the physical appearance or the external beauty. He foretells Anne Gregory that a number of young men would come to her and would fall in love with her because of her beautiful hair or the external beauty. In fact, they would not have any serious intention to love her for her inner qualities.

When Anne Gregory listens to this statement, she replies that she would change the colour of her hair so that men would not be able to find out her physical beauty and would love her for her personality and inner beauty. When Anne replies to this statement, the poet asserts to her that it is only God who loves one for one's inner beauty. He does not love anybody for physical beauty. This statement presents the poet's message clearly. The poet believes that outward appearances are artificial, and so they are not true. Thus, man must prefer internal beauty to physical appearance, which is true beauty.

2. **How can you say that God does not love a person for his or her outer appearance, but for the person himself?**

**Ans.** According to the poet, God is impartial. He does not love any person for his or her outer appearance or external beauty and richness. It is only human beings who are more attracted towards material things than spiritual things. They prefer to see only outward beauty. They prefer things that appear attractive and pretty from outside. They never try to look for what lies inside. In the poem, 'For Anne Gregory', the poet points out this preference given by man. He tells Anne Gregory that men will love her only for her external beauty and beautiful yellow hair. They will not try to peep into her true nature or personality. The poet wants to convey his idea that only God is powerful enough to avoid external beauty and peep into the soul. He tells about a scripture that mentions and proves this truth. For the poet, outward appearance is temporary as it fades away with the passage of time, so it is not true. The truth for him is clear that God does not love a person for his or her outer appearance, he loves him for his inner qualities, i.e. purity of heart and soul.

3. **Why does the poet differentiate between external and internal beauty to Anne Gregory? How does Anne Gregory want to be loved?**

**Ans.** The poet wants to differentiate between external and internal beauty to Anne because he wants that whosoever comes to Anne should be a

true lover. It is certain that we love people because of their external appearance and not for their good qualities or nature or inner beauty. The world today is full of pomp and show, where people have become objects to be loved. They are judged on the basis of their physical beauty or how they appear. People love one another if they look beautiful. In the poem, the poet asserts that Anne is loved for her beautiful yellow hair and not for her traits of personality. But it is also true that Anne Gregory does not want to be loved for her beauty. She wants that people should

love her for her traits. She is ready to get her hair dyed black or brown to show the artificiality of her outward appearance. She wants to be loved for herself.

Anne's wish does not get fulfilled. The poet clearly mentions no human being possesses this quality. It is only God who knows the truth, so He loves only in the real sense. He would love her for her internal qualities. Human beings will go on being tempted by her beautiful yellow hair, not for her inner self.



## CHAPTER

## 9

## The Proposal

(Anton Chekhov)



## Important Questions



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is the primary contention of the play?

**Ans.** The parody is passed on effectively by accentuating the couple's absurd contentions over little things. The primary contention in the play spin around The Oxen Meadows and two dogs.

2. What is the condition of Lomov when he is in an excited mood?

**Ans.** In his excited mood, Lomov's heart beat increases. There is a twitch in his right eyebrow. The worst thing is the way he sleeps. When he goes to sleep, he jumps like a lunatic as something is pulling in his left side. It comes to his shoulder and head.

3. Write a brief introduction to the play, The Proposal.

**Ans.** The Proposal was originally titled as "A Marriage Proposal. It is a one-act play, a farce, by the Russian short story essayist and writer, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov. The proposal is a short play and has just three characters in it.

4. What is the reaction of Chubukov when Lomov says that he has come to propose to his daughter?

**Ans.** When Lomov says that he has come to propose to his daughter, Chubukov is really glad to hear it. He embraces and kisses Lomov. He encompasses a tear or two in his eyes out of joy. He gets God's blessing for Natalya and Lomov. He goes out to call for Natalya. His joy knows no bounds.

5. How do Lomov and Chubukov utter words after talking about dogs?

**Ans.** Chubukov scolds Lomov and says that Lomov should sit at home with his heartbeats. Lomov

replies that he goes looking to intrigue solely. Then, Lomov calls him an 'intriguer'. Chubukov calls him 'pup'. Lomov calls him 'old rat'. Chubukov calls him 'fool', etc. thus, they fight with each other.

6. Why does Natalya want her father Chubukov to fetch Lomov in at once? How does she accuse her father?

**Ans.** When Chubukov tells Natalya that Lomov came to propose her for marriage, Natalya promptly changes her mind and asks her father to fetch Lomov in. She additionally accuses Chubukov that he did not tell her earlier and drove Lomov out.

7. How does Natalya incite Lomov to verbal fighting?

**Ans.** When Natalya listens Lomov's statement that Oxen Meadows belongs to Lomov, she says that she thought Lomov was a good neighbour. But he is not so. They lent him their threshing machine last year. They had to postpone their threshing till November. Thus, Lomov was incited..



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. What does the story convey the idea about?

**Ans.** The farce explores the process of getting hitched and could be perused as a satire on the upper middle class and courtship. The play points out the struggle to balance the monetary necessities of marriage and what the characters themselves actually want. It demonstrates the characters' distress for marriage as hilarious. Chekhov's Russian marriage was a method for monetary stability for the vast majority. They wedded to pick up riches and belonging, or to fulfil social weight.

**2. Who are the main characters of the play The Proposal?**

**Ans.** The main characters of the play are:

**Chubukov:** Physically, he looks like the age of 60 years. He is a caring man and considerate of all, including his neighbours.

**Natalya:** She is the daughter of Chubukov. She needs to get everything that she wants. She is enamoured. She resembles a love-sick cat who wants to get love at any cost.

**Lomov:** He is 35 years of age, a peculiar person. In the event that he gets apprehensive, his heart is palpitating, particularly when he faces Natalya. He doesn't have a fearless heart before the lady. He feels nervous.

**3. Write a short note about the setting of The Proposal.**

**Ans.** The setting of the play is as follows:

**Place:** The occurs in Chubukov's house, precisely in the drawing room.

**Time:** The play takes place at night, at about 7 p.m.

**Scene:** Lomov has put on a nightdress, gloves, cap, etc. He comes to the house of Chubukov. Chubukov is astonished but feels happy when meeting him. Lomov says that he has come to propose Natalya, Chubukov's little girl. Chubukov is extremely cheerful. Chubukov specifically acknowledges the proposal. Lomov fears he isn't an appropriate man for Natalya. It is the ideal time for Lomov to ask Natalya to marriage. Thus, the play takes a start.

**4. Write a Character sketch of Stephen Chubukov.**

**Ans.** Stephen Chubukov is one of the characters in the play. **The Proposal** that Anton Chekhov has presented. He is a landowner who is the father of a daughter named Natalya. He invites Lomov in a pleasant way and is upbeat when he says he has come to propose to his girl. Chubukov is a man to be diverted effectively. Thus, when Natalya and Lomov had a contention, he excessively participates and offends Lomov. Chubukov is anticipated as a loving father but a greedy man who is searching for a decent counterpart for his little girl. When he gets a chance, he puts the hand of his daughter in Lomov's hands, feels relaxed.

**5. Justify the title of the play, The Proposal.**

**Ans.** The play 'The Proposal' has an appropriate title. It is a very apt one because the whole play revolves round Lomov proposing Natalya. Right from the beginning to the end, the entire story revolves round a marriage proposal. Lomov visits Natalya's house

to propose to her, but before he could do it, they both start fighting. As a result, Lomov becomes sick and leaves. Natalya's father informs her regarding the intention of Lomov, and she starts wailing over the loss. Lomov is called back and once again an argument begins before proposing. Hence, the title proves to be ideal for the play.

**6. How can you say that 'The Proposal' is a great one act comedy?**

**Ans.** 'The Proposal' by Anton Chekhov, one of the greatest Russian writers and dramatists, is a great one act comedy. The comedy is the result of the comical characters and comical material presented in the play. All the characters behave in such a way as their behaviour becomes a landmark. Natalya, Lomov, and Chubukov fight over foolish and petty things. All these create a lot of fun and laughter. The verbal fight that takes place over the Oxen Meadows followed by the quarrel over the dogs is really full of humour. All these incidents attract the attention of the readers.

**7. What does Chubukov at first suspect why Lomov has come to him for? Is he sincere in his later sweet words?**

**Ans.** When Lomov comes to Chubukov and gives his sweet expressions, he initially suspects that Lomov has come to him to borrow some money in cash. Later on, Chubukov isn't sincere in what he expresses. Just after a short while, he starts fighting with Lomov over petty matters. He also sides with his daughter, who is wrong in her arguments. He even abuses Lomov calling him with bad names. This shows his untruthfulness in saying of his expressions mixed with honey.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. How does Anton Chekhov prove that the principle of 'forgive and forget', helps a lot in maintaining cordial relations with our neighbours?**

**Ans.** Anton Chekhov was an eminent Russian writer. He was a great philosopher too. He was well acquainted with the human psychology. The message that he wants to convey to his readers is that the notion of "forgive and forget" is very helpful in keeping a friendly relationship with neighbours. The play depicts that the neighbours Lomov, Natalya, and Chubukov started out quarrelling over petty matters. It seemed that they were quarrelling without any reason. By fighting over little concerns,

they were putting major issues to the side and wasting their valuable time. They began insulting at one another without having any solid ground. Their friendship and neighbourly attachment with one another was harmed bitterly by their attitude. But when Natalya came to know that Lomov had come to her to propose to her, she left the matter of the disagreement behind. Apart it, she also begged pardon from Lomov and urged him to get straight to the issue, which they could earlier do. Hence, if one wishes to have peace of mind, they must “forgive and forget.” They should go on without having any bitterness towards anyone.

- 2. We can safely say that more attention is paid to unimportant issues at the cost of important ones. The play ‘The Proposal’ beautifully portrays this fact. Discuss.**

**Ans.** The behaviour of the People is very strange. They give more importance to petty things. They are constantly angered by trivial things. They do not

concern to the major matters. In this way, it seems that they are wasting their lives. But the irony is that they hardly seem to notice it. It is a true fact that people frequently consider the unimportant issues as important and take petty things as priority. The same happens in the play when Natalya was given a suggestion by Lomov, but she could not understand it. They were unable to put it into their own benefit because of their differences. So, it is necessary to setting your priorities in life because it becomes essential for the result. It is necessary to dismiss trivial issues. The conversations concerning them take a lot of time. And this time proves to be useless. One should avoid spending too much time on unimportant matters. Instead, we should use this energy on some more useful and important issues that have a beneficial impact on life and may be helpful to save our time and relationships and hence produce positive outcomes. We can our lives more happy too.





## CHAPTER

## 1

## A Triumph of Surgery

(James Herriot)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. What 'extra' did Mrs Pumphrey start to give Tricki and why?

**Ans.** Mrs. Pumphrey thought that Tricki was suffering from malnutrition, as he was weak and dull. So, she started to give him extra food like cod liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to make him sleep. She also gave him cream cakes and chocolates.

2. What did Dr. Herriot warn Mrs. Pumphrey severely?

**Ans.** Mr. Herriot suggested Mrs. Pumphrey severely that she had to cut down the diet of Tricki. If she didn't cut his food right down and gave him more exercise he is going to be really ill. She must harden her heart and keep Tricki on a very strict diet.

3. Why was Dr. Herriot really worried about Tricki?

Or

**Why was Dr. Herriot shocked at the appearance of Tricki?**

**Ans.** When Dr. Herriot saw the dog with his mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey, he was shocked at his appearance. Because the dog had become hugely fat. He looked like a bloated sausage with four legs: such a miserable condition of the dog really worried the doctor.

4. What made Mrs. Pumphrey call the vet, Dr. Herriot?

Or

**What was the condition of Tricki when Mrs. Pumphrey called Dr. Herriot?**

**Ans.** Tricki's health condition made Mrs. Pumphrey

to call Dr. Herriot. Tricki was not eating anything and refused his favourite dishes and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. He did not go for walk and didn't want to do anything.

5. What did Dr. Herriot suggest about the dog? How did Mrs. Pumphrey react on this?

**Ans.** Dr. Herriot suggested that there was only one way to save Tricki that he had to be hospitalized for about a fortnight and to be kept under observation. Mrs. Pumphrey almost swooned by hearing this. She thought that Tricki would pine and die without her.

6. How did the household dogs of Dr. Herriot behave when he entered in the surgery with Tricki?

**Ans.** When Dr. Herriot entered in the surgery with Tricki, the household dogs surged around him. He put down Tricki and he laid motionless. The other dogs sniffed him for a few seconds and then decided that he was an uninterested object and ignored him.

7. What was the only fault of Tricki as diagnosed by Dr. Herriot?

Or

**What was the major flaw in Tricki?**

**Ans.** Dr. Herriot diagnosed that the only fault of Tricki for his health condition was his greed for food. He did not know how to refuse food. He would tackle a meal at any hour of the day or night.

8. What happened on the third day with Tricki in the surgery?

Or

**How did Tricki befriend with the group of other**

dogs ?

**Ans.** On the third day, Tricki began to whimper when he heard the dogs in the yard. When the doctor opened the dog, he trotted out and was immediately engulfed by the greyhound and his friend. They rolled him and inspected him and moved off down the garden. Tricki also followed them with his fat and slow body. In this way, he befriended with other dogs.

**9. How did Mrs. Pumphrey and her servants behave when Tricki was being taken away to the surgery?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Pumphrey started crying upon realising that Tricki was being taken away to the surgery. All the servants were woken up. They rushed in and out carrying all the things that Tricki would need after hospitalisation. These things included beds, cushions, toys, bowls, coats etc. Mrs. Pumphrey threw an armful of the little coats of Tricki through the window with a despairing cry.

**10. What happened at the feeding time? Why did the dogs finish their food fastly?**

Or

**Describe the feeding scene of the dogs at the surgery?**

**Ans.** At the feeding time, when the food was served into the bowls, there was an usual headlong rush followed by the sounds of high speed eating. Each and every dog knew that if he fell behind the others he was liable to have some competition for the last part of his meal, so they tried to finish their food fastly.

**11. How was the behaviour of the doctor towards the dog?**

**Ans.** The behaviour of the doctor towards tricki was very kind and caring. The doctor tried to help the dog in any possible way by advise or by admitting her into a hospital. He was also very strict but altogether kind as he cared about the dog and helped him in each step.

**12. Briefly describe Herriot's days of content?**

Or

**How did lunch become a 'ceremonial occasion' for Mr. Herriot and his partners?**

**Ans.** The time of Tricki's stay at the hospital was a period of content for Herriot. He used to enjoy the treat that arrived in the name of Tricki, as he could not afford all this for himself. Herriot used to relish the fresh eggs in breakfast, wine before and during lunch and brandy in the night.

**13. What was the effect of 'Convalescing' word on Mrs. Pumphrey?**

**Ans.** The word 'Convalescing' put great effects on Mrs. Pumphrey. She started to bring round fresh eggs, two dozen at a time, to build up Tricki's strength. After that she also sent bottles of wine and brandy to make Tricki strong.

**14. Describe the transformation of Tricki in two weeks?**

**Ans.** In two weeks, Tricki had been transformed into a lithe and hard muscled animal. He was keeping up well with the pack, stretching out in great bounds and his chest almost brushing the ground.

**15. How did Mrs. Pumphrey show her gratitude to the doctor?**

**Ans.** When Mrs. Pumphrey saw the transformation of Tricki just in two weeks, she became emotional. Tears shone in her eyes and her lips trembled. She cried and said that she could not thank the doctor enough because he had done a great job.

**16. What was the only way to save Tricki?**

**Ans.** The only way to save Tricki as thought of by Dr. Herriot was to take him away from his mistress Mrs Pumphrey. He knew that if Tricki stayed with Mrs Pumphrey his condition would worsen. Thus, Tricki needed to be hospitalised.

**17. How did Tricki spend his all day in the surgery? What did he discover there?**

**Ans.** Tricki spent his all day running with the dogs, joining them in their friendly scrimmages. He enjoyed the fighting of dogs at mealtimes and hunting of rats in the old hen house at the night with his gang of dogs. He discovered the joys of being bowled over, tramped on and squashed every few minutes. He liked running, playing, fighting and hunting with other dogs.

**18. How did Tricki behave when he saw Mrs. Pumphrey in the car?**

**Ans.** When Tricki saw his mistress, Mrs. Pumphrey, he took off from the arms of the doctor tremendously and sailed into Mrs. Pumphrey's lap. He swarmed over her, licking her face and barking to show his love to his mistress.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Describe the lavish lifestyle that Tricki had?**

**Ans.** Tricki was more like a pampered child of Mrs. Pumphrey. He was a small dog and his only weakness was his greed for food. He was overfed by

his mistress who thought that he was malnourished and hence, gave him a very generous diet which included extra meals between meal time, cream cakes and chocolates, malt and codliver oil and horlicks at night for his good sleep. Tricki had a cupboard full of coat which also included a raincoat for monsoons. He had different bowls for different meals, cushions, toys, blankets, sheets etc. and had servants looking after him day and night.

He went for little walks with his mistress and played ring-throwing with the gardener. He travelled in his mistress car and exercised very little. This luxurious and lavish lifestyle made Tricki sick, lazy, inactive and fat. When he received proper diet and exercise at the surgery, he was transformed into a lithe, hard muscled dog and Mrs. Pumphrey couldn't believe her eyes.

**2. Write down incidences from the text that support the values we can learn from Mr. James Herriot?**

**Ans.** Dr James Herriot was a capable veterinary surgeon who treated Tricki. He was a compassionate doctor and a wise and sympathetic human being. He showed his capabilities almost immediately when he advised Mrs. Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet after understanding his symptoms.

Dr Herriot was also an understanding and tactful person as he knew exactly how to free Tricki from the spoiling love of Mrs Pumphrey.

He does not treat the dog unnecessarily and adopted a practical psychological approach to treat him. His method worked and soon Tricki was transformed into an energetic dog. Mr James was a caring and polite individual as he successfully tackles Mrs Pumphrey's anxiety about Tricki's recovery patiently.

**3. How did Mrs. Pumphrey spoiled Tricki by pampering him too much?**

**Ans.** Mrs Pumphrey, a rich lady over pampers her dog, Tricki. She wants Tricki to live as luxuriously as she lives. To make sure that her dog lives a lavish life, she not only makes sure that Tricki has everything but also fulfils his greed. Her love and care for Tricki makes her overfeed him. She feeds him extra food in between his main meals and does not reduce sweets like cream cakes and chocolates.

In her love for Tricki, she never realised that Tricki was a greedy dog and her over-caring nature would harm him. Even though the surgeon prescribes her a diet for Tricki, she was not able to follow it. Consequently, Tricki's condition gets worse. He becomes lazy, inactive and very fat. Tricki's excessive diet spoilt his health to such an extent that he had to be hospitalised. Mrs Pumphrey's fondness and care for Tricki leads her to provide excess of food for her dog, even in the hospital. This shows that excess of everything can be harmful.



## CHAPTER

## 2

## The Thief's Story

(Ruskin Bond)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in about 25 words.

1. Where did Hari Singh meet Anil? How did Harji Singh choose him for his purpose?

Ans. Hari Singh met Anil when he was watching a wrestling match. Anil was looking easy-going, kind and simple man, that's why Hari chose him for his purpose. He thought that he might be able to get into Anil's confidence.

2. Was Hari Singh his real name? Why didn't he tell his real name?

Ans. Hari Singh wasn't his real name. He lied to Anil because he took a new name every month. That kept him ahead of the police and his former employers.

3. What did Anil and Hari agree upon to be the mode of payment?

Ans. When Anil expressed his inability to pay Hari, he questioned Anil if he could feed him. Anil told Hari that he could feed him only if he knew how to cook. Therefore, food and a place to live were agreed upon as the mode of payment to Hari to work for Anil.

4. Did Hari know to cook food? How did Anil react on This lie?

Ans. Hari did not know to cook food, he lied to Anil. When he cooked terrible food in the night, Anil gave it to a stray dog and told him to be off. But after some time he forgot his anger and told Hari that he would teach him to cook.

5. What else did Anil teach Hari? Did he like it?

Ans. Anil taught Hari to write his name and promised to teach him to write whole sentences and

to add numbers.

Hari liked it and was grateful. He knew that once he could write like an educated man, there would be no limits what he could achieve.

6. What work did Hari do for Anil? How did he earn money?

Ans. Hari was happy to work for Anil. He made the tea in the morning and go to buy day's supplies. He usually made a profit of a rupee by his purchasing of day's supplies. He made a little money this way.

7. How did Anil earn money for his living? How did he use his money?

Or

**In which queer way did Anil make a living?**

Ans. Anil made a living by writing articles for magazines, which seemed queer to Hari. Anil did not earn money on a regular basis. Sometimes, he borrowed and sometimes he lended money. He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived he celebrated and spent all the money on his friends.

8. According to Hari, why is it easy to rob a greedy man than a careless man?

Ans. According to Hari, it is easy to rob a greedy man, because he can afford to be robbed, but it's difficult to rob a careless man because sometimes he doesn't even notice that he has been robbed and that takes away the pleasure of the theft.

9. Why was it difficult for Hari to rob Anil?

Ans. It was difficult for Hari to rob Anil because Anil was the most trusting person Hari had ever met. He was simple and kind. Even he had given key of the door to Hari. Hari did not want to break Anil's trust.

10. **What made Hari think that he could live like an oil-rich Arab for some time?**

Ans. Hari Singh stole Anil's bundle of notes. When he counted them he found a sum of 600 rupees. So, he thought that he could live in luxury like an oil-rich Arab for some time on his stolen money.

11. **Did he reach at the station at right time? Did he catch the train? Why did he not catch it?**

Ans. Yes, Hari Singh reached at the station at the right time. The Lucknow Express was just moving out. Hari could jump into one of the carriages because the train was not in speed. But he hesitated and left the train because he did not want to break trust of Anil. He wanted to get educated.

12. **What did Hari think about keeping friends?**

Ans. Hari believed that friends were more trouble than help. Thus, he did not have any friend.

13. **What did Hari Singh think when he was standing alone on the deserted platform?**

Ans. When Hari Singh was standing alone on the deserted platform, he thought about the place where he could spend his night. He did not have any friends nor he wanted to go to a hotel. He had no idea where to go. He knew only Anil whom he had robbed.

14. **What did Hari Singh do in the 'maidan' and how did the notes become damp?**

Ans. After leaving the station, Hari Singh found himself in the 'maidan'. He sat down on a bench. The November night was chilly. The heavy rain started and his shirt and pyjamas stuck to his skin. When he checked the notes, they were damp from the rain.

15. **Why did Hari feel nervous?**

Ans. Hari Singh was nervous because it is much easier to steal something than to return it undetected. Hari Singh did not want to be caught and lose Anil's trust.

16. **What did he forget in the excitement of theft?**

Ans. He had forgotten about the promise of Anil that he would teach him to write whole sentences. He knew that one day that education could bring him more than a few hundred rupees. He wanted to become a big, clever and respected man which he could become only through the education. He lost the opportunity to be educated.

17. **What did Anil give Hari in the morning? How did Hari realise that Anil knew about the theft?**

Ans. In the morning, Anil gave a fifty-rupee note to Hari and promised to pay him regularly. When Hari took the note, he saw that it was still wet. So, he

realised that Anil knew about the theft.

18. **Who is the narrator of the story "The Thief's Story"? What was his profession before he came to Anil?**

Ans. The narrator of the given story is Hari Singh. He was 15 years old experienced thief.

19. **What kind of thief Hari Singh was?**

Ans. Hari Singh was an experienced small town thief who was fairly successful in his thefts. He knew how to win others' trust and steal from them without getting caught.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Hari Singh didn't board the Express and returned to Anil. It shows that everyone has some conscience that they do not put in practice. Elaborate with reference to "The Thief's story".**

Ans. Everyone has an inner conscience that tells them what is right or wrong. In the story "The Thief's Story", the narrator's/Hari's conscience is pricked as he robs a honest and kind man. He works for Anil with a purpose of looking for an opportunity to rob him, but during his stay with his master he not only learns about love, sympathy and trust but also understands the importance of education.

Even though Anil knows that Hari keeps one rupee as profit from his daily routines, he never asks Hari for it and teaches him to write. When Hari robs Anil, he states that it is difficult for him to rob Anil but it is much difficult for him to run away after robbing Anil. He does not want to hurt Anil and wants to change himself. This does not only force him to return the money but also makes him to get educated.

The inner conscience which came forward in Hari had been dormant (hidden) before he had stolen Anil's money. Just like Hari did not put it into practice, many people ignore it. It is the circumstances that awaken the inner conscience and put it into practice.

2. **Education, love and sympathy can transform even a thief. How is it true in the case of Hari Singh?**

Ans. A man is essentially a product of the circumstances and the environment that he lives in. Hari Singh was just 15 years old but was an experienced thief who had a fairly successful hand in his profession. It was his circumstances that led him into such a profession which he retained even while he lived with Anil. He went to live with Anil with a purpose of robbing him and was even successful in doing so. However, Anil was not a fool. He knew about Hari's



act of theft but did not hand over Hari to the police. It was his care, love and sympathy that affected Hari so much so that he could not run away after robbing Anil. Anil's compassion and kind-heartedness brought about a change in Hari. Further, Anil taught Hari how to read and write. The prospect of education created a deep impression on Hari's mind. He realised that with education he would not only be able to earn money but will also become a respected man.

Hence, it is true that education, love and sympathy can transform even a thief like Hari Singh.

**3. Who was Anil? How did he treat Hari Singh and how did it influence Hari's life?**

**Ans.** Anil was a young man of 25 years. He was a tall and lean fellow. He looked easygoing, kind and simple man.

Hari Singh, a fifteen years old thief, met him. He wanted to rob Anil. Anil gave him a job and shelter

in his room.

Anil taught him to write his name and promised him to teach whole sentences and add numbers. Hari was happy to work for Anil. He did not cheat him except some small profits which he gained from buying things of daily requirements. Anil knew it but he never said anything.

Anil earned money by fits and starts. He wrote articles for magazines. One day he earned 600 rupees. Hari stole that money and ran away but his conscience stopped him. Anil was kind and helpful towards him. He also knew that he could become respectful and clever man by education. He did not want to break Anil's faith. He realised the importance of education and returned back to Anil's house. It was Anil's goodness and kindness that changed a thief. Hari understood the value of faith, honesty, kindness and education by the influence of Anil and changed his way of life.



## CHAPTER

## 3

## The Midnight Visitor

(Robert Arthur)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in about 25 words.

1. How did Fowler reach to Ausable's room? Did he find the room suitable for a romantic adventure?

Ans. Fowler reached to Ausable's room by passing through a musty corridor of a gloomy French hotel.

The room was situated on the sixth floor and was very small. Fowler didn't find the room suitable for a romantic adventure.

2. What was unique with the accent of Ausable?

Ans. Ausable's accent was unique. He spoke French and German passably but he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.

3. What did Ausable want to show Fowler in his room?

Ans. Ausable wanted to show Fowler an important paper. It was a very important paper for which several men and women have risked their lives. That paper can affect the course of history.

4. Who was in Ausable's room? What was in his hand?

Ans. A man named Max was there in Ausable's room. He was a rival secret agent of Ausable. He had a small automatic pistol in his hand.

5. Was Max looked dangerous?

OR

Describe the appearance of Max.

Ans. Max wasn't looked dangerous. He was slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggested slightly crafty, pointed countenance of a fox. Except the gun, there was nothing especially menacing

about him.

6. Why Max came in Ausable's room?

Ans. Max came in Ausable's room to take some important report concerning some new missiles. He knew that the report was being bought to Ausable that night.

7. Why was Ausable angry with the management of the hotel?

Ans. Ausable said that he was angry with the management of the hotel because that was the second time in a month that somebody entered in his room through the balcony. The hotel management promised him to block it off but they didn't.

8. How did Ausable explain the connection of the balcony to the window of his room?

Ans. In the beginning, Ausable said that he was going to complaint the management because that was the second time when someone came into his room by using the balcony. Then he explained that his room was a part of a large unit and the next room was a living room. That room had a balcony which extends under the window of his room. Anybody could come into his room by it. In this way, he convinced Max about the balcony.

9. What did Ausable say about the knock on the door?

Ans. Ausable said about the knock on the door that it was the knock of the police outside. He said that he had arranged some extra protection for that important papers. He told the police to check on him to make sure that everything was all right.

10. How did Ausable scare Max about the police?

Ans. Ausable scared Max about the police. He said that the door is open and if he didn't answer the

door, the police will enter in the room and they will not hesitate to shoot Max. Max got scared by this statement.

**11. Why did Max's face turn black with anger? What did he want Ausable to do?**

Ans. Max's face turned black with anger because he felt that his plan of extracting the important document from Ausable was in danger. He knew his plan could fail due to the knocking on the door, which Ausable identified as the police. He wanted Ausable to send the police away.

**12. How did Max fall from the window?**

Ans. Max wanted to hide from the police so he swung a leg over the sill of the window. He caught the frame with his free hand to support himself. But when Ausable opened the door, he pushed his left hand to free himself from the sill and drop to the balcony. But there was no balcony and he fell down with a loud scream.

**13. Who actually had knocked at the door of Ausable's room? Why did he come there?**

Ans. The waiter (Henry) in the hotel where Ausable stayed knocked at the door of Ausable's room. He had brought the drinks which Ausable had ordered when Fowler arrived in the hotel. He came there because he was doing his duty of serving a customer of his hotel.

**14. How did Fowler react when Max entered in the room and when he fell down?**

Ans. When Max entered in the room with a small pistol, Fowler got scared and stood stiffly. He became mute and didn't speak a single word.

But when Max fell down from the window Fowler spoke some words in a stammered voice with a white face. He was completely in shock and didn't understand anything.

management staff had done nothing to block the balcony.

The purpose of discussing these details about an imaginary balcony was to convince his enemy, Max of its existence. He knew that the drink that he had ordered would soon be coming and may prompt Max to jump into the balcony and it exactly happened in the same way. As soon as there was a knock at the door, Max was fooled into believing it to be the police. In a hurry to run away, Max jumped into the balcony to his death.

**2. Why did Max scream shrilly when he dropped to the balcony?**

Ans. In the story, 'The Midnight Visitor,' Max screamed shrilly when he dropped to the balcony because the balcony did not exist at all. It was just a piece of Ausable's imagination.

Ausable created the story of the balcony to save himself and Fowler and the important papers from reaching to wrong hands. He befuddled Max into believing that his balcony exists. His brief description to his guest Fowler regarding the presence of the balcony and his complaints regarding the hotel management convinced Max into, believing that there was a balcony just outside the window of Ausable's room.

Therefore, when Ausable created another story of the police, Max tried to jump onto the non-existent balcony without looking. As the room was on sixth floor, Max fell from it unexpectedly and must have died by falling from such a height. His scream was then a result of this unexpected fall.

**3. Max was a cunning spy but his carelessness and foolishness proved fatal for him. Do you agree that these characteristics led to his downfall?**

OR

**Though Max was very cunning, still he was 'a little spy' before Ausable. Explain.**

Ans. Yes, I agree that carelessness and foolishness led to the downfall of Max. Though Max was a cunning secret agent, he was indeed careless and foolish. He was overconfident and proud which failed his mission. As a clever spy, Max was sent on an important mission of procuring a vital document on the new missiles from his rival, Ausable. But he was deceived.

Max's pride and foolishness led to his downfall. He, in his carelessness, did not take any pains to inspect the hotel as well as Ausable's room in advance. Consequently, when Ausable told him



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. What information did Ausable give about the imaginary balcony? Why did he do so?**

Ans. Ausable gave a detailed description of the imaginary balcony located near the window of his room. He tells Fowler and indirectly Max that his room was a part of a bigger and larger unit. His room was connected to the next room which had a balcony that extended to the window. He adds that it was the second time when someone had entered his room secretly through the balcony. The hotel

about a balcony outside his window and the police knocking at the door, Max believed him without any doubt. He trusted his rival blindly without applying his mind and as a result, failed himself as well as his mission.

Unlike him, Ausable's calmness and presence of

mind saved him, his guest Fowler and the important papers he was about to receive. He set up a successful trap by putting up very little efforts. Max foolishly fell into this trap. This carelessness and foolishness rendered him to be a little spy before Ausable and also cost him his life.



## CHAPTER

## 4

## A Question of Trust

(Victor Canning)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in about 25 words.

1. Give a brief description of Horace Danby.

Ans. Horace Danby was a good and respectable man. He was a 50 year old unmarried man who lived with a caretaker. He was a successful locksmith with two helpers. He was a healthy man who sometimes suffered from attacks of hay fever. Horace Danby, however, was also a thief who robbed to satisfy his love of collecting rare and expensive books.

2. What was the passion of Horace Danby and how did he satisfy it?

Ans. Horace Danby's hobby and passion was to collect rare and expensive books. To fulfill it or to satisfy this passion, he used to rob a safe every year. Each year he planned carefully just what to do, stole enough to last for twelve months, and then brought the books secretly through an agent.

3. How did Danby prepare for the robbery at Shotover Grange?

Or

How did Horace Danby plan his robberies?

Or

Why was Horace Danby sure that his robbery at Shotover Grange would be a successful one?

Ans. Danby always planned his robberies meticulously. He prepared for the robbery at Shotover Grange by studying the house, its rooms, the electric wiring, paths and garden. He knew that the family was in London. He also knew that the servants were going out to watch a movie that

afternoon. It was not difficult for him to open the safe because he was a good locksmith. He also knew that the burglar alarm attached to the safe was poorly built.

4. How much wealth did Horace expect to get by the robbery? What was his planning about the money he would get?

Ans. Horace expected that there were about fifteen thousand pounds' worth of jewels in the Grange safe. If he sold them one by one, he expected to get at least five thousand pounds. That money was enough for him to live happily for another year. He wanted to spend that money to buy three very interesting books which were coming up for sale in the autumn.

5. How did Horace enter in the house?

Ans. As the servants went out to watch the movies, Horace saw them and came out from behind the garden's walls. He had seen that the housekeeper hang the key to the kitchen door on a hook outside. He put on a pair of gloves, took the key and opened the door of the house and entered in the house.

6. Whom did Horace Danby see in the kitchen? How did they greet each other? What tact did Horace apply there?

Ans. Horace Danby saw the family dog, Sherry, in the kitchen. The dog greeted Horace by stirring, making a noise and wagging its tail in a friendly way. Horace greeted the dog by tactfully calming it down, calling it by its name and showing love to it.

7. Describe the safe at Shotover Grange.

Or



**Where was the safe at Shotover Grange? What there inside it? What did Horace expect to get if he sold them one by one?**

Ans. The safe at Shotover Grange was kept in the drawing room behind a poor painting. The safe had jewels worth about 15000 pounds kept in it. Because of his careful planning, Horace Danby was sure that his robbery at Shotover Grange would be a successful one. Horace expected to get at least 5000 pounds if he sold the jewels one by one.

8. **What did Horace Danby wonder about for moment? What did he think and decide?**

Ans. On seeing the poor painting in front of the safe, Horace Danby wondered for a moment whether to collect pictures instead of books. But then, he thought that books were better in a small house like his, as paintings took up too much space in the room.

9. **How did flowers hinder Horace in his work?**

Ans. Flowers hindered Horace in his work because he suffered from the attack of hay fever, a disorder affecting the nose and throat, caused by an allergy to pollen or dust. Due to this problem, whenever he came close to flowers, he began to sneeze and could be caught.

10. **Why did Horace think that the people of Shotover Grange were foolish?**

Ans. Horace thought that the people of Shotover Grange were foolish because they own valuable things in their house and the complete description of the house, its rooms and pictures of the room were available in a magazine article. It could be very convenient for anyone to rob the house through that article.

Horace thought that those who possessed valuable things should be more careful but the people of Shotover Grange were careless about their safety, so he called them foolish.

11. **What are the subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into thinking that she is the mistress of the house?**

Ans. The subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into thinking that she is the mistress of the house are her grace, charm, comfort level, knowledge, persistence, way of talking confidently and familiarity with the household.

12. **When and why did the woman in red say, 'Society must be protected from men like you'. Doesn't it sound ironical?**

Ans. When Horace asked the woman in red to forget the incident and let him go, she told him that if she lets him go, he would rob someone else. Society then must be protected from men like him, i.e. robbers. The statement is ironical as she herself was a thief who deceived Horace and robbed the house.

13. **Why did Horace not get a chance to make another plan of robbery?**

Or

**What happened to Horace when he came back to his house?**

Ans. When Horace came back happily at his home, he kept his promise to leave robbery for two days. Third day, he started thinking of the books he wanted and decided to make another plan of robbery. But he never got a chance to begin his plan because a policeman arrested him for the jewel robbery at Shotover Grange.

14. **Did the lady in red keep her promise? Give reasons for your answer.**

Ans. Yes, the lady in red kept her promise as for two days after the incident, everything went normally for Horace. Horace was arrested because the owners of the house had found the broken safe with Horace's fingerprints on it. Hence, it can be said that the lady in red did not call the police as promised.



### Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions in about 25 words.

1. "Horace was clever but the lady in red was cleverer." Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer.

Or

**The lady in red was a more professional thief than Horace Danby". Elaborate.**

Ans. Yes, it is true that Horace was clever but the lady in red was cleverer than him. The lady in red was a more professional thief than Horace Danby. Horace Danby is a meticulous planner who had carefully planned the robbery. He had all the information he needed to carry out his plans. He not only had read a detailed description of the house but also knew that the servants were going for a movie.

Even while robbing he wore gloves and was careful not to leave any fingerprints. However, all his planing falls short with the presence of the lady in red. The lady in red also knew everything about the house. However, her presence of mind gave her an upper hand in the robbery. The charm and

confidence with which she carries herself in front of Horace make him believe that she is the owner of the house. She exploited Horace's fear of being discovered very skillfully and ensured that Horace's fingerprints were left on the site. She even robbed the safe without Horace knowing her real identity. She not only tricked Horace Danby but also left him to be blamed for the robbery.

2. **Do you think that there are certain situations in which you can be excused for acting dishonestly? Elaborate with reference to "A Question of Trust." "A Question of Trust".**

Ans. Yes, there are certain situations which can be excused for acting dishonestly. If something wrong is done unintentionally, it may be excused or pardoned.

In the story, "A Question of Trust", Horace Danby intentionally robs the rich people. He robs to satisfy his love for collecting rare and expensive books which might be considered to be done with good intention. However it is not justified.

Horace Danby was considered to be a good and a respected person. He had a good reputation in society even though he was thief. His intentions may not be harmful for anyone yet but he cannot be pardoned at all. A crime always remains a crime and the guilty must always be punished. I think that

there are certain situations on which one can be excused for acting dishonestly. Such situations must help others as well as oneself and in any case must not be harmful for anyone.

3. **Horace was a successful thief because he carefully planned his robberies. Should we call him a successful thief and still appreciate his work? Why or why not?**

Ans. Yes, Horace is a successful thief as he carefully planned his robberies and completed them well. As a thief, he had never been caught expect for once. Horace's last robbery at Shotover Grange was very carefully planned. Before carrying out his plans, he had made sure to carefully study the infrastructure of the house for two weeks. He had briefly looked at the electrical wiring, the path and the gardens of the house.

Horace cleverly entered the house and made sure to wear gloves so that no fingerprints were left. He had even studied the schedules of the people in the house. All the meticulous planning does make him a successful thief. However, we cannot appreciate his work. The wealth that he had gathered was a result of his robberies. It did not belong to him. By stealing other people's valuables, he may have become successful but can never stop to be a thief/criminal. He may be efficient but would not be appreciated.



## CHAPTER

## 5

## Footprints without Feet

(H.G. Wells)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why were the two boys in London surprised and fascinated?

Or

**What made the boys follow Griffin?**

**Ans.** The two boys in London were surprised and fascinated by the fresh muddy footprints they saw at the steps of a house. When they followed the footprints (Griffin), they were shocked to see that footprints were appearing but there was no person around.

2. What was the mystery of the footprints?

**Ans.** The mystery of the footprints was simple enough. That were the footprints of a scientist who had just discovered how to make the human body transparent. The scientist, Griffin, had swallowed certain rare drugs and his body had become as transparent as a sheet of glass.

3. Why did Griffin decide to slip into a big London store?

**Ans.** Griffin decided to slip into a big London store to get warm. It was mid-winter season and the weather was chilly. Hence it became difficult for him to wander around without clothes in London.

4. How did Griffin enjoy in the big London store?

**Ans.** As the door of the big London store shut, Griffin enjoyed the clothing and food of the store without regarding the expense. He took warm clothes, shoes, an overcoat and a wide-brimmed hat. After that he enjoyed cold meat, coffee, sweets and wine. Finally he settled down to sleep on a pile of quilts. Thus he enjoyed in the big London store.

5. How did Griffin find himself invisible but naked in the chill January air for the second time?

**Ans.** Griffin finds himself invisible but naked in the chill January air for the second time when two employees of the London store discovered Griffin hiding in their store and tried to chase him. Hence, in order to protect himself, he threw away all his clothes and became invisible again.

6. What did Griffin do in the shop of theatrical company?

**Ans.** In the shop of theatrical company, the invisible Griffin dressed himself to become visible. He wore bandages, sunglasses, whiskers and a fake nose. Also to avoid being seen, he attacked the shopkeeper and robbed all the money that he could find.

7. Why did Griffin go to Iping village? Why all the tongue started wagging?

**Ans.** Griffin wanted to get away from the crowded London, so he took a train to the village of Iping, where he booked two room at the local inn. "The arrival of a stranger at an inn in the winter was an unusual event for the villagers and his appearance was also uncommon. Thus, all the people started wagging.

8. Why did the landlady, Mrs. Hall try to be friendly and prepared to excuse Griffin's irritable habits?

**Ans.** Mrs. Hall, the landlady of the inn where Griffin had booked his rooms was obliged to get an unexpected guest in the winter season. She tried to be friendly with her guest to make him comfortable but Griffin snubbed her. He told her that he did not want to be disturbed. Such a behaviour was excused by Mrs. Hall because Griffin had paid her

in advance.

9. **What did the Mrs. and Mr. Hall's see in the scientist's room?**

**Ans.** When Mrs. and Mr. Hall found the scientist's room to be open, they decided to investigate the room. As they entered the room, they found that there was no one in the room and the bed clothes clothing were cold indicating that the scientist had been up for a long time. In addition, his clothes and the bandages were lying around the room.

10. **What did Mrs. Hall and her neighbours think about the extraordinary events? Whom did they suspect and why?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Hall thought that the room was haunted by spirits and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture.

Her neighbours thought that the trouble was caused by witchcraft. They strongly suspected that the stranger had a hand in clergyman's house theft and the episode of inn because he suddenly produced some ready cash, though he had admitted not long before that he had no money.

11. **How did the visible man become invisible?**

**Ans.** The visible man became invisible because of his quick temper. He got furious at the constant questioning of Mrs. Hall. Consequently, he took off all the things he was wearing on his forehead to become a man without a head. Soon constable Jaffers came to arrest him. So he took off all the clothes he was wearing to become completely invisible. He knocked Mr. Jaffers unconscious and escaped.

12. **How and why did a brilliant scientist like Griffin degenerate into a lawless and homeless wanderer?**

**Ans.** Griffin was a brilliant scientist who discovered invisibility of the human body. He first experimented on himself and became invisible which could have been used for the betterment of society. "However, he degenerated into a lawless and homeless wanderer. He not only became violent but also became a robber.

He conducted certain illegal activities by misusing his invisibility. His brilliance and greatness as a scientist was reduced as a consequence of his criminal activities.

13. **What kind of a person was Jaffers? How did he try to arrest Griffin? Did he succeed?**

**Ans.** Jaffers was an honest and dutiful constable. He did not scare of the headless man Griffin and tried to arrest him. When he tried to get hold Griffin,

he started removing his clothes one after another. Jaffers found himself struggling with someone he could not see at all. Some people tried to help him but found themselves hit by blows. Jaffers did not succeed in arresting Griffin because he was knocked unconscious in the end and Griffin escaped from there.

14. **How did Griffin save himself from Mrs Hall?**

(2022)

**Ans.** To save himself from Mrs Hall, Griffin opened up his bandages whiskers, spectacles and even nose to show that he was invisible.



## Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Describe the landlord's and his wife's experience with the strange scientist.**

**Ans.** The landlord and his wife had a very strange experience with the eccentric scientist. One day, in the early morning, both of them were shocked to find the door of the scientist's room to be open. They knew that their guest did not like being disturbed and would normally keep the room locked. So they looked inside. only to find that nobody was present in the room. As they entered the room to investigate it, they found that the bed was cold and the clothes and bandages that their guest regularly wore were lying about in the room.

Suddenly, Mrs. Hall heard a sniff and soon the hat on the bedpost was thrown at her face. Then, a chair was thrown at her legs and it pushed Mrs. Hall and her husband out of the room. The door was automatically shut and was locked.

These shocking turn of events made Mrs. Hall "hysterical. She almost fell down the stairs. She thought that her furniture was haunted and that the strange scientist was to be blamed for it.

2. **"Griffin's unlawful activities devalue his scientific discovery." Comment.**

Or

**Was Griffin a true scientist inspite of his great discovery? Didn't he misuse his discovery for his petty gains and thefts rather than for the welfare of humanity?**

Or

**Griffin's great discovery did not make him a popular and respectable person. Explain with instances from the text. Was he a disaster for himself and for society?**

Or

**Discoveries of science can be used for the welfare of mankind as well as for its destruction. How is this applicable to Griffin's scientific discovery? Explain giving examples from the text.**

**Ans.** Griffin was a brilliant and a competent scientist. He discovered that the human body could become invisible and transparent as a result of long and constant experimentation. However, he was a lawless person. He misused his invisibility only for his personal gains. He committed thefts and beaten innocent persons for his own benefits.

His great discovery could have made him popular and respectable. But he degenerated himself into a criminal. He became a disaster for himself as well as society. He lacked respect for humanity and as a consequence became a homeless wanderer without any clothes or money.

As a result, Griffin's great discovery is reduced to nothing. His greatness and brilliance was lost with his criminal activities which not only included thefts but also material damage. His condition was such that he had to wander without clothes in middle of winter other words, instead of any popularity and respect, and his great discovery brought him disrepute dishonour.

**3. How did Griffin's invisibility come to his help whenever he found himself in trouble?**

**Ans.** Griffin was once a brilliant scientist who had worked hard to discover a drug (medicine) that could make a human body invisible and transparent. However, instead of using it for the welfare of the

society, Griffin used his experiment to help him to commit petty crimes, thefts and burglaries. He became a lawless person hitting, beating and robbing innocent people. But his invisibility came to help whenever he caught himself in trouble or was in the danger of being caught and arrested.

The first time when his invisibility helped Griffin was when he lay asleep fully dressed on a pile of quilts in the big London store. When the employees of the store saw him, he panicked and ran away. When he was chased, he threw away all his clothes and save himself as he has become completely invisible. Griffin's invisibility helped him rob not only a theater costume shop but also a clergyman in village Iping. finally, when the village constable Jaffers came to arrest him. Griffin again became invisible. He, then, not only made the constable unconscious but also hit all those people who came to his help.

**4. Why did Griffin enter the London store? What did he do there? (2022)**

**Ans.** Griffin decided to slip into a big London store to get warm.. It was mid-winter season and weather was chilly. Hence, it became difficult for him to wander around without clothes in London. As the door of the store shut, Griffin enjoyed the clothing and food of the store without regarding the expense. He took warm clothes, shoes, an overcoat and a wide brimmed hat. After that he enjoyed cold meat, coffee, sweets and wine. Finally, he settled down to sleep on a pile of quilts. Thus, he enjoyed in the big London store.





## CHAPTER

## 6

## The Making of a Scientist

(Robert W. Peterson)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. What rare achievement did Richard manage at the age of twenty-two?

**Ans.** Richard had a rare achievement at the age of twenty-two. He wrote an article with his friend about a theory of how cells work. The article was published in the scientific journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Science." It was the first time that this journal had ever published the work of college students.

2. Richard became a collector at an early age. How?

Or

**Where did Richard grow up? How did he spend his time?**

**Ans.** Richard grew up in north of Reading, Pennsylvania. Richard was the only child of his parents. He had no company at home to play with. So, he started collecting things in his spare time. He would collect coins, fossils, rocks and butterflies as a hobby. In this way, Richard became a collector at an early age.

3. Why did Ebright start tagging the butterflies?

**Ans.** Ebright's mother gave him a book "The Travels of Monarch X". Richard read the whole book, at the last page of the book, readers were invited to help study butterfly migrations.

They were asked to tag butterflies for research by Dr. Fredrick A. Urquhart of the University of Toronto, Canada. So, Ebright started attaching a tag to the wings of Monarchs because he wanted to study monarch butterflies in Toronto University.

4. How and why was Ebright raising the flock of Monarch butterflies in the basement of his house?

**Ans.** The butterfly collecting season around Reading lasts six weeks in summer season. Richard Ebright needed flock of butterflies to attach tag on their wings, so he decided to raise a flock of butterflies in the basement of his house. He caught a female monarch, took her eggs, and raised them through their life cycle, from egg, to caterpillar to pupa to adult butterfly. Then he tagged the butterflies and let them go.

5. Why did Ebright lose interest in tagging bufferflies?

**Ans.** Richard raised thousands of butterflies, tagged them and released them to study their migration. But soon, he lost interest because only two of his tagged butterflies were recaptured and they had travelled only seventy-five miles.

6. Who was Dr. Frederick A. Urquhart? Why did Richard Ebright look to him for fresh ideas?

**Ans.** Dr. Frederick A. Urquhart was a scientist and teacher at the University of Toronto, Canada. He was doing research on butterfly migrations. Ebright sent him many tagged butterflies for his research work. Richard looked to him for fresh ideas and suggestions because the suggestions sent by Dr. Urquhart helped in shaping Ebright's career as a scientist.

7. When did Ebright get a hint of real science? What was his project? What did he learn there?

**Ans.** Ebright got a hint of real science when he was in the seventh grade and participated in a country science fair. He did not get any award. His project was to show slides of frog tissue, which he showed

under a microscope. He learnt that he had to do some real experiments rather than a simple display of his project.

**8. Which project did Richard undertake in the eighth grade?**

**Ans.** In the eighth grade, Richard undertook the project to find the cause of a viral disease that had killed monarch, caterpillars. He thought that a beetle might carry the virus, so he rose caterpillars in the presence of beetles. He was not able to prove it but still won a prize for it.

**9. Why do viceroy butterflies copy the monarch butterflies?**

**Ans.** Birds eat viceroy butterflies because they taste good to them, whereas monarch butterflies do not taste good to the birds. So, the viceroys try to copy the monarchs to protect themselves from the birds.

**10. Richard's project on the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly valuable in two ways. List the two ways.**

**Ans.** Richard's project on the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly valuable in the following two ways. First, he discovered a hormone that was necessary for the growth of the pupa.

Secondly, he got a chance to work at a famous laboratory as he won the first prize in the county fair and entry into the International Science and Engineering Fair.

**11. Mention any two of Ebright's contributions to the world of science.**

**Ans.** The two contributions of Ebright to the world of science were: Ebright built a device that showed that the spots on monarch butterflies wings produce a hormone that is necessary for the growth of the butterfly.

His other important contribution was his study of how cells read their DNA.

**12. In addition to science, what were the other interests of Richard?**

**Ans.** Apart from science, Richard was a good debater and a public speaker as well as a canoeist and an outdoor person. He also loved photography and likes to collect different kinds of things and butterflies.

**13. Mr. Weiherer pays a glowing tribute to Richard. What did he say?**

Or

Who was Mr. Weiherer? How did he admire

**Richard?**

**Ans.** Mr. Weiherer was Ebright's social studies teacher and the advisor to the clubs that Richard Ebright had joined. He praised him for his brilliant mind, his curiosity and a will to win for the right reason. He also admired Richard for his spirit to do his best all the time.

**14. Hobbies play a very important role in one's life. Elaborate this with reference to "The Making of a Scientist".**

**Ans.** It is true that hobbies play a very important role in one's life. It was Richard Ebright's hobbies that led him into the field of science. His hobbies were encouraged by his mother who always motivated him to learn new things. Further, it is because of his hobbies that he became a curious all rounder, always ready to participate in things that he loved to do.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Richard's mother had a great influence on him. Discuss.**

Or

**Discuss the role of Ebright's mother in making him a scientist.**

Or

**What role did Ebright's mother play in making him a scientist? (2022)**

**Ans.** Richard's mother played a huge role in making him a great scientist. She would take him on trips to encourage learning. He was a single child. After his father died, his mother made him the focus of her life. She would buy him all kinds of microscopes, telescopes and other equipment. After dinner, she gave him problems to solve. This helped Richard to learn a lot.

She was his only companion for a long time. She always tried to give him work that required no physical labour but those which enhanced his learning skill.

It was his mother who got him the book "The Travels of Monarch X". This book opened the world of science for Richard. She also wrote to Dr Urquhart to guide her son. The scientist helped Richard and guided him. Thus, his mother shaped him into an extraordinary scientist.

**2. Richard Ebright displayed a well-rounded personality. Do you agree? Elucidate in the context of the given text.**

**Ans.** Richard Ebright displayed a well-rounded personality from his childhood. His genius was obvious by the time he was in second grade. He not only collected butterflies but also collected rocks, fossils and coins. He had managed to collect all the twenty-five species of butterflies that were found in his hometown and had classified them.

Science was not his only passion. He was an active member of his school's debating club and Model United Nations Clubs and was also an effective debator and public speaker. He was an enthusiastic canoeist and an all-round outdoor person with a keen interest in photography. Because of his interest and hobbies, it was simple for him to devote time and energy to many other interests. He was a champion, not because of his desire to win but for attempting to do his best. All of these qualities make him a well-rounded personality.

**3. How did Ebright use determination and preservice to achieve his aim of becoming a scientist?**

**Ans.** Beginning in the Kindergarten, Ebright collected butterflies with the same determination that marked all his activities. In the second grade, he had collected all 25 species of butterflies found around his hometown. Due to his determination to study butterflies, he raised a flock of butterflies.

During subsequent years, he participated in science fairs, completed a number of research projects and graduated from Harvard with highest honours, second in his class of 1510. Ebright went on to become a graduate student researcher at Harvard Medical School. There he began doing experiments to test his theory how the cell can read the blueprint of its DNA. Thus, his determination and preservice made him a famous scientist.



## CHAPTER

## 7

## The Necklace

(Guy DE Maupassant)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. What would Matilda often dream of.

**Ans.** Matilda would often dream of all-the delicacies, luxuries, elegant dinners, marvellous dishes, beautiful dresses, jewels, adoration and a life of glory.

2. Why did Matilda throw the invitation spitefully?

**Ans.** Matilda was simply displeased when her husband showed her the invitation. She felt humiliated and threw the invitation spitefully, as she had nothing beautiful enough to wear at the ball.

3. Describe Mme Loisel's success at the ball.

Or

**Do you think Mme Loisel had an enjoyable evening at the ball? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans.** Mme Loisel was the centre of attention at the ball. Her beauty, her joy and the gorgeous smile attracted all. She danced happily. Hence, she had a successful enjoyable evening at the ball.

4. Why did Matilda leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character?

**Ans.** Matilda left the ball in a hurry because she did not want to be seen with the ordinary wrap that she carried. She believed that the poor looks of her wrap contrasted with the elegance of the other ladies, who were wrapping themselves in rich furs. This shows that she only wanted to keep up the appearance just to flatter her pride without being in touch with the real truth of her life.

5. What excuse did Loiseles put up to explain the delay

in returning the necklace?

**Ans.** Loiseles had lost the necklace and needed time to find an identical one. Thus, Mme Loisel wrote a letter to Mme Forestier with an excuse that the clasp of the necklace had got broken and she needed time to get it repaired.

6. How did Loiseles manage to pay for the necklace?

**Ans.** To pay for the necklace, M. Loisel had to give away eighteen thousand Francs that his father had left for him and the rest he had to borrow from the usurers. Due to this, they had to spend the rest of their lives in misery and poverty.

7. How did Mme Loisel now know the life of necessity?

**Ans.** Mme Loisel now knew the life of necessity when the Loiseles lived in poverty to pay off the debt they had taken to return the necklace. They sent off their maid and shifted into an impoverished and poor neighbourhood. Matilda had to cook, clean, wash, mend, bring water and bargain with the butcher as well as the grocer. While her husband worked all day, evening and night to earn as much money as he could.

8. Describe Mme Loisel after ten years.

**Ans.** Ten years of poverty and hardship stole away Matilda's youth and beauty. She became a strong and hard woman, who was poorly dressed with untidy hair and red ragged hands. Her skirts wore awry (uneven) and she spoke in a loud voice. She had become a commoner who had to do all things by herself.

9. Why was Matilda's friend astonished to see her at the end of the story?

Or

**Why did Jeanne not recognise her friend, Matilda?**

**Ans.** Jeanne Forestier, Matilda's friend, could not recognise her at the end of the story as she seemed an old and worn out poor woman. Matilda was no longer her former beautiful and joyous self. She had lost her charm and was living an unfortunate life.

**10. Comment on the use of irony in the text?**

Or

**How had the sacrifice of Loisels been in vain?**

**Ans.** The irony in the story 'The Necklace' is based on the fact that the Loisels spent their ten years in poverty and hard work to replace the lost diamond necklace which turned out to be fake. Thus, all the hard work and sacrifice of the Loisels went in vain when they got to know that the necklace they were a cheap imitation and costed only 500 Francs.

**11. Why do you think M Loisel was a loving husband?**

**Ans.** M Loisel was a loving husband as he cared about his wife's emotions. He makes her buy a new dress for the party from the money that he had saved for a gun. He also suggests her to borrow some jewels from her rich friend Mme Forestier. When his wife loses her friend's diamond necklace, he helps her in repaying the debt in all possible manner.

**12. Why was Matilda unhappy in her early married life?**

**Ans.** Matilda was a pretty married lady who was always unhappy in her life because she always wished to be wealthy. She always dreamt of living a marvellous life full of luxury. But in reality, she belonged to a family of clerks wherein she did not live a luxurious life.

**13. Why did Matilda not want to go for the ball party? (2022)**

**Ans.** Matilda did not want to go for the ball party because when her husband showed her the invitation, she felt humiliated as she had nothing beautiful enough to wear at the ball.

wealth and pleasure that she was out of touch with the truths of her real life.

In order to keep up appearances and just to flatter her pride, she blew up four hundred francs on a gorgeous dress. She also went on borrowing a necklace from her friend. All of this was just to impress the wealthy and the rich with her beauty and glamour (even if on loan). No doubt, her pride was flattered and her wish of fine dining and wearing expensive dresses and jewels was satisfied. But it came at a great price. Unfortunately, the necklace was lost and the couple had to cough up their entire inheritance and borrow as well to replace it. Repayment of the debt ate away the next ten years of their youth. They lived in utter poverty and had to work very hard to repay the loan. If she had accepted her reality and remained happy with what she had, she would not have suffered so badly. Therefore, one can say that it was her disposition that led her to doom.

**2. Mme Forestier proved to be a true friend. Elucidate.**

**Ans.** Mme Forestier is a true friend of Mme Loisel. She plays a very vital role in the story. As a friend to Matilda, we find her to be really genuine. She helps Matilda in the hour of her need. When Mme Loisel needed to borrow jewels, she turned to Mme Forestier. Mme Forestier does not refuse. Displaying her generosity, she opens up the entire case of her jewels for Matilda to choose from. Also, she was considerate when the Loisels delayed the return of the necklace. At the end of the story, she concludes the entire narrative.

Mme Forestier reveals to Matilda that her necklace was just a fake. She is not at all worried in the light of the fact that she may have to return the necklace. It shows her honesty. She was a true friend who, feels bad for Matilda at her unnecessary suffering.

**3. Was Matilda's dream fulfilled at the ball? Why did all men notice and wanted them to be presented to her?**

**Ans.** Yes, Matilda's dream was fulfilled at the ball. Matilda always dreamt of grandeur, luxuries and delicacies in her life. She had prepared for the ball so thoroughly as befitted a grand occasion. She didn't want to present a poverty stricken image of her, amidst rich ladies and gentlemen.

She made her husband buy a new dress for the party. She borrowed a necklace from Madame Forestier to adorn herself like a graceful and distinguished lady. She proved to be a grand success at the ball and her



## Long Answer Type Questions

**1. Matilda wanted to live a life above her status. How did this desire of hers lead to her sufferings?**

**Ans.** Mme Loisel belonged to a family of clerks but wanted to live a life above her status. They lived on small income, enough for meeting the basic needs but not to fulfill aspirations. She got married to a clerk and was so caught up with her dreams of



dream was fulfilled. She was the centre of attraction for all ladies as well as men who were present there. Matilda danced with enthusiasm, She was intoxicated with pleasure as she loved to be admired and appreciated.

At the party, Matilda was the prettiest of all and that why all the men noticed her. They couldn't avoid the temptation of noticing her and wanted to be presented to her.

**4. Give a character sketch of Matilda. (2022)**

**Ans.** Matilda is the young and beautiful wife of Mr. Loisel, a clerk in the board of Education. She

is proud of her elegant beauty and thinks she is a victim of social injustice and irony of fate.

So, she is always unhappy with her husband's poverty. She feels, she has been deprived of the comforts and luxuries which she might have enjoyed by marrying a rich man.

The loss of the necklace proves a turning point in the development of her character. Before the loss of the necklace, she is a thoughtless, ungrateful, proud beauty, unhappy with the poverty of her husband. After the loss, she becomes a mature, humble and grateful wife who can gladly sacrifice every pleasure to get her husband out of his financial misery.



## CHAPTER

## 8

## Bholi

(K.A. Abbas)



## Important Questions



## Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who is Think-Tank? What does he want to do?

**Ans.** Think-Tank is the commander-in-chief and the ruler of Mars and its two moons. He is considered as the most powerful and intelligent person in the universe. He himself thinks so. He wants to invade Earth and put it under his rulership

2. What does Noodle say in the praise of Think-Tank? Why does Think-Tank ask Noodle to go over the whole thing again?

**Ans.** Noodle bows low before Think-Tank. He calls Think Tank "Great and Mighty". He praises him by calling him the most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe. Think Tank asks him to go over the whole things again because he has left a part of his salutation. Noodle forget to add that Think-Tank is the new ruler of Mars and its two moons.

3. Name the person who are in the Mars Space Control.

**Ans.** There are five people who are in the Mars Space Control. First and most important of them all is great and mighty Think Tank. He is commander-in-chief and the ruler of Mars. Noodle is an apprentice who is always praising Think Tank but also giving subtle suggestions very respectfully. Then there are Captain Omega, Sergeant Oop and Lieutenant Iota.

4. How does the Think-Tank compare the Earth and Earthlings, with Mars and Martians?

**Ans.** Think Tank was proud of his intelligence and might. His comments on the Earth and the Earthlings are very sarcastic and ridiculous. He

calls Earth a ridiculous tiny planet and a ball of mud. He considers Martians a handsome race. He says that Martians are much more attractive than ugly Earthlings with their tiny heads. He even plans to invade Earth and put it under his generous rulership.

5. What difficulty do the crew of the space probe face on Earth?

**Ans.** The space probe landed in a public library. The crew in the probe was shocked because the place looked very strange to them as they had no idea of books. They thought of the library to be some kind of storage area. They were confused as they were not familiar with books.

6. How does Think Tank explain the books to his probe crew?

**Ans.** Think Tank told his crew that the books were sandwiches. He even ordered his crew to eat them. Then, he called them communication devices and asked the probe crew to listen to them. Later, he said that they were meant for watching.

7. Why do the space probe crew take vitamins?

**Ans.** Think Tank wanted the probe crew to find out what was in the books. So, the probe crew took vitamins to increase their intelligence on the order of Think Tank. They were able to read the books after taking those vitamins.

8. What is Think-Tank's interpretation of words like 'shells', 'silver bells' and 'garden' from the "nursery rhyme? What is its impact?

**Ans.** Think Tank interprets the given words to mean that the Earthlings grew shells and silver in their gardens. The impact of this was that he cancelled

the invasion of Earth as he felt that Earth was more advanced than Mars.

9. **Think Tank thinks that Earthlings are after him. What is the reason?**

**Ans.** Think Tank's crew read about Humpty Dumpty's fall in the rhyme and showed the picture to Think Tank. Think Tank's head resembled to the head of Humpty- Dumpty. This makes Think-Tank feel that Earthlings are planning to invade Mars and capture him.

10. **Describe Think-Tank in your own words.**

**Ans.** Think Tank is the ruler of the planet Mars. His head is huge and egg-shaped. He wears a robe decorated with stars and circles. He considers himself very mighty and is very proud of his intelligence.

11. **How did one old book of nursery rhymes save the Earth from a Martian invasion?**

Or

**How did a book change Think-Tank's opinion about the Earthling?**

**Ans.** The book 'Mother Goose' was totally misunderstood by the Martians. The Martians thought that the Earthlings were planning to invade Mars. So, they cancelled their invasion of Earth and went back. Think-Tank totally misunderstood the book. Phrases like 'shell', 'silver', 'garden' gave him a false idea that Earthlings grew silver and cockle shells. He started thinking that the Earthlings are very advanced than Mars.

12. **Compare and contrast the characters of Noodle and Think-Tank.**

Or

**Compare and contrast the characters of Great and Mighty Think-Tank and Noodle.**

**Ans.** Noodle and Think Tank have contrasting characters. Think-Tank likes to be called the 'Great and the Mighty'. He orders and commands. He is the ruler of Mars, but has no intelligence. He thinks books to be sandwiches. He is wrong about everything. He demands that the crew obey him. He likes to pass on other's ideas as his own. He is a coward who simply boasts about his power.

Noodle, his apprentice on the other hand is very clever and wise. He corrects the mistakes of Think-Tank very gently. He never takes credit for his ideas. But he offers them to the ruler very gently. Think Tank makes them his own.

When Noodle succeeds Think Tank and becomes the head of Mars, he becomes friend with Earthlings.

While Think Tank was afraid of Earthlings, Noodle allows Earthlings to set up a library there. So, both Noodle and Think-Tank are different from each other.

13. **How did the people on the earth help the Martian people? How did this effort help the people both the planets?**

**Ans.** Mars and Earth are two different planets in our solar system. The leader of Mars i.e. Think Tank decides to attack the Earth but his plan fails as he does not understand many things that his probe crew find on the Earth. When Noodle succeeds Think-Tank, both the planets becomes friends. Martians are taught how to read and a library is set up for them. This effort to understand each other, spreads awareness such that one can respect others and their cultures.



### Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Write a character sketch of the Great and Mighty Think-Tank.**

**Ans.** The Great and Mighty Think Tank had different character traits which are described below:

**Powerful:** Think Tank has been presented as the most powerful and the most intelligent creature in the whole universe. At least, Noodle and other associates think so. He was indeed powerful because he was the commander-in-chief and the ruler of Mars and its two moons. He was feared, pampered, flattered and obeyed.

**Couldn't accept Criticism:** Think Tank did not have the capacity to handle criticism. He could not go into deep understanding of things and was vain and haughty. His views about books were totally ridiculous. He presented other's views as his own and Noodle had to be very polite while correcting his mistakes or giving any suggestions to him.

**Misinterpreted Everything:** The Great and Mighty Think-Tank excelled at misinterpreting things and his half baked knowledge made him interpret the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" as the plan of Earthlings to capture Mars Central Control and him.

**Fearful/Coward:** When Think Tank misinterprets the nursery rhymes and thinks that Earthlings plan to capture him, he immediately orders to stop the invasion and orders the invasion fleet to evacuate the entire planet of Mars. He prepared himself to escape in a space-shuttle immediately.

2. **How did a book of Nursery rhymes save Earth from**

**the Martian invasion?**

**Ans.** The old, dusty book of nursery rhymes was called 'Mother' Goose'. Think-Tank, the commander-in-chief of Mars wanted to invade Earth and had sent Probe One to get more information about Earthlings. The crew entered a library and could not understand anything about the place. Thereafter, taking vitamins, they take out 'Mother Goose' and decipher the rhymes. The rhymes are misinterpreted as threats by Think Tank. After listening to the first rhyme, 'Mistress Mary', Think-Tank concluded that the Earthlings had discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. The second rhyme, 'Hey, Diddle Diddle' seemed to suggest to him that the Earthlings might be launching an interplanetary attack of millions of cows. The third rhyme, 'Humpty Dumpty' where Humpty Dumpty had a great fall threatened Think Tank and his planet Mars as the head of Humpty Dumpty resembled the head of Think Tank and he thought that the Earthlings know about him and his mission. He becomes so afraid that he dropped the idea of invading Earth and escaped to Alpha Centauri. Hence, a book of Nursery rhymes saved the Earth from Martian invasion.

**3. What ridiculous guesses did Think-Tank make about the books found on Earth? How did Noodle manage to suggest something without offending him?**

**Ans.** Think-Tank makes ridiculous and fantastic guesses about the books that are found on planet Earth. Using his unusual brain, he makes a wild guess that books are actually sandwiches, the staple diet of Earthlings. To confirm his opinion, he asks captain Omega to eat a book. She orders Oop to eat the book who says that the book is not delicious. Noodle then declares that the Earthlings don't eat them but use them as a communication device. Think-Thank shows his agreement and asks Omega to listen to them. When Omega hears nothing, Noodle again handles the situation and says that the Earthlings don't listen to the sandwiches; they watch them. Think-Tank agrees with this statement also and on Noodle's suggestion, asks the probe crew to take the vitamins to increase their intelligence and decode the language of the book. Thus, Think-Tank is mostly guided by Noodle who knows that the chief can't be disobeyed. Hence, he very politely makes new suggestions and keeps his master in good humour.

