

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
CLASS XII ENGLISH CORE (301)
Power Capsule (Revision Material)

FLAMINGO- POETRY

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY-SIX – KAMALA DAS

What does the poet's mother look like? What kind of images has the poet used to signify her ageing decay?

The poet's mother at sixty-six, is sitting beside the poet and is dozing off with her mouth open. This is a sign of old age. Her face was pale like a corpse's. Imagery of death has been created by the poet in this comparison.

Why does the poet look outside? What does she perceive?

The very thought of separation from her mother upsets and depresses the poet. She experiences the fear that she may never meet her mother again. In order to drive away such negative thoughts, she looks out of the window and her mind gets diverted when she sees trees moving rapidly and children playing merrily.

What does Kamala Das do after the security check-up? What does she notice?

Immediately after the security check-up at the airport, and standing a few yards away from her mother, the poet observes her mother once again and compares her to the pale, colourless winter's moon, marking the last phase of her life i.e. her old age. She is pained to see her and the fear of separation returns in her, once again.

What is the poet's familiar ache and why does it return?

The poet is pained to see her mother old and suffering. The sight of her mother's pale and weak face look like that of a corpse, which arouses her childhood's 'familiar ache' in her heart. She probably feels pained to imagine herself in this situation after some years.

Why does the poet smile and what does she say while bidding goodbye to her mother?

The poet smiles in order to put up a brave front so that her mother may not observe her pained and frightened look. She smiles in order to reassure her mother and says that she would soon see her again.

What poetic devices has the poet used in 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?

The poem is rich in imagery. Devices of comparisons and contrasts are also used by the poet to draw out the differences in young age and old age. She describes her mother's age as 'ashen like a corpse', using simile and compares her to late winter's moon, using a simile again. The merry children playing happily are contrasted with the old, weak and pale mother of the poet.

Describe the world inside the car and compare it to the activities taking place outside.

The poet sees her dozing mother's inert, stiff body inside the car and the active life outside. Her mother's face is ashen like that of a corpse. On the other hand, the trees outside seem to sprint, and children are making merry as they 'spill' out of their homes

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN A SLUM – STEPHEN SPENDER

What is the theme of the poem 'An Elementary School Classroom in a slum'?

In the poem, Spender depicts the pathetic life of slum children who are victims of government apathy. He presents social injustice and class inequalities that prevails in society. The poem is a bitter criticism on the state of education in elementary schools in slum areas.

The poet says, "And yet for these Children, these windows, not this map, their world." Which world do these children belong to? Which world is inaccessible to them?

Narrow lanes with foggy skies and dim classrooms constitute the world for the children who live and study in the slums. The civilized and prosperous world of music, literature and fragrance does not belong to them.

'All of their time and space are foggy slum.

So blot their maps with slums as big as doom.'

What does Stephen Spender want to convey?

This image highlights their impoverished existence. Their existence is restricted to the “foggy” slums. Foggy is symbolic of ignorance. Fate has charted out a bleak path as the future holds no promise for them. Their life is an endless fog till they die. The maps of their future are already blotted.

Bring out the optimism in the last stanza.

Spender feels education is the instrument of change. It can release the slum children from the miserable life they lead. He appeals to the officials to become sensitive to their needs. This will break down the barriers that hinder their growth.

How can powerful persons like the governor, inspector, visitor contribute to improve the lot of slum children?

The governor, teacher, inspector and visitors can transport them beyond the dark boundaries of today into the possibilities of tomorrow, otherwise these classrooms will become like tombs. The lives of the children are magically released from bondage. It is an appeal to these eminent people to rescue the poor and oppressed from the tomb of class discrimination and to show the children the beauty of the world.

Explain ‘history is theirs whose language is the sun’.

Those people create history who outshine others. Through this metaphor, Spender feels that only those people who have courage can leave their mark. To create history, their language must have the power, brightness and warmth of the sun.

KEEPING QUIET – PABLO NERUDA

What does the poet mean by ‘exotic moment’ and how could man achieve this ‘exotic moment’

By ‘exotic moment’ the poet means that the moments of silence and inactivity would be extraordinary and memorable because man would be able to reflect on his activities and hence be able to make amends. This exotic moment can only be achieved through total silence and inactivity even if for a few seconds.

What are the kinds of wars mentioned in the poem? What is Neruda's attitude towards war?

The poet mentions three types of wars, i.e. green wars that man wages against nature and environment. He also mentions wars with gas and wars with fire meaning that man kills other human beings with the help of biological and nuclear weapons. (b) 'Green wars' refers to the environmental degradation caused by man's mindless activities. Apart from the death of thousands of innocent people, war would not leave anyone victorious because there would be no survivors.

How is inactivity different from death? What does the poet mean by 'to have no truck with death'?

According to the poet total inactivity only means a temporary stillness, where inactivity makes man only temporarily find time to introspect, whereas death on the other hand, means the end of life. 'No truck with death' means that the poet does not advocate death, he only urges mankind to halt his activities for a few seconds.

What are we single-minded about?

The poet feels that individuals only think about keeping our lives moving at all costs, and in the process we lose sight of our goals. We only yearn for progress and fulfillment of ambitions and that remains our only focus while we are alive.

What, according to the poet causes sadness?

Mindless destructive activities cause sadness in our lives. Even the self-destructive that threaten mankind have led to sadness and unhappiness all around.

Under the apparent stillness there is life. Justify this statement giving an example from the poem "Keeping Quiet"

The Earth can teach us how we can be productive and useful even by maintaining silence. The Earth nurtures all living beings, plants and animals and quietly maintains the balance in nature. This is what we can learn from earth. It helps in the rebirth of new life. We can all learn to be silent and introspect

Justify the title 'Keeping Quiet'.

The title is quite apt and suggestive because it speaks of the importance of keeping quiet. There is not a single moment of rest in this world of activities. These activities harm us both

physically and mentally. Hence there is a need for keeping quiet and introspecting which will make us realize our mistakes. It will help us communicate and understand others better.

A THING OF BEAUTY – JOHN KEATS

What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?

The poet draws out the image of ‘an endless fountain of immortal drink’ that pours joy on us from the brink of heaven. These are the beautiful things in nature or man-made objects that he calls ‘immortal drink’.

How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?
A thing of beauty provides everlasting joy. Its beauty never decreases but continues to increase with the passage of time. It never fades away.

How do we bind ourselves to the earth every morning?

Every morning, we are weaving a flowery wreath which binds us to the beauties of the earth.

What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed?

Man makes his life miserable and full of suffering because of his own actions. The pall of despondence is the sadness that is a result of one's own actions. A thing of beauty works wonders for man and removes the cover of gloom from his dampened spirits.

Name the beauties of nature that are constant source of joy and happiness to man.

The sun, the moon, trees old and young are all sources of happiness for us. The trees sprout and spread their branches to provide shelter within their green covering (shade) for the simple sheep (humans). The Daffodils bloom within the green surroundings in which they grow. The clear and small streams of water make a cooling shelter for themselves against the hot season. The thick mass of ferns looks grand with their beautiful musk roses.

Why and how is ‘grandeur’ associated with the mighty dead?

The grandeur is associated with the 'mighty dead' because the splendour of the deeds inspires us through sagas. The legends and stories of martyrs enthuse us. Through their legends, the mighty dead continue to live and to be active as spiritual powers.

What is the source of the 'endless fountain' and what is its effect?

The 'endless fountain' is the everlasting joy provided to us by the bounties of nature in the form of nectar pouring on us from heaven. It pours into our heart nectar of endless joy.

What is the theme of the poem?

The poem conveys that a thing of beauty is a joy forever- a joy in the midst of disease, sufferings and disappointments in life. Heaven pours an endless fountain of immortal drink and all these are a source of joy.

AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS – ADRIENNE RICH

Do you sympathize with Aunt Jennifer? What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?

Yes, I do sympathize with Aunt Jennifer. The attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer appears to be negative and pessimistic because the poetess suggests that Aunt Jennifer, even after her death will continue to be weighed down heavily by the male dominated society. There will be no respite for her even after her death. Only her tigers will continue to live in the form of her artistic creation.

What does Aunt Jennifer's creation of the tigers symbolize?

The tigers symbolize Aunt Jennifer's desires. She expresses herself through the creation of her tigers whom she embroiders with a needle for the panel on the wall. The tigers are free and symbolize Jennifer's own longing to be free and powerful.

What is suggested by the image 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'?

The image suggests that not only was the emotional and physical pressures of her married life bowed Aunt down but she is also suppressed by the weight of the wedding band which symbolizes the male dominated society. It has put her under a lot of stress and had curbed her freedom and happiness during her lifetime.

What will happen to the tigers after her death?

Even after Aunt's death, the tigers will continue to jump about, feeling proud and unafraid.

Describe the poetic devices used in the poem.

The poet has used various images and symbols to express the dominance of man over woman. The 'tiger' symbolizes the freedom of spirit which Aunt Jennifer longs for in life. 'Fluttering wool' suggests the oppression of women. The wedding band conveys that she is oppressed, terrified and squeezed by her husband's dominance.

'Aunt Jennifer's tigers are totally different from her own character. Highlight this contrast.

The tigers symbolize Aunt Jennifer's desires. She expresses herself through the creation of her tigers whom she embroiders with a needle for the panel on the wall. The tigers are free and symbolize Jennifer's own longing to be free and powerful.

FLAMINGO- PROSE

THE LAST LESSON – ALPHONSE DAUDET

What three things in school surprised Franz most that day?

Franz noticed a crowd in front of the bulletin board. Nobody seemed to be in a hurry to reach the school. Everything was still. There was no commotion that day and everything was as quiet as on a Sunday morning. Even Mr. Hamel was not annoyed when Franz walked into the classroom late.

Why were the old men of the village present in the classroom?

The old men of the village were sitting in the classroom. Franz felt that they too, like him, were sorry for not having gone to school often. It was their way of thanking the teacher for his forty years of faithful service and showing their respect for the country that was no more theirs.

“What a thunderclap these words were to me!” Which were the words that shocked and surprised the narrator?

Franz was shocked when Mr. Hamel announced that it would be the last French lesson that day. He realised that he hardly knew how to write and would not get a chance to learn any more of French. He felt sorry for not having learnt his lessons and for having wasted his precious time. The thought that Mr. Hamel would go away made him feel uneasy.

How did Franz react to the declaration: ‘This is your last French lesson’?

He felt sorry that he had not learnt his lessons and wasted his time in seeking birds’ eggs and going sliding on the Saar. He felt that his books, which were such a nuisance a while ago and heavy to carry, were now like old friends that he didn’t want to give up at all.

Who did M. Hamel blame for neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz?

M. Hamel was unhappy that people had been careless about learning French. They preferred to put their children to work to earn a little more money. He himself would send his students to water his flowers or do other jobs. In fact, all of them were responsible for neglecting the learning of French.

What did M. Hamel tell them about French language? What did he ask them to do and why?

M. Hamel said that French language was the most beautiful language in the world. He asked his students to guard the language well because if they held fast to their language, they would have the key to their prison.

How did M. Hamel feel and behave during the last lesson?

He read the last lesson very carefully and explained everything with patience. He seemed to give them all he knew before going away. “He had the courage to hear every lesson to the very last” according to Franz.

What was Hamel's reaction when Franz could not answer his question in the class correctly?

Franz was scared of Mr. Hamel's reaction when he was unable to answer the question. His heart started beating and he dared not look up. Mr. Hamel, instead, told Franz that he would not scold him. He blamed all Frenchmen for not knowing how to speak or write their own mother tongue.

"Ah, how well I remember it, that last lesson!" says the narrator. Which scene does he remember more vividly than the others?

Franz remembered the last day when M. Hamel taught with utmost devotion. He saw that Hauser was repeating the lessons taught in a voice trembling with emotion. This was the scene that Franz remembered vividly.

Justify the title of the story 'The Last Lesson'.

The story 'The Last Lesson' highlights the human tendency that there is plenty of time to do things; hence, man keeps postponing the lessons of life, oblivious to the fact that life is subject to change.

LONG QUESTION

What do you think is the theme of the story 'The Last Lesson'? What is the reason behind its universal appeal?

'The Last Lesson' highlights the human tendency to postpone the learning of things because one feels there is plenty of time to do so. One does not realise that each day brings with it changing circumstances that change life for better or worse. Alphonse Daudet also, fleetingly, asks the reader to value time, freedom and peace. One never knows what a new dawn would bring with it that might end our hopes and aspirations. Through the narrator, the author urges the reader to respect his country, its people, its culture and specially its language for 'it has key to their freedom'.

The people of Alsace always thought they had plenty of time to learn the lessons; therefore, they did not give much importance to school. They preferred their children to work on the farms and mills instead of having them learn the lessons. Even Franz, the narrator, always looked for opportunities to skip the school and collect birds' eggs. However, the unexpected happens and an order is received from Berlin regarding compulsory teaching of German in

the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. It is then that they realise that they would be deprived of what they had been evading all this while.

The story is aptly titled as it evokes the consciousness in the reader not to put off things and do what one can do that day.

LOST SPRING – ANEES JUNG

“But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world”. What promise does the author recall? In what context was it made? Was it fulfilled?

The author recalls her promise to start a school for Saheb. It is easy to say to the poor children that they should be in school but will we ever be in a position to start a school. As an individual, it is difficult to provide facilities and assistance that can remove poverty.

How does the author focus on the ‘perpetual state of poverty’ of the children not wearing footwear?

Traveling across the country the author has observed children walking barefoot in cities and on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot is one explanation. The author wonders if this is only an excuse to explain a constant state of poverty.

Explain ‘For children, garbage has a meaning different from what it means to their parents’.

The small rag pickers scrounge heaps of garbage for some coin, note or valuable things. Sometimes they do find a rupee or even a ten rupee note. Then they hope to find more. They search excitedly. For children, garbage is wrapped in wonder. For the grown-ups it is a means of survival. Hence garbage has two different meanings.

How does Saheb’s life change when he starts working at the tea-stall?

There seems to be some improvement in his condition-he is paid Rs 800 along with all his meals but his face has lost the carefree look. The steel canister that he carries belongs to the owner of the shop. It seems heavier than the plastic bag he used to carry as a rag picker. ‘Saheb is no longer his own master’.

Who is Mukesh? What is his dream? Why does it look like a ‘mirage amidst the dust’?

Mukesh is the son of a poor bangle maker of Firozabad, where every other family is engaged in making bangles. His poor father has been unable to renovate the house or educate his sons. Mukesh wants to be his own master and dreams to become a motor mechanic. He wants to drive a car. But the conditions under which he exists, this dream is like an illusion, a mirage.

What contrast do you notice between the colours of the bangles and the atmosphere of the place where these bangles are made?

The bangles made in Firozabad are of every hue (colour) born out of the rainbow. They are sunny, gold, paddy green, royal blue, pink and purple. While the boys and girls work in dark dingy huts next to the flames of oil lamps around the high heat of the furnaces, blowing glass, welding and soldering it to make bangles.

The bangle makers are ignorant of something. What is it? What would happen if law were enforced strictly?

The bangle-makers are unaware of the fact that child labour is illegal and has been banned by law. The industry is hazardous to their health. Many children become blind before reaching their adulthood. If the law were enforced strictly, 20000 children would be released from working hard throughout the day at hot furnaces with high temperatures.

‘Savita is a symbol of innocence and efficiency’. Comment.

Savita is a young girl. She is wearing a drab pink dress. She is soldering pieces of glass. Her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine. She is innocent and does not understand the sanctity of the bangles that she is making. She is very efficient in her work.

Why can't the bangle makers organize themselves into a cooperative?

Most of the young bangle makers are subjected to exploitation at the hands of the middle men. They are frightened of the police who usually haul them up, beat them and drag them to jail for doing illegal things. There is no leader to help them out.

What forces conspire to keep the workers in the bangle industry of Firozabad in poverty?

The workers in the bangle industry have remained in poverty and years of mind numbing labour has destroyed their initiative and ability to dream. The police beat them up if they get organized, there is no leader who can take up their cause. The author identifies the forces

that conspire against them. They are the stigma of caste, a destructive cycle of the Sahukars, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians.

What is the theme of 'Lost Spring'?

This lesson highlights the author's concern about the miserable conditions in which the poor children live and work. It creates an awareness in the minds of the readers about the social responsibilities that we as citizens have in providing a healthy atmosphere for the children to grow into complete individuals.

LONG QUESTION

'The beauty of the glass bangles of Firozabad contrasts with the misery of people who produce them'. Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangle industry. Discuss the endless spiral of poverty, apathy, greed and injustice present there.

The lesson 'Lost Spring' describes the apathy of the bangle-makers on two planes.

Firstly, it is the plight of the street children forced into labour early in life and denied the opportunity of studying in schools. Secondly, the glass industry has its own hazards. The illegal employment of very young children and the pathetic working conditions. Over and above, it is the apathy and callousness of society and the political class to the sufferings of the poor that makes us feel sympathetic towards these bangle makers. They work in glass furnaces with high temperatures. Their dingy cells have no light, no ventilation. Boys and girls work under these conditions while welding pieces of coloured glass to make bangles. Their eyes are more adjusted to the dark than to the light outside. They often lose their eyesight at a young age.

The other reason that the poverty stricken bangle makers suffer is because of the exploitation at the hands of the middle men and politicians. They do not work to bring an improvement in their conditions, instead they get brutally beaten up by the police. They are unable to organize themselves. Hence, their life is full of sufferings both physical and emotional.

DEEP WATER – WILLIAM DOUGLAS

Which factors led Douglas to decide in favour of the Y.M.C.A pool?

The author chose the Y.M.C.A pool because the Yakima river was treacherous. This pool comparatively was safe as it was only three feet deep at one end and the drop to the deep end of the pool was gradual.

Douglas had a fear of water even before his experience of drowning in the Y.M.C.A pool? Why?

At the age of three or four, Douglas had gone with his father to the beach. A powerful wave had struck him and knocked him down as he was with his father in the surf. This experience had terrorized him and this fear stayed even as he grew older.

What two things did Douglas dislike to do? Which one did he have to do and why?

Douglas was very thin and hated to show his skinny legs. He was also scared of going into the pool alone. So he sat by the poolside and waited for others to come.

What is the 'misadventure' that William Douglas speaks about? The misadventure took place when Douglas went to swim in the Y.M.C.A pool. A big bruiser of a boy, about eighteen years old picked him up and tossed him into the deep end. He swallowed a lot of water, went at once to the bottom. He planned to hit the bottom and make a big jump and come to the surface. But his plan failed and he almost had a brush with death.

"On the way down I planned," remarks Douglas. What plan did he devise and how far did it succeed?

Douglas thought that as he would hit the bottom of the tiled pool, he would spring up like a cork to the surface, then lie flat on the water, strike out with his arms and thrash with his legs and reach the edge of the pool. However, this plan failed.

What did Douglas experience as he went down to the bottom of the pool for the first time?

As he reached the bottom of the pool he was suffocating. He tried to yell but no sound came. He swallowed a lot of water and choked.

What joys did his fear of water deprive him of?

The author's fear of water deprived him of the joy of having fun with his friends during their fishing trips and also the thrill of canoeing, boating or swimming. The moment he would go near water, his fear of water would start haunting him.

‘I crossed to oblivion and the curtain of life fell’. Why did the author make this remark?

The author had made three futile attempts to spring up to the surface but as his strength failed and energy exhausted, he gave up and stopped all his efforts. He relaxed and passed into a state of unconsciousness and then there was no fear after that.

Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?

Douglas after his misadventure and a near brush with death, became so scared of water that he could not go fishing, canoeing, boating and swimming. He tried hard to overcome his fear but it held him firmly in his grip. Finally, one October he decided to get an instructor and to learn to swim. He started going to the pool 5 days a week, an hour each day.

How did the instructor build a swimmer out of Douglas?

The instructor put a belt around Douglas and attached a rope to the belt which went through a pulley that ran on an overhead cable. He held on to the rope and went back and forth across the pool for three months, after which his terror of water slackened a bit. He could put his face underwater and exhale and inhale with the nose out of water. Then he learnt to kick with his legs for many weeks till he could relax. After seven months he could swim the entire length of the pool.

What did the author mean by ‘But I was not finished’ after his swimming lessons with the instructor were over?

The author’s remark meant that he was not sure whether his old terror had left him. He still felt scared and frightened while swimming the length of the pool up and down.

Why did Douglas go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire? How did he make his terror flee?

The author was not satisfied that all his terror had left. So he went to Lake Wentworth, dived off a dock at Triggs Island and swam two miles. Only once the terror returned and the author laughed and said “Well, Mr. Terror, what do you think you can do to me?” It fled and he swam on.

LONG QUESTION.

How did the swimming instructor 'build a swimmer' out of Douglas?

William Douglas had a most frightening and nightmarish experience at the Y.M.C.A pool when a boy of eighteen had tossed him into the pool and he had a near brush with death. The terror that he experienced and the resulting fear of water prevented him from enjoying fishing, canoeing, swimming etc. with his friends. The fear became so deep rooted that Douglas then, decided to overcome it.

The first step he took was to get an instructor. The instructor made him swim five days a week and very patiently taught him how to exhale underwater and inhale above water. He made him practise very hard five days a week, an hour each day. His safety was ensured when the instructor put a belt around him, had a hook and a rope attached to it. An overhead cable had a pulley in it and the rope going over it. The instructor would hold the rope while Douglas swam from one end of the pool to the other. In about six months, and with a lot of hard-work and determination, Douglas was able to perfect the art of swimming. His instructor had built a swimmer out of him, bit by bit.

THE RATTRAP – SELMA LAGERLOF

Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Von Stahle?

The iron master had invited the peddler to his house mistaking him for Captain Von Stahle. He was welcomed there and looked after as a Captain, even after the reality became known. The peddler got a chance to redeem himself from dishonest ways by acting as an honourable Captain. He did so by gifting Edla a small rattrap with three wrinkled ten kronor notes and a letter saying that he did not want her to be embarrassed this Christmas season by a thief and he wanted to be nice to her as if he were a real Captain.

What are the instances in the story that show that the character of the ironmaster is different from that of his daughter in many ways?

When the ironsmith realized it was wrong to mistake the peddler as an old acquaintance, he got angry. He wanted to punish him. But Edla challenged her father saying it was wrong to chase away a human they had invited to their house. When they learn in the Church that the

peddler was a thief, the ironmaster thought that they must have stolen their silver spoons and Edla only feels dejected.

How does the peddler interpret the acts of kindness and hospitality shown by the crofter, the ironmaster and his daughter?

The peddler considers the crofter's hospitality as a bait to the rat trap that he gets into. The ironmaster shows kindness to him because of a mistaken identity and Edla's kindness helps to elevate him out of the rat trap that he is in.

Did the peddler respect the confidence reposed in him by the crofter?

The peddler betrayed the trust that the crofter had on him by breaking the window pane and removing the thirty kronors from the leather pouch, he had seen the crofter keeping the money in the pouch and hanging it on a nail near the window frame.

How does the metaphor of the rattrap serve to highlight the human predicament?

The entire story revolves around the metaphor of the rat trap. It highlights the predicament of the peddler. The money of the crofter serves to be a bait for the peddler to get caught in the rat trap. The ironmaster mistakes him for an old acquaintance and the peddler does not reveal his true identity in the hope that he would get some money. It is the kindness of the daughter that frees him from the trap.

From where did the peddler get the idea of the world being a rattrap?

The tramp went around selling small rattraps made of scrap wire. One day he was struck by the idea that the whole world was nothing but a big rattrap. It existed only to set baits for people. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing in the same manner as the rattrap offered cheese. As soon as someone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him and then everything came to an end.

Did the rattrap maker expect the kind of hospitality that he received from the crofter?

The peddler was surprised at the kind of hospitality that he received at the crofter's home. He was invited inside with a smile and he was made to feel quite welcome instead of the usual hostile and sour faces that he met. He was served hot porridge for supper and the crofter shared his pipe tobacco with him. They also played a game of cards. Thus the tramp was treated well by the crofter which was unexpected.

‘The next day both men got up in good season’. Why? Who are the men and what did they do after getting up?

The two men are the old crofter and the rattrap peddler. The crofter got up early in the morning to milk his cow. His guest also wanted to get up because the host was up. Both left the cottage at the same time. The crofter locked the door and put the key in his pocket. Thereafter they both bade each other goodbye and went their own way.

‘The old man was just as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco.’ What personal information did he impart to his guest?

The crofter picked out the three ten kronor notes and showed it to the peddler. Then he put them back into the pouch and hung it on a nail in a window frame. So he was generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco.

Why did the blacksmith fail to notice the entry of the peddler in the forge?

The forge was a noisy place. The big bellows groaned and the burning coal made cracking sounds. The fire boy was shovelling charcoal into the furnace noisily. A waterfall roared outside. Sharp north wind made the rain strike the brick-tiled roof. Hence the blacksmith did not notice the peddler entering the forge.

Why did the iron master speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?

The iron master walked closely up to the peddler and looked him over very carefully. Due to the uncertain reflection from the furnace he mistook the man as his old regimental comrade Captain Von Stahle. He addressed the stranger as Nils Olof and invited him home to spend the Christmas with him and his daughter.

What two plans did the iron master reveal to his daughter at the breakfast on Christmas Eve? How did the daughter react?

The iron master firstly decided that the old regimental comrade (the peddler) had to gain some flesh on his bones. Then he must choose a different profession and not run around the country selling rattraps. The daughter reacted by saying that the previous night there was no indication to show that he had once been an educated man.

What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?

Just as Edla lifted the peddler's hat he jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quite frightened. Her kind looks, her compassionate and friendly nature was unable to calm him. She thought that it looked as if he had stolen something or had escaped from jail.

How did the peddler defend himself against not having revealed his true identity?

The peddler explained that he had no pretensions regarding his true identity. He was not at fault. All along he had maintained that he was a poor trader. He had requested to be allowed to stay alone. He was willing to put on his rags again and go away.

Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?

Edla was happy to see the gift left by the peddler. It was a small rattrap in which lay three wrinkled ten kronor notes. There was also a letter written in a large jagged handwriting a confession made by the peddler. He did not want to embarrass her at this Christmas season.

Why did the peddler decline the invitation of the ironmaster?

The peddler was aware of the fact that the ironmaster had extended an invitation to his comrade Captain Von Stahle. He also knew that after stealing the crofter's money, he was at a risk of getting caught. So, he declined the invitation.

What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?

Just as Edla lifted the peddler's hat he jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quite frightened. Her kind looks, her compassionate and friendly nature was unable to calm him. She thought that it looked as if he had stolen something or had escaped from jail.

LONG QUESTION

'The Rattrap' is a story in which a good deed or an act of kindness changes a person's view of the world. Discuss with reference to the theme of the story.

'The Rattrap' is an entertaining and philosophical story that reveals the theme of the human tendency to redeem oneself from dishonest ways. The tramp proves the idea that the essential goodness of human beings can be awakened through understanding and love. Circumstances had forced the peddler to indulge in petty crime. Even though he used to sell ratttraps made

from scrap metal, his poverty had brought out the worst in him, making him bitter and killing his conscience.

The tramp's view of the world was a cynical one; he envied those who were better off than him. He believed the world to be like a rattrap that offered temptations like shelter and food for entrapping victims. The peddler does not hesitate to steal the money from the crofter even though he enjoys his hospitality and warm welcome. Pangs of guilt trouble him when he loses his way in the forest. His bitter and hardened temperament receives a chance for repentance when he encounters the iron master and his daughter.

The author brings about an effective twist in the story to show that innate goodness exists in all human beings. It takes a little love, understanding and an act of friendship to bring it to the fore. The iron master's daughter showed him sympathy, love and respect and restored his dignity and self-esteem. This touched a chord in the heart of the peddler who at once felt that he was no longer the nameless tramp that he had been all his life but somebody with an identity. Motivated by Edla's kindness, he redeemed himself by returning the stolen money and feeling sorry for his deed.

INDIGO – LOUIS FISCHER

What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards advocates of 'home rule'?

The average Indians in smaller localities were afraid to show sympathy for the advocates of home-rule. Gandhi stayed at Muzaffarpur for two days in the home of professor Malkani, a teacher in a government school. It was an extraordinary thing in those days for a government professor to give shelter to one who opposed the government.

How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?

Gandhi was received by Professor J.B Kriplani at Muzaffarpur railway station at midnight. He had a large body of students with him. Sharecroppers from Champaran came on foot and by transport to see Gandhi. The lawyers at Muzaffarpur also called on him. A vast multitude greeted Gandhi when he reached Motihari railway station. Thousands of people demonstrated around the court room. This shows that ordinary people also contributed to the freedom movement.

Who was Rajkumar Shukla? Why did he come to Lucknow?

Rajkumar Shukla was one of the peasants of Champaran who was a victim of the injustice that was meted out there. He had come to Lucknow to meet Ganddhiji to explain what was happening in Champaran and to seek his help to establish justice to the sharecroppers.

Why do you think Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from Rajendra Prasad's well at Patna?

When Gandhi went to Rajendra Prasad's house he was not there. The servants of his house made Gandhi stay on the grounds because they took him to be a peasant. So Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from the well lest some drops from his bucket might pollute the entire source.

List the places that Gandhi visited between his first meeting with Shukla and his arrival at Champaran.

Gandhi first met Shukla at Lucknow. Then he was in Cawnpore and other parts of India. He returned to his ashram near Ahmedabad. Later he visited Calcutta, Patna and Muzaffarpur before arriving at Champaran.

How did Gandhi begin his mission in Champaran? How far did his efforts prove successful?

When Gandhi arrived in Champaran, he first set out to ascertain the facts. He wanted the viewpoints of the landlords and the peasants. He visited the secretary of the British Landlords Association to get to know their point of views. The secretary told him that he could give no information to an outsider. Gandhi's efforts proved futile.

'In consequence, Gandhi received a summons to appear in the court next day.' Which events of the previous day led to this state of affairs?

Gandhi came to know that a peasant had been maltreated in a village and so he went there. He started out on the back of an elephant, but he had not gone far when the police superintendent's messenger overtook him and asked him to return to the town. Gandhi accepted the order and said that he would disobey it. So he received a summons to appear in the court the next day.

What was the conflict of duties in which Gandhi was involved?

In court, Gandhi pleaded guilty for having disobeyed the official notice to quit Champaran. He read out a statement claiming he was involved in a conflict of duties. He clarified that he disobeyed not to break law and set a bad example but to render the humanitarian and national services for which he had come to Champaran.

How did Gandhi teach his followers a lesson in self-reliance?

Charles Freer Andrews, the English pacifist and follower of Gandhi came to bid him farewell. Gandhi's lawyer friends asked Andrews to stay on and support them. Gandhi vehemently opposed the suggestion and asked them to face the crisis independently. If their cause was just, Gandhi said, they would win the battle by relying on themselves.

Why did Gandhi stay on in Champaran even after the sharecropper's problems were solved?

Gandhi aimed at improving Champaran culturally and socially. The problems were many. Health conditions were miserable. There was poverty, illiteracy and lack of sanitation. So he stayed on even after the sharecropper's problems were solved.

Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life?

The Champaran episode began as an attempt to ease the sufferings of large number of poor peasants. He got the whole hearted support of thousands of people. Gandhiji admitted that he had done a very ordinary thing. He declared that the British could not order him about in his own country. Hence he considered the Champaran episode as a turning point in his life.

Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers?

For Gandhi the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been forced to return part of the money and with it, part of their prestige. So he agreed to the settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers.

How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers? Give instances.

Gandhi asked the lawyers what they would do if he was sentenced to prison. They said that they had come to advise him. If he went to jail, they would return. Then Gandhi asked them about the injustice to the sharecroppers. The lawyers held consultations. They concluded that it would be a shameful desertion if they returned home. So they told Gandhi that they were ready to follow him into jail.

LONG QUESTION

Civil disobedience had triumphed the first time in modern India. Relate the events during Gandhi's stay in Champaran that led to the triumph.

Gandhi visited Champaran to look into the problems of the poor peasants. At Motihari, he was greeted by thousands of peasants. This was the beginning of the peasant liberation from fear of the British

A peasant had been maltreated in a nearby village. Gandhi set out to see him. The police superintendent's messenger overtook him and ordered him to return. Gandhi complied. At home, he was served an official notice to quit Champaran. Gandhi signed the receipt and wrote on it that he would disobey the order. This was the beginning of Civil disobedience. Gandhi received summons to appear in court the next day. The peasants thronged the courtroom. They wanted to help the 'Mahatma' who was in trouble with the authorities for trying to help them. The officials were powerless. Gandhi helped them regulate the crowd. This baffled the officials.

The magistrate postponed announcing the sentence by two hours and asked Gandhi to furnish bail. Gandhi declined. The judge released him without bail. The judge said he would not deliver the judgment for several days. Later, the case was dropped by the Lt. Governor himself. Civil disobedience had triumphed.

Vistas

THE THIRD LEVEL – JACK FINNEY

How did Charley reach the third level of the Grand Central Station?

Grand Central Station, New York, has only two levels. One evening Charley reached this station and then walked down the second level to catch an early train to his home. While he was on the second level, he strangely happened to notice a doorway down. He followed the steps and reached the third level which was never heard or seen by anyone. In the third level Charley saw a hundred year old world and people.

What was Charley's strange experience at the Grand Central Station?

The Grand Central Railway Station, New York, has only two levels. It is a common fact. A simple, normal man, Charley, once took an unknown way down to the third level of this station. He got lost in a 100 year old world there. People, fashion, currency and dressing were different there. Even though it was difficult for Charley to believe what was happening, he had no other choice than believing the reality. He thought of living there, a world behind his time, because the 1894 world was more peaceful, innocent and secure. He tried to get two rail tickets to his hometown Galesburg; one for his wife, indeed. But Charley failed to get the tickets as the clerk at the ticket counter suspected him and his currency notes. Charley ran away, got out of the third level and finally reached the present world and got home.

How did Charley ascertain that he had reached the 1894 world?

Charley reached the third level of the Grand Central Railway Station, New York. Amidst his fresh amazement, Charley could not relate the possibility of being in a hundred year old world. But when Charley observed the dim gas lamps, brass spittoons, old styled costumes of men and women, moustaches and beards generally worn by men, string-watches and so on, Charley began to doubt that he had become part of the old world yet he still didn't know which year it was. Charley got it resolved only at the sight of The World, the newspaper that bore the date of 1894 with a piece of news of President Cleveland.

Why did Charley run away from the third level?

Charley was greatly amazed when he reached the hundred year old third level and was planning to buy two rail tickets to Galesburg where he had spent his childhood. But when he took out his money to pay the fare, the clerk found out that his notes were fake and thought that Charley was attempting to fool him. Seeing that there was nothing good about police and jail in the hundred year old Galesburg, Charley ran away.

What was Sam's answer to Charley's dilemma?

Charley met his psychiatrist friend Sam and told him about this experience. The psychiatrist interpreted it as a mental disorder. Indicating his hobby of stamp collection and this sort of experiences, Sam explained his abnormality to be 'escaping from the struggles of life by fantasizing.' Soon his friends and wife began to consider Charley as a mental patient. But how! Charley was not abnormal. He was a happy man who loved his wife and friends and stamps. But the rest of the world believed Charley was abnormal, a dreamer.

How did Sam's mail reach Charley?

Sam had no easy way to send Charley a message that the third level was no waking dream wish fulfillment but a reality. He had to depend only on postal system but there was no link between his old world and Charley's present world. Finally the smart psychiatrist found a way out. He was aware of the fact that Charley's grandfather could be alive in the 1894 Galesburg, young and of course, having a stamp collection and that this same collection was with Charley. So Sam send a first day cover to Charley's 'grandpa' and the young man kept it in his collection and consequently it reached Charley.

What is role of the stamp-collection in the story?

The stamp collection is the logic behind the story. It was Charley's favorite pastime. In fact this collection was passed on to Charley from his diseased grandfather. The most important fact about this collection is that this was the only thing that connected the old world and the new: the same thing but existing in two worlds. This collection turned out to be useful for Sam the psychiatrist friend when he attempted to convey to Charley the truth regarding the existence of the third level. It was by keeping his first day cover in Charley's grandfather's collection that Sam could make the same available to Charley.

Does Charley agree that stamp collecting habit is a way of escapism? Why?

No, Charley doesn't agree with this claim of his psychiatrist friend. Charley's grandfather was a stamp collector yet he was a happy man and he never ran away from any reality. Another stamp collector was President Roosevelt, the American President who won the World War II. From these two people Charley believed that stamp collecting habit does not mean escapism.

What does the Third level refer to?

The Third level refers to that level where one transcends the boundaries of time and space and reaches far flung destinations like Galesburg, Illinois, 1894. Few people like the narrator and his friend Sam dare to explore it 'Third Level' could also symbolize man's yearning to get transported to the world of imagination as an escape from the world of harsh realities.

How does the psychiatrist turn out to be a firm supporter of Charley and his third level?

The story 'The Third Level' is a blend of satire and irony. Initially, when Charley told his psychiatrist friend Sam about his strange experience at the Grand Central Station, the latter dismissed it as a dream. But the same psychiatrist was a seeker of the unknown and therefore sought the truth and smartly reached the mysterious third level and believed it. Sam, a man who knew the unknown and unexplained minds of several people, could only prove the existence of the third level.

Long Answer Questions:

What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charlie?

Ans. Sam's letter from Galesburg in 1894 to Charley in the twentieth century leaves the readers mystified and perplexed. Charley finds this letter among the first day covers of his grandfather's collection. Someone had mailed it to his grandfather at his home in Galesburg. The address on the envelope said so. But the paper inside the envelope was not blank; rather Charley found a letter written to him by Sam in which he informs that he has reached the third level.

Several inferences could be drawn from Sam's letter. Firstly, it is possible that Sam, getting influenced by Charley's glowing description of idyllic Galesburg, got transported to the peaceful past through the medium of imagination. His inability to cope up with rigours of harsh reality led him to take recourse in the tranquil world of Galesburg. So, through the letter, Sam suggests Charley and Louisa to keep looking for the third level till they find it.

Secondly, the question could be raised about the authenticity of the letter. Is the letter written by Sam or is it written by Charley himself? If Charley could speak about his journey in the third level which is unknown to others, so his possibility of writing the letter in the name of Sam could not be ruled out. The introductory part of the letter seems to be a projection of Charley's waking dream wish fulfilment. It confirms his belief in the existence of the third level.

Thus, the letter appears to be a strange mixture of the real and the fantastic and the author has made a very clever use of it so that it boggles the reader's mind.

THE ENEMY – PEARL S. BUCK

Why was Dr. Sadao not sent abroad with the troops?

He was not sent abroad for two reasons. Firstly he had perfected a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean. Moreover, the General was in some sort of danger and might have needed an operation and Dr. Sadao was the most skilled doctor available.

Who was the person they saw while standing in the verandah? What had happened to him?

Sadao and his wife were standing in the verandah when they saw a man who had been flung up out of the ocean by a wave. At first they thought him to be a fisherman but on closer look they saw that it was a white man, an American prisoner of war who had escaped. He was injured badly and was bleeding profusely.

What did the doctor do on seeing him in dreadful state?

Sadao tried to staunch the fearful bleeding. He packed the wound with the sea moss that was lying near by on the beach. After seeing the miserable condition of the injured man, he had pity on him and in consultation with his wife; he decided to take him home.

How did Yumi react when Hana asked her to obey the command of her master?

Yumi had refused to wash the white man saying that she had never done such a thing before and would not do it now especially for this man who was so dirty. But when Hana asked her to obey the master, there was a fierce look of resistance upon her face. She said she would have nothing to do with him and that it was not her business to clean him.

Why were, according to the servants, Dr. Sadao and his wife saving the American?

The cook of Dr.Sadao declared that the young master was so proud of his skill to save his life that he saves any life. Yumi even told Hana that they would not stay if they would continue to hide the man. She accused Sadao and Hana of having a soft corner for Americans after staying in America and having forgotten their own country.

How did Dr Sadao respond to the prisoner's query 'What are you going to do with me... Are you going to hand me over?'

Dr.Sadao answered by confessing that he himself didn't know what he would do with him. He thought perhaps he would hand him over to the police as he was a prisoner of war. He told him not to speak. He didn't even want to know his patient's name and told him so.

What did the letter of Dr.Sadao mean?

Dr.Sadao had led the prisoner on the road to recovery. One day he went to his office and typed a letter to the chief of police reporting the whole matter. He just mentioned that he had found the escaped prisoner in front of his house on the 21st of February. He could not bring himself to complete this confession and so, left it in his drawer. He was a law abiding citizen.

How did Hana feel when she saw a messenger in official uniform?

Her hands went weak and she could not draw her breath. She thought the servants had already told the police about the young prisoner they were harbouring. She ran to Sadao gasping and unable to utter a word. They were relieved to know that the messenger had come to deliver a message from the general.

What did the general suggest to get rid of the American?

The general suggested that the prisoner could be quietly killed by his own private assassins. He would send two of them to Sadao's house and all he had to do was to leave the outer partition of the white man's room open while he was sleeping. He even offered to have the body removed quietly.

What measures did Sadao take for the safety of the American?

He gave the American a stout boat, put food, bottled water and two quilts in it. He returned to the prisoner's room, checked his temperature, the condition of his wound, his heart and

his pulse. He decided to even give him his flashlight after a bit of hesitation. He told him how to catch fish and then use the flashlight to signal to him if he needed food etc.

How did the American behave while departing?

The young man first tried to understand all the instructions given to him by Sadao and then dressed in the Japanese clothes Sadao had given him, he shook his hand warmly and left for the island from which he had to escape.

What did Sadao do to get rid of the American soldier?

Sadao decided to help the American soldier to escape to safety. He told him to go to an island nearby and wait for a Korean fishing boat to pass by. He even gave him a boat, some food and bottled water. He kept two quilts for him and gave him clear instructions so that this plan would not fail.

The General wanted to reward Sadao. But Sadao had another reward. What was that reward?

The general had wanted to reward Sadao for his loyalty but at the same time Sadao knew that he had the General in the palm of his hand, for he too, had shown dereliction of duty. Sadao was rewarded in a different way by destiny. His prisoner was able to escape to safety on the very first night. All his efforts had borne fruit.

LONG QUESTION

While hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable, especially during war time, what makes a human being rise above narrow prejudices?

‘The Enemy’ by Pearl S. Buck raises a few important issues. Call of duty towards nation versus call of duty towards one’s profession, is the major issue in the story. Dr. Sadao rescued a wounded prisoner of war who was washed ashore. The prisoner, in a dying state, according to his call of duty, should have been handed over to the police yet his profession and his humanitarianism prevented him from doing so. He resolved to treat him first and then hand him over. However, the patient needed immediate surgery and despite all odds against him, Dr’ Sadao went ahead and operated upon him, thus saving his life yet being a traitor to his own country.

His domestic servants deserted him out of fear but he rose above narrow prejudices to save the wounded American soldier. Not only that, he helped the soldier to escape to freedom after having nurtured him to good health. Eventually, Sadao helps him to escape. He goes to the extent of calling him 'my friend'. He rose above narrow prejudices and political enmity, disregarded the lurking dangers and open defiance of his loyal servants to help the 'enemy' escape. He has transcended racial/ political hatred and had heard the voice of his conscience.

He proved, in the end, that emotions prejudices and hatred are man-made but love, compassion for human beings was instinctive. One needs to do one's duty towards fellow human beings before anything else.

SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY? – JOHN UPDIKE

What custom did John follow in the evenings and for Saturday naps?

Jack told his daughter Jo a story in the evenings and for Saturday naps. He told her a story that he would make up with a slight variation to the basic tale.

What idea do you form about Jack's skill in the art of story- telling?

Jack's stories lack variety. He ended up telling the same story with a slight variation here and there. He told the stories in an interesting narrative with gestures, sound effects and sometimes even some histrionics.

What was Roger skunk's problem? How did he get rid of it?

Roger Skunk's problem was that he smelled awful. The other animals would run away. Roger skunk would stand there all alone. He got rid of his problem with the help of the Wizard who made him smell like a rose.

Which two opposite forces acted on Jack while he was telling Jo the story?

Jack was telling Jo something she must know and had no wish to hurry on. On the other hand he heard a chair scrapping. He realized that he must help his pregnant wife Clare to paint the wood work down stairs. These were the opposite forces acting on Jack while he was telling Jo the story.

‘This was a new phase, just this last month, a reality phase.’ What do you learn about Jo’s reality phase? How did her parents try to convince her?

Earlier Jo used to accept her father’s word about magic etc. now she had started asking if magic spells were real. She had become curious since a month. She was growing up and wished to check the reality of all that was told to her. Her parents tried to convince her saying that magic spells were real in stories.

What did Jack tell Jo about the Wizard?

Jack told Jo that in the Wizard’s house all magic things lay jumbled together in a big dusty heap because the wizard did not have any cleaning lady. He added that the wizard was a very old man and wizards don’t die.

How did Jack make the role of the Wizard very impressive?

Jack fixed Jo with the trace like gaze. He chanted a magic spell in the wizard’s elderly irritable voice. The chanting was rhythmical and had sweet rhymes. He ended the chant with a ‘Bingo’. He paused. Then he changed the tone to a whisper to highlight the dramatic effect. He finally said that the wizard’s house was full of the smell of roses.

What made Jack continue the story?

Instead of falling asleep, Jo started to fuss with her hands and looked out of the window. She thought the story was over. Jack didn’t like women when they took things for granted. So he continued the story.

Why was Roger Skunk’s mommy angry?

Roger Skunk’s mommy was angry because Roger smelt of roses. She wanted Roger to smell the way a little skunk would. She ordered him to take her to the wizard so that she could get Roger’s original bad smell back as their smell was a tool to keep enemies away.

How did Jo want the wizard to behave when Mommy skunk approached him?

Jo did not like the fact that mommy had hit the benevolent wizard who had made Roger happy. She wanted the wizard to hit mommy who did not let her son have a pleasant smell. The smell of rose made Roger accepted by his friends.

Why does Jo insist that her father should tell her the story with a different ending the next day?

Jo was not convinced that the animals would eventually get used to the way skunk smelt. Jo wanted the Wizard to hit mommy who did not bother about her son's happiness on being accepted by other animals in the woodland.

Why does the wizard take the beating and change the rose smell?

Roger skunk's mother was very angry. She wanted Roger to smell the way a little skunk should. Jack wanted to impress upon his daughter that mothers were always right so in his version the wizard complied with the mother's command.

How did the woodland creatures react to the skunk's new smell? What made Roger skunk happy?

The woodland creatures found Roger skunk's new smell quite pleasant. They played many games with him and gathered around him. Roger skunk was very happy to be accepted by the other animals.

LONG QUESTION

What is the moral issue that the story raises?

The story shows the conflict between two generations. It tells us that everyone has his own life-style, his own individuality. It is not proper for anyone to impose his view of life on anyone else. In our day to day world we find people in power trying to impose their views on others. Parents want children to live according to their set norms. Wives try to change their husbands.

Not understanding her son's pain of loneliness and dejection, mother Skunk gets his smell changed to his original foul smell and loves him the way he is, raising the moral issue of whether parents should always decide what the children should do or let the children do what they like to do.

There is an evident contrast between an adult's perspective on life and the world view of a

little child. Jo wants the wizard to hit Mommy and not vice versa because she represents the new generation and does not agree with her father's view. Jack sums up the issue in one sentence- 'She knew what was right'. Jack also says that the little Skunk agreed to the mother's proposal because he loved his mother more than the other animals. Little Jo feels that the Skunk's mother should not have robbed her little son of the pleasure he derived when playing with the other animals when he smelt of roses. She insists that the wizard hit the Mommy on the head and calls little Skunk's mother a 'Stupid Mommy'. Keeping to her view point, she insisted that her father should tell her the story the next day in a different manner. So we see that the story deals with moral issues dependent on the different levels of maturity of Jack and Jo.

ON THE FACE OF IT – SUSAN HILL

What explanation does the small boy offer for coming into the garden? How does Mr Lamb react to it?

Derry explains that he came into the garden because he thought it was empty. If he knew that Mr. Lamb was there then he would have not ventured to enter. Mr. Lamb welcomes him and accepts him as a friend.

'I'm not afraid... People are afraid of me,' says Derry. What do people think on seeing his face?

When people looked at Derry's face they found it repulsive. They thought it was the ugliest thing they had ever seen. Some were afraid of what they saw. Derry did not like being with people who reminded him of his scars. He spurned people because he felt rejected and unloved.

Why does Derry want to go home as soon as comes face to face with Mr. Lamb?

Derry thought the garden was an empty place and had come out of curiosity. On seeing Mr. Lamb, Derry wanted to go home because he felt that Mr. Lamb like other people would find his face repulsive and frightful.

What terrible complex does Derry suffer from?

One side of Derry's face was severely burnt by acid. Nobody liked him or befriended him. They were repulsed by his ugly face and avoided him. He drew complex on account of this and avoided people.

What is Mr. Lamb's response to Derry saying that the tin leg did not trouble him?

Derry feels that Mr. Lamb can cover up his tin leg and not let people know. Mr. Lamb replies that if he got affected, people would still make fun of him. One has to stop bothering about people and their reaction to one's disability.

'We're not the same', says Derry. How does Mr. Lamb try and convince him that there is no essential difference between them?

Mr. Lamb tells Derry, that despite apparent differences, they are the same. They have life and are growing. Both of them have a physical disability. The differences are superficial and unimportant.

What peculiar things Does Derry notice about Mr. Lamb?

Derry felt Mr. Lamb had no friends and lived a lonely life. He had no curtains. He was not fond of shutting things in. He liked the light and the darkness. He also liked to hear the wind and listen to bees singing.

Why does Mr. Lamb narrate the story of a man who locked himself in a room because he was afraid?

Mr. Lamb told him a story of a man who was afraid of everything in the world. He went into his room and locked the door. A picture fell off the wall on his head and killed him. He narrated this story to make Derry realize that building a wall around him would not help. Derry needed to shed his fear and live life.

What arguments does Derry give to convince his mother why he wanted to go to the old man's garden?

Derry told his mother that Mr. Lamb had a tin leg. He lived in a huge house with no curtains. Derry wanted to be in Mr. Lamb's garden and listen to things that matter. Things nobody else had ever said. Things he wanted to think about. He added it was nothing to do with his face but about what he felt.

Comment on the ending of the play 'On the Face of it'.

Mr. Lamb who lived a full life in spite of his disability and loneliness helps Derry overcome his fears. He falls down exactly as Derry had said he would earlier in the play. Mr. Lamb has

left the reformed Derry to complete the good work he had started. Even though the ending appears sad there is hope in the form of young Derry.

LONG QUESTION

Compare and contrast the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry.

Both Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from physical impairment. Mr. Lamb has an artificial leg made of tin and Derry has a severely burnt face- both the experiences have been terribly painful for the respective sufferers.

Apart from this Mr. Lamb does not bother about his lameness or that children make fun of him. He takes life as it comes without grumbling. He keeps the gates of his house and windows open. Mr. Lamb loves all the creatures of God and states, 'There's nothing God made that doesn't interest me'. Weeds and flowers demonstrate life and growth. If one isolates oneself, he might suffer like the man in his story who died when a picture fell off the wall and killed him.

Derry on the other hand is a young boy of fourteen who is conscious of his ugly face and is full of bitterness. Derry is withdrawn and complexed. He hates meeting people. He suffers on account of the pain caused by his notions of how much people hate him and are repulsed by him. Derry is forced by Mr. Lamb to see that actions are more important than looks and even weeds have their value. Mr. Lamb's positive attitude changes Derry and inspires him to rush back and face the world.

EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL – COLIN DEXTER

How was the Reverend Stuart McLeery dressed and why?

Reverend Stuart McLeery was wearing a long black overcoat and a shallow-crowned clerical hat. His spectacles had thick lenses. He was carrying a small brown suitcase. It was actually a cold and chilly day and hence he was dressed in a long overcoat.

How did the prison machinery swing into action? What did they overlook?

Prison officers started shouting orders as soon as they discovered that Evans had escaped. Sirens were blown. Puzzled prisoners pushed their way along and doors were banged and bolted. Phones were ringing everywhere. Jackson and Stephens supported McLeery on either side and brought him to the prison yard. The identity of the injured 'McLeery' remained unchecked.

What two purposes did the correction slip serve? Which of them did Evans consider more important?

The correction slip revealed the name of the hotel and its location. He had to go to 'Golden Lion'. It also contained the exact time the exam started. For Evans, it was an important thing that the phone rang just before the exam finished. Thus he was able to get the prison officers out of the way for a couple of minutes.

How did the Governor of Oxford Prison locate the hiding place of Evans?

The Governor told Evans that he had used the same method as Evans had done. The six figure reference 313/271 was formed by two hints- Index number 313 and centre number 271. If one takes an Ordinance Survey Map for Oxford's hire, this number lands are bang in the middle of Chipping Norton.

Who met Evans on the eve of the examination? What does this brief interview reveal?

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Stephens visited Evans on the morning of the Examination. They visited him to ensure that he did not have any weapon with him. Evans was called Evans the Break as he had escaped from Prison three times.

What puzzled Mr. Jackson about the contents in McLeery's suitcase?

Jackson saw a smallish semi-inflated rubber ring. Even a young child might have to struggle into it. Jackson questioned McLeery about it. He replied that he suffered from piles.

How did Stephens keep an eye on Evans? What did he notice on looking through the peep-hole in Evans' cell?

Stephens peeped after every one minute. He found Evans sitting with his pen between his lips. He sat staring straight in front at the door. McLeery sat on his chair reading the 'Church Times'. His right index finger was hooked beneath the narrow clerical collar. The fingers of the left hand were slowly stroking the short black board.

What did Stephens see, when he peeped through the hole of the cell of Evans after leaving McLeery at the main gate of the prison?

Stephens thought of looking at Evans once again after leaving McLeery at the main gate. He saw a terrible sight. He saw a man with short hair presumably McLeery in a pool of blood sprawling back in Evan's chair.

What important clues were hidden in the German Question paper?

There was a photocopied sheet hidden in the German question paper. It was very cleverly pasted on the last blank sheet of the question paper. It had instructions written in German. It read: follow the plan. The vital point in time was three minutes before the end of the examination. He was not to hit the person hard and overdo the Scot accent. He was to move the Headington round about and then make way to Newbury.

Who, do you think, has the last laugh- The Governor or Evans? How?

It is Evans who has the last laugh in the story. The two persons, i.e. driver and the silent prison officer turn out to be the accomplices of Evans. The Governor became complacent as he thought he had nabbed the prisoner and will soon put him in prison. But Evans escapes once again.

LONG QUESTION

Give an account of the blunders committed by the prison authorities which helped Evans in escaping from the prison.

The prison authorities made many blunders. It was only because of these mistakes that Evans could escape from the prison. The hatching of the escape plan started with the German tutor's entry. The German teacher who had been coming to take Evans' classes was Evan's accomplice. Everyone assumed that he was a teacher from the technical college. The invigilator's identify was also not verified.

On the Examination day, Jackson's not getting Evans' 'bobble-hat' removed was a blunder. If Stephens had not shifted from the cell, the escape would not have been possible. Jackson should have searched McLeery thoroughly and seen the rubber ring closely. The prison staff blindly believed that the injured was the invigilator, though it was Evans

playing a trick on them. When Evans was arrested, the Governor was complacent and sent him in a prison van, leaving Evans in the hands of his own accomplices. He thus, lost Evans who made his final escape.

A COLLECTION OF MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. "Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits."

(1) "o'er darkened ways" means-----

- a. Lack of guidance
- b. Hatred and greed
- c. Lack of motivation
- d. Moonless night

(2) *in spite of all*, suggests

- a. Beauty never fades
- b. Gloom prevails
- c. There is still hope
- d. Man needs to change his perspective

(3) *What does some shape of beauty do?*

- a. it reduces sadness and sufferings
- b. It never declines or diminishes.
- c. It provides sound sleep.
- d. It provides green surroundings.

(4) *The idea conveyed by these lines is _____*

- a. We should enjoy the beauty of heaven.
- b. Beauty is found everywhere.
- c. The poet approves of beautiful objects.
- d. Beauty provides a ray of hope

2. "That's easy to do. I've been in and out of the grand central hundreds of times, but I'm always bumping into new doorways and stairs and corridors".

1. Who spoke the above words?
 - a. Sam the psychiatrist
 - b. Charley
 - c. Louisa
 - d. None of the above
2. Where was the speaker going?
 - a. Roosevelt Hotel
 - b. The third level
 - c. His/her apartment
 - d. Galesburg
3. Where did the speaker end up?
 - a. The third level
 - b. His/her apartment
 - c. Forty sixth street
 - d. Illinois
4. "That's easy to do". What does speaker refer to?
 - a. Finding the third level
 - b. Navigating the Grand Central station
 - c. Reaching Galesburg
 - d. Getting lost

3. "Yet I had residual doubts. At my first opportunity I hurried west, went up the Tieton to Conrad Meadows, up the Conrad Creek Trail to Meade Glacier, and camped in the high meadow by the side of Warm Lake"

1. Who is 'I'?
 - a. Louis Fischer, b. William Douglas, c. Doug Corpron, d. The instructor,
2. What is 'residual doubts'?
 - a. Strong doubts, b. Fading doubts, c. Remaining doubts, d. Undesirable doubts
3. Why did the author hurry west?
 - a. To enjoy swimming, b. He wanted to visit Warm Lake, c. to take up training, d. To ensure if he overcame his fear of swimming
4. What was the result of this adventure?
 - a. It helped him to swim well, b. He had conquered his fear, c. He could swim up till Mead Glacier, d. He defeated Doug Corpron.

4. Name the literary device used in the line ' her face ashen like that of a corpse

a. metaphor, b. simile, c. alliteration, d. personification

5. Why does the poet look out of the window?

a. to look out at the trees, b. to distract herself, c. to look at the children, d. to cure her boredom

6. Who says this: "I have nothing else to do"?

a. Saheb, b. Savita, c. Mukesh, d. Anees Jung

7. Suddenly the author saw light. What did that mean?

a. he saw the light to heaven, b. he was coming out of water, c. some people came with a torch

d. there was a bulb in the water

8. When did Douglas finally conquer his fear?

a. when his instructor gave his approval, b. when he tried swimming alone at different places

c. when he was able to put his face under the water, d. when he tried different strokes on his own in the pool

9. Which proverb most aptly describes the theme of the story 'Deep Water'?

a. time and tide wait for none, b. cut your coat according to your cloth, c. where there's a will there's a way, d. all's well that ends well

10. "And yet, for these Children, these windows, not this map, their world, Where all their future's painted with a fog, A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky Far far from rivers, capes, and stars of words" What does the map on the wall signify?

a. the wall needs to be painted, b. the wall could be decorated further, c. the world drawn and bartered by the rich and the mighty, d. the wall needs an urgent maintenance

11. In which period, *The Last Lesson* is set in?

a. German- Russian War, b. Franco- Prussian War, c. Persian- Russian War, d. Franco- American War.

12. "Now we shall count till twelve". The poetic device in the above line is...

a. Epithet, b. Transferred Epithet, c. Alliteration, d. Metaphor

13. The 'TWELVE' word refers to.....

a. twelve minutes, b. twelve months, c. twelve moments, d. all the above

14. Where does the story Rattrap take place

a. Spain, b. Switzerland, c. Sweden, d. Zambia

15. The rattrap seller was a.....

a. Thief, b. business man, c. trap maker, d. vagabond

- 16.** Who thought the whole world was a rattrap?
a. iron master, b. Peddler, c. crofter, d. Edla
- 17.** The tramp was basically a.....
a. guest, b. sadist, c. friend, d. sulky
- 18.** What food did the crofter serve the tramp?
a. pizza, b. pastas, c. porridge, d. pastry
- 19.** How much money was stolen by the peddler?
a. 10 kroners, b. 30 kroners, c. 20 kroners, d. 40 kroners
- 20.** The peddler took away the -----of the crofter
a. purse, b. pouch, c. wallet, d. bag
- 21.** What did the peasants pay the British landlords?
a. 10% of landholding and 15% of harvest, b. 20% of landholding and 15% of harvest, c. 10% of landholding and 25% of harvest, d. 15% of landholding and entire Indigo harvest
- 22.** From where has this poem A Thing of Beauty been taken?
a. From Keats' work- and Endymion: A poetic Romance, b. Ode to a Nightingale, c. Ode on melancholy, d. Ode on indolence
- 23.** Who is Endymion?
a. An office boy, b. A worker, c. A young Shepherd, d. A young child
- 24.** What are the things of beauty mentioned in the poem?
a. Sun and moon b. Young trees and streams c. Flowers d. All of these
- 25.** Which things cause suffering to human beings?
a. Lack of virtues and inhuman acts b. Withering flowers c. blooming flowers d. Flowing streams
- 26.** The third level refers to _____.
a. The present time b. A level on Grand Central Station c. Charley's fantasy d. an escape from reality
- 27.** According to Sam, the world is full of _____.
a. Insecurities b. worries c. fears d. all the above
- 28.** What is the hobby of collecting stamps called?
a. phimoticy b. philomite c. philately d. philosophy
- 29.** Charley decided to go to Galesburg to_____

(a) Find peace (b) Buy the things cheaper (c) Meet Sam (d) Meet his grand father

30. Why Shakespeare is called wicked?

a. Shakespeare does not teach morals. B. His life is not a good example for these children, c. He uses wicked words, d. He has no relevance for these children and portrays a wrong world.

31. How did Hana help Dr. Sadao?

a. by assisting him b.by giving him money c.by giving him tools d.by working as a nurse

32. Why did Dr.'s wife feel distressed?

a. seeing many patients b. Seeing General's reaction c. Seeing the orders d. Seeing Whiteman's blood.

33. Why did the servants refuse to help?

a. out of fears b. because of superstitions c. all of these, d. because he was an American soldier.

34. What kind of end did Jo want for Roger's story?

a. pathetic, b. sad, c. Happy note, d. All of the above

35. What does a 4 year old child symbolize in the story?

a. Innocence b. smartness c. obstinacy d. none

36. What do adult people signify in the story?

a. maturity and experience b. wise words c. cruelty d. indifference

37. Who advised Roger to go to the wizard?

a. His mother b. Jo c. Owl d. Jack

38. "But you are not the worst. We have all a great deal to reproach ourselves with." Who says this dialogue and to whom?

a. Alphonse Daudet to the reader b Franz to M. Hamel c. M. Hamel to the villagers d. M. Hamel to Franz

ANSWERS - MCQS

1: (1) b. Hatred and greed (2) c. There is still hope, (3) b. It never declines or diminishes. (4) d. Beauty provides a ray of hope

2: 1. a. Charley, 2. c His/her apartment 3.a The third level, 4.d getting lost

3: 1. b. William Douglas, 2.c. Remaining doubts , 3.d. To ensure if he overcame his fear of swimming, 4.b. He had conquered his fear

4: b. simile,

- 5:** b. to distract herself,
- 6:** a. Saheb
- 7:** b. he was coming out of water,
- 8:** b. when he tried swimming alone at different places,
- 9:** c. where there's a will there's a way,
- 10:** c. the world drawn and bartered by the rich and the mighty,
- 11:** b. Franco- Prussian War
- 12:** c. Alliteration,
- 13:** c. twelve moments,
- 14:** c. Sweden,
- 15:** d. vagabond,
- 16:** b. Peddler,
- 17:** d. sulky
- 18:** c. porridge,
- 19:** b. 30 kroners,
- 20:** b. pouch
- 21:** d. 15% of landholding and entire Indigo harvest,
- 22:** From Keats' work- and Endymion: A poetic Romance,
- 23:** c. A young Shepherd
- 24:** d. All of these
- 25:** a. Lack of virtues and inhuman acts
- 26:** d. d. an escape from reality
- 27:** d. all the above
- 28:** c. philately
- 29:** (a) Find peace
- 30:** d. He has no relevance for these children and portrays a wrong world.
- 31:** d. by working as a nurse
- 32:** d. Seeing Whiteman's blood.
- 33:** c. all of these
- 34:** c. Happy note

35: Innocence

36: maturity and experience

37: c. Owl

38: d. M. Hamel to Franz

39- What does the title of the poem Keeping Quiet suggest?

A) Inactivity

B) noise

C) unhappiness

D) Maintenance of silence

40- What does the poem speak about?

A) the necessity to be happy

B) the necessity to introspect , understand and have feelings of brotherhood

C) the necessity to work quietly

D) none

41- What does counting upto 12 signify and how will it help?

A) hours of the day

B) months of a year

C) it will help to create peace and harmony

D) all

42- What is the original language of the poem ?

A) English

B) French

C) Pali

D) Spanish

43- According to the poet what creates barriers?

A) interactions

B) reactions

C) fighting

D) languages

44- Why does the poet ask people not to speak?

A) because it creates noise

B) he doesn't like noise

C) it makes things unpleasant

D) because it creates barriers or obstacles in the form of misunderstanding amongst people

45- How does the poet perceive life?

A) as stillness

B) as silence

- C) a noisy place
- D) a continuous evolution of nature

46- What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem?

- A) War against humanity
- B) War against nature
- C) War with gases and fire
- D) All these

47- What does hurt hand refer to?

- A) Growing needs of the man
- B) growing greed of man
- C) unfulfilled desires
- D) growing insensitivity of man to pain

48- What do you understand by the words 'denizens' and 'chivalric' in the poem?

- A) The dominant and highly arrogant attitude of the wild animal-tiger
- B) tiger is a wild animal
- C) tiger is hungry
- D) beauty of the tiger

49- What do aunt Jennifer's fluttering hands through her wool in the second stanza tell us?

- A) the lost freedom and fear of Jennifer's mind because marital restraints
- B) her old age
- C) her love for embroidery and knitting
- D) her love for tigers

50- What are the ordeals aunt Jennifer is surrounded by?

- A) wild animals
- B) old people
- C) a heavy crowd
- D) heavy responsibilities of married life

51- Write the phrase which means 'it is immortal'

- A) it will never fade
- B) it will never pass into nothingness
- C) it will never cease
- D) it will keep giving happiness for a longer time

52- What are 'mighty dead' in the poem?

- A) dead people
- B) dead relatives
- C) dead plants
- D) great respectable ancestors specially dead emperors

53- What image does the poet use to convey that beauty is everlasting?

- A) a bower quiet for us
- B) Some shape of beauty

C) endless fountain of joy

D) sprouting a shady boon

54- What removes pall from our life?

A) dark spirits

B) Trees old, and young

C) all the unhealthy things

D) Nature's beauty

55- Where do aunt's tigers belong?

A) to a cage

B) zoo

C) mountains

D) world of green forests

56- How are aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her?

A) aunt lives in a city and tigers in forests

B) aunt is old and tigers are young

C) tigers are courageous and carefree and aunt is terrified

D) none

57- How are tigers described in the poem?

A) as ferocious

B) fearless

C) chivalric

D) All these

58- What kind of a person was Evans?

A) Kleptomaniac

B) pleasing personality and a tendency to mislead

C) stealing habit

D) All these

59- Why did Evans drape a blanket around his shoulder?

A) to conceal his efforts of changing dress to look like MCleery

B) because he was feeling cold

C) to hide himself from the police

D) All these

60- Who ordered Evans to take off his hat?

A) Jackson

B) Stephens

C) The Governor

D) None

61- Why did Evans request not to take off his hat?

A) he was feeling cold

B) to give a smart look

- C) he loved to wear
- D) Evans considered it lucky for himself

62- Who was Carter?

- A) a policeman
- B) watchman
- C) Detective Superintendent
- D) None

63- How was the governor able to locate Evans?

- A) by putting together 6 figures
- B) by decoding
- C) with the help of Ordnance survey map of oxfordshire
- D) All these

64- Where was Evan located?

- A) in the middle east
- B) in Japan
- C) in the middle of chipping Norton
- D) none

65- Where were the clues left after Evans' escape?

- A) on the table
- B) in the cell
- C) on the mobile
- D) on the question paper

66- What information did the governor receive from the detective Superintendent?

- A) Mcleery had spotted Evan
- B) Ean was seen near Elsfield way
- C) chased Evan but lost him
- D) All these

67- Why didn't Mr. Lamb feel hurt by children's comments?

- A) because he thought that it suits him
- B) he loves children
- C) he likes them
- D) he want them to play in his garden

68- How did Mr. Lamb pick apples?

- A) bending down
- B) with the help of his servant
- C) with the help of children
- D) using a ladder and a stick

69- Why did Derry's mother stop him to stay with Mr. Lamb?

- A) because he was not well
- B) because he would scold him

C) because he talked too much

D) because she didn't want him to stay with a stranger

70- Why did Mr. Lamb call Derry blessed?

A) because he was young

B) because he had a mother

C) because he had friends

D) because except a burnt face he had a perfectly healthy body

ALL THE BEST

Keep Revising the Textbooks