

The Fun They Had

(Issac Asimov)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. On which date did Margie make an entry in her diary about the real book ?

Ans. She made an entry on 17th May, 2157.

2. What was the real book, that Tommy found about?

Ans. The real book was about the 'School'.

3. What is the name of Margie's mother ?

Ans. Margie's mother name is Mrs. Jones.

4. What subject did Tommy learn ?

Ans. Tommy learnt History subject.

5. On which two days mechanical teacher did not come on the T.V. screen ?

Ans. On Saturday and Sunday

6. Where was Margie's school ?

Ans. Margie's school was actually in a room, which was situated next to her bedroom.

7. Had Margie ever seen a book before ?

Ans. No, Margie had never seen a book before.

8. What had the mechanical teacher been giving to Margie?

Ans. The mechanical teacher had been giving test after test to Margie in Geography.

9. Why did Margie hate slot most ?

Ans. Margie hated slot most because she had to put homework and test papers in it.

10. Who is the writer of the lesson 'The Fun They Had'?

Ans. Issac Asimov



Short Answer Type Questions

1. How were Margie and Tommy assessed in their subjects?

Ans. Mechanical teachers gave assignments to Margie and Tommy. Margie and Tommy wrote their answers in a punch code. Then they inserted their answer sheets in the slot of the mechanical teacher. The teacher corrected their assignments and calculated their marks in no time.

2. How did Margie react when Tommy told her that twentieth-century schools had human teachers ?

Ans. Margie made this remark when she heard by the Tommy that Human teachers taught the children in the past times. She could not believe the words of Tommy because she had not seen any human teacher. She was used to studying with the help of her mechanical teacher. Instead she strongly believed that a human teacher could not teach like the mechanical teacher in intelligence and knowledge.

3. Why did Tommy and Margie think the old book a wastage of resources ?

Ans. Tommy and Margie thought the old book a wastage of resources because they got the words in the old book which were not moving. The words were printed on the pages. The pages had changed in yellow and crinkly. Moreover the old book could not last long.

4. Describe the characteristics of the old school. How did it influence Margie ?

Ans. The old school had many different characteristic like. The children went to study in a big building. Boys

and girls were taught by the human teachers. The teachers gave them homework. They also asked them questions. Students sat together and studied the same subjects. They also played together. The old school influenced very much. In the class of Airthmetic, she was busy to think about the fun the children had at that time.

5. What is the 'slot' ? Why does Margie hate it ?

Ans. 'Slot' is a space in the mechanical teacher where every student is to put his/her homework and test assignments for marking. Margie hates the slot most because she has to work hard by using the punch code for answering her homework.

6. Who was the Country Inspector ? What was his work ?

Ans. The Country inspector was the little round man who had red face. He repaired the mechanical teachers. He corrected the level of the teacher as per the child's requirement and intelligence.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the schools in the story ? Give reasons for your answers.

Ans. Yes, I agree with Margie that today's schools are more fun than the schools which are discussed in the story. The reasons are as follows :

(i) No sentiments and emotions : The mechanical teacher has no sentiments and emotions. They do not understand the psychology of a child. But today's teachers understand the problem of students. They changes their method to teach the students.

(ii) Guides students on its modes : Mechanical teacher guides students according to its adjusted modes. But today's school improves the overall development of a child. Students are given training in leadership, sports, politics and science.

(iii) Adapt themselves to the new surroundings : In today's school students learn how to adapt themselves according to the new surroundings and cope with strangers. The students sit and learn together

forgetting their caste, colour and creed.

2. Write a short note on the school system in 'The Fun They had'.

Ans. Margie and Tommy are the young school children in the year 2157. Teachers and schools are completely different from the present day in the twenty second century. Margie and Tommy do not go to school in a separate building. Their school has a room in their respective houses where the television or the mechanical teacher is placed. Each student has to study and sit alone with the help of mechanical teacher on which all the lessons are shown on the TV screen and the questions asked by the mechanical teacher. The teacher assigns tests to the students and evaluates their progress. The speed of the different subject sectors is fixed according to the age level of each student. There is a special slot in the mechanical teacher where students have to insert their homework or tests. If the mechanical teacher creates any error, there are engineers or County inspector to repair it. So, we can say that the mechanical teachers and schoolrooms of Margie and Tommy are fully computerised and are totally different from the present day schools.

3. How did Margie and Tommy react to the book Tommy found in his attic ? Why ?

Ans. Tommy and Margie were neighbourhood friends. They lived in the age of computer or technology when going to school meant sitting in a room by oneself. They were taught by the mechanical teacher.

Then one day on 17 May, 2157 Tommy found a real book. The book had yellow and crinkled pages. It was found in the attic of his house. He shared this news with Margie and together they were surprised. They were felt surprised because they had never seen or heard about a book which had fixed text on pages.

The book was quite different from the telebooks that they were used to. When Margie and Tommy read the book, they were surprised by its contents. They found that hundreds of years ago school were the large buildings where children went to study together and carried out the same activities and tasks. Human teachers taught them with the help of real books. Students used to have a lot of fun there.

The Road Not Taken

(Robert Frost)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What does the 'one traveller' mean here ?

Ans. One traveller means that a person can travel on one road only.

2. Why did the poet call the wood 'yellow' ?

Ans. The poet called the wood yellow because it was autumn season.

3. Why did the poet stand there for a long time ?

Ans. The poet stood there for a long time because he was looking down the road as far as he could and choosing that on which road he should travel.

4. Who took the first road ?

Ans. Other people took the first road.

5. What does the choice of road signify ?

Ans. The choice of road signifies the toughness of choices and decisions in life.

6. How shall the poet be telling people ?

Ans. The poet shall be telling people with a sign.

7. What happened on taking the road less travelled by ?

Ans. It made all the difference.

8. Why does the poet feel sorry ?

Ans. The poet feels sorry because he could not walk on both of the roads.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is the meaning of 'yellow wood' here ?

Ans. Yellow wood means a forest with yellow leaves. Due to the autumn season, it looks yellow in colour.

2. In what matters were the two roads similar ?

Ans. When the poet came to the wood the two roads were looking similar in the morning. Both of them were equally covered with leaves.

3. What did the poet hope that he would do one day? Was he sure of doing so ?

Ans. The poet hoped that he could come back and try the other road some day. He wasn't sure of doing so because he knew that one road led to the other and it would be difficult for him to come back.

4. Explain 'leaves no step had trodden black'.

Ans. It means that no traveller had travelled on the two roads. It was the fact that the fallen leaves did not seem crushed by the other traveller. No feet had trampled or crushed them.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. What does the poet want to appeal from the poem ?

Ans. 'The Road not taken' is an extremely appealing poem. By this poem, the poet wants to tell about the importance of making suitable decisions at critical moments in our life. In our life, we face many options and we choose the correct options without any full awareness of circumstances. Even though we come to a decision after thinking about all the offered alternatives and choices. Those are the choices which change the path of our life. So, through this poem the poet tells the necessity for deep and serious thinking all the decisions we make in life because one decision can change our whole life.



The Sound of Music

Part-I

Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound without Hearing It (Deborah Cowley)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who heard the sound without hearing it ?

Ans. Evelyn Glennie heard the sound without hearing it.

2. What was the name of Evelyn's mother ?

Ans. The name of Evelyn's mother was Isabel Glennie.

3. Who has suggested Evelyn's parents to send her to day school ?

Ans. Doctor had suggested Evelyn's parents to send her to day school.

4. Who spotted the potentiality of Evelyn's music ?

Ans. Ron Forbes spotted the potentiality of Evelyn's music.

5. What did Ron Forbes do with drums ?

Ans. Ron Forbes tuned the drums with different notes.

6. Which award did Evelyn receive for her performing solo?

Ans. Evelyn received Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious soloist of the year award for performing solo.

7. Where did Evelyn go with the youth Orchestra ?

Ans. Evelyn went to UK with the youth Orchestra.

8. Who is called percussionist ?

Ans. A person who plays different musical instruments is called percussionist.

9. Where had Evelyn got admission to learn music ?

Ans. Evelyn had got admission in the Royal Academy of Music to learn music.

10. How did Evelyn realise that the train was about to come?

Ans. By train's vibrations Evelyn realised that the train was about to come.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. When and how was Evelyn's hearing problem noticed ?

Ans. When Evelyn was eight years old, her mother noticed her hearing problem. Her loss of hearing was gradual. One day she was waiting to play the piano. Her name was called out but she did not respond.

2. What kind of recognition did Evelyn get at the Royal Academy of Music ?

Ans. When Evelyn was almost seventeen years old, she enrolled herself in the Royal Academy of Music, London. She gained highest marks in the history of the academy. She was one of the best students of the academy and had won many top awards during her three-year course.

3. Why was Evelyn nervous as well as excited too ?

Ans. Evelyn was nervous because she was leaving her mother and Scotland for London and excited too because she was going to the Royal Academy of Music to learn music.

4. What is Evelyn's secret of success ? What message does she give to achievers ?

Ans. Evelyn's secret of success is her strong determination and hard work. The message that she gives to the achievers is to work hard and pursue her goal.

5. What did Evelyn want to do ? How did her teachers react to that ? Who helped her ?

Ans. Evelyn wanted to live a normal life and pursued her interest in music. She wanted to play the xylophone but most of the teachers discouraged her to play the

xylophone. Ron Forbes recognized her talent and motivated her to learn music in a different way.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Why was Evelyn Glennie's experience at the Royal Academy of music "darting enough"? How did she overcome there ?

Ans. Due to her deafness Evelyn Glennie's experience at the Royal Academy of Music was frightening. She was not born deaf. When she was eleven years old, her mother identified her deafness and she was examined by the specialist. He found that her hearing nerve became gradually damaged.

Evelyn was able to overcome her handicap with her strong determination and hard work. When she was auditioned, she gained the highest marks

in the Royal Academy of Music. She also won many awards at the end of her three year course.

2. "Evelyn Glennie has already accomplished more than most people twice her age." What do you think are Evelyn's achievements ?
- Ans. 1. Her determined, hard work and courage :** In spite of profoundly deaf, Evelyn achieved success through her determination, hard work and courage. She became a multi-percussionist. She played more than 1000 instruments.
2. **Her passion for music :** When Evelyn was only seventeen years old, she enrolled herself for the Royal Academy of Music, London. She gained highest marks in the history of Academy. At the end of three years, she had won many tap awards. She is one of the busiest international performers.

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The Sound of Music

Part-II

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

(Deborah Cowley)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why did Emperor Aurangzeb ban the playing of the 'pungi' ?

Ans. Because pungi's sound was shrill and unpleasant.

2. By whom was the pungi revived ?

Ans. A barber of a professional family's musicians revived the pungi.

3. How was Shehnai named ?

Ans. Shehnai was first played in the Shah's chambers and was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was named the 'Shehnai'.

4. Where was Shehnai played before ?

Ans. Shehnai was played at the royal courts.

5. Why is Shehnai played in temples and weddings ?

Ans. Because Shehnai's sound is considered auspicious.

6. Where did Bismillah Khan give memorable performance?

Ans. Bismillah Khan gave many memorable performances both in India and abroad.

7. When and how did Bismillah Khan greet the nation?

Ans. On 15th August, 1947 Bismillah Khan greeted the nation with his Shehnai.

8. In which year was Bismillah Khan awarded the Bharat Ratna ?

Ans. In 2001, Bismillah Khan was awarded the Bharat Ratna.

9. Bismillah Khan was exceedingly fond of which cities ?

Ans. He was exceedingly fond of Benaras and Dumraon.

10. When and where did the All India Radio opened ?

Ans. All India Radio was opened in Lucknow in 1938.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. On what occasions is Shehnai played ?

Ans. Shehnai is played in temples and in north Indian weddings. In the past it was played in royal courts alongwith other instruments. Ustad Bismillah Khan brought it on to the classical stage.

2. How did Ustad Bismillah Khan get international recognition ?

Ans. Bismillah Khan was the first Indian who got invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. He also took part in the world Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival, and in the Osaka Trade fair.

3. Which national awards were conferred on him ?

Ans. Ustad Bismillah Khan was honoured or conferred many prestigious national awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan. He was also awarded by the Bharat Ratna in 2001.

4. What was Bismillah Khan's achievement, when he was just five years old ?

Ans. When Bismillah Khan was just five years old, he would regularly go to Bihariji temple at Dumraon to sing Bhojpuri 'Chaita' and Local Maharaja used to award him by giving a big 1.25 kg 'laddu'.

5. Who was Ali Bux ? Where was he employed and

what was his influence on Bismillah Khan ?

Ans. Ali Bux was Bismillah Khan's maternal uncle. He was employed to play Shehnai at the Vishnu Temple in Varanasi. Bismillah Khan learnt the art of playing the Shehnai from his maternal uncle, Ali Bux.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Write a note on the life and achievements of Ustad Bismillah Khan ?

OR

How fond is Ustad Bismillah Khan of India, Benaras and Dumaron and how was his life journey ?

Ans.

1. **Introduction :** Bismillah Khan was a great Shehnai player. He was born on 21st March, 1916 at Dumraon in Bihar, and he belonged to a professional musician's family.
2. **Influenced by Ali Bux :** He was influenced by his maternal uncle Ali Bux. In his childhood days, he used to play gilli -danda with other boys. After playing with other boys, he would go to a nearby temple and sat there and sing the Bhojpuri Chaita with Ali Bux.

3. **Affection with Ganga and Benaras:** He had a great affection of Ganga and Benaras. He went practiced to play Shehnai in solitude at the temples of Balaji and Mangla Maiya and on the banks of Ganga.

4. **His Achievements :** Bismillah Khan won many awards. He became the first Indian who greet the nation with his Shehnai on 15th August, 1947. National awards like the Padmashiri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him. In 2001, he received the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.

2. **Why did Bismillah Khan not venture into films ? Explain it briefly ?**

Ans. Bismillah Khan had no affection for money. He loved only music. He was a very simple person. He did not like to live a life of glamour. No doubt, he played Shehnai for some films and his music became successful in those films. But he refused to think of migrating in Mumbai. He said, 'Whenever I am in Mumbai, I think only of Varanasi and the holy river Ganga.' That was the reason he did not venture into films. He wanted to remain a shehnai player for the world. According to him, Varanasi and Dumaraon were the most wonderful place or cities in the world.

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Wind

(Subramania Bharati)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. Who is the poet of this poem?**
Ans. Subramania Bharti.
- 2. According to the poet, what should be the appearance of the wind?**
Ans. According to the poet, the wind should appear soft and gentle to us..
- 3. Who got scared by the power of the wind?**
Ans. Things those are weak and small got scared by the power of the wind.
- 4. What is the meaning of crumbling?**
Ans. Crumbling means cause of something to break.
- 5. What does winnows mean?**
Ans. Winnows means to separate grain by blowing on it.
- 6. What is the meaning of rafter?**
Ans. Rafter means sloping beams which support the roof of the building.
- 7. About which natural phenomenon the poet is talking in this poem?**
Ans. The poet is talking about the wind, a natural phenomenon.



Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. Who does the wind make fun of? What does the wind God do to them?**
Ans. The wind makes fun of those who are weak in body and mind. That is why the wind God winnows and crushes the things and humans who are weak in mind and body.
- 2. How does the wind affect the strong fire?**
Ans. The wind makes the strong fires roar, flourish and make them stronger.
- 3. What are the three things that the poet does not want the wind to do? Does the wind do as he**

wishes?

Ans. The three things that the poet does not want the wind to do are:

Break the shutters of the windows, throw the papers in different direction and books to fall down from the shelf. Yes, the wind would do these things.

- 4. How does the wind poke fun at weaklings?**

Ans. Weaklings pray to the wind to blow softly. They pray to the wind God not to break the shutters of their windows. But the wind God does not listen to weak person's prayers. Rather, he pokes fun by blowing their houses, breaking doors, bodies, lives and their hearts. He crushes them badly.

- 5. What lesson can we learn from the action of the wind on fire?**

Ans. If the fire is weak, the wind blows it out. If the fire is strong, the wind adds more power to it. So, we should make ourselves strong. If we are weak, everybody will harm us. Even God helps those who are strong. They pay no attention to the weak's prayer.



Long Answer Type Questions

- 1. How does the poet use wind as a symbol in relation to human beings?**

OR

Human life is full of hardships. How does the poet reveal it?

Ans. In relation to human beings, the poet has used wind as a symbol of hardships that life is dotted with. Men have to encounter terrible suffering, sorrows, difficulties, and failures. Troubles are powerful, only very strong people are able to overcome them and move ahead. Weak people surrender in front of hardships and accept defeat. But, strong people keep patience. They fight against hardships and emerge even stronger. Human lives can never be devoid of struggle, only physical and mental strength

overcome from unfavourable circumstances. So, the troubles of wind cannot harm those who have the power to stand firm. Strong people can turn their difficulties into opportunities and learn lessons from them.

2. Which values of life does the poet emphasize in the poem? Explain.

Ans.

(a) Introduction: The poem "Wind", by Subramania Bharati, teaches a very impressive moral lesson for human beings.

(b) A symbol of troubles and sturdy structures: Poet uses the wind as a symbol of troubles in life, while the sturdy structures symbolize unfaltering, strong human beings. The poet uses both symbols as the values of strong physical health and mental powers, confidence and a

firm will.

Life is not an easy way. It is filled with obstacles and challenges. However, only weak people are unable to beat these obstacles and challenges. At last, they accept their failures and defeats.

But the courageous people defeat all odds against them and come out of all the troubles and move on.

Just as the wind extinguishes only small fires and the high flames of fire rise higher by the wind. Similarly, troubles terrify weak people.

(c) Conclusion: So, difficulties are a part of life; they cannot be avoided, but they can be resisted through courage and confidence. So, the poem emphasizes the values of courage, confidence and strong will.



The Little Girl

(Katherine Mansfield)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Where were the two girls hanging?**
Ans. The two girls were hanging on Macdonald's coat pockets.
- What did Kezia think of her father?**
Ans. Kezia thought that her father was very rude to her.
- What did the grandmother give to Kezia when she was sobbing?**
Ans. The grandmother gave a clean handkerchief to Kezia when she was sobbing.
- Where would Kezia find her mother?**
Ans. Kezia would always find her mother reading.
- Where did Kezia snuggle her head?**
Ans. Kezia snuggled her head under her father's arm.
- Why was Kezia beaten by her father?**
Ans. Kezia was beaten by her father because she tore down the papers of her father's speech.
- What nightmare did Kezia have?**
Ans. Kezia saw a butcher with a knife and rope.
- Who took Kezia into her bed when she saw nightmares?**
Ans. Her father took Kezia into her bed when she saw nightmares.
- How many brothers and sisters did Kezia have?**
Ans. Kezia had no brothers or sisters, she was the only child of her parents.
- Why was Kezia left alone one night with her father?**
Ans. Kezia's mother was ill, and her grandmother went with her to the hospital.



Short Answer Type Questions

- What did Kezia's grandmother do to console her after she was punished by her father?**
Ans. When Kezia was punished by her father, she cried a lot. So, her grandmother wrapped her in a shawl. She clung to Kezia and sat on her rocking chair. She wiped her face with a handkerchief and told her to go to sleep.
- How did Mr. Macdonald behave with his children?**
Ans. Mr. Macdonald usually played with his children. They played 'tag' and round and round the flower-beds, shaking with laughter.
- What was that nightmare Kezia had?**
Ans. When Kezia was left alone at her home, she slept and the same old nightmare came. It was the butcher, with a knife and a rope, who came nearer to her. The butcher was smiling. She could only stand still, crying out, Grandma! Grandma!
- Which gift was Kezia making for her father's birthday?**
Ans. Kezia was making a beautiful pin cushion of yellow silk for her father's birthday. She wanted to give him as a present for his birthday, which was coming in the next week.
- Why did Kezia stutter while talking to her father?**
Ans. Kezia never stuttered while talking to other people. But when she was talking to her father, she stuttered because she was afraid of him. She considered him as a giant.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. There were different sorts of fathers". Why did Kezia feel?

Ans. (a) Consider her father as a giant: Kezia saw her father hard and rude to her. His looks were so stern that she was not only afraid of him, but also tried to avoid him.

(b) See Mr. Macdonald as a good father: Mr. Macdonald was Kezia's next-door neighbour. He had five children. He often saw him playing with his children. One day, when Kezia looked through the gap in the fence, she saw the Macdonald's family was playing the game 'tag.' It was the time of evening, and he looked happy and energetic. Mr. Macdonald was so different from her own father. He was not so strict, but he looked happy and thoroughly enjoyed the company of his children.

(c) Relationship with her father: In contrast, her own father was often in an angry mood. He was too busy with his work and he had no time to

spend with her daughter. She was scared of him and avoided his company as much as she could. She always stuttered while she spoke with her father. His strict discipline and domineering nature would often make Kezia wonder what God made fathers for.

2. **Kezia slept one night with her father and changed her opinion about him. What was her opinion about her father before? What change did take place?**

Ans. Kezia's opinion about her father: Earlier, Kezia thought that her father was a rude man. She always tried to avoid him. She observed that her neighbour, Mr. Macdonald, loved her children very much. But her father never cared and loved her.

Changing Opinion about her father: One day, Kezia's mother was taken to a hospital. Kezia was alone in her room. At night, she had a nightmare. She cried with fear. Her father took her to his bed. She slept with him. Her father asked her to rub her feet against his legs to make them warm. The thing was that he had no time to play with her. She realised that it was her mistake to tear up the sheets. Now it appeared to her that her father was a soft-hearted man.



Rain on the Roof

(Coates Kinney)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. What does the poet like to do when it rains?**
Ans. When it rains, the poet likes to keep lying in his bed and enjoy listening to the patter of soft raindrops.
- 2. What makes an echo in the poet's heart?**
Ans. The sound of the raindrops on the roof makes an echo in the poet's heart.
- 3. What do the recollections do?**
Ans. The recollections weave their air threads into woof.
- 4. Where does the raindrop patter?**
Ans. The raindrop patters on the shingles of the roof.
- 5. Whose memory comes into the poet's mind?**
Ans. The memory of the poet's mother comes to the poet's mind
- 6. Is the poet a child now?**
Ans. No, he is not a child now.
- 7. Is the poet's mother still alive now?**
Ans. No, the poet's mother is not alive.
- 8. Who is the poet of the poem 'Rain on the Roof'?**
Ans. Coates Kinney.



Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. What is the blissful moment of the poet?**
Ans. When it rains, the poet lies on his bed in his room in the cottage. The blissful moment for the poet is when he rests his head on the pillow and hears the soft sound of the raindrops falling on the roof.
- 2. What is the effect of a thousand recollections on the poet's mind?**
Ans. The poet recollects and revives his old memories of hearing the various kinds of sounds

produced by falling raindrops. These memories bring to life so many imaginary pictures in his mind.

- 3. Is the rain referred to in the poem, a heavy downpour?**
Ans. No, the rain referred to in the poem is not a heavy downpour. Instead, the rain is soft and gentle when it falls on the roof.
- 4. Why does the poet call the sound of the rain as "refrain"?**
Ans. A refrain is a line used in a song or a poem. The rain drops produce a piece of distinct and continuous music. So, the poet calls the sound of the rain as 'refrain'.
- 5. What does the patter of the rain on the roof remind the poet?**
Ans. The poet is deeply attached to the patter of the rain on the roof. The patter of the rain reminds him of his mother's memory. He feels the presence of his mother's love in the sound.



Long Answer Type Questions

- 1. How does the poet react to the sound of the rain falling on the roof?**

OR

What is the effect of the sound of the rain on the heart and mind of the poet?

Ans. Feeling Strong: The poet's heart and mind feel strongly to the sound of the rain when it falls on the roof. He is in a blissful mood as he enjoys the comfort of his bedroom.

The music stirs a corresponding echo in the heart of the poet. His heartbeat responds to the sound of the rain by its rhythmic throbbing. His mind is filled with fanciful, dreamy thoughts.

Remembers his mother's memory: Moreover, the rain awakens many memories of the past. It revives

the memory of his mother, as she looked at her children very affectionately before she went to sleep in her room. He recollects the fond, affectionate look of his mother which she cast on him.

So, the poet's mind and heart respond sensitively to the soft pattering sound of the rain.

2. **Do you like to have a bath in the rain? What do you do when it rains heavily, as described in the poem?**

Ans. Yes, I like to have a bath in the rain but when it rains heavily, I remain inside and enjoy the beauty of nature. During rain, a beautiful environment is created. I feel like curling into bed and have a hot cup of tea and some nice dish. I also like to watch the sight outside looking through the window. The noise and the smell that comes with rain are very refreshing.



4

A Truly Beautiful Mind

(Albert Einstein's)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. When and where was Albert Einstein born?**
Ans. Albert Einstein was born on 14 March 1879 in the German city of Ulm.
- 2. What type of toys did Einstein loved to play?**
Ans. Einstein loved to play the mechanical toys.
- 3. In what subject was Einstein highly gifted?**
Ans. Einstein was highly gifted in Mathematics.
- 4. Which country did Milevc Marie belong to?**
Ans. Milevc Marie belonged to Serbia.
- 5. What was Einstein's first job, that he got in 1902?**
Ans. Einstein got a job as a technical expert in the patent office in Bern.
- 6. When did Einstein present his famous papers on the Special Theory of Relativity?**
Ans. Einstein presented his famous papers on the Special Theory of Relativity in 1905.
- 7. With whom did Einstein marry the second time?**
Ans. Einstein married his cousin Elsa, for the second time.
- 8. In which year Albert was married to Mileva?**
Ans. Albert was married to Mileva in 1903.
- 9. At what age did Albert leave the school?**
Ans. Albert left school at the age of 15.
- 10. What did Einstein's playmates call him?**
Ans. Einstein's playmates called him "Brother Boring".



Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. Why did Einstein call his desk drawer at work the 'Bureau of theoretical physics'?**
Ans. Einstein worked as a technical expert in the patent office in Bern. He developed his own ideas in

secret. He worked very hard. When anybody asked questions about his work, he jokingly called his desk drawer at work the 'Bureau of theoretical physics'.

- 2. Who developed the atomic bomb? What did they do with it?**
Ans. The Americans had developed the atomic bomb in a secret project of their own. They dropped it on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which created vast destruction.
- 3. Was Einstein's childhood normal and was he a socially active child?**
Ans. Einstein's childhood was not normal. He did not learn to speak till the age of two and a half years. He did not become friendly with other children. He played by himself.
- 4. What was the reaction of people and the Press when Einstein received the Nobel Prize?**
Ans. Einstein won the Nobel Prize in Physics in the year 1921. Thereafter, he was showered with honours and invitations from all over the world. He became a world-famous personality.
- 5. What proved that Einstein's General Theory of Relativity was accurate?**
Ans. Einstein's General Theory of Relativity was published in 1915. It provided a new interpretation of gravity. The Solar eclipse in 1919 proved that his theory was accurate.



Long Answer Type Questions

- 1. Why do you think Einstein is "celebrated as a visionary and world citizen as much as a scientific genius"?**

Ans. Albert Einstein was considered a “freak” by his mother. His playmates also called him Brother Boring. His headmaster also said that he could not get success in his life. But later he became a world-famous scientist for his theory of relativity and gravity. The world proclaimed him a scientific genius. He won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921. Then he showered honour and invitations from all over the world. But Einstein was merely a scientific genius. He was deeply affected by the large-scale destruction of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Later, he took part in politics and campaigned against arms build-up. He appealed to the United Nations for peace and democracy in the world. That is why he is celebrated as a visionary, a world citizen, and a scientific genius.

2. How was Albert Einstein as a student in high school and at the university?

Ans. Einstein was a high school student in Munich, where his family had moved when he was fifteen years old. There he proved himself to be a good student. He scored good marks in nearly all the subjects. But Einstein hated the strict discipline of the school. He would often clash with his teachers there. That is why he left the school forever when he was fifteen years old. Albert Einstein continued his education in German-speaking Switzerland. This city was more liberal than Munich. Einstein was gifted in

Mathematics. He had a keen interest in Physics. After finishing school, he studied at a university in Zurich, where he was known as a talented student.

3. Albert Einstein was an unusual child. How? He was different from others in many ways. Do you think that those who think differently succeed in their life like Einstein? Comment.

Ans. 1. Introduction: Albert Einstein was an unusual boy. He did not have any sign of his greatness. He had a larger head.

2. Considered as a freak: His mother considered him to be a freak. He started talking at the age of two and half years. When he started to speak, he repeated words twice.

3. Liked to play with mechanical toys: He liked to play by himself and did not enjoy the company of his playmates. So, his playmates called him boring.

4. Headmaster's opinion: At school, his headmaster thought that he was very weak in studies. He would never achieve anything in his life. But he proved headmaster wrong.

5. Conclusion: Yes, it is true that a person who thinks differently has more creative ideas. He looks at the things from a different angle. If Albert Einstein had been a normal student, he would not have been a great scientist.

□□

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

(William Butler Yeats)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Where does the poet want to go?

Ans. The poet wants to go to Innisfree.

2. What does the poet hear at Innisfree Island?

Ans. The poet hears the low lapping sound of the lake water.

3. What does the poet see in Innisfree land?

Ans. The poet sees glimmering midnight, purple noon, and the evening full of linnets' wings.

4. What kind of land is Innisfree?

Ans. The land of Innisfree is peaceful and loving.

5. What sound does Yeats yearn to hear?

Ans. Yeats yearns to hear the sound of bees.

6. Where is the poet at the time of the writing of the poem?

Ans. The poet is in London at time of the writing of the poem.

7. Write the full name of W.B. Yeats.

Ans. The full name of W.B. Yeats is William Butler Yeats.

8. What is the best thing about Innisfree?

Ans. Innisfree is a place of natural beauty.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. Where does the poet wish to go? Why does he want to go there?

Ans. The poet wishes to go to Innisfree in Ireland. And he wishes to make a cabin and enjoy a peaceful life there.

2. What does the poet want to build there?

Ans. The poet wants to build a small cabin, which is made of clay and wattles.

3. What does the poet want to grow and have at Innisfree?

Ans. The poet wants to grow nine rows of beans. He also wants to have a hive for honeybees and hear their loud humming sound.

4. What kind of living environment does the poet want at Innisfree?

Ans. The poet wishes a small cabin at Innisfree. He wants his cabin to be made with clay and wattles, enjoy the lake, the beautiful morning and the singing of cricket. He wants to live all alone peacefully in such a natural environment.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. How does the poet see the sights and sounds of the Lake Isle of Innisfree?

Ans. (i) **Introduction:** The poet W.B. Yeats, had spent many summers for the duration of his early life on the Lake Isle of Innisfree. His memories are so different that the sights and sounds seem to have left an indelible impression on his mind.

(ii) **Beautiful Scene:** He beautifully portrays the island of Innisfree from morning till evening. The midnight is glow with the glimmering of the moon and the stars. The noons are bright with purplish sunlight. In the evening, the linnets flutter their wings. They make a very captivating sight.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree echoes with the soothing music of the insects, birds, and waves. The bees sing loudly, and the linnets make the evenings active with their music. Moreover, there's the gentle song of the waves hanging lightly towards the shore day and night. So, the sights and sounds described by the poet make the island an enthralling and alluring place.

The Snake and the Mirror

(Vaikom Muhammad Basheer)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Who is the narrator of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'?**
Ans. A homeopathy doctor is the narrator of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror.'
- Where did the narrator live?**
Ans. The narrator lived in a small rented room.
- Who shared the room with the narrator?**
Ans. The rats shared the room with the narrator.
- What decision did the doctor take while sitting in front of the mirror?**
Ans. The doctor took the decision that he would shave daily and grow a thin moustache.
- What was Narrator's second earth-shaking decision?**
Ans. The narrator's second earth-shaking decision was that he would always keep an attractive smile on his face.
- How did the snake coil itself?**
Ans. The snake coiled itself across the narrator's left arm above the elbow.
- What happened when the snake looked into the mirror?**
Ans. When the snake looked into the mirror, it uncoiled itself and moved towards the mirror.
- What did the snake seem to admire in the mirror?**
Ans. It seemed that the snake was admiring its own beauty.
- Who entered the narrator's room in his absence, during the night?**
Ans. A thief entered the narrator's room in his absence during the night.
- When did the doctor return to the home in the next**

morning?

Ans. The doctor returned at eight-thirty, the next morning.



Short Answer Type Questions

- What were the things the doctor had with him at the time of the incident?**
Ans. The doctor had some things like sixty rupees, some shirts, dhotis, and a black - colored coat with him at the time of the incident.
- What did the doctor think about himself?**
Ans. The doctor thought that he was an eligible bachelor. He told himself that he was a young man, and handsome. For that, he decided to shave daily and keep a thin moustache and he decided to smile always to look more handsome.
- When and why did the doctor feel like a foolish, weak person?**
Ans. The doctor felt like a foolish and weak person, when he realized that there was no medicine in the room for the snake bite. He felt helpless and frightened. At that moment, his vanity and pride had vanished. He smiled feebly at his foolishness and bad luck.
- Which two 'important' and earth-shaking decisions had been taken by the doctor when he looked into the mirror?**
Ans. The doctor made two decisions after looking himself in the mirror. The first decision was that he would shave daily and grow a thin moustache in order to look more handsome. The second decision was that he would always smile to look more attractive.

5. **The doctor heard a noise. Who was making the noise, and why did it stop suddenly?**

Ans. It was the noise of rats. They were moving on the beam that supported the gable. The noise stopped suddenly when the narrator opened the door. The rats got frightened and stopped moving.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **What kind of woman did the doctor want to marry? What does it show about his character? What kind of wife did he eventually get?**

Ans. The doctor felt proud of his handsome looks and his medical profession. He was a homeopathy doctor. So, he wanted to marry a rich lady doctor who had a good medical practice. He also wanted to marry a fat woman because if he made a silly mistake and had to run away, a fat wife would not be able to chase him.

It shows that he was a status-conscious, money-minded person. He did not think about the appearance and other qualities of his wife. His desire to marry a fat wife shows that he had a sense of humour and could laugh at himself.

However, the doctor's real wife was unlike what he had desired. It is not clear whether she was a doctor or not, but she was certainly a thin woman with the physique of a sprinter.

2. **What was the doctor's opinion about himself? How did this opinion change after his encounter with the snake?**

OR

How did the doctor lose his pride after the snake landed on his shoulder?

Ans. The doctor had a very high opinion of himself, regarding both his appearance and profession. He

was conscious of his looks and wanted to look even more handsome. He repeatedly looked at himself in the mirror to admire his handsomeness. He wanted to be attractive to women because he was an eligible bachelor. He was also proud of being a doctor and was arrogant because of his professional qualifications.

But a short encounter with a snake, a full-blooded cobra, cured him of his pride. When the snake reached his shoulder and coiled itself around his arm, the doctor lost all arrogance and was reminded the existence of God. Face to face with death, he realized what a weak and foolish man he was. When he recalled that there were no medicines in his room to cure him of a snake bite, he humbly and meekly regarded himself to be a stupid and helpless person. Thus, the encounter with the snake transformed the doctor from a vain and foolish person into a humble and God-fearing man

3. **Is there a similarity between the doctor and the snake? If so, what is it?**

Ans. There is one point of similarity between the doctor and the snake. Both of them love beauty. Both of them enjoy looking at themselves in the mirror. The doctor looks into the mirror and thinks he is handsome. He picks up the comb and runs it through his hair. He looks into the mirror and smiles. He thinks that he has an attractive smile. He decides to wear this smile always on his face. The behaviour of the snake is almost similar. It has coiled itself around the doctor's arm and happens to look into the mirror. It seems to like its image. At once, it creeps onto the table. It moves towards the mirror and it wanted to have a closer look at itself. Says the doctor, "It was a snake which was taken with its own beauty!" So was the doctor himself!



A Legend of the Northland

(Phoebe Cary)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **When do people go for sledging?**
Ans. When the snow falls, people go for sledging.
2. **Saint's curse changes the woman into which bird?**
Ans. The Saint's curse changed the woman into a woodpecker.
3. **Where are the days shorter and nights longer?**
Ans. The days are shorter and nights are longer in the Northland.
4. **Which animal helps the Northland habitants through snow?**
Ans. Reindeer helps the Northland habitants through snow.
5. **Why was Saint Peter fainting?**
Ans. Saint Peter was fainting with hunger.
6. **Why was Saint Peter travelling round the world?**
Ans. Saint Peter was travelling around the world to preach.
7. **Did she give him a thinner cake finally?**
Ans. No, she did not give him the thinner cake
8. **Who was Saint Peter?**
Ans. Saint Peter was a great Saint who travelled round the world to teach.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. **What made Saint Peter angry?**
Ans. Saint Peter became angry because he was feeling very hungry, and the old woman was not giving away even piece of cake.
2. **Do you think the poem 'A Legend of the Northland' is a legend with a message and a moral?**
Ans. This poem tells us about a legend or an old traditional story. But we can draw a moral lesson that we should give generously to the needy and

hungry. Otherwise, our selfishness will invite the anger of gods or saints.

3. **When and how did Saint Peter come to the door of the woman's cottage?**

Ans. Saint Peter was travelling the world and one day he was fasting and at the end of the day he saw the woman's cottage and decided to go there and ask for some food as he didn't eat anything since the morning and was starving.

4. **What do we come to know about the Northland after reading the poem?**

Ans. The poet tells us that the Northland is an extremely cold place. In the winter, the nights there are long and the days are short. The people there harness the fast-running reindeers to pull their sledges and their children wear furry clothes.

5. **How did Saint Peter curse and punish the old lady?**

Ans. The greed and selfishness of the old lady made saint Peter very angry. He cursed her and converted her into a woodpecker so that she has to live on scanty food by boring and boring in the dry, hard wood.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Why should Saint Peter not curse the lady? Justify this statement to support your answer.**

Ans. A holy man is known all over the world for his wisdom. He conveys the moral message to the people if they are liberal or greedy. All persons are equal in his eyes. In this story, Saint Peter is a sacred man. He is also famous for his preaching about Christ. He has preached and travelled all over the world. So, he is hungry and weak due to fasting. He asks the lady for a cake, but she does not give him a single piece of cake. Finally, Saint Peter becomes angry and curses her. In fact, he should have shown some pity for her. He also gave an example of his

wisdom. So, it is appropriate to say that a holy man should not curse the lady.

2. How can you say that the old lady was greedy?

Ans. The old lady had a bakery. Saint Peter was a holy saint. He had travelled and preached all over the world. He was tired and hungry due to full day fasting. He had reached at the door of a woman's cottage. He appealed to her for some food. But

the woman made him wait for the cake for a long time. Every time she tried to bake a small cake, but unfortunately the cake often seemed to her of a bigger size. The old lady did not want to give the cake of bigger size to the saint. At last, the saint became angry and cursed her. So, it can be said that the old lady was very greedy, and her greed had no limit.



My Childhood

(A.P.J. Abdul Kalam)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. What kind of family was Kalam born in?**
Ans. APJ Abdul Kalam was born in a middle class Tamil family in Rameshwaram.
- 2. Where was Kalam's town situated in?**
Ans. Kalam's town was situated in the erstwhile Madras (Chennai) city.
- 3. What type of boy was Kalam?**
Ans. Kalam was a short statured boy with ordinary looks.
- 4. Who was Kalam's Science teacher?**
Ans. Kalam's Science teacher was Sivasubramania Iyer.
- 5. Who summoned the teacher?**
Ans. Ramanadha's father Lakshamana Sastry, the high priest of Rameshwaram temple summoned the teacher.
- 6. Who was Kalam's cousin?**
Ans. Samsuddin was Kalam's cousin.
- 7. What did Kalam inherit from his father?**
Ans. Kalam inherited honesty and self-discipline from his father.
- 8. Where was the marriage site situated?**
Ans. The marriage site was situated in the middle of the pond which was called Rama Tirtha.
- 9. When did the new teacher come to the class?**
Ans. When Kalam was in the fifth standard, a new teacher came to the class.
- 10. Where did he have to go to study further?**
Ans. He had to go to Ramanathmapuram to study further.

- 11. How many friends did Kalam have in childhood?**
Ans. Kalam had three friends in his childhood. Their names were Ramanadha Sastry, Arvindan and Sivaprakasan.



Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. Where was Abdul Kalam born? Where did he spend his early childhood?**
Ans. Abdul Kalam was born in Rameswaram in a middle-class Tamil family. He spent his early childhood in their ancestral home which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century, and it was a reasonably large house situated on the mosque street.
- 2. How does Abdul Kalam describe his father?**
Ans. Abdul Kalam describes his father Jainulabdeen as a man who possessed inborn wisdom and a true generosity of spirit. He did not have much formal education nor much wealth. But he met all the necessities of his family.
- 3. Why does Abdul Kalam think that his science teacher "was something of a rebel"?**
Ans. The science teacher believed in breaking the social barriers. He felt that the barriers of religion and caste divided the society. In this respect, he was a rebel.
- 4. What would Abdul Kalam's brother-in-law tell him when the second world war started?**
Ans. Abdul Kalam was only eight years old when the second world war started. His brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell him stories about the second world war, which he used to trace later in the Tamil

newspaper 'Dinamani'.

5. How did Abdul Kalam help his cousin Samsuddin and earn his first wages?

Ans. During the war, there was suspension of trains at Rameswaram. Abdul Kalam's cousin, Samsuddin, was a distributor of newspapers in Rameswaram. Abdul Kalam helped him in collecting the newspaper bundles and thus earned his first wages.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Why do you think the new teacher not only 'regretted his behaviour' but was also 'ultimately reformed'? How did this happen?

Ans. When Abdul Kalam was in the fifth standard at the Rameswaram Elementary school, a new teacher came to their class. Wearing a cap which marked him as a Muslim, Kalam always used to sit in the front row next to Ramanandha Sastry, who wore the sacred thread. The new teacher could not tolerate a Hindu priest's son sitting with a Muslim boy. Abdul Kalam was asked by the teacher to go and sit on the back bench. Both Ramanandha Sastry and Abdul Kalam felt very sad.

After school, they told about this incident to their respective parents. Lakshmana Sastry, father of Ramanandha Sastry, summoned the teacher and told not to spread the poison of communal intolerance in the minds of the innocent children. He asked the teacher either to apologise or quit the school and Rameswaram. Consequently, realizing his mistake, the teacher was ultimately reformed.

2. "Abdul! I know you have to go away to grow". What happened when Abdul Kalam wanted to leave Rameswaram for higher studies?

Ans. After finishing his study at Rameswaram, Abdul Kalam wanted to go for further studies at the district headquarters in Ramananthapuram. When he sought his father's permission, he encouraged him in a worldly-wise manner. He told him that he had to go away to grow. When his mother hesitated, Abdul Kalam's father consoled her by quoting Khalil Gibran's words "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts." And he really encouraged Abdul Kalam to go for further studies.

3. He did his best to break social barriers so that people from varying backgrounds could mingle easily. How did Abdul Kalam's science teacher try to do it with his personal example?

Ans. Abdul Kalam's science teacher Sivasubramania Iyer was a rebel by nature. Once he invited Abdul to his home for a meal. His conservative wife did not allow Abdul Kalam, a Muslim boy, to have meals in her pious kitchen. But the science teacher was not discouraged. He sat down beside Abdul to eat his meal.

Then his science teacher invited Abdul to join him for meals again the next weekend. Seeing his hesitation, the science teacher remarked at once he decided to change the system or social barriers, such problems had to be faced. When the next time, Abdul went to have a meal at his science teacher's home, the science teacher's wife took Abdul inside the kitchen and served him food with her own hand. This is how the science teacher tried to break social barriers, starting to change things from his own house.



No Men Are Foreign

(James Kirkup)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **What should we remember about men?**
Ans. We should remember that no men are strange in the world.
2. **What should we remember about countries?**
Ans. We should remember that no countries are foreign.
3. **Where do we all walk upon?**
Ans. We all walk on the same earth and land.
4. **Where shall we all lie in the end?**
Ans. We all shall lie in the earth in the end.
5. **What are all men fed by?**
Ans. All men are fed by peaceful harvest.
6. **What do you mean by 'peaceful harvest'?**
Ans. By peaceful harvests, we mean the crops grown during the period of peace.
7. **What do you mean by 'wars' long winter?**
Ans. It means the painful days of the war when we are kept indoors.
8. **What are we doing to the human earth?**
Ans. We are polluting the earth.
9. **Why should we not hate others?**
Ans. We should not hate others because they all are our brothers.
10. **What do you mean by 'hells of fire and dust'?**
Ans. 'Hells of fire and dust' means the wars that cause a lot of destruction.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. **According to the poet, how do we defile the "human earth"?**
Ans. According to the poet, the unwanted and ruinous wars amongst people of various lands and

countries on this earth, is the main cause of our earth being polluted.

2. **Do you think the poem 'No Men are Foreign' conveys a universal message?**
Ans. This poem conveys the message of universal brotherhood that human beings throughout the world are more or less the same. Therefore, no men are strange, and no countries are foreign. By hating each other, we are just polluting the earth.
3. **What does the poet tell us about the earth which "our brothers walk upon"?**
Ans. The poet conveys that our brothers or our fellow human beings from other lands also walk upon the same earth that we walk on. There is no difference in the earth on which we all human beings live and die.
4. **Do you think the hatred amongst human beings is at all justified?**
Ans. No, I don't think hatred amongst human beings can be justified by any means. I agree with the poet that by hating one another, human beings are "digging their own graves".
5. **How does the poet convey that people of different lands and countries are basically the same?**
Ans. According to the poet, beneath all uniforms worn by armies or people of various countries, a single body breathes. The hands of people everywhere are the same, and they put labour in a similar manner. Their eyes wake and sleep in a similar manner.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **The land our brothers walk upon. Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie! What does the poet mean to say in the given line? Explain.**
Ans. (a) Introduction: The poet means to say in these lines

that it is the same land on which we walk and after our death, we would be buried in the same earth. Through these lines, the poet tells us that we do all our activities on the same land.

(b) Live with Brotherhood: We get food from this land. We build our houses on this land. We get many other things from the same land. No one is another person. We live in the same house or universe as a family.

(c) Conclusion: It is all because of our greed to get more wealth and power. In the pursuit to fulfil our desire, we fight with others and hurt them. The poet also tells us that one day all of us have to die. Nothing would remain ours. We will have to leave all the things on the same earth. At last, we will all be buried in the same earth.

2. **Great persons tell us to live cordially and as brothers. But we people tend to fight over trivial issues. Why don't we live with others harmoniously? What makes us fight and hurt others?**

Ans. (a) Not living with love: It is true that many people have been telling us to live harmoniously for a long time. We never follow their message. We also know that our greed to get more wealth and power cannot give us a peaceful life. But some deep-rooted evils in our society make us draw a distinction between people. We know that all customs and conventions have been made by people.

(b) All people are equal: God has made all people equal. But we make differences between people for our selfish motives. We start to hate each other. We become objects of hatred for society. In society, people dislike selfish people.

So before going to hurt others' feelings, first of all, we should think about whether doing such an act with others is justified or not. We should learn to live with others as brothers. We should learn to tolerate, forgive and compromise. Only in this way will, our life happy.



Reach For the Top

Part-I

Santosh Yadav

(Anonymous)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- What is the special distinction of Santosh Yadav?**
Ans. Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world who has scaled Mt Everest twice.
- Where was Santosh Yadav born?**
Ans. She was born in the small village of Joniyawas in Rewari District in Haryana.
- What does 'Santosh' mean?**
Ans. The word 'Santosh' means contentment.
- What did Santosh tell her parents about marriage?**
Ans. She told her parents that she would never marry if did not get a proper education.
- Why did Santosh leave home?**
Ans. Santosh left home to get herself enrolled in a school in Delhi.
- Where did Santosh take admission after passing high school?**
Ans. After passing high school, Santosh took admission in Maharani College, Jaipur.
- Where did Santosh enrol herself for mountaineering training?**
Ans. She enrolled herself at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering.
- What great honour was given to Santosh Yadav by the government of India?**
Ans. The government of India honoured Santosh Yadav with one of the nation's top honours- Padma Shri.
- When did Santosh Yadav scale Mt Everest for the first time?**

Ans. She scaled Mt Everest for the first time in 1992.

- Why is Santosh Yadav mentioned as a fervent environmentalist?**
Ans. She collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.



Short Answer Type Questions

- When did Santosh Yadav scale Everest for the first time?**
Ans. Santosh scaled Mount Everest in 1992 when she was just 20 years old. Her climbing skills matured remarkably and she became the youngest woman in the world to do so.
- Where was Santosh born? What do you know about her family background?**
Ans. Santosh was born in the small village Joniyawas of Rewari district in Haryana. Her parents are quite prosperous landowners. She has five brothers. Thus, she is the only daughter in the family.
- Where did Santosh Yadav do her high school and college education?**
Ans. Santosh passed her high school examination from Delhi. Thereafter, she joined Maharani College, Jaipur. She got a room in Kasturba hostel, which faced the Aravalli Hills.
- What was the purpose of Santosh's going to Uttarkashi?**
Ans. Santosh got interested in mountaineering while she was studying in Jaipur. Immediately after her college semester ended, she saved money to get herself enrolled in Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi.

5. **Which do you think was the turning point or the right moment in Santosh's life?**

Ans. When Santosh turned sixteen, her parents pressured her to get married like other girls of her village. She firmly told her parents that she won't get married until she had got proper education. It was the turning point in her life.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **How was Santosh Yadav motivated to go for mountaineering?**

Ans. After passing her high school examination in Delhi, Santosh Yadav joined Maharani College, Jaipur. There she got a room in Kasturba Hostel which was faced the Aravalli hills. Santosh's interest in climbing developed when she watched the villagers from her hostel room. They went up the hill and suddenly disappeared after some time. Later on, Santosh found out that they were mountaineers. Santosh asked if she could join them. She was pleasantly surprised when they readily agreed to join them in climbing. They motivated Santosh to take her to climbing.

2. **Do you think, that if girls like Santosh are allowed to go to school in village, it will improve our society?**

Ans. Yes, I agree that if girls like Santosh Yadav are allowed to go to school in villages, it will bring a

change in our society. Girls are talented and if they get an opportunity, they can excel in all the fields. An educated girl can educate the entire family and can enhance the morals of the society.

Gender bias is rooted deeply in our society. In the story, Santosh Yadav was not allowed to go out of her village school for higher education. She fought against the traditional system. Truly, Santosh is the role model to all village girls in India. In fact, the village girls are doing well in all fields. They have shown that they are not lagging behind in any field. So, they should be given equal chances to grow.

3. **What do you think are the main achievements of Santosh Yadav?**

Ans. Santosh Yadav's main achievements are in the field of mountaineering. She got interested in climbing mountains when she was a student of Maharani College, Jaipur. She did a course at Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi. Her climbing skills matured rapidly and she was gifted with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing toughness. When she was just 20 years old, she conquered Mount Everest in 1992 and became the youngest woman in the world to do so. Within twelve months, she was invited to join an Indo-Nepalese Women Expedition. She then scaled the Everest for the second time and she is the only woman in the world to conquer Mount Everest twice. She has been awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India.



Reach For the Top

Part-II

Maria Sharapova



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Where was Maria born?**
Ans. Maria was born in Siberia.
2. **Where was Maria sent when she was nine years old?**
Ans. Maria was sent to the United States of America.
3. **Why did Maria's mother not accompany Maria?**
Ans. Due to visa restrictions, Maria's mother did not accompany Maria.
4. **Whom did Maria miss?**
Ans. Maria missed her mother very much.
5. **Why was Maria humiliated?**
Ans. Maria was humiliated because she was so young.
6. **When would the other tennis pupils come?**
Ans. The other tennis pupils would come at 11p.m
7. **What was Maria clear about?**
Ans. Maria was clear about what she wanted to achieve.
8. **How does Maria speak English?**
Ans. Maria speaks English with a pronounced American accent.
9. **What is a big part of her life?**
Ans. The United States is a big part of her life.
10. **What are her hobbies?**
Ans. Her hobbies are fashion, singing and dancing.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Why did Maria feel lonely and depressed during her initial years in the United States?**

Ans. Maria's mother Yelena could not go with her because of visa restrictions. That is why Maria felt lonely and depressed because she missed her mother for two years until she joined her. Her father too was busy with his work.

2. **What are Maria's main achievements in the field of international women tennis?**

Ans. The first main achievement of Maria was to bag the women's singles crown at Wimbledon in 2004. She reached the number one position in the women tennis in the world on 22 August, 2005. This has been her most significant achievement.

3. **What do you think is Maria's mantra of success?**

Ans. Maria was endowed with qualities of strong determination and mental toughness. As she herself says, she is very, very competitive. This I think is her mantra of success.

4. **What does Maria say about her hobbies? What does she like?**

Ans. The hobbies of Maria Sharapova are singing, dancing and fashion. She loves reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. She is fond of fashionable evening gowns. She likes pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks.

5. **How did Maria react to the behaviour of other Tennis pupils?**

Ans. The undesirable behaviour of other tennis pupils did not depress Maria. Rather, she became more determined and mentally tough. She learnt how to take care of herself. She never thought of quitting the game of tennis.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Do you think despite living in the United States of America, Maria Sharapova is Russian at heart?**

Ans. Maria's father brought her to America when she was in her ninth year. She got her tennis training there. She struggled and made sacrifices there. To some extent she might have adopted the American style, but she is definitely Russian at heart.

Maria Sharapova speaks with a pronounced American accent. Her hobbies might be fashion, singing and music. She might be fond of reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. She might be liking pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks. But she proudly says that she is Russian, she has Russian citizenship and her blood totally Russian. She also says that she will play in the Olympics for Russia if they want her. Therefore, she is definitely a Russian at heart.

2. **And that something in her lifted her on Monday, 22 August 2005 to the world number one position in women's tennis. What do you think was something**

in Maria due to which she reached the top?

Ans. The young Maria's life is full of struggles and sacrifices. She was sent for training in tennis from Russia to the United States of America when she had not even celebrated her tenth birthday. She had gone there with her father but her mother was not able to accompany her. She felt lonely and depressed because she missed her mother terribly.

Maria was humiliated and insulted by the other tennis pupils. Being young, she would sleep at 8 p.m. But they would come at 11 p.m. wake her up and order her to clean the room. But Maria was not at all discouraged. Rather, she became more determined and mentally tough.

I think Maria was able to get the number one position in women's tennis in 2005 because of her strong will, firm determination, mental toughness, and hard work. She was prepared to suffer humiliation and insults to fulfill her dream and to achieve her goal. Her reaching the top in women's tennis when she was just eighteen years old is an ample proof of it.



On Killing a Tree

(Gieve Patel)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. How much time does it take to kill a tree?

Ans. It takes a lot of time to kill a tree.

2. How has a tree grown big?

Ans. A tree has grown big by consuming the earth and rising out of it after feeding on its hard outer surface.

3. What has a tree been absorbing?

Ans. A tree has been absorbing sunlight, air and water.

4. How should we kill a tree?

Ans. We should kill a tree by hacking and chopping it.

5. What should we do to kill a tree permanently?

Ans. To kill a tree permanently, we should take out its roots from the earth.

6. Where does the strength of a tree lie?

Ans. The strength of a tree lies in its roots.

7. What should be done to the roots of a tree?

Ans. The roots of a tree should be snapped and taken out of the earth.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. What would happen to the roots of a tree when they are pulled out and left exposed?

Ans. The pulled-out roots will get scorched in the sun. It will turn brown in its colour. It will harden and get twisted. It will wither and become dead.

2. Where does a tree get its nourishment from?

Ans. A tree gets its nourishment from the earth. It feeds on the Earth's crust. It absorbs the sunlight, air, and water.

3. Can a tree survive if it is hacked but not uprooted?

Ans. According to the poet, when a tree is hacked or cut roughly by striking heavy blows, it can still survive until it is uprooted. Then, close to the ground, very small curled green branches will rise again.

4. What, according, to the poet, is a tree consuming or absorbing?

Ans. According to the poet, a tree consumes the earth and feeds on its crust. It has been absorbing sunlight, air, and water for many years. The tree grows by consuming and absorbing all these.



Long Answer Type Question

1. How does a tree grow up? Explain it

Ans. A tree takes many years to grow. After sprouting out from a seed, it grows gradually. Its root gets nutrition from the earth. Sunlight, air, and water further nourish it. Out of its bark, tender green branches shoot out and leaves grow all over them. After a long span of time, the tree stands so strong and sturdy. It can survive even the wounds which are inflicted with a knife. In fact, chopping and hacking are not able to kill it as the wounds get healed. Branches appear again even from the stump and in due course attain their original size. As long as the roots of the tree remain intact under the earth, the tree keeps growing.



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. How many temples does the narrator visit?**
Ans. The narrator visits two temples -Pashupatinath and Baudhnath Shrine.
- 2. Who considers the temples sacred?**
Ans. The Hindus and the Buddhists consider the temple sacred.
- 3. What does Vikram Seth find outside and inside the temple?**
Ans. The author finds a sort of confusion outside and inside the temple
- 4. Which persons are found roaming through the ground here?**
Ans. Priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists mingled with birds and animals are found roaming through the ground here.
- 5. Who appears there in the temple?**
Ans. A royal princess of Nepalese royal house appears there in the temple.
- 6. Who are the only people allowed to enter?**
Ans. Only the Hindus are the people allowed to enter.
- 7. Which river flows below the Pashupatinath Temple?**
Ans. The holy Bagmati river flows below the Pashupatinath Temple.
- 8. Who runs the shops there?**
Ans. Tibetan Immigrants run the shops there.
- 9. Where is the flute seller standing?**
Ans. The flute seller is standing in a corner of the square near the hotel.

- 10. What things does the author buy from the Kathmandu bazaar?**

Ans. The author buys a bar of marzipan, a corn on the cob on the pavement, some comics and a Reader's digest.



Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. Describe the bazaar of Kathmandu as described by the author.**
Ans. The bazaar of Kathmandu has been described as very noisy, by the author. The hawkers are shouting to sell their goods, film songs blare out from the radios. There is the sound of car horns and the ringing of bicycle bells.
- 2. What kind of goods were mainly sold in the Kathmandu bazaar?**
Ans. In the Kathmandu bazaar, fruits, flutes, postcards, Western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolates, copper utensils and Nepalese antiques were mainly sold when the author visited it.
- 3. Why is a party of Westerners struggling outside the Pashupatinath?**
Ans. A party of Westerners is struggling for permission to enter Pashupatinath. There the entry is for the Hindus only. The policemen are not convinced that they are Hindus.
- 4. How does the author find the atmosphere at the Baudhnath Shrine?**
Ans. The author finds a sense of stillness in and around Baudhnath Shrine. He finds the atmosphere

there very calm, quiet and peaceful. There is no disorderliness of any kind. There is no crowd and hustle and bustle even in the bazaar around the shrine.

5. Why does the author describe the atmosphere at Pashupatinath as that of 'febrile confusion'?

Ans. The author finds the atmosphere at Pashupatinath confusing and feverish. He finds the priests, the hawkers, the devotees, the tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roaming through the ground. Devotees are pushing one another to go to the front.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. " I look at the flute seller standing in a corner of the square near the hotel". How does the author describe the flute seller?

Ans. Vikram Seth observes the flute seller standing in a corner of the square near his hotel. In his hand is a pole with an attachment at the top, from which fifty or sixty bansuris are hanging. He carries with him flutes of various kinds. Some are made out of bamboo. There are also cross flutes and recorders.

From time to time, the flute seller stands the Pole on the ground. Then he selects a flute and plays for a few minutes. The sound of his flute clearly rises above the noise of the traffic and the hawker's cries. He plays slowly, meditatively and without excessive display. He does not shout to sell his flutes. He appeared to the author that for him, playing the flute was perhaps more important than selling the flutes.

2. With whom, and how does the author visit the Pashupatinath temple? What does he observe there?

Ans. The author Vikram Seth visits the Pashupatinath temple in the morning, accompanied by Mr. Shah's son and nephew. He finds complete chaos and confusion outside and inside the temple. He observes priests, hawkers, devotees, and tourists mingled with the birds and animals roaming through the ground. A large number of worshippers were pushing one another. They all wanted to go to the front to draw the attention of the priest.

When a princess of the Nepalese royal house appears, everyone bows and makes way. A party of Westerners wearing saffron clothes struggles to seek permission to enter the temple. Only Hindus are allowed entry. The policeman is not convinced that they are Hindus.

3. What did the author observe at the Bagmati river and at the Baudhnath shrine?

Ans. The holy river Bagmati flows below the Pashupatinath temple. The author saw that the corpse was being cremated on its bank. The washerwomen were washing clothes. The children were taking bath there. The small shrine near the Bagmati looked half visible to him. It is believed that when the shrine would emerge fully, the evil period of the Kaliyug would come to an end on the earth. At the Baudhnath shrine he felt "a sense of stillness". On its outer edge he saw small shops run by Tibetan immigrants. Felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery were sold there. There were no crowds in the busy streets around. The author observed that the atmosphere was calm and quiet.

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A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

(William Wordsworth)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **What happens to the poet's loved one?**
Ans. The poet's loved one died.
2. **What does the poet feel?**
Ans. The poet feels that a deep, short sleep has sealed his soul.
3. **What will not affect his loved one?**
Ans. His loved one seemed to be a person to whom the passing of time will no longer affect.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. **What does the title of the poem 'A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal' signify?**
Ans. The poet's dear one has unfortunately died. A deep short sleep has numbed his senses. It has sealed or closed off the soul or mind.
2. **What does William Wordsworth convey in his poem 'A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal'?**
Ans. The poet's loved one has died. But he feels that the passing of time will no longer affect her now. Now she won't move or run about. She can neither hear nor see. She moves over and over again like rocks, stones and trees. She is one with nature.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Give a brief analysis of the poem 'A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal' in your own words.**
Ans.

Introduction: In the poem 'A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal' the poet describes his beloved after her death.

Feel very depressed: In the first stanza, the poet says that the death of his beloved has made him very sad. He says that his beloved has now become a non-living thing and she cannot feel the touch of anything on the earth.

Assimilate with Earth: In the second stanza, he says that his beloved has no motion. She can neither hear any sound nor can she see anything. She is trapped under the earth and revolves with rocks, stones, and trees.

2. **How does the poet react to the untimely, sudden and shocking death of his beloved? What does he imagine her to be after her death?**

Ans. The poet has stunned by the sudden and untimely death of his beloved. It is not easy to express the poet's feelings in words. Actually, a deep slumber 'sealed' his spirit. He felt as if he were in a deep sleep. This deep sleep seems to have closed off his body and soul.

She is no more and will not be affected by the earthly years. She is not affected by the touch of the five physical senses. She cannot feel any motion, movement, or force. Yet, she will become an inseparable part of nature. Physical death doesn't mean that will be condemned to an everlasting death. No, she will roll around in Earth's diurnal course. She will become one with rocks, stones and trees.

If I Were You

(Douglas James)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Where do we find Gerrard in the opening scene?**
Ans. In the opening scene, we find Gerrard on the phone.
2. **Where does Gerrard live?**
Ans. The Gerrard lives in a secluded cottage in Essex.
3. **In which work is Gerrard shown busy?**
Ans. Gerrard is shown busy with his packing.
4. **Who enters the cottage?**
Ans. An Intruder with a revolver in his hand enters the cottage.
5. **Who seeks whose permission to sit on the chair?**
Ans. With the permission of the intruder, Gerrard sits down on his chair.
6. **Where is the car at present?**
Ans. The car is lying in the garage.
7. **Name the persons, who visit the cottage frequently.**
Ans. The baker, greengrocer, and milkman visit the cottage frequently.
8. **Who opens the door?**
Ans. Gerrard opens the door.
9. **Who pushed him and where?**
Ans. Gerrard pushed the intruder into the cupboard.
10. **Why is the intruder shouting?**
Ans. The intruder is shouting to let him out.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Where and how does Gerrard live?**
Ans. Gerrard lives alone in a lonely cottage in Essex.

There is an entrance at the back. There is another door to the left. The furniture in his cottage is simple. It consists of a small table, a chair, and a divan. There is a telephone on the table.

2. **Who is hunting the intruder and why?**

Ans. The intruder, being a criminal, is being hunted by the police, because he killed a policeman. He is being chased by the police for this as well as for other crimes committed by him. The police wants to arrest him for the crimes committed by the intruder.

3. **How does Gerrard try to convince the intruder, that his plan will fail miserably?**

Ans. Gerrard tells the intruder that his plan is going to fail miserably because, assuming Gerrard's, identity won't help him. Being a criminal, Gerrard had shot bullets when 'things went wrong' and if the intruder impersonated him, he was sure to be hanged.

4. **How does Gerrard able to get rid of the intruder?**

Ans. Gerrard somehow is able to convince the intruder that he is a criminal, like an intruder. Then he opens the door and away. The intruder leans forward and Gerrard pushes him into the cupboard. He points out his revolver at the door and locks the cupboard.

5. **What does Gerrard tell the intruder about himself?**

Ans. The intruder is interested in knowing a few things about Gerrard. Gerrard told the intruder that, when he was a child, he was stolen by the Gypsies. The intruder interrupts him. When Gerrard wants to tell him why at the age of thirty-two, he is living all alone in the cottage



Long Answer Type Questions

1. What story does Gerrard tell the Intruder about himself? Do you think it is a true story?

Ans. Gerrard tells the Intruder that he too, is a criminal like him. He says that once things went wrong with him. He had to use bullets. He was able to get away. But the police got one of his men. They found from him some papers. The man should have burnt these papers. But he hadn't. The police found them. From those papers, they came to know of Gerrard's name and address. Now they could reach there any time. Gerrard says that he had packed his bag and was ready to run away.

It is not a true story. Gerrard has made it up to trap

the Intruder. He wants to have him arrested.

2. How does Gerrard make a fool of the Intruder and have him arrested?

Ans. Gerrard talks to the Intruder pleasantly. He tells him that he too is a criminal like him. He says that once things went wrong with him. He used bullets. He was able to get away. But now the police were after him. They had found his name and address. He could be arrested at any time. So he packed his bag. He had planned to run away in his car. He opened a door. He says the door leads to his garage. The intruder believes Gerrard's story. He agrees to run away with him. But as soon as he steps in. Gerrard locks the door. It is not the door to any garage. It is the door of the cupboard. Thus, Gerrard traps the intruder and has him arrested.

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Supplementary

The Lost Child

(By Mulk Raj Anand)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Where was the child going to?

Ans. The child was going to participate in the fair.

2. Who were with him?

Ans. His parents were with him.

3. Which festival was going to be celebrated?

Ans. The spring festival was going to be celebrated.

4. Who lifted the child in his arms?

Ans. A man lifted the child in his arms.

5. What was the child saying?

Ans. The child was saying that he wanted his mother and father.

6. Where did the child start running to?

Ans. The child started running towards the shrine.

7. Where were the flowers lying in heaps?

Ans. The flowers were lying in the basket.

8. Which sweet was the child's favourite?

Ans. The child's favourite sweet was burfi.

9. Where did his parents sit to rest a while?

Ans. His parents sat down to rest in the shade of a grove.

10. Why did he start jumping and dancing?

Ans. When the child saw a dove and heard the music of a koel, he started jumping and dancing.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. How did the father distract the child's mind from the toy seller?

Ans. The child was fascinated by the toys in the shop. He told his parents that he wanted a toy. But his father gave him a stern and angry look and diverted his mind from the toy seller.

2. What was the child's reaction at the flower seller's shop?

Ans. The child went towards the basket of flowers. He half murmured that he wanted a garland of flowers. As the child knew that his parents would not let him buy the garland, he moved on without waiting for their reply.

3. How did the child react when they passed through the mustard fields?

Ans. The child was filled with joy and wonder when they passed through the vast mustard fields. He was jumping like a young colt. He was chasing the dragonflies and butterflies.

4. How did the child realise that his parents were not with him? What was his immediate reaction?

Ans. The child had gone near the roundabout. When he asked his parents for a ride in the roundabout. There was no reply. He turned round, but could not find his parents. Then he cried loudly, wept and looked for his parents in all directions.

5. Describe briefly the scene outside the shrine.

Ans. There was a big crowd outside the shrine. Every inch of the space was congested with people. The crowd became very thick near the entrance to the temple. Men were jostling with one another.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **What were the attractions and temptations for the child when he went to the spring fair with his parents?**

Ans. The little child was very excited when he started for the festival fair. He was first fascinated by the toys in wayside shops. Then he followed the black bee or butterfly with his eyes. He was attracted even by insects and worms along the footpath. He collected flowers and liked the cooing of the doves. He wanted to have burfi, a garland of flowers the rainbow coloured balloons. He wanted to hear the flute music of the snake charmer. Finally, he wanted to go on the roundabout. He made a bold request to his father. He got no answer. He turned round. He discovered to his horror that he was lost in the fair.

2. **What happened after the child got separated from his parents?**

Ans. The child started crying as soon as he realised that his parents were not with him. He ran hither and thither in search of his parents. But he could not find them. He started crying in a shrill voice.

His yellow turban became loose. His clothes became muddy and wet with perspiration. Then he ran towards the shrine. The crowd there was very thick. He could be trampled. Just then, a kind-hearted man picked him up in his arms. He tried to soothe the child by offering the things he wanted earlier. But the child wanted his parents only.

3. **How did the child react on seeing the flower seller and the balloon seller?**

Ans. In the spring festival, a flower seller was selling different kinds of flowers. The child was attracted by the fragrance of these flowers. He went towards the basket of flowers. He half -murmured that he wanted a garland of flowers. The child knew that his parents would not buy him the flowers. So, he moved on without waiting for the reaction of his parents. Then he saw a man holding a pole with balloons of various colours flying from it. The child wanted to have all the balloons. However, the child knew that his parents would not buy these balloons. So, he moved on further.

The Adventures of Toto

(Ruskin Bond)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Who was Toto to?**
Ans. Toto was a baby monkey, a little red mischievous monkey.
- Why did grandfather call Toto a pretty monkey?**
Ans. Toto was a pretty monkey because it had bright eyes, and pearly white teeth. Only his hands looked dried up.
- What was grandfather's reaction to the first day mischief of Toto?**
Ans. The author was afraid of grandmother's reaction, but grandfather seemed pleased with Toto's mischiefs.
- How did the ticket collector deal with Toto?**
Ans. The ticket collector charged three rupees as railway fare because he classified Toto as a dog.
- How did the Toto harass the family donkey, Nana?**
Ans. Toto was put in the stable with the family donkey, Nana. Toto poked his sharp teeth into Nana's long ears and did not let her eat hay.
- How did Toto copy the author's style of taking a hot bath?**
Ans. Toto first tested the temperature of water with his hand. Then he stepped into the bowl step by step. He rubbed the soap all over his body.
- How was Toto rescued from getting boiled?**
Ans. Grandmother, by chance, discovered Toto inside the large kettle placed on fire. She pulled him, half-boiled, out.
- Who tore the wall paper?**

Ans. Toto tore the wall paper.

- Which thing was found in tiny shreds?**

Ans. The author's school blazer was found in tiny pieces.



Short Answer Type Questions

- How did Toto behave when he was shifted to the servant's quarters with other pets?**
Ans. Toto was a mischievous monkey. When he was shifted to a big cage in the servant's quarters, he would not allow the other pets to sleep at night. There the pets were living together quite amicably.
- What mischief did Toto do in the closet adjoining the author's bedroom?**
Ans. Toto had torn the wallpaper and the walls stood out as naked brick and plaster. The peg in the wall had been wrenched from its socket by Toto. The author's school blazer was found to be in shreds.
- How did the author's grandfather add Toto to his private zoo?**
Ans. Toto was a little monkey. He was with a tonga driver, who used to keep it tied to a feeding trough. The author's grandfather found the monkey quite out of place there. So, he bought him and added to his private zoo.
- What did the Toto do when the author's grandfather was producing tickets at the Saharanpur railway station?**
Ans. Toto was taken to Saharanpur packed in a big canvas bag. He remained in the bag as far as they reached Saharanpur. But when grandfather was

producing his ticket, Toto poked his head out of the bag. Toto gave the ticket collector a wide grin.

5. Why was Toto sold back to the tonga driver?

Ans. Toto had grown extraordinary mischievous. The author's family could not tolerate the frequent loss of dishes, clothes, curtains and wallpaper. So, Toto could not be kept for a longer period. He was sold back to the tonga driver for three rupees.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Narrate the incident when Toto was taken to Saharanpur?

Ans. Toto was disturbing other animals. So the author's grandfather decided to take Toto to Saharanpur with him. He was going there to collect his pension. The author's grandfather put Toto in a big black canvas kit-bag, with some straw at the bottom. Toto remained in the bag till they reached Saharanpur. But grandfather was producing his ticket, and Toto suddenly poked his head out of the bag. Toto gave the ticket collector a wide grin. The ticket collector was taken aback. He told the grandfather that he would have to pay the fare because he was carrying a dog. The author's grandfather argued that it was a monkey and not a dog. But it had no effect on the ticket collector. Therefore, grandfather had to pay three rupees as Toto's fare.

2. Give a brief account of the adventures of Toto. How did he get on the nerves of one and all?

Ans. Toto was a little red monkey. He was pretty in a way. He had bright eyes and pearly teeth. But he was very mischievous and wicked. He was bought by the writer's grandfather from a tonga driver. He was first put in a closet and tied to a peg in the wall. He tore off all the wallpaper, pulled out the peg and tore the coat into small bits. He was put into a big cage with other pets. But he did not let any animal sleep at night put in the stable, he made life miserable for the donkey, Nana. He nearly half-boiled himself. He frightened the aunts, broke the plates and ate away the pulao. Thus, he got on the nerves of everybody. The grandfather got rid of him soon.

3. How did Toto torment his companions in the big cage and the stable?

Ans. Toto was very mischievous by nature. He was not friendly to anybody. He was transferred to a big cage. His companions were a tortoise, a pair of rabbits, and a tame squirrel. These pets used to live peacefully together. But this wicked red monkey did not allow his companions to sleep at night. He was given then a comfortable home in the stable. His companion there was the family donkey, Nana. On the very first night, he hung onto the long ear of Nana, using his sharp teeth. He didn't let Nana eat the dry grass. Toto and Nana never became friends.

Iswaran the Storyteller

(R.K. Laxman)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Who was Iswaran?**
Ans. Iswaran was the housekeeper and constant companion of Mahendra.
- Who was Mahendra?**
Ans. Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a firm. He was sent out to different sites to supervise the work.
- What was the amazing quality of Iswaran as a cook?**
Ans. The amazing quality of Iswaran as a cook was that he could arrange vegetables and cooking material even in desolate places. He cooked delicious dishes within an hour.
- Which two qualities of Tamil book held Iswaran in thrall?**
Ans. The imaginative descriptions and narrative flourishes of Tamil thrillers were enjoyed most by Iswaran.
- What was it that greatly influenced Iswaran's own descriptions?**
Ans. Iswaran's own descriptions were greatly influenced by the Tamil stories that he read regularly.
- Who did Iswaran compare the fallen tree across the road to?**
Ans. Iswaran compared the fallen tree across the road to some huge bushy beast.
- How did Iswaran describe the ghost?**
Ans. Iswaran said that he had seen the ghost of an ugly woman with matted hair, carrying a foetus in her arms on full moon night.

- Where did the elephant reach?**

Ans. The elephant reached the outskirts of the Iswaran's town.

- What did Iswaran say about the factory area where Mahendra was living?**

Ans. One night Iswaran told a story about ghosts and spirits. He said that the factory area where they lived was once a graveyard. He had seen human skulls and bones there.

- In what mood did Mahendra listen to Iswaran's tales?**

Ans. Mahendra used to listen to Iswaran's tales quietly and uncritically. He didn't bother whether the tales were believable or not.



Short Answer Type Questions

- What services did Iswaran render to Mahendra?**

Ans. Iswaran did all the odd jobs for Mahendra. He cooked meals, washed clothes, cleaned his room and finally chatted with his master in the evening. With a storyteller like him, there was no need for a TV.

- Why did Mahendra expect Iswaran to sulk for a couple of days?**

Ans. Mahendra shivered at the description of ghosts and spirits. He called Iswaran a liar, a crazy fellow who should get his digestive system and head examined. He expected to find Iswaran sulking the next morning.

- What did the tusker do to create panic in the town?**

Ans. One day a tusker went mad and escaped from the timber yard. It broke the branches and smashed

the stalls, selling fruits, mud pots and clothes. It pulled out the goal post and uprooted shrubs. Naturally, people got panicky.

4. How did Mahendra react on seeing a cloudy figure in the moonlight?

Ans. Mahendra saw a dark, cloudy figure in the moonlight. She was carrying a bundle. He sweated due to fear, moaned and fell back on the pillow.

5. What made Mahendra resign from his job and leave the place?

Ans. Iswaran's description of the haunted factory site, where they lived, unnerved him. He decided to leave such a place at once. He submitted his registration and got away the very next day.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Give a brief account of Iswaran's skills as a cook and as a storyteller?

Ans. Iswaran was the constant companion of Mahendra, junior supervisor. He served his master as a wonderful cook and a housekeeper. Iswaran managed to get vegetables and other cooking things even in desolate places. He prepared breakfast and lunch for Mahendra in the morning. Then he washed his clothes and cleaned the room. But that was not all. He also entertained Mahendra with his tales of adventure, horror and suspense in the evening. He made up for the absence of any TV. His skill as a storyteller was acquired from his reading of Tamil novels. Thus, he was an asset for Mahendra.

2. How did Iswaran take all the credit for controlling the mad tusker?

Ans. Iswaran was good at telling imaginary tales. He packed his stories of adventure with suspense. Once he narrated an event about a mad elephant. That big animal escaped from the timber yard. It uprooted trees and creepers. It reached the town. People ran here and there in panic. It entered a school playground. Iswaran was then studying in a junior class. He took a cane and went out to control the mad beast. He hit its third toe nail. The animal collapsed. A vet was called to revive it. Two days later, it was led away by its mahout to the jungle.

3. Why did Mahendra scold and get rid of Iswaran? What induced him to leave the haunted place in a hurry?

Ans. Iswaran was good at weaving out stories. He had developed the skill by reading Tamil novels. Every evening he used to entertain Mahendra with his tales. One night he said that the area, where they were staying, was once a graveyard. He had seen there not only human skulls and bones but also the ghost of an old woman on full moon nights. Mahendra was filled with fear. But he called Iswaran a mad fellow with a sick mind. Mahendra was so much unnerved that he resigned and left the haunted place the very next day.

In the Kingdom of Fools

(A.K. Ramanujan)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was finally found fit for the stake? On What grounds?

Ans. The disciple was found fit for execution, because he was fat enough to fit the stake.

2. Both the guru and his disciple were delighted? Why?

Ans. Both were delighted because they could buy all the food they wanted for a duddu.

3. What was decided by the king and the idiots of the kingdom of fools?

Ans. They decided to change night into day and day into night.

4. What was the punishment for disobeying the rule of the kingdom?

Ans. Anyone who disobeyed the rule of the kingdom would be punished with death.

5. Who came to the kingdom of fools, without knowing the rules of the kingdom?

Ans. One day a guru and his disciple came to the kingdom of fools.

6. Why did the disciple not want to leave that kingdom?

Ans. The disciple did not want to leave the kingdom, as everything was cheap there.

7. What were the things the disciple started eating every day?

Ans. The disciple started eating bananas, ghee, rice, and wheat every day.

8. Who came to the king to make a complaint?

Ans. The thief's brother came to the king to make a complaint.

9. Why did the bricklayer not make the wall properly?

Ans. The bricklayer did not make the wall properly because of a dancing girl, whose anklet's jingling sound distracted him.

10. What problem was seen while giving the punishment to the old merchant?

Ans. The merchant was too thin to be executed on that stake.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. What new schemes did the idiot king introduce in his state?

Ans. The king wanted to do something new and different from all others. He ordered his people to use the day for rest and the night for work. He also made it compulsory that everything be sold cheap, just for a duddu.

2. How did the bricklayer save his skin?

Ans. The merchant blamed the bricklayer or mason for making a weak wall. The bricklayer passed on the blame to the dancing girl who had distracted his mind.

3. What sound advice did the wise guru give to his disciple?

Ans. The wise guru foresaw the problems arising at some later date. So he told his disciple to pack up and go. But all that the greedy disciple wanted was good, cheap food. So he decided to stay on.

4. Now justice had come full circle, thought the king,

back to the merchant. Explain?

Ans. The goldsmith named the merchant as a real culprit, responsible for the death of the burglar. The king was satisfied with the explanation. He decided to hang the merchant.

5. Who saved the merchant from execution?

Ans. The merchant was going to be executed for causing the death of the burglar. The stake was made ready. But the minister pointed out that the merchant was too thin to fit the stake. So they should find some fat man in place of the merchant.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. What trick did the guru play to save his disciple's life and to befool the king?

Ans. The disciple was an innocent Sanyasi, still he was chosen for execution because he was fat enough to fit the stake. The poor fellow remembered the guru in his heart. The guru rushed to his disciple's rescue. He played a trick and made a secret plan to befool the king. He insisted on being executed first. The disciple also wanted to die first. This intrigued the king. He called the guru to explain the mystery. The guru said that the one who died first on that stake of justice would be reborn as king of the state. The second to die on it would be the future minister. The king took the bait. He and his minister set free the guru and the disciple, and embraced death themselves.

2. What were the dancer and the goldsmith accused of? Were they able to defend themselves?

Ans. The king accused the dancer of distracting the mind of the bricklayer. The bricklayer built a bad wall because she was going up and down the street. This distracted the attention of the bricklayer.

The dancer pleaded that she was walking up and down the street because the goldsmith had not made her jewellery on time. Therefore, the goldsmith was summoned to the court. The goldsmith pleaded that the delay in making the dancer's jewellery was due to the pending order of making jewellery by a rich merchant. He had a wedding coming, and he would not wait. That is why there was delay in making jewellery for the dancer. The rich merchant turned out to be the same whose wall had fallen on the thief. The dancing girl and the goldsmith were thus able to put the blame on the merchant.

3. At the end, the disciple was in the bloody grip of the king. How was he saved by his guru?

Ans. The disciple was found fat enough to fit on the stake. Then he prayed to his guru in his heart. The guru arrived at once to save his disciple. The guru said something in a whisper to the disciple. Then the guru and his disciple got into a fight about who should be put to stake first. The king became curious to know why the guru wanted to die. The guru told the king that whoever died on this new stake of the God of justice would be reborn as king of that country. And whoever went next would be the future minister of the country.

Being convinced, the king and the minister decided to go on the stake themselves. They did it so that they would be reborn as king and minister, respectively. Disguised as the guru and the disciple, they were taken to the stake and were promptly executed.

The Happy Prince

(Oscar Wilde)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Who does "The Happy Prince" refer to?**
Ans. The Happy Prince refers to a beautiful statue. It was placed on a high column.
- Was the prince really happy? If not, why not?**
Ans. No, the prince was not happy but very sad at heart. The sight of the ugliness and misery of the city made him weep.
- What was the Prince's heart made of? Was he, in fact, hard-hearted or soft-hearted?**
Ans. The prince had a human heart when he was alive. But after his death, a heart made of lead was put into his breast. But he remained soft-hearted and kind.
- What did the poor, hungry and cold playwright say (assume) on seeing the sapphire?**
Ans. The young, poor and hungry playwright cried with joy and surprise to see the sapphire. He thought that readers had started appreciating his work.
- How many drops of water fell on the bird? Where from did they come?**
Ans. Three large drops of water fell on the bird, although the sky was clear. These were, in fact, teardrops of the prince. He was weeping to see the suffering of the poor in the city.
- What did the Happy Prince see in the city from his high pedestal?**
Ans. The prince saw widespread ugliness and misery in the city. The swallow brought to him the story of starving children, beggars, and toys looking

in the dark lanes.

- No, I will stay with you always" said the swallow. When did he take that decision?**
Ans. The swallow took a major decision because his dear prince had lost both his sapphires and become stone blind. He refused to leave such a great, noble soul alone.
- How did the snow and frost affect the swallow and the prince?**
Ans. When the snow came, it was followed by frost. The poor little bird grew colder and colder. He kissed the prince and fell dead at his feet. Just then, the prince's heart of lead cracked and broke in two. The two reasons were his grief and the hard frost.
- Why was the statue pulled down and sent to the foundry?**
Ans. The statue of the prince looked ugly like a beggar after losing his precious stones and the gold leaves. The Mayor ordered the shabby statue to be sent to be melted in a furnace.
- Who really recognized the sacrifice and services of the prince and the bird? How were they rewarded?**
Ans. Only God and his angel recognized with joy the sacrifices and services of the prince as well as the swallow. God allowed them to live permanently in paradise.



Short Answer Type Questions

- What was the problem with the match girl? How was she saved from punishment?**
Ans. The problem with the match girl was that her matches had fallen into the gutter. She was afraid

of punishment from her father. The prince sent the second sapphire to her as a help.

2. **What did the little swallow die of? What did he do just before he fell dead?**

Ans. The little swallow died of cold. He was on the verge of death. He flew up to the prince's shoulder and kissed him because he liked him. Soon he fell down dead at his feet.

3. **How did the Prince help the poor playwright?**

Ans. The prince saw a poor young playwright in a small room. He had no fire to keep himself warm and no food to fill his belly. The prince sent one of its sapphires to him.

4. **What did the prince tell the bird about his heart and tears?**

Ans. The happy prince's statue stood on a high pedestal. He could not move from his place. But he felt very sad to see the suffering of the poor. With the help of the little bird, he tried his best to help the poor with jewels and gold leaves. He shed tears. His heart also smashed in two.

5. **Do you think the sacrifices made by the prince and the bird go in vain?**

Ans. No, the great sacrifices made by the prince and bird did not go in vain. The dead bird and the broken heart of the prince were thrown on a dust heap. But the angel took them to God, who rewarded both. He let them stay forever in paradise.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **What information do you gather about the character and services of the happy prince?**

Ans. The happy prince was a beautiful statue. He

was covered with gold. He had two blue stones (sapphires) for his eyes. He had a ruby on his sword silt. When he was alive, he did not know what tears were. He was truly happy. After his death, his statue was set up on a high pillar. He had a human heart, although it was made of lead metal. From his place, he saw the ugliness of the city and the misery of the poor people. His heart was moved with pity. He could only weep because he could not move from his place. He decided to help the poor and make them happy. He took the services of a little bird in his noble task. He gave away all his previous metals and gold leaves to a poor tailor woman, a playwright, a match girl, and starving children. He was a great soul.

2. **Describe how the prince helped the poor and the needy people.**

Ans. "The Happy Prince" was a beautiful statue. He was put up on a high column. He had gold leaves on his body, two precious blue stones for his eyes, and a red ruby on his sword. Although he had a leaden heart, he still felt sorry for the poor. He himself could not move from his place. He shed tears helplessly. He was ready to part with all his gold and precious stones. His wish was fulfilled by a bird. The little swallow first carried the ruby to a poor seamstress whose son was unwell. He then took the sapphires to a tired and cold playwright and a crying match girl. The prince became blind. But he still had gold leaves to give to the hungry people who lived in the dark lanes. His sacrifices left him ugly, looking like a beggar. But God rewarded him handsomely for his services.

6

Weather the Storm in Ersama

(By Harsh Mander)



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. The cyclone hit Orissa on 27th October, 1999.
2. When the cyclone hit Orissa, Prashant was in a small coastal town of Orissa, 18 km from his village.
3. Prashant had gone to Ersama to spend a day with his friend.
4. The name of Prashant's village was Kalikuda.
5. Prashant met friends of his uncle on his way back to the village.
6. Prashant had to push away human bodies and carcasses of dogs, cattle and goats.
7. Prashant found that a large number of children had been orphaned.
8. Prashant's heart went cold when he reached his village.
9. Prashant travelled on foot and swimming through the deep water back to his village.
10. In Prashant's village people received food, dropped by helicopters.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. The rain water was entering the house during the super cyclone. So, Prashant and his friend's family remained on the roof of the house for two days.
2. Two coconut trees had fallen on the roof of the house. Prashant and his friend's family lived on them. They got their food from the tender coconuts.
3. There was water everywhere. To travel back to his village, Prashant had to use his stick to locate the road. At some places, it was waist deep water and the movement was slow. Sometimes he lost the road and had to swim. He had to push away many human bodies floating on the water.
4. The cyclone lasted for two days. Prashant and his friend's family spent the stormy night on the open roof of the house. They froze in the cold and continuous rain. They survived by eating the tender

coconuts.

5. When Prashant reached his village, his heart sank. His house was nowhere to be seen. His family was nowhere. In order to look for his family, he went to Red Cross shelter. He saw his grandmother there. He came to know that eighty six lives were lost in his village and all the ninety six houses had been washed away.
6. A military helicopter dropped some parcels but it did not return. The volunteers asked the children to lie in the sand with empty utensils on their stomach. This way they were successful in telling the helicopters that they were hungry. So the helicopters dropped regular food and other supplies to them.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. On 27th October 1999, Prashant went to meet one of his friends who lived in Ersama. It was 18 km from his village. In the evening, a super cyclone came. Winds beat against the houses with great fury. There was heavy and continuous rain. Houses and people were washed away in the flood. His friend's house was made of bricks and cement. It was strong enough to survive the wind blowing at 350 km per hour. Two coconut trees were uprooted and fell on their house. To escape the waters arising in the house, Prashant and his friend's family took refuge on the roof.

For the next two days, Prashant sat huddled with his friend's family on the rooftop. They froze in cold and rain. In the morning, Prashant saw the destruction caused by the cyclone. There was a sheet of water everywhere. Only parts of cemented houses were visible. All other houses had been washed away. Even huge trees had fallen. Bloating dead bodies of animals and human beings were floating everywhere.

2. The cyclone caused a lot of damage in Prashant's village and surrounding areas. He decided to help

his own family and the others. He organised a group of youths. They pressurized the local merchant to give rice to the starving villagers. They burnt fire and cooked the rice. His next step was to clean the place of filth, dirt, urine and floating dead bodies. They tended the wounds and fractures of injured people. On the fifth day, a military helicopter dropped food, but it did not return. Prashant and others devised a plan to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie with empty utensils on their stomach. This was done to communicate

that they were hungry. This scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly.

Prashant brought the orphaned children and made a shelter for them. He asked the women to look after them. He found that women and children were sinking deeper and deeper into their grief, he made their foster families to start their lives again. All were settled in their own community.

The Last Leaf

(William Sydney)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Where did the two young artists live?**
Ans. The two young artists lived in a small flat.
2. **What was Johnsy suffering from?**
Ans. Johnsy was suffering from pneumonia.
3. **What was there on the opposite wall?**
Ans. On the opposite wall, there was an old ivy creeper.
4. **Who was worried deeply at the doctor's words?**
Ans. Sue, her friend, was deeply worried at the doctor's words.
5. **What were the two ailments of Johnsy?**
Ans. Johnsy had pneumonia in November. She fell ill. She started waiting for her death. Her ailment was more psychological than physical. She had lost the will to live, so medicines did not help her.
6. **What excuse did Sue give for calling on old Behrman?**
Ans. Sue said that she needed an old model for her painting. So she went to old Behrman's room and told him about Johnsy's illness.
7. **What did the doctor tell Sue about old Behrman?**
Ans. The doctor told Sue that old Behrman was also suffering from pneumonia, and there was no hope for him.
8. **Where was the real leaf at that time?**
Ans. The real leaf had fallen in heavy rain.
9. **What did the Johnsy see the next morning?**
Ans. Johnsy saw that the ivy leaf was still there.
10. **Why was Johnsy asked to close her eyes?**

Ans. Johnsy was asked to close her eyes because Sue wanted to finish her painting.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. **Why did Johnsy keep looking out of the window?**
Ans. Johnsy was suffering from pneumonia. She had a strange notion that she would die in her bed without moving. She would be just looking out of the window. Her friend Sue looked after her very well.
2. **How did Behrman react to Johnsy's linking the last leaf with her death?**
Ans. Behrman was an old painter. He lived on the ground floor. She told Behrman how Johnsy was convinced that she would die when the last leaf fell. Behrman called it stupid and foolish.
3. **What sacrifice did Behrman make for Johnsy?**
Ans. Behrman went out in the stormy night to paint the ivy leaf. He did this just to save Johnsy's life. He painted it in the night the last leaf fell. But unfortunately, he had pneumonia and died because of it.
4. **How did Sue try to keep Johnsy cheerful?**
Ans. Sue would try her best to create Johnsy's interest in things around her. She would talk about clothes and fashion, but Johnsy would not respond. Sue whistled while working to take Johnsy's mind off her illness.
5. **Was Behrman's dream of painting his masterpiece fulfilled?**

Ans. Yes, Behrman was ultimately able to paint his masterpiece. It was an ivy leaf he had painted on the wall opposite Johnsy's room. Though Johnsy was an artist, she could not judge that it was not a real leaf. Besides, it also saved Johnsy's life.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **What did Johnsy link the falling of ivy leaves with? Did Sue believe the same way?**

Ans. Johnsy, a young artist, was suffering from pneumonia. The window of her room overlooked the wall of the neighbouring house. An ivy creeper was growing against this wall. Since it was the autumn season, the leaves of the creeper were falling. Johnsy had a notion associated with falling leaves. She thought that, with each leaf that fall, she was nearing her death. She would die when the last leaf would fall.

Sue was greatly surprised when she came to know about Johnsy's fanciful idea. She said that it was mere foolishness to think in this way. There could be no relation between the falling of a leaf and the death of a person. Thus, Sue did not agree at all with what Johnsy thought about the falling leaves.

2. **Who was Behrman? What was his life dream? How did he paint his masterpiece?**

Ans. Behrman was a sixty-year-old painter. He lived alone on the ground floor. He could not do well as an artist. But her lifelong dream was to paint a masterpiece. He, at last, got an opportunity to paint his masterpiece. He painted the last ivy leaf on the wall facing Johnsy's window. He got wet and caught a cold. He fell ill with pneumonia. He didn't tell anybody about his plan. He sacrificed his life in order to save the life of young Johnsy. Sue called the last leaf painted by him as his masterpiece.

3. **Do you think the title of the story "The Last Leaf" is justified?**

Ans. Yes, I fully agree that the title of the story "The Last Leaf" is quite appropriate and justified. The last leaf plays a very significant role in the story. Johnsy thinks that her life depends on it. She somehow believes that she will die when the last leaf falls. However, Sue acts in a very intelligent manner. She takes the help of an old painter, Behrman so that Johnsy's life is saved. Behrman always wished to paint a masterpiece. But he could never begin it. He painted an ivy leaf on the wall. It looked like a real ivy leaf. Johnsy was herself an artist. But even she failed to judge that it was not real. As this leaf does not fall, Johnsy regains her will to live. The last leaf on the wall proves to be Behrman's masterpiece. It saves Johnsy's life. Thus, we can say that the title of the story "The Last Leaf" is totally justified.

A House is Not a Home

(Zan Gaudio)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. How did the author get the first bitter taste of hardship?

Ans. The narrator faced a series of mishaps after leaving the old school. He lost so many things. It began with the burning of his house.

2. What losses did the author suffer on that fateful Sunday?

Ans. On that fateful Sunday afternoon, the writer lost all the security provided by his house, friends, cats, and old school.

3. Why did the mother run back into the burning house?

Ans. The mother suddenly ran back into the burning house to retrieve important documents, father's photos and letters.

4. When did the thought of his dear cat strike the author?

Ans. The fire was finally out five hours later. Then the writer suddenly looked for his dear cat, but did not find it. It was also a big loss to him. He cried and cried for the cat.

5. Which two lives did the firemen save from the flames?

Ans. The firemen saved the lives of the narrator and his mother. They did not allow the narrator to go after the mother into the burning house. They brought the mother out safely.

6. Three things were destroyed in the fire, besides many other belongings of the author. What were they?

Ans. The author lost his bank papers, his school bag and books and his cat, besides all other belongings in the fire.

7. How did the author get back his lost cat?

Ans. The author's house was being rebuilt. One day, a woman brought back to him his lost cat. He hugged the cat and jumped around with joy.

8. How did the author feel at school the next day?

Ans. The author felt very embarrassed at school on Monday. He had no shoes, no books, no bag and no uniform. He looked strange and funny in his shabby clothes.

9. Why did the author have to borrow money from his grandparents?

Ans. The author had to borrow money from her grandparents because his credit cards, cash and identification things—all were lost in the fire. He could not withdraw money from the bank.

10. How did the author's grandparents help him in his distress?

Ans. The author, along with his mother, drove to her grandparent's house to spend the night. He also borrowed some cash from them to put things in order for the time being.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. What advice did the author's old teachers give him to adjust to in his new school?

Ans. The author would go back to meet his old teachers. They advised him to get involved in school activities so that he could meet new people. They

told him that, with the passage of time, he would adjust well in the high school.

2. **What peculiar thing was noticed by the author on Sunday afternoon?**

Ans. On Sunday afternoon, the author smelled something strange. Then he noticed, smoke pouring through the seams of the ceiling. Soon the room was filled with dense smoke, owing to which, they could hardly see.

3. **What was the position of the house after it was on fire?**

Ans. A lot of damage had been done to the house. Rather, it was nearly burned down. Whatever had not been burnt was destroyed by the water and chemicals used for putting out the fire.

4. **"Their genuine outpouring of concern really touched me." What kind of concern had they shown for the author?**

Ans. The author's schoolmates not only gifted him with various kinds of things, but they introduced themselves to him also. They invited him to their homes. He made friends and thought that things were going to be all right.

5. **Could anything be saved from the fire?**

Ans. The house was totally destroyed along with nearly everything it contained. However, with the brave efforts of the author's mother, a metal box full of important documents, photo albums and some other personal items associated with the memory of the author's deceased father, could be saved.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. **Why did the author feel lonely and awkward in his newly joined high school? Did he always feel the same?**

Ans. The author enjoyed the privilege of being a senior student in his previous junior high school. After the completion of his studies at the junior school, he was sent to high school. But his friends

were sent to a different high school. That is why he felt there as a stranger and a fresher. He felt lonely, isolated and neglected. He would go back to meet his old teachers. He missed them very much.

The author did not always feel the same. After the devastating fire burnt down his house, he was moved by the genuine concern of his schoolmates. They surprised him by giving him various gifts. They introduced themselves to him and invited him to their homes. He also made a few friends. He was no more feeling lonely and a stranger.

2. **All the security I had known from my old school, my friends, my house and my cat had been ripped away. Elaborate.**

Ans. The narrator had a very bad experience after joining high school. It was a year of mishaps, one after the other. In his old school, he was head boy of the class, had good company and loving teachers. At home, he was quite happy, carefree and secure. He had a red cat for company. But one Sunday afternoon he lost everything. He lost his house, his bank pass book, all his clothes, books and boots. His cat also went away. It was like a fearful dream, a sudden calamity, He felt alone, unsafe and miserable. He wanted to curl up and die.

3. **How did things take a sudden turn and revive the narrator's gratitude for his life?**

Ans. The narrator had a very bitter experience during his first year of high school. He lost his last friends and loving teachers and his senior status. He started as a fresher, alone and unhappy. On a Sunday afternoon, his house also went up in flames. At school, he felt very small and funny. Without books, boots, and bags, he longed for death. But slowly things took a turn. At the new school, he received a lot of help and attention. They offered him so many gifts. He made new friends. His house was also rebuilt. Finally, one day, a lady handed him his lost cat. Life became meaningful once again for him.

The Beggar

(Anton Chekhov)



Important Questions



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Why did the carters mock Lushkoff?**
Ans. The carters mocked Lushkoff for his idleness, his feebleness, and his ragged fancy overcoat.
- What for was the beggar hired by Sergei?**
Ans. Sergei hired Lushkoff to help in the packing and hauling of the furniture when he moved into another house.
- What did Olga tell Sergei after an hour?**
Ans. After an hour, Olga told Sergei that the wood had been chopped.
- What was Cook Olga's first reaction on seeing the beggar?**
Ans. Olga looked at Lushkoff angrily and even scolded him for his addiction to drinking.
- Who really changed the heart of Lushkoff and helped him begin a new chapter?**
Ans. It was Olga, the cook, who really changed the heart of Lushkoff by scolding him and by toiling on his behalf. She made him sober.
- Where did Sergei last meet his former wood chopper? What was Lushkoff doing to earn a decent living?**
Ans. Sergei met his former wood chopper at the booking of a theatre. The one-time beggar looked well-off from his dress. He was a notary now, getting 35 roubles a month.
- What ruined Lushkoff physically? How?**
Ans. Lushkoff was a physical wreck. He was too weak to do any hard work. Excessive drinking of

vodka ruined him financially as well as physically.

- What induced Lushkoff to beg?**
Ans. Lushkoff's drinking habit ruined his health and left him unfit for any toil. So, he had to beg to get money to buy alcohol.
- Who did Lushkoff feel indebted to for saving his life? How?**
Ans. Lushkoff was really indebted to the cook Olga who scolded him for drinking, shed tears for his sake, and finally chopped the wood for him.
- Lushkoff thanked Sergei too, why?**
Ans. Lushkoff expresses his gratitude to Sergei for giving him a push along the right path.



Short Answer Type Questions

- What made Lushkoff tell the real story of his life?**
Ans. Sergei threatened to send for the police to arrest Lushkoff on charges of dishonesty and cheating.
- Where had Sergei met Lushkoff before?**
Ans. Sergei recalled having met Lushkoff two days ago in Sadovya Street. At that time, Lushkoff had told him that he was a student who had been expelled. So, Sergei told him that he had not told him then that he was a teacher.
- What other work had Lushkoff been doing for Sergei besides chopping wood?**
Ans. Quite often, Sergei would provide other work to Lushkoff besides chopping wood. Lushkoff would shovel snow, put the woodshed in order, and beat the dust out of the rugs and mattresses.

4. Where did Sergei send Lushkoff? What advice did he give him?

Ans. Sergei gave Lushkoff a letter for his friend. He told Lushkoff that his friend would give him some copying to do. Sergei advised him to work hard, not to drink and to remember what he had said.

5. Where did Sergei see Lushkoff after two years? What work was he doing then?

Ans. Sergei saw Lushkoff buying a gallery ticket window of a theatre. Lushkoff told Sergei that he was a notary now. He was earning thirty-five roubles per month.



Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the three meetings of Sergei with Lushkoff. How did they affect the beggar?

Ans. Sergei was an advocate. In his first meeting with Lushkoff, the beggar, said he had been a student expelled from school. In the second meeting, Lushkoff said that he had been a village school teacher. Sergei remembered having met the beggar the day before. He charged the man with telling lies. The fear of the police made Lushkoff admit that he had really been a singer. He agreed to work as a wood chopper. Sergei was happy to see the change in Lushkoff. He sent Lushkoff to his friend to do copying work. Two years later, he met Lushkoff again. He was delighted to know that Lushkoff was a notary now.

2. How was the reality about Lushkoff revealed? Explain.

Ans. Introduction: Sergei was an advocate. He was approached by a beggar. The beggar told Sergei that

for eight years he had been a village school teacher. Then he lost his job.

Recognize the beggar: Sergei felt that he had seen that man somewhere. His ragged overcoat, his dull, drunken eyes, and red spots on either cheek seemed familiar to Sergei. The beggar asked for some money to go to the province of Kaluga, where he was offered the job.

Catch beggar's lie: Looking at the beggar's overshoes, Sergei remembered something. Sergei told the beggar that he had seen him a day before yesterday in Sadovya Street. Then he had told him that he was a student, who had been expelled. Sergei threatened to send the police for him.

Conclusion: Then the beggar revealed, that in fact, he was a singer in the Russian choir who had been thrown out for his drunkenness.

3. What happened when Lushkoff agreed to chop wood for Sergei?

Ans. Lushkoff, the beggar, asked Sergei what else he could do. Sergei asked him if he would chop wood for him. The beggar had to agree out of shame and pride. Moreover, Lushkoff was entrapped by his own words. Sergei asked his cook Olga to take Lushkoff into the woodshed and let him chop the wood. But it was obvious that his strength had deteriorated due to drinking. He also looked unhealthy. From the window of his dining room, Sergei saw Olga fling an axe at his feet. She also appeared to have scolded him. It appeared that Lushkoff was unable to chop wood properly. But an hour later, Olga told Sergei that the wood had been chopped.