

# CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo Going Places Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo Going Places Download  
2017 2018 New Edition PDF

**English Flamingo Going Places Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF CBSE  
Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12**

## THINK AS YOU READ

**Q1. Where was it most likely that the two girls would find work after school?**

**Ans:** Sophie and Jansie would soon pass out of their school. Only a few months were left. Jansie knew very well that both of them were earmarked for biscuit factory. Sophie had wild dreams about her career. Jansie was a realist. She knew that they did not pay well for shop work and Sophie's father would not allow her to work there.

**Q2. What were the options that Sophie was dreaming of? Why does Jansie discourage her from having such dreams?**

**Ans:** Sophie wanted to open a boutique. It would be the most amazing shop that city had ever seen. Alternatively, she would become an actress and have the boutique as a side business. She also thought of being a fashion designer. Jansie had her feet firmly planted to the ground. She wanted Sophie to be sensible and drop all her utopian plans because all of them required much money and experience.

## THINK AS YOU READ

**Q1. Why did Sophie wriggle when Geoff told her father that she had met Danny Casey?**

**Ans:** Sophie knew her father well. He would be angry if he knew of her meeting with young Irish footballer, Danny Casey. She didn't tell him. When Geoff told his father about it, he became angry. He turned his head to look at her with disdain. Sophie wriggled where she was sitting at the table.

**Q2. Does Geoff believe what Sophie says about her meeting with Danny Casey?**

**Ans:** No, Geoff doesn't believe what Sophie says about her meeting with Danny Casey. First, he looks round in disbelief and says, "It can't be true". Again he says, "I don't believe it." Sophie then narrates how Danny Casey came and stood beside her. Geoff asks her, "What does he look like?" So, he doesn't seem to be convinced that Sophie met Danny Casey.

**Q3. Does her father believe her story?**

**Ans:** No, Sophie's father does not believe her story. When Geoff tells him that Sophie met Danny Casey, his father looked at Sophie with disdain. He ignores her totally. He thinks that it is yet another 'wild story'. He begins to talk about Tom Finny, another great football player.

**Q4. How does Sophie include her brother Geoff in her fantasy of her future?**

**Ans:** Geoff was always the first to share her secrets. So, she told him about meeting Danny Casey. She also told him about her plan to meet him next week. She suspected areas of his life about which she knew nothing. She longed to know them. She wished that someday he might take her with him. She saw herself riding there behind Geoff.

**Q5. Which country did Danny Casey play for?**

**Ans:** Danny Casey played for Ireland.

## THINK AS YOU READ

**Q1. Why didn't Sophie want Jansie to know about her story with Danny?**

**Ans:** Jansie was very interested in things that did not concern her. She wanted to know other people's

affairs. She would spread the news in the whole neighbourhood. So, Sophie didn't want Jansie to know about her story with Danny. It may also be mutual rivalry and one-upmanship on her part. Sophie was startled to learn that Geoff had told Jansie about her story with Danny.

**Q2. Did Sophie really meet Danny Casey? [Delhi 2014]**

**Ans:** No, Sophie did not really meet Danny Casey. She was very fascinated by the young Irish footballer. She imagined his coming. She sat in the park, waiting for Casey and knowing that he would not come. She felt sad. Sadness was a hard burden to carry. She was always lost in a dreamy world where she imagined Casey meeting her.

**Q3. Which was the only occasion when she got to see Danny Casey in person?**

**Ans:** The only occasion when Sophie got to see Danny Casey in person was when the family went to watch United on Saturday. Sophie, her father and little Derek went down near the goal. Geoff went with his mates higher up. United won two-nil. Her idol Casey drove in the second goal. She saw the Irish genius going round two big defenders on the edge of penalty area. He beat the hesitant goal keeper from a dozen yards. Sophie glowed with pride. She was very happy.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT**

**Q1. Sophie and Jansie were classmates and friends. What were the differences between them that show up in the story?**

**Ans:** Sophie and Jansie are poles apart in tastes and temperament. Sophie has fantastic dreams and floats in a fairy land. She is an incurable escapist who won't come out of her dreams. Jansie is down to earth—a realist. Sophie wants to do something sophisticated. Jansie knows that these things require a lot of money which their families do not possess. Jansie also knows that they were earmarked for the biscuit factory. She even advises Sophie to be sensible and practical. Sophie considers Jansie 'nosey' and does not want to confide in her.

**Q2. How would you describe the character and temperament of Sophie's father?**

**Ans:** Sophie's father has a plumpy face looking grimy and sweaty. He doesn't seem to be a soft or sophisticated man. Sophie fears his aggressive manliness. He is a realist and does not believe in his daughter's wild stories. He loves watching football. He hopes young Casey will be as good as Tom Finney. He wishes that the young footballer keeps away from all distractions. He shouts instructions to Casey at the playground. When the Irish genius beats the hesitant goal keeper, Sophie's father screams with joy and pride. He goes to a pub to celebrate the victory.

**Q3. Why did Sophie like her brother Geoff more than any other person? From her perspective, what did he symbolise?**

**Ans:** Geoff is the only person who listens to Sophie's fantasies and long cherished dreams. Her father is too bossy and aggressive. He hates Sophie's fantastic stories. Even little Derek – makes fun of her growing rich. Her classmate Jansie is 'nosey' and can't be trusted with a secret. Only Geoff can be trusted to keep all the secrets of Sophie to himself.

From her perspective, Geoff symbolises an elder brother who has grown up and visited places unknown to her. She wished that someday her brother might take her to those places. He is sympathetic and cautions her by telling her that Casey might have strings of girls. He warns her that he would never show up again. He speaks softly so as not to break the heart of the young dreamer.

**Q4. What socio-economic background did Sophie belong to? What are the indicators of her family's financial status?**

**Ans:** Sophie belongs to a lower middle class family. She is an escapist and has wild dreams. She dreams of things she can't have in real life. Jansie tells her that boutique needs a lot of money. Sophie knows that the family doesn't have money. She says, "If ever I came into money, I'll buy a boutique." Even little Derek understands her unrealistic nature.

Geoff's occupation reflects their socio-economic background. He is an apprentice mechanic. He travels to his work each day to the far side of the city. His jacket is shapeless. Her father lacks sophistication. He is a heavy breathing man. He sits in his vest at the table. He grunts and tosses one of little Derek's shoes from his chair on to the sofa. There is stove in the same room where dirty washing is piled in a

comer. Sophie's father goes to pub on his bicycle. All these indicators confirm their lower middle-class family background.

## TALKING ABOUT THE TEXT

### Discuss in pairs

#### Q1. Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind.

**Ans:** Sophie is a young school-girl belonging to a lower middle-class family. She wants to rise from the situation in which she finds herself. She is an incurable dreamer and escapist. She dreams of opening a boutique. Her classmate Jansie, who had her feet firmly planted on the ground, tells Sophie that opening a boutique requires a lot of money and experience and she has neither of them. Sophie, who floats in a dreamy world of her own, dreams of becoming an actress or a fashion designer. She has dreams of a hero also. She develops fascination for Danny Casey, the wonder-boy of football. She sees him in action only once when he scores the second goal for United. She imagines him coming to her and tells her brother about the meeting. She goes on waiting for him on the next date but he does not turn up. She becomes sad and carries the burden of sadness all the times. Thus, her dreams and disappointments are the creations of her mind.

#### Q2. It is natural for teenagers to have unrealistic dreams. What would you say are the benefits and disadvantages of such fantasising?

**Ans:** Teenagers have boundless enthusiasm and ambitions. They have sweet dreams and go on fantasising. It is natural for them to do so. Every youth is a dreamer. Every great scientist or writer has a dream. Without something to aspire for one can't strive to achieve that goal. Dreams lead to the golden gate of success. Some teenagers float in the world of fantasy. They have unreal dreams. It is just like a child asking for the moon. Their feet are in the mud and they dream of the stars in the sky. Such fantasising results in disappointment and disillusionment. A dreamer who fails to realise his dream is labelled a failure. Those who realise their dreams become heroes and achievers in their spheres. I think it is better to have dreams even if we fail to realise them. Who would have dreams if the teenagers don't—will these grey-headed, grey-bearded persons have dreams? Let the teenagers indulge in their natural activity and dream of a golden future. They will strive to translate them into reality.

## WORKING WITH WORDS

Notice the following expressions. The highlighted words are not used in a literal sense. Explain what they mean.

- Words had to be prized out of him like stones out of a ground.
- Sophie felt a tightening in her throat.
- If he keeps his head on his shoulders.
- On Saturday they made their weekly pilgrimage to the United.
- She saw ... him ghost past the lumbering defenders

**Ans.** (i) Phrase Meaning : Words had to be prized out of him. He was so silent that words had to be extracted from him with great difficulty or force.

(ii) Phrase Meaning : ... a tightening in her throat. Sophie felt a stiffness in her throat and felt upset.

(iii) Phrase Meaning : ... keeps his head on his shoulders. If he is sensible or intelligent.

(iv) Phrase Meaning : ... they made their weekly pilgrimage. They went to see the football match every week as if they were visiting a holy place.

(v) Phrase Meaning : ... ghost past. Making a silent move or running to dodge/deceive.

## NOTICING FORM

Notice the highlighted words in the following sentences:

1. "When I leave," Sophie said, coming home from school, "I'm going to have a boutique."
2. Jansie, linking arms with her along the street, looked doubtful.
3. "I'll find it," Sophie said, staring far down the street.
4. Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy.
5. And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain.

-When we add “ing” to a verb we get the present participle form. The present participle form is generally used along with forms of “be”, (is, was, are, were, am) to indicate the present continuous tense as in “Sophie was coming home from school.”

-We can use the present participle by itself without the helping verb, when we wish to indicate that an action is happening at the same time as another.

-In example 1, Sophie “said” something, “Said”, here, is the main action.

-What Sophie was doing while she was “saying” is indicated by “coming home from school”. So we get the information of two actions happening at the same time. We convey the information in one sentence instead of two.

-Analyse the other examples in the same way.

-Pick out five other sentences from the story in which present participles are used in this sense.

**Ans.** 1. “She thinks money grows on trees, don’t she, Dad?” said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father’s chair. ,

2. She was conscious of a vast world out there waiting for her ...

3. She saw herself riding there behind Geoff.

4. Here I sit, she said to herself, wishing Danny would come, wishing he would come and sensing the time passing.

5. She waited, measuring in this way the changes taking place in her.

6. Sitting here waiting and knowing he will not come I can see the future...

### **THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE**

**Notice these words from the story.**

• “chuffed”, meaning delighted or very pleased

• “nosey”, meaning inquisitive

• “gawky”, meaning awkward, ungainly.

These are words that are used in an informal way in colloquial speech.

Make a list of ten other words of this kind.

**Ans.** (i) “boutique”, meaning a shop selling fashionable clothes or expensive gifts.

(ii) “dad”, meaning father.

(iii) “scooping”, meaning picking up something with a spoon.

(iv) “prized out”, meaning extract some information with difficulty or force.

(v) “muttered”, meaning murmured.

(vi) “pub”, meaning a place where one can drink.

(vii) “jeered”, meaning taunted.

(viii) “damn”, meaning ‘go to hell!’

(ix) “ghost past”, meaning moved unseen and unheard.

(x) “huh”, meaning an expression showing disagreement.

### **WRITING**

**-Think of a person who you would like to have as your role-model.**

**-Write down the points to be discussed or questions to be asked, if you were asked to interview that person on the Television show.**

**Ans:** **INTERVIEWING SUNIL GAVASKAR**

1. Welcome, Sunil to our chat show. How do you feel at this stage of life?

2. Sachin Tendulkar has broken your record of hitting the highest number of test hundreds. How do you react to that?

3. What helps you to keep fit and smart at this age?

4. What are your current international engagements?

5. What do you prefer—writing books on cricket or commenting on television?

6. Have you ever thought of coaching India?

7. Would you like to be involved intimately in grooming budding talent, if offer comes from the right quarters?

8. What are your plans for helping the players to get a better deal?  
9. How do you balance your international engagements with your personal obligations?  
10. What are your interests other than cricket?

### **THINGS TO DO**

**1. Look for other stories or movies where this theme of hero worship and fantasising about film or sports icons finds a place.**

**Ans:** Extension Activity : To be attempted under the guidance of the teacher.

### **MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED**

#### **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

**Q1. What does Sophie dream of doing after she passes out of school? Why do you call it a 'dream' and not a 'plan'?**

**Ans:** Sophie dreams to have a boutique of her own. It will be the most amazing shop the city has ever seen. She says that she will buy a boutique if ever she comes into money. She does not mind becoming an actress to run a boutique as a side business. Since she has no money or experience, it is called a 'dream' and not a 'plan'.

**Q2. What are the other dreams of Sophie in addition to having a boutique?**

**Ans:** The greatest dream of Sophie is to have a boutique. She wants to be a bit sophisticated and rise above her lower-middle class status. Her other dream is of being an actress as "there's real money in that". Moreover, actresses don't work full time. She can look after her first love i.e. boutique as a side business. She has another option. She can be a fashion designer, and do something sophisticated.

**Q3. Why does Jansie say : "Soaf, you really should be sensible" ?**

**Ans:** Jansie knows Sophie's family background and financial position. She knows that both of them are earmarked for that biscuit factory. Sophie dreams of big and beautiful things like having a boutique or becoming an actress or a fashion designer. All these things need a lot of money and experience. Sophie has neither of them. So Jansie being down-to-earth advises her to be sensible and stop having wild dreams.

**Q4. Compare and contrast Sophie and Jansie?**

**OR**  
**Jansie is Sophie's classmate and friend but doesn't entertain any 'wild dreams' like her. Why?**

**Ans:** Sophie and Jansie are classmates and friends, but the similarity ends here. They are poles' apart in thinking and temperament. Sophie is an incurable dreamer and escapist. She dreams of big and beautiful things, which are beyond her reach.

On the other hand, Jansie is realistic and practical. She knows that they are poor and will have to work in the biscuit factory after leaving school. She is well aware that big things require big money and experience, which they don't have. It is better to live in reality and think accordingly.

**Q5. What job is Geoff engaged in? How does he differ from his sister, Sophie?**

**Ans:** Geoff is a grown up boy. He left school three years ago. Now he is an apprentice mechanic. He has to travel to his work each day to the far side of the city. He speaks little but listens to his sister's 'wild stories'. But he is not a day dreamer like her. He knows the financial limitations of his family. He cautions Sophie against entertaining dreams for a celebrity like Danny Casey.

**Q6. Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff's silence?**

**Ans:** Geoff was almost grown up now. He spoke little. Words had to be extracted out of him like stones out of the ground. Sophie was jealous of his silence. She knew that when he was not speaking, he was away somewhere. He was out in the surrounding country—in those places she had never been. She wanted to share her brother's affection.

**Q7. What does Sophie tell Geoff about her meeting with Danny Gasey? How does Geoff react to it?**

**Ans:** Sophie tells Geoff that she met Danny Casey. Geoff is surprised. He looks round abruptly and asks 'where?' Sophie replies that she met him in the arcade. Geoff can't believe her. He says, "It's

never true.” He asks her, “What does he look like?” She replies that he has green eyes and is not very tall. Geoff is still not convinced.

**Q8. How does Sophie’s father react when Geoff tells him about her meeting with Danny Casey?**

**Ans:** Geoff informs his father that Sophie had a meeting with Danny Casey. He turns his head on his thick neck to look at her in disbelief. His expression is one of disdain. He ignores the news and goes on to talk about Tom Finney. He hopes that Danny will be like Tom Finney one day. When Sophie says that Casey is going to buy a shop, he reacts sharply. “This is another of your wild stories.”

**Q9. “He don’t believe you—though he’d like to.” Who says so, about whom and in what context?**

**Ans:** Geoff says so to Sophie about their father. He reacted sharply to her account of meeting Danny Casey. Geoff said that she had met him in the arcade and then told him how it had been. Their father said aggressively that she was going to talk herself into a load of trouble. Sophie asked Geoff to confirm that it was true. It was then that Geoff uttered these remarks. \*-

**Q10. Why do you think, does Geoff tell Sophie the following?**

(i) “Casey must have strings of girls.”

(ii) “As if he’d ever show up.”

**Ans:** Geoff knows that Sophie is still very young and immature. She is crazy after Danny Casey, the Irish wonder-boy. He tries to convince Sophie that a celebrity like Casey must have a large number of girls running after him. She says that he doesn’t have any. He will give her autograph next week if she cares to meet him next week. Geoff is not convinced. He doubts if he would ever show up.

**Q11. Who was Danny Casey? How did the members of Sophie’s family react towards him?**

**Ans:** Danny Casey was a young Irish football player. He played for the United. The Irish prodigy could easily dodge the defenders and score goals. Sophie’s father was a football fan. He admired old heroes like Tom Finney and young wonder boy Casey. Geoff had a large poster of United first team squad on his bed room wall. There were three coloured photographs of Casey in the row below it. Every Saturday they went to watch United play.

**Q12. Why was the visit of Sophie’s father and his family to watch United ‘their weekly pilgrimage’?**

**Ans:** Sophie’s father was a keen football fan. He took great interest in the career of Danny Casey, the Irish prodigy. Geoff, too was interested in football. Sophie considered Danny Casey her personal hero. She always dreamt of him. Casey was playing for United. The family visited the stadium regularly to watch him. So the family’s visit was like a religious or holy weekly ritual—a pilgrimage.

**Q13. Where did Sophie meet Casey and what transpired between them?**

**Ans:** Sophie met Danny Casey in the arcade. It was she who spoke first and asked if he was Casey. He looked surprised. He was certainly Danny Casey as he had the Irish accent. She had already heard him on television. She asked him for an autograph for little Derek. But neither of them had any paper or pen. Before going he promised to give his autograph if she cared to meet him next week.

**Q14. What promise does Sophie want Geoff to make and why?**

**OR**  
**Why does Sophie say: “Promise you’ll tell no one” and “Promise, Geoff-Dad’d murder me.”**

**Ans:** Sophie wants to confide in Geoff what happened during her meeting with Danny Casey. Before telling him the details, she wants him to promise that he would tell no one about her meeting and the next ‘date’. She is afraid of her father’s anger. She fears he would murder her. Geoff assures her that she is quite safe. Their father does not believe such wild stories.

**Q15. Did Geoff keep his promise? How do you know?**

**‘OR**

**Why did Sophie say “Damn that Geoff, this was a Geoff thing not a Jansie thing.”**

**Ans:** Sophie had told Geoff about her meeting with Danny Casey and asked him to promise that he would tell no one. It was a secret between the two—something special just between them. Geoff did not keep his promise. He told Jansie's brother Frank about it. Sophie cursed Geoff, as it was his doing, not Jansie's.

**Q16. Why did Sophie not want Jansie to know anything about her meeting with Danny Casey?**

**Ans:** Sophie knew that Jansie was 'nosey'. She was very inquisitive by nature. She took special interest in knowing new things about others. Sophie did not trust Jansie as she could not keep a secret. She could spread the rumour in the whole neighbourhood.

**Q17. How did Jansie react at Sophie's story of her meeting with Danny Casey? [Delhi 2014]**

**Ans:** Jansie was a classmate and friend of Sophie. She lived in the same neighbourhood. She knew Sophie quite well. She was also aware of Sophie's habit of dreaming. On learning of her meeting with Danny Casey, her first reaction was of disbelief. "You never did", exclaimed Jansie. But when Sophie told her about her request for autograph, Jansie softened a little and said, "Jesus, I wish I'd have been there."

**Q18. What did Sophie want to keep a secret from her father and why? How did Jansie react to this disclosure?**

**Ans:** Sophie told Jansie that she wanted to keep her meeting with Casey a secret. There would be a row if her father knew it. Jansie thought that he would be pleased. Sophie told Jansie what a misery her father was. Moreover, she did not want a crowd of people asking him about Danny Casey and her. She feared that he would murder her. Her mother felt upset whenever there was a row. Jansie assured Sophie that she could trust her to keep the secret.

**Q19. Why did Sophie choose to walk by the canal? What did she do there?**

**Ans:** Sophie walked by the canal along a sheltered path. It was far away from the noise and crowd of the city. It was a place where she had often played when she was a child. There was a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm tree. Lovers sometimes came there. That was the most suitable place where she could dream of her hero Danny Casey.

**Q20. How did Sophie react as she kept sitting for hours, waiting for Danny Casey and imagining his coming?**

**Ans:** At first Sophie was optimistic. She imagined him coming out of the shadows. When time had elapsed, pangs of doubt stirred inside her. She became sad and despondent. Danny would not come there at all. She feared that people would laugh at the story of her meeting with Casey.

**Q21. Sophie is a typical adolescent hero-worshipper who carries her fantasising too far. Comment.**

**Ans:** Sophie is a dreamer and an escapist. She is also a hero-worshipper. Danny Casey, the wonderful Irish football player was her hero. She indulged in wishful thinking and dreams of meeting him. Her imagined meeting gave her immense pleasure. But the pangs of not meeting him made her sad and despondent.

**Q22. "Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind." Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer.**

**Ans:** I fully agree with the observation. Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind, she is a hero-worshipper. The Irish prodigy is her hero. She imagines her meeting with him. Her day-dreaming makes her sad and despondent. The idea that Casey will not come at all is quite painful to her. Thus, her dreams and disappointments are products of her mind only. They have nothing to do with reality.

**Q23. Why did Sophie long for her brother's affection? [All India 2014]**

**Ans:** Geoff was not very talkative. He was an introvert. Sophie thought that Geoff had access to the world where she had not got even a chance to visit. She wanted to be the part of her brother's world. That is why she longed for his affection.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

**Q1. What impression do you form of Sophie on reading the story 'Going Places'?**

**OR**

**Sophie has her own dreams and disappointments, but they are all her creations—the creations of her own mind. Justify the statement.**

**Ans:** Sophie is a young school girl. She dreams of big and beautiful things. Some of these are beyond her reach or her means. Her ambitions have no relation with the harsh realities of life. She thinks of having a boutique. She wants to have the most amazing shop this city has ever seen. Then she entertains the idea of being an actress. There's real money in that. 'Actresses do not work full time. So she would run the boutique as a side business. If need be, she can be a fashion designer. She doesn't realise that her family is not rich enough and her dreams can't be fulfilled.

Sophie develops a romantic fascination for Danny Casey. He is a young Irish football player and the hero of her dreams. She indulges in hero worship. She tells a story that she met Casey. Her father calls it another of her "wild stories". Even Geoff does not believe her. He tries to caution her. Casey is a celebrity. Many girls run after him. But Sophie ignores him.

She is an incurable dreamer. She has seen Casey only once, but all the time she thinks of him. She sits alone and waits for his arrival. She becomes sad and despondent when Casey does not come. She suffers because of her dreams. These dreams and disappointments are all the creations of her mind.

**Q2. Compare and contrast Sophie and Jansie highlighting their temperament and aspirations.**

**Ans:** Sophie and Jansie are class-fellows and friends. They belong to lower middle class families. Both of them are earmarked for biscuit factory. Jansie's feet are firmly planted on the ground. But Sophie is totally blind to the harsh realities of life. She dreams of big and beautiful things. She wants to have a boutique. She thinks of becoming an actress as there is a lot of money in this profession. If need be, she can also be a fashion designer. In short, she loves to be grand and sophisticated. All her dreams are beyond her reach and resources. Jansie advises her to be sensible, but she remains a romantic dreamer.

Sophie and Jansie differ in thinking and temperament. Sophie is lost in her dream world. She shares her secret with only one person. It is her elder brother Geoff. Jansie is 'nosey'. She takes interests in learning new things about others. She can spread the story in the whole neighbourhood. So, Sophie doesn't want to share secrets with her.

Sophie is an incurable dreamer and escapist. She is a hero-worshipper. She adores the young Irish footballer Danny Casey. She develops a fascination for her. She becomes sad and helpless but she doesn't become wiser. She remains a dreamer. Jansie is practical and realist. She has no such unrealistic dreams.

**Q3. Describe the bond between Geoff and Sophie in spite of differences in their temperament and thinking.**

**Ans:** Geoff was Sophie's elder brother. He was three years out of school. He was an apprentice mechanic. He travelled to his work each day to the far side of the city. He was almost grown up now. He spoke very little. Sophie was jealous of Geoff's silence. He was quiet and didn't make new friends easily. He thought that Sophie was too young and immature. Geoff was mature enough to understand his limitations and those of his family. He never dreamt of big and beautiful things.

In spite of difference in their temperaments, there was a close bond between the two. Geoff was always the first to share Sophie's secrets. He knew that Sophie's story of meeting with Danny Casey was not true. Still he listened to her. Sophie confided in him. Her secret was something special just between them. It was not meant for nosey Jansie who would spread it in the whole neighbourhood. Geoff tried to persuade Sophie. He warned her that Danny Casey was a celebrity. He must have many girls like her running after him. Sophie told him that Casey would give her an autograph if she cared to meet him next week. Geoff did not believe "he'd ever show up." Thus, he acted like an elder brother.



Geoff and Sophie share a common trait. It is their fascination for the Irish prodigy, Danny Casey. But they differ in their thinking. Like his father, Geoff wished Casey to be a great footballer one day. Sophie had romantic fascination for Casey. It was something else other than football.

**Q4. Who was Danny Casey? How was he adored by the family of Sophie, and specially by Sophie and her father?**

**Ans:** Danny Casey was an Irish Prodigy. He was a wonderboy of football. He had won the hearts of his countless fans. He played for United. Sophie's family was obsessed with the Irish genius. Sophie's father compared young Danny Casey to another great football player Tom Finney. He wished that Casey might be that good someday. He knew there were a lot of distractions for a youngster in the game those days. He wished that Casey would keep his head on his shoulders. Geoff remarked that he was with the best team in the country. He hoped that Casey would prove even a better player than Tom Finney. Geoff considered him the best. His father thought that he was too young for the first team. The fact was that with his exceptional ability he was playing for the first eleven.

On Saturday, Sophie's family made their weekly pilgrimage to the stadium to watch United play their match. They watched their hero Danny Casey in action. He was running, going round the two big defenders. Then he was on the edge of the penalty area. Sophie's father was screaming for him to pass. They saw him beating the hesitant goal keeper from a dozen yards. He scored the second goal. United won two-nil. Sophie glowed with pride. Geoff was ecstatic. Someone wished he were an Englishman. Little Derek declared that Ireland would win the world cup. Their father went to the pub to celebrate. Sophie adored Danny Casey. She had a romantic fascination for the Irish prodigy. Her young heart throbbed for her hero. She imagined Casey coming to her. She would sit under an elm tree, waiting for Casey and dreaming of him. She realised that he would not come. This made her sad and dejected. Sophie became a victim of her own dreams and disappointments.

#### **VALUE-BASED QUESTIONS**

**Q1. The unrealistic dreams determine negativity and failure. Childhood dreams sometimes dishearten and disappoint the people. Write an article on the topic, "Horrors of Unrealistic Dreams" taking ideas from the following lines:**

**"For some while, waiting, she imagined his coming. She watched along the canal, seeing him come out of the shadows, imagining her own consequent excitement."**

**Ans:**

#### **Horrors of Unrealistic Dreams**

People harbour fierce and uncontrollable desires. The search for a better life is one of the most basic desires of human beings. But they substantially deviate from the path of righteousness when they feel that their unquenchable desires can never be fulfilled. They found themselves in the depths of depression. The mortals should use their wisdom to set

realistic goals. Imagination is thrice away from reality. Undoubtedly, the human race is governed by its imagination. But it is also a harsh reality of life that 'He who has imagination without learning has wings but no feet.' One should not forget that there is a difference between real life and reel life. The happenings of dreams cannot take place in this physical world. Those who ignore the present situation while setting their goals repent later. Man has to identify his latent talent and potential to materialise his goals. One should have thorough knowledge of one's interests and outlook.

**Q2. The world we are living in is replete with hypocrites and ditchers. It becomes difficult for us to confide our secrets to someone. But it is important to have someone you can confide in. Discuss the topic taking ideas from the following expressions:**

**"Sophie glared at the ground. Damn that Geoff, this was a Geoff thing not a Jansie thing. It was meant to be something special just between them. Something secret. It wasn't a Jansie kind of thing at all."**

**Ans:** Man is a social animal. He has to interact with the fellow human beings to give vent to his emotional grievances and sentimental grudges. He needs a person, a Mend to confide in his secrets. This dog eat dog world has numerous people who seem to be trustworthy. But they are pretenders,

hypocrites and opportunists. A person who leads a lonely life never feels happy and contented. His life becomes a hell. Expression of thoughts lightens the human soul. It is a matter of fact that there is dearth of true Mends. People do not believe in one another. Material prosperity and unhealthy competition have eroded trust. Our forefathers worked together, lived together and earned their livelihood together. In the modern world lack of trust has created nuclear families. The concept of joint family was based on the principles of trust, honesty and brotherhood. These virtues have no significance in the present age. Trust gives us strength and courage to overcome the obstacles coming in the life. It is said that a Mend in need is a Mend indeed. We must have someone with us whom we can tell our secrets and reveal the truth. There should be a person who could objectively listen to our candid confessions.

**Q3. “Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them.” The attitude of parents shape the child’s perception. Write an article on effective parenting taking ideas from the following lines:**

**“Sophie’s father was scooping shepherd’s pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and seat—marked from the day... outside the pub she passed her father’s bicycle propped against the wall, and was glad”**

**Ans:**

### **Effective Parenting**

Taking care of children requires infinite patience, great tolerance and profound wisdom. Children are emotional and delicate creatures. They should not be treated as things. People scold children frequently. Consequently, they become rude and arrogant. Those who thrash the tiny tots tend to forget that children intend to explore the mystery of physical objects. All the things available at home make the children curious. Their insatiable curiosity gets stimulated and stirred when they get freedom to touch them. Their spontaneity must not be hindered. Parents should encourage children to create new things. They should develop their interest in various activities so as to make their lives colourful. Their questions asked out of innocence should be answered thoughtfully. It is a universally accepted fact that children learn by imitating others. Parents should never argue with each other in presence of their children. They should treat the children in an affectionate way. They should play the role of a Mend, teacher, councilor and parents.

**WE ARE WITH YOU.....**

# CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo My Mother at Sixty-six Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo My  
Mother at Sixty-six Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

English Flamingo My Mother at Sixty-six Download 2017 2018 New Edition  
PDF CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12

**Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each:**

1. Driving from my parents home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon

**Questions**

**(a) Where was the poet driving to? Who was sitting beside her?**

**(b) What did the poet notice about her mother?**

**(c) Why was her mother's face looked like that of a corpse?**

**(d) Find words from the passage which mean :**

**(i) sleep lightly (ii) dead body (iii) felt.**

**Answers:**

(a) The poet was driving from her parent's home to the Cochin airport. Her mother was sitting beside her.

(b) She noticed that her mother was dozing with her mouth open.

(c) Her mother's face looked pale, faded and lifeless like a dead body because she had grown old.

(d) (i) doze (ii) corpse (iii) realised.

2.....She

looked but soon

put that thought away, and

looked out at Young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling

out of their homes,

**Questions**

**(a) What did the poet realise? How did she feel**

**(b) What did she do then?**

**(c) What did she notice in the world outside?**

**(d) Find words from the passage which mean: (i) running fast (ii) happy (iii) moving out.**

**Answers:**

(a) Her mother was lost somewhere else in thoughts. It pained her.

(b) The poet withdrew her thoughts from her mother and looked outside.

(c) The young trees growing outside went past as if they were sprinting. Happy children were coming out of their houses.

(d) (i) sprinting (ii) merry (iii) spilling.

3.....but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile

### Questions

(a) What did the poet do after the security check?

(b) Why did the poet compare her mother's face to a late winter's moon?

(c) What is her childhood fear?

(d) How do the parting words of the poet and her smile present a contrast to her real feelings?

### Answers:

(a) After the security check, the poet stood a few yards away from her mother and looked at her face again.

(b) The late winter moon lacks brightness as well as strength. The pale and colourless face of the mother resembles the late winter moon.

(c) The fear of ageing and ultimate death/separation.

(d) The poet's parting words of assurance and her smiles present a stark contrast to the old familiar ache or childhood fear. Her words and smiles are a deliberate attempt to hide what is going on inside.

### QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED

**Q1. What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?**

**Ans:** When the poet sees the pale and corpse-like face of her mother, her old familiar pain or the ache returns. Perhaps she has entertained this fear since her childhood. Ageing is a natural process. Time and ageing spare none. Time and ageing have not spared the poet's mother and may not spare her as well. With this ageing, separation and death become inevitable.

**Q2. Why are the young trees described as 'sprinting'?**

**Ans:** The poet is driving to the Cochin airport. When she looks outside, the young trees seem to be walking past them. With the speed of the car they seem to be running fast or sprinting. The poet presents a contrast—her 'dozing' old mother and the 'sprinting' young trees.

**Q3. Why has the poet brought in the image of the merry children 'spilling out of their homes'?**

**Ans:** The poet has brought in the image of merry children 'spilling out of their homes' to present a contrast. The merry children coming out of their homes in large numbers present an image of happiness and spontaneous overflow of life. This image is in stark contrast to the 'dozing' old mother, whose 'ashen' face looks lifeless and pale like a corpse. She is an image of ageing, decay and passivity. The contrast of the two images enhances the poetic effect.

**Q4. Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon'?**

**Ans:** The poet's mother is sixty-six years old. Her shrunken 'ashen' face resembles a corpse. She has lost her shine and strength of youth. Similarly the late winter's moon looks hazy and obscure. It too lacks shine and strength. The comparison is quite natural and appropriate. The simile used here is apt as well as effective.

**Q5. What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?**

**Ans:** The poet's parting words of assurance and her smiles provide a stark contrast to the old familiar ache or fear of the childhood. Her words and smiles are a deliberate attempt to hide her real feelings. The parting words: "See you soon, Amina" give an assurance to the old lady whose 'ashen face' looks like a corpse. Similarly, her continuous smiles are an attempt to overcome the ache and fear inside her heart.

### MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (Word Limit: 30-40 words)

### Q1. Where was the poet going and who was with her?

**Ans:** The poet was driving from her parent's home to the Cochin airport. The poet's mother had come to see her off. She was sitting beside her. She was dozing with her mouth open. The words 'driving' and 'doze' provide a contrast between images of dynamic activity and static passivity respectively.

### Q2. What was the poet's childhood fear? [All India 2014]

**Ans:** The child is always in fear of being separated from his parents. In the same way, the poet's fear as a child was that of losing her mother or her company.

### Q3. What does the poet's mother look like? What kind of images has the poet used to signify her ageing decay?

**Ans:** The poet's mother is sixty-six years old. She is sitting beside the poet and dozing with her mouth open. This is a sign of old age. Usually old people keep their mouth open to overcome breathing problems. Her face looked pale and faded like ash. Actually, she is an image of death as her 'ashen' face looks like that of a corpse.

### Q4. What does the poet realise with pain? Why does the poet 'put that thought away' and look outside?

**Ans:** The lifeless and faded face of the poet's mother pains her heart. She looks lifeless like a corpse. She provides an image of passivity, decay and death. The old lady seems to be lost in her thoughts. The poet needs a distraction, a change. She puts that thought away and looks outside. There she gets a picture of life, happiness and activity.

### Q5. Describe the world inside the car and compare it to the activities taking place outside?

**Ans:** The pale and faded face of the poet's mother looks lifeless like a corpse. Her dozing with mouth wide open suggests passivity, decay and death. Outside the car, the poet watches young trees speeding past them. They seem to be running fast or sprinting. Happy children are moving out of their homes cheerfully. They present an image of life, dynamism and activity.

### Q6. Why does the poet look outside? What does she see happening outside?

**Ans:** The thought of the ageing mother at sixty-six and her pale and ashen face looking like a corpse becomes too heavy for the poet to bear. She needs a distraction, a diversion and therefore she looks outside. She watches young trees. These trees speed past them and appear to be sprinting. Then she sees happy children moving out of their houses and making merry.

### Q7. How has the poet contrasted the scene inside the car with the activities going on outside?

**Ans:** The poet has used beautiful images to highlight the stark contrast between the scene inside the car and the activities going on outside. The 'ashen' face of the poet's mother is pale and lifeless. It looks like that of a corpse. She is dozing and lost to herself. The image of the 'dozing' mother is contrasted with the 'spilling' of children. The 'ashen' and 'corpse-like' face is contrasted with the young trees sprinting outside.

### Q8. What does the poet do after the security check-up? What does she notice?

**Ans:** They have to pass through a security check-up at the airport. After it, the poet stands a few yards away. Before saying parting words to her mother, she looks at her mother again. Her face looks pale and colourless like the late winter's moon. She presents a picture of ageing and decay.

### Q9. Why is the poet's mother compared to the late winter's moon?

**Ans:** The poet's mother has been compared to the late winter's moon to bring out the similarity of ageing and decay. The late winter moon looks hazy and obscure. It lacks shine and strength. The poet's mother has an 'ashen' face resembling a corpse. She has lost her shine and strength of youth. The comparison reinforces the impact.

### Q10. What is the poet's familiar ache and why does it return?

**Ans:** The poet is pained at the ageing and decaying of her mother. The fear is that with ageing comes

decay and death. The sight of her old mother's 'ashen' and corpse-like face arouses "that old familiar ache" in her heart. Her childhood fear returns. She is also pained and frightened by the idea that she may have to face all these things herself.

**Q11. How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?[All India 2014]**

**Ans:** Kamala Das was in much trouble after seeing the lifeless and faded face of her mother. The old lady seemed to be lost in her own thoughts. The poetess turned away her attention from her mother and looked outside. The outside world was full of life and activity. The young trees seemed to be running fast. The children looked happy while moving out of their homes.

**Q12. Why does the poet smile and what does she say while bidding good bye to her mother?**

**OR**

**With fear and ache inside her heart and words of assurance on lips and smile on the face, the poet presents two opposite and contrasting experiences. Why does the poet put on a smile?**

**Ans:** The 'wan', 'pale', face of the poet's mother at sixty-six brings an image of decay and death. It brings that old familiar fear of separation back. She fears the ultimate fate of human beings. But she has to put on a brave face. She regains self-control. She composes herself and tries to look normal. She utters the words of assurance that they will meet again soon. She tries to hide her ache and fear by smiling continuously.

**Q13. What poetic devices have been used by Kamala Das in 'My Mother at Sixty-six'?**

**Ans:** The poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six' is rich in imagery. Kamala Das uses the devices of comparison and contrast. The use of simile is very effective. The face of the poet's old mother is described as 'ashen'. This ashen face is 'like that of a corpse'. The poet uses another simile. The "wan, pale" face of the mother is compared to 'a late winter's moon'. The poem excels in contrasts. The old 'dozing' lady inside is contrasted with the young trees "sprinting" and merry children "spilling" out of their homes.

**WE ARE WITH YOU.....**

# CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

**English Flamingo An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12**

**Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each:**

1. Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.  
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn around their pallor:  
The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper-  
seeming boy, with rat's eyes.

**Questions**

- (a) Where, do you think, are these children sitting?**
- (b) How do the faces and hair of these children look?**
- (c) Why is the head of the tall girl 'weighed down'?**
- (d) What do you understand by 'The paper-seeming boy, with rat eyes'?**

**Answers:**

- (a) These children are sitting in the school classroom in a slum which is far far away from the winds or waves blowing strongly.
- (b) The faces of these children look pale. Their uncombed and unkempt hair look like rootless wild plants.
- (c) The head of the tall girl is 'weighed down' by the burdens of the world. She feels depressed, ill and exhausted.
- (d) It means that the boy is exceptionally thin, weak and hungry.

2.....The stunted, unlucky heir

Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,  
His lesson from his desk. At back of the dim class One unnoticed, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream,  
Of squirrel's game, in the tree room, other than this.

**Questions**

- (a) Who is the 'unlucky heir' and what will he inherit?**
- (b) What is the stunted boy reciting?**
- (c) Who is sitting at the 'back of the dim class'?**
- (d) 'His eyes live in a dream'—what dream does he have?**

**Answers:**

- (a) The lean and thin boy having rat's eyes and a stunted growth is the 'unlucky heir'. He will inherit twisted bones from his father.
- (b) He is reciting a lesson from his desk. He is enumerating systematically how his father developed the knotty disease.
- (c) A sweet young boy sits at back of this dim class. He sits there unnoticed.
- (d) The boy seems hopeful. He dreams of a better time—outdoor games, of a squirrel's game, of a room made inside the stem of a tree. He dreams of many things other than this dim and unpleasant classroom has, such as green fields, open seas.

3. On sour cream walls, donations. Shakespeare's head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map  
Awarding the world its world.

**Questions**

- (a) What is the colour of the classroom walls? What does this colour suggest ?
- (b) What do these classroom walls have ?
- (c) Which two worlds does the poet hint at? How is the contrast between the two worlds presented?
- (d) Explain: (i) 'Open-handed map'
- (ii) 'Awarding the world its world'.

**Answers:**

- (a) The colour of the classroom walls is 'sour cream' or off white. This colour suggests the decaying aspect and pathetic condition of the lives of the children in a slum-school.
- (b) The walls of the classroom have pictures of Shakespeare, buildings with domes, world maps and beautiful valleys.
- (c) The poet hints at two worlds: the world of poverty, misery and malnutrition of the slums where children are underfed, weak and have stunted growth. The other world is of progress and prosperity peopled by the rich and the powerful. The pictures on the wall suggesting happiness, richness, well being and beauty are in stark contrast to the dim and dull slums.
- (d) (i) 'Open handed-map' suggests the map of the world drawn at will by powerful people/ dictators like Hitler.
- (ii) 'Awarding the world its world' suggests how the conquerors and dictators award and divide the world according to their whims. This world is the world of the rich and important people.

4. ....And yet, for these  
Children, these windows, not this map, their world,  
Where all their future's painted with a fog,  
A narrow street sealed up with a lead sky  
Far far from rivers, capes, and stars of words.

**Questions [All India 2014]**

- (a) What are the 'children' referred to here?
- (b) Which is their world?
- (c) How is their life different from that of other children? (d) What is the future of these children?

**Answers:**

- (a) Those children are referred to here who study in an elementary school classroom.
- (b) Their world is limited to the window of the classroom. They are confined only within the narrow streets of the slum, i.e., far away from the open sky and rivers. Their view is full of despair and despondency. The life of the children seem to be bleak.
- (c) "The slum children spend their life only in the narrow streets of the land. They do not get the basic necessities of life. They are deprived of food, clothing and shelter. But the main thing that they differ from other children is freedom. They do not enjoy the freedom of life.
- (d) The future of these children is uncertain and bleak.

5. Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,  
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal  
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes  
From fog to endless night?

**Questions [Delhi 2014]**

- (a) Who are 'them' referred to in the first line?
- (b) What tempts them?



**(c)What does the poet say about ‘their’ lives?**

**(d)Explain: ‘From fog to endless night’.**

**Answers:**

(a) Here ‘them’ refers to the children studying in a slum school.

(b) All beautiful things like ships, sun and love tempt the children of slum school.

(c) The poet says that the children spend their lives confined in their cramped holes like rodents. Their bodies look like skeletons because they are the victims of malnutrition. Their steel-frame spectacles with repaired glasses make them appear like the broken pieces of a bottle scattered on stones. Their future seems to be bleak. (d) Their future is foggy or uncertain. The only certainty in their lives is the endless night of their death. In other words, their birth, life and death are all enveloped by darkness.

**6.....On their slag heap, these children**

Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel  
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

All of their time and space are foggy slum.

So blot their maps with slums as big as doom.

**Questions**

**(a)What are the two images used to describe these slums? What do these images convey?**

**(b)What sort of life do such children lead?**

**(c)What blot’ their maps? Whose maps?**

**(d)What does the poet convey through ‘So blot their maps with slums as big as doom’?**

**Answers:**

(a) The images used to describe the slums are:

(i) slag heap

(ii) bottle bits on stones

(iii) foggy slums

(iv) slums as big as doom. (Any two acceptable)

These images convey the misery of the children and the poverty of their dirty and unhygienic surroundings.

(b) In the dirty and unhygienic surroundings the slum children lead very pathetic and miserable lives full of woes, wants, diseases, poverty and uncertainty.

(c) These living hells i.e. these dirty slums blot their maps. These are the maps of the civilized world—the world of the rich and great.

(d) The poet conveys his protest against social injustice and class inequalities. He wants the islands of prosperity to be flooded with the dirt and stink of the slums.

**7. Unless, governor, inspector, visitor,**

This map becomes their Window and these windows

That shut upon their lives like catacombs.

**Questions**

**(a)Why does the poet invoke ‘governor’, ‘inspector’, ‘visitor’? What function are they expected to perform?**

**(b)How can ‘this map’ become ‘their window\*’?**

**(c)What have ‘these windows’ done to their lives?**

**(d)What do you understand by ‘catacombs’?**

**Answers:**

(a) Governor, inspector and visitor are important and powerful persons in the modern times. The poet invokes them to help the miserable slum children. They are expected to perform an important role in removing social injustice and class inequalities. They can abridge the gap between the two worlds—the beautiful world of the great and rich and the ugly world of slums.

(b) Two worlds exist. This map refers to the beautiful world of prosperity and well being inhabited by the rich and great and shaped and owned by them. Their windows refer to the lairs, holes or hovels of the dirty, stinking slums where the poor and unfortunate children of slums live. The slum children will be able to peep through windows only when the difference between the two worlds is bridged.

(c) These windows of dirty surroundings have cramped their lives, stunted their growth and blocked their physical as well as mental development. They have shut them inside their filthy, dull and drab holes like the underground graves.

(d) 'Catacombs' means a long underground gallery with excavations in its sides for tombs. The name catacombs, before the seventeenth century was applied to the subterranean cemeteries, near Rome.

**8. Break O break open till they break the town**

And show the children to green fields, and make their world

Run azure on gold sands, and let their tongues

Run naked into books the white and green leaves open

History theirs whose language is the sun.

### Questions

(a) 'Break O break open'. What should they 'break\*?'

(b) Explain: '. till they break the town'.

(c) Where will 'their world' extend up to then ?

(d) What other freedom should they enjoy?

### Answers:

(a) They should break all the barriers and obstacles that bind these children and confine them to ugly and dirty surroundings.

(b) Till they come out of the dirty surroundings and slums of the town and come out to the green field and breathe in the open air.

(c) Then their world will be extended to the gold sands and azure waves as well as to the green fields.

(d) They should enjoy freedom of acquiring knowledge as well as freedom of expression. Let the pages of wisdom (contained in the books) be open to them and let their tongues run freely without any check or fear.

### QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED

**Q1. Tick the item which best answers the following.**

(a) The tall girl with her head weighed down means The girl

(i) is ill and exhausted

(ii) has her head bent with shame

(iii) has untidy hair.

(b) The paper-seeming boy with rat's eyes means The boy is

(i) sly and secretive

(ii) thin, hungry and weak

(iii) unpleasant looking.

(c) The stunted, unlucky heir of twisted bones means The boy

(i) has an inherited disability

(ii) was short and bony.

(d) His eyes live in a dream. A squirrel's game, in the tree room other than this means The boy is

(i) Full of hope in the future

(ii) mentally ill

(iii) distracted from the lesson.

(e) The children's faces are compared to 'rootless weeds'

This means they

(i) are insecure

(ii) are ill-fed

**(iii) are wasters**

- Ans:** (a)(i) is ill and exhausted  
(b)(ii) thin, hungry and weak  
(c)(i) has an inherited disability  
(d)(i) full of hope in the future  
(e)(i) are insecure.

**Q2. What do you think is the colour of 'sour cream'? Why do you think the poet has used this expression to describe the classroom walls?**

**Ans:** The colour of 'sour cream' is off white. The poet has used this expression to suggest the decaying aspect. The deterioration in the colour of the classroom walls symbolises the pathetic condition of the lives of the scholars—the children of this slum school.

**Q3. The walls of the classroom are decorated with the pictures of 'Shakespeare' 'buildings with domes', 'world maps' and beautiful valleys. How do these contrast with the world of these children?**

**Ans:** The pictures that decorate the walls hold a stark contrast with the world of these underfed, poverty-stricken, slum children living in cramped dark holes. Obstacles hamper their physical and mental growth. The pictures on the wall suggest beauty, well-being, progress and prosperity—a world of sunshine and warmth of love. But the world of the slum children is ugly and lack prosperity.

**Q4. What does the poet want for the children of the slums? How can their lives be made to change?**

**Ans:** The poet wants the people in authority to realise their responsibility towards the children of the slums. All sort of social injustice and class inequalities be ended by eliminating the obstacles that confine the slum children to their ugly and filthy surroundings. Let them study and learn to express themselves freely. Then they will share the fruit of progress and prosperity and their lives will change for the better.

**MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED**

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (Word Limit: 30-40 words)**

**Q1. In the opening stanza the imagery is that of despair and disease. Read the poem and underline the words /phrases that bring out these images.**

**Ans:** The following words/phrases bring out these images of despair and disease:

'Rootless weeds'; 'the air tom round their pallor';

The tall girl with her weighed-down head';

The paper-seeming boy, with rat's eyes'.

'The stunted, unlucky heir of twisted bones'.

'gnarled disease'.

**Q2. Why does Stephen Spender use the images of despair and disease in the first stanza of the poem and with what effect?**

**Ans:** He uses the images of despair and disease to describe the miserable and pathetic lives of the children living in slums. The faces of these children are pale and lifeless. They and their hair are like 'rootless weeds'. The burden of life makes them sit with their head 'weighed down'. The stunted growth is depicted by 'the paper-seeming boy' and 'the stunted unlucky heir of twisted bones'. Their weak bodies recite their fathers' 'gnarled disease'.

**Q3. In spite of despair and disease pervading the lives of the slum children, they are not devoid of hope. Give an example of their hope or dream.**

**Ans:** The burden of poverty and disease crushes the bodies of these slum children but not their souls. They still have dreams. Even their foggy future has not crashed all their hopes. They dream of open seas, green fields and about the games that a squirrel plays in the tree room.

**Q4. How does Stephen Spender picturise the condition of the slum children?**

**Ans:** Stephen Spender uses contrasting images in the poem to picturise the condition of the slum children. For example:

“A narrow street sealed in with a lead sky Far far from rivers, capes and stars of words.”

The first line presents the dark, narrow, cramped holes and lanes closed in by the bluish grey sky. The second line presents a world of beauty, prosperity, progress, well-being and openness.

**Q5. What is the theme of the poem ‘An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum’? How has it been presented?**

**Ans:** In this poem Stephen Spender deals with the theme of social injustice and class inequalities. He presents the theme by talking of two different and incompatible worlds. The world of the rich and the ‘civilized’ has nothing to do with the world of narrow lanes and cramped holes. The gap between these two worlds highlights social disparities and class inequalities.

**Q6. What message does Stephen Spender convey through the poem An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum? What solution does he offer?**

**Ans:** Stephen Spender conveys the message of social justice and class equalities by presenting two contrasting and incompatible worlds. He provides a way out. For achieving any significant progress and development the gap between the two worlds must be abridged. This can be done only by breaking the barriers that bind the slum children in dark, narrow, cramped holes and lanes. Let them be made mentally and physically free to lead happy lives. Only then art, culture and literature will have relevance for them.

**Q7. Who tried to change the world and how, what does this world contain?**

**Ans:** The conquerors and dictators change the map of the world according to their whims and will. They change the boundaries of various nations and shape the ‘map’. Their fair map is of a beautiful world full of domes, bells and flowers, rivers, capes and stars.

**Q8. The poet says. Aria yet. for these Children, these windows, not this map, their world’. Which world do these children belong to? Which world is true essential to them?**

**Ans:** The world of stinking slums is the world that belongs to these poverty-stricken, ill-fed, under-nourished children. The narrow lanes and dark, cramped, holes or hovels make their world. The world of ‘domes’, ‘bells’ and ‘flowers’ meant for the rich is inaccessible to them. They can only dream of rivers, capes and stars.

**Q9. Which images of the slums in the third stanza present the picture of social disparity, injustice and class inequalities.**

**Ans:** The slum dwellers slyly turn in their ‘cramped holes’ from birth to death i.e. ‘from fog to endless nights’. Their surroundings are ‘slag heap’. Their children “wear skins peeped through by bones.” Their spectacles are “like bottle bits on stones.” The image that sums up their harsh existence reads : “All of their time and space are foggy slum.”

**Q10. So blot their maps with slums as big as dooms;” says Stephen Spender. What does the poet want to convey?**

**Ans:** The poet notices the creation of two different worlds—the dirty slums with their narrow lanes and cramped houses which are virtual hells. Then there are islands of prosperity and beauty where the rich and powerful dwell. The poet protests against the disparity between the lives of the people in these two worlds. He wants that the poor should enjoy social equality and justice. The fair ‘map’ of the world should have blots of slums as big as dooms. The gap must be reduced between the two worlds.

**Q11. Stephen Spender while writing about an elementary classroom in a slum, questions the value of education in such a milieu, suggesting that maps of the world and good literature may raise hopes and aspirations, which will never be fulfilled. Yet the poem offers a solution/hope. What is it?**

**Ans:** The slum children are being imparted education in a room whose walls are off-white in colour but are decorated with the pictures of ‘Shakespeare’, ‘buildings with domes’, “world maps’ and ‘beautiful valleys’. The maps of the world and good literature may raise hopes and aspirations. They may try to steal slyly from their milieu but it is quite unlikely that their hopes and aspirations may be fulfilled. The only solution/hope for them is to break the artificial barriers that bind and cram them. Once free from their milieu, they can enjoy beauty.

**Q12. How can powerful persons viz. governor, inspector, visitor may contribute to improve the lot of slum children?**

**Ans:** Powerful persons like governors, inspectors and visitors may take an initiative and start abridging the gap between the worlds of the rich and poor. They can play an important and effective role in removing social injustice and class inequalities. They should break and dismantle all the barriers that bind these children and confine them to the ugly surroundings. They will have their physical and mental development only when they leave the filthy and ugly slums. All good things of life should be within their reach. They must enjoy the freedom of expression.

**Q13. How far do you agree with the statement: "History is theirs whose language is the sun."**

**Ans:** This metaphor contains a vital truth. This world does not listen to the 'dumb and driven' people. Only those who speak with confidence, power, authority and vision are heard and obeyed. Those who create history are people whose ideas and language can motivate, move, inspire and influence millions of people. In order to be effective, their language must have the warmth and power of the Sun.



# **CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo Keeping Quiet Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo Keeping Quiet  
Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

**English Flamingo Keeping Quiet Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF CBSE  
Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12**

**Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each:**

**1.** Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still.

**Questions**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.**
- (b) Why does the poet ask us to count to twelve?**
- (c) Why does the poet ask us to keep still?**
- (d) Find words from the passage which mean.**
  - (ii) say number (iii) quiet and motionless.**

**Answers:**

- (a)** The name of the poem is Keeping Quiet. The name of the poet is Pablo Neruda.
- (b)** There are only twelve signs on the clock to measure hours. Therefore, the poet asks us to count till the clock measures these hours.
- (c)** Too much activity and rush has only brought misfortunes to mankind. Hence, it is better to be quiet and still.
- (d)** (i) count (ii) still

**2.** For once on the face of the Earth let's not speak in any language, let's stop for one second, and not move our arms so much.

**Questions**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.**
- (b) 'Let's not speak in any language', says the poet. Why?**
- (c) What should we not do for a second?**
- (d) What do you understand by 'the face of the Earth' ?**

**Answers:**

- (a)** The name of the poem is Keeping Quiet. The poet is Pablo Neruda.
- (b)** The people of the world have been indulging in wars and bloodsheds on minor excuses. If they keep quiet, they may not indulge in reasoning, disputes and quarrels. So, let them keep quiet and not speak in any language. This will ensure peace and prosperity.
- (c)** We should cease all activities for a second. Man has used his arms only to kill and destroy others. Therefore, let them not move their arms so much as to harm others.
- (d)** The expression "the face of the Earth" refers to the various countries on the surface of the earth.

**3.** It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines, we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.

**Questions**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.**
- (b) What will happen if there is no rush or running of engines?**
- (c) What sort of moment will it be?**
- (d) How would all of us feel at that moment?**

**Answers:**

- (a) The name of the poem is Keeping Quiet. The poet is Pablo Neruda.  
 (b) There will be peace all around if there is no rush or the sound of the running of engines and machines.  
 (c) It will be a very enticing and beautiful moment.  
 (d) All of us will enjoy the unusualness and sudden strangeness of that moment.
4. Fishermen in the cold sea would not harm whales and the man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands.

**Questions**

- (a) What do fishermen usually do in the cold sea?  
 (b) What does the poet ask fishermen not to do?  
 (c) What has happened to the man gathering salt?  
 (d) What should the man gathering salt do?

**Answers:**

- (a) Fishermen usually catch fish, particularly whales, in the cold seas.  
 (b) The poet asks fishermen not to hurt or injure the whales in the seas.  
 (c) The man gathering salt has injured his hands.  
 (d) He must take care of his hurt hands.

5. Those who prepare green wars,  
 wars with gas, wars with fire,  
 victory with no survivors,  
 would put on clean clothes  
 and walk about with their  
 brothers  
 in the shade, doing nothing.

**Questions**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.  
 (b) What sort of wars are mentioned in the above lines?  
 (c) What kind of victory will it be?  
 (d) How should the lovers of war behave?

**Answers:**

- (a) The name of the poem is Keeping Quiet. The poet is Pablo Neruda.  
 (b) Green wars, wars with poisonous gases and wars with the fire are the different kinds of wars.  
 (c) It will be a victory where no survivors will be left to celebrate it. Such a victory will be meaningless.  
 (d) They should put on clean clothes and walk with their brothers under the trees leisurely doing nothing.

6. What I want should not be confused  
 with total inactivity. i Life is what it is about;  
 I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded  
 about keeping our lives moving,  
 and for once could do nothing,  
 perhaps a huge silence

might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death.

**Questions**

- (a) What does the poet want? What should it not be confused with?  
 (b) Explain: 'I want no truck with death'.  
 (c) What do people pursue single-mindedly? Which is the better course the poet suggests?

**(d)When can a huge silence do us good?**

**Answers:**

(a)The poet is advocating for silence or stillness. Stillness should not be confused with total inactivity.  
(b)Total inactivity brings death. The poet refuses to associate (or deal) with death. Thus, he is not advocating for death.

(c)People pursue single-mindedly on keeping their lives moving. ..The poet suggests that it would be better if they give themselves rest for sometime. For once they may do nothing.

(d)A huge silence can do us a lot of good when we are disappointed at not understanding ourselves or threatening ourselves with death.

7. Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve

and you keep quiet and I will go.

**Questions**

**(a)What can the Earth teach us?**

**(b)What remains alive when everything seems dead?**

**(c)Who is the poet? What does he want to do?**

**(d)What does the poet ask us to do?**

**Answers:**

(a) The earth can teach us a lesson how to live on it.

(b)Only the earth remains alive when everything seems dead.

(c) The poet is Pablo Neruda. He wants to count upto twelve.

(d) He asks us to keep quiet while he is counting upto twelve.

**QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED**

**Q1. What will counting up to twelve and keeping still help us achieve?**

**Ans:** Counting up to twelve takes very short time. Keeping still for this brief interval of time gives us a momentary pause to introspect and review the course of action. It is generally observed that most of the ills and troubles of the world are caused by our rush or hurry. Violence is caused by anger.

Keeping quiet and still will give us necessary respite and ensure peace.

**Q2. Do you think the poet advocates total inactivity and death?**

**Ans:** No, he doesn't advocate either total inactivity or death. He makes it quite clear that 'stillness' should not be confused with "total inactivity or equated to it. Total inactivity brings death. But Neruda has 'no truck with death'. His stillness means halting of harmful and hostile human activities.

**Q3. What is the 'sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem? [All India 2014]**

**Ans:** Man's sadness is formed out of his own actions and thoughts. It is quite ironical that man who understands so much fails to understand himself and his action. Rash actions prove harmful and disastrous. Man is the creator of all disasters. He is always threatening himself with death because of his thoughts and actions. This is the tragedy of his life.

**Q4. What symbol from Nature does the poet invoke to say that there can be life under apparent stillness?**

**Ans:** The poet wants to prove that there can be life under apparent stillness. The poet invokes the earth as a living symbol to prove his point. The earth never attains total inactivity. Nature remains at work all the time even under apparent stillness. It keeps earth alive. This idea is beautifully illustrated by the following lines: "as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive."

**Q5. Choose a quiet corner and keep still physically and mentally for about five minutes. Do you feel any change in your state of mind?**

**Ans:** Extension Activity: For self-study.

**MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED**

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (Word Limit: 30-40 words)**

**Q1. Why does Pablo Neruda urge us to keep still?**

**Ans:** Stillness is essential for calm reflection and quiet introspection. We hear the voice of conscience



in moments of silence. The poet is convinced that most of human ills and miseries are caused by man's hurry and rush to do things. The poet wishes that we may withdraw ourselves from our undesirable actions and keep still for a moment.

**Q2. Why shouldn't we "speak in any language" and "not move our arms so much"?**

**Ans:** People of the world speak in different languages. They indulge in unnecessary debates and disputes. Most of these arguments lead to destructive wars. The poet urges people to stop speaking in any language. They must speak through their hearts. So far men have moved their arms only to harm others. Therefore, the poet wants that they should not move their arms so much. Let these arms rest for once. Let a feeling of mutual understanding, be created among human beings.

**Q3. Pablo Neruda says: "we would all be together in a sudden strangeness."**

**When can we experience such a moment? Why will that be an exotic moment?**

**Ans:** Non-stop activity, unnecessary rush and noise have made our lives unpleasant and full of misery, pain and troubles. We must stop rushing, hurrying, worrying and running. Even the noise of engines and machines must stop for once. Then all of us will enjoy the sudden strangeness of that moment. It will be a unique moment. In that exotic or fascinating moment we shall feel totally relaxed, physically as well as mentally.

**Q4. What does the poet ask the fisherman and the man collecting salt to do? What does he want to convey by this?**

**Ans:** Pablo Neruda is against any kind of violence. He addresses the fishermen and asks them not to harm whales living in the cold seas of the polar regions. He is also against any kind of self-torturing. The man who is gathering salt has hurt his hands. He asks this man to look after himself and take care of his injured hands.

**Q5. What are the different kinds of war mentioned towards war?**

**Ans:** The poet is against wars of all kinds. He wants a total stoppage of war. Green wars against the environment, wars with poisonous gases and wars with fire must be terminated (stopped) at once.

**Q6. What alternative does Pablo Neruda suggest instead of indulging in wars?**

**Ans:** Instead of indulging in wars, the people must come out in their best dresses with their brothers. They should go out for a walk under the shady trees and enjoy themselves doing nothing. This would bring the feeling of togetherness among them.

**Q7. How does the poet distinguish 'stillness' from 'total inactivity'? Why does Neruda say 'I want no truck with death'?**

**Ans:** Pablo Neruda is in favour of stillness or silence. We remain still and quiet for sometime. On the other hand, total inactivity is a permanent suspension of work. It is just like death. 'Stillness' should not be confused with 'total inactivity'. Life goes on as usual. There can't be anything like total inactivity. The poet refuses to associate with death or deal with it.

**Q8. Why does the poet feel that we should not be so single-minded?**

**Ans:** People are generally single-minded. They want to focus on only one thing. They want to keep their lives going. They are ever busy in their pursuit. The poet wishes that they would not be so much absorbed with always remaining on the move. They must have some respite or rest. They too need peace or silence.

**Q9. Why do men become sad? How can this sadness be overcome?**

**Ans:** Men fail to understand themselves. They are always threatening themselves with death. When they realise their failure to understand themselves they become sad or helpless. Fear of death also makes them sad. Only a huge silence can interrupt this sadness. Such silence will do them good.

**Q10. How might a huge silence interrupt the sadness of men?**

**Ans:** Men never understand themselves. Nor are they ever sure of their actions. They face another tragedy. Due to their own actions, they are threatening themselves with death. This realisation makes them helpless and sad. Only a huge (long) silence might interrupt this sadness and do them some good.

**Q11. Under the apparent stillness there is life. Justify this statement giving an example from the poem 'Keeping Quiet'.**

**Ans:** Neruda does not equate stillness with total inactivity. He believes that under this apparent stillness there is life. We can learn it from the earth. When everything seems dead, the earth still remains alive. The earth is never dead. The life on the earth goes on as usual under the apparent stillness.

**Q12. Justify the title 'Keeping Quiet'.**

**Ans:** The title of the poem is quite appropriate and logical. It suggests the necessity of quiet introspection. The people of the world are overactive and always on the move. Their activities have caused untold troubles and sufferings. Keeping quiet will do them a lot of good. It will save them from many harmful and violent activities. Moreover, it will help in reflecting over the fate of man and help in creating a feeling of mutual understanding among human beings.

**Q13. Which is the exotic moment that the poet refers to in 'Keeping Quiet': [Delhi 201]**

**Ans:** The poet talks about the exotic moment when everyone keeps quiet. There will be no rush for a second. The machines must stop for a moment. That moment will be fascinating for all of us. All of us shall enjoy the sudden strangeness of the moment together.



# CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo A Thing of Beauty Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo A Thing of  
Beauty Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

**English Flamingo A Thing of Beauty Download 2017 2018 New Edition  
PDF CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12**

**Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each:**

1. A thing of beauty is a joy forever  
Its loveliness increases, it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will  
keep a bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

**Questions**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- (b) How is a thing of beauty a joy for ever?
- (c) What do you understand by a 'bower'?
- (d) What kind of sleep does it provide?

**Answers:**

- (a) The poem is A Thing of Beauty. The poet is John Keats.
- (b) A thing of beauty is the source of constant joy. Its beauty goes on increasing. It will never pass into nothingness.
- (c) A bower is a pleasant place in the shade under a tree. It protects persons/animals from the hot rays of the sun.
- (d) It provides us a sound sleep, full of sweet dreams, health and peaceful breathing.

2. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways  
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

**Questions [All India 2014]**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.
- (b) Why are we despondent?
- (c) What removes the pall from our dark spirits?
- (d) What are we doing every day?

**Answers:**

- (a) The poet is John Keats. The poem is A Thing of Beauty.
- (b) We possess the evil qualities of malice and disappointment. We suffer from the lack of noble qualities. That is why we feel despondent.
- (c) Some beautiful shapes or a thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness from our hearts or spirits.
- (d) We are weaving a flowery wreath to bind us to the beauties of the earth.

3. Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,  
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make 'Gainst the  
hot season; the mid forest brake,  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;

## Questions

- (a) What removes the pall from our dark spirits?
- (b) What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?
- (c) How do 'daffodils' and 'rills' enrich the environment?
- (d) What makes the mid-forest brake rich?

### Answers:

- (a) Some beautiful shape or a thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness from our hearts or spirits.
- (b) Old and young trees sprout to make a green covering. It proves a blessing for simple sheep as it serves them as a shelter.
- (c) Daffodils bloom among the green surroundings. The rills or small streams of clear water make a cooling shelter for themselves against the hot season.
- (d) The mid-forest brake is made rich by the blooming of beautiful musk-roses.
- (e) (i) pall, (ii) boon, (iii) rills, (iv) covert.

4. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
Mill lovely tales that we have heard or read;  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink

### Questions [Delhi 2014]

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- (b) Explain: 'the grandeur of the dooms'.
- (c) What is the thing of beauty mentioned in these lines?
- (d) What image does the poet use in these lines?

### Answers:

- (a) The poem is A Thing of Beauty. The poet is John Keats.
- (b) The magnificence that we imagine for our mighty dead forefathers on the dooms day.
- (c) The lovely tales of mighty men are mentioned in these lines.
- (d) The poet uses the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth. The earth has bestowed us with sun, moon, flowers, rivers, greenery etc.

### QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED

**Q1. List the things of beauty mentioned in the poem.**

**Ans:** Everything of nature is a thing of beauty and a source of pleasure. Some of them are: the sun, the moon, old and young trees, daffodil flowers, small streams with clear water, mass of ferns and the blooming musk-roses. All of them are things of beauty. They are a constant source of joy and pleasure.

**Q2. List the things that cause suffering and pain.**

**Ans:** There are many things that cause us suffering and pain. Malice and disappointment are "the biggest source of our suffering. Another one is the lack of noble qualities. Our unhealthy and evil ways also give birth to so many troubles and sufferings. They dampen our spirits. They act as a pall of sadness on our lives.

**Q3. What does the line, 'Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth' suggest to you?**

**Ans:** Keats is a lover of beauty. He employs his senses to discover beauty. The link of man with nature is eternal. The things of beauty are like wreaths of beautiful flowers. We seem to weave a flowery band everyday. It keeps us attached to the beauties of this earth.

**Q4. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?**

**Ans:** There are many things that bring us troubles and sufferings. They dampen our spirits. However, 'some shape of beauty' brings love and happiness in our lives in spite of such unpleasant things. A thing of beauty removes the pall of sadness and sufferings. It makes us love life.

**Q5. Why is 'grandeur' associated with the 'mighty dead'?**

**Ans:** The mighty dead were very powerful and dominating persons during their own times. Their

achievements made them 'mighty' and great. Their noble works dazzle our eyes. We imagine that such mighty dead forefathers will attain more grandeur on the doomsday. Hence 'grandeur' is associated with the 'mighty dead'.

**Q6. Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression on us?**

**Ans:** We feel happy by coming into contact with things of beauty. They make a lasting impression on us. Keats makes it clear at the outset. A thing of beauty is a joy forever. It is a constant source of joy and pleasure. Its beauty never declines or diminishes. Its loveliness goes on increasing every moment. Its value remains undiminished. It never passes into nothingness. It removes the pall of sadness that covers our dark spirits.

**Q7, What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?**

**Ans:** John Keats uses a very beautiful image to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth. It is the endless fountain of immortal drink. It pours constantly into our hearts from heaven. Thus, the beautiful bounty of the earth is called "an endless fountain of immortal drink."

### **MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED**

#### **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (Word Limit: 30-40 words)**

**Q1. How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?**

**Ans:** According to John Keats a thing of beauty is a joy of forever. It is a constant source of happiness and pleasure. Its loveliness increases every moment. It will never pass into nothingness. In other words, a thing of beauty is never devalued.

**Q2. How does a thing of beauty provide us shelter and comfort?**

**Ans:** John Keats is a great Romantic poet. He is rich in sensuous imagery. Nature provides us things of rare beauty. It keeps a bower quiet for us. A bower is a pleasant place in the shade under a tree. A thing of beauty also provides us peace and security. We enjoy a sound sleep which is full of sweet dreams, health and peaceful breathing.

**Q3. How do we bind ourselves to the earth every morning?**

**Ans:** All the Romantic poets stress upon the relationship between man and nature. Keats believes that there is an unbreakable bond which binds man with nature and the earth. The beauties of the earth fascinate man. Every object of nature is a source of beauty and happiness. Everyday we are weaving a wreath of flowers. This flowery band binds us to the beauties of this earth.

**Q4. What are the things that cause miseries, sorrows and sufferings to man?**

**Ans:** Man himself is the root cause of all his sufferings. We suffer from malice and distress because we lack human qualities that makes us inhuman. Our life becomes gloomy. We cultivate unhealthy and evil ways. All such things bring miseries, sorrows and sufferings to man.

**Q5. What spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed?**

**Ans:** Man is the creator of his woes. His own nature and actions make his life miserable. He faces miseries and pains. A pall of despondence covers his dark spirits. A thing of beauty provides a ray of hope to man. Some shape of beauty works wonders amid these sorrows and sufferings. It is a thing of beauty that removes the pall of despondence over our dark spirits.

**Q6. Name the beauties of nature that are constant source of joy and happiness to man.**

**Ans:** Nature is a store house of beauty. The beauties of nature are endless. The sun, the moon, old and young trees, beautiful daffodil flowers and green surroundings are some of such beautiful things. Small streams with clear water, thick mass of ferns, thickets of forest and musk-rose are some other things of beauty. All such things of beauty are a constant source of joy and happiness to man.

**Q7. Why and how is 'grandeur associated with the 'mighty dead'?**

**Ans:** The dooms day is considered the day of judgement, when the dead will receive what is due to them. Our mighty dead forefathers earned name and fame with their noble deeds. It is hoped that they will be rewarded with rare magnificence and grandeur.

**Q8. How is a thing of beauty lovelier than all the lovely tales we have heard and read?**

**Ans:** All beautiful things of nature are a boon for humanity. The magnificence and beauty of objects

of nature surpasses the grandeur of dooms that we have imagined for our mighty dead forefathers. It is lovelier than all the lovely tales that we have heard or read.

**Q9. What is the source of the 'endless fountain' and what is its effect?**

**Ans:** A fountain of eternal joy and immortality pours into the heart and soul of man. It flows right from the heavens' brink and pours into the human heart. It is like an immortal nectar. The immortal drink that nature's endless fountain pours into our hearts is a source of immense joy for us.

**Q10. What is the message for the theme) of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?**

**Ans:** The very first line contains the message that John Keats, the great Romantic poet, wants to convey. Keats was a worshipper of beauty. For him beauty was truth and truth, beauty. Hence, for him a thing of beauty is a joy forever. Beauty never fades. Nor is it ever devalued. It never passes into nothingness. When we are full of sorrows and sufferings, some form of beauty comes to our rescue. It removes the pall of sadness and sorrows and gives us joy and pleasure. Thus, beauty is a boon for human beings.



# CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12 English Flamingo Aunt Jennifer's  
Tigers Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

English Flamingo Aunt Jennifer's Tigers Download 2017 2018 New Edition  
PDF CBSE Answers NCERT Solutions Class 12

**Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow each:**

1. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

**Questions**

- (a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- (b) What are Aunt Jennifer's tigers doing? How do they look like?
- (c) Where do they live? Are they fearless? Give an example.
- (d) How do they pace?

**Answers:**

- (a) The poem is Aunt Jennifer's Tigers. The poet is Adrienne Rich.
  - (b) They are jumping across a screen or a wall. They look like shining yellow topaz.
  - (c) They live in green forests. They are fearless. They don't fear the men under the tree.
  - (d) They run with a well-groomed, honourable confidence.
2. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.  
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band  
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

**Questions**

- (a) What were Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through?
- (b) How was she pulling the needle?
- (c) What was lying heavily? Where?
- (d) What was upon Aunt Jennifer's hand? How did it sit there?

**Answers:**

- (a) Aunt Jennifer's fingers were fluttering through her wool.
- (b) She was finding even the ivory needle hard to pull.
- (c) The weight of Uncle's wedding band was lying heavily on her hand.
- (d) There was Uncle's wedding band upon Aunt Jennifer's hand. It sat heavily there.

3. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

**Questions**

- (a) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands called 'terrified'?
- (b) What are they still ringed with?
- (c) Where did she make the tigers?
- (d) What will happen to her tigers after her death?

**Answers:**

- (a) Her hands are called terrified because they passed through very hard and bitter experience of married life.
- (b) They are still ringed with those hard and testing difficulties which possessed her during her life.
- (c) She made the tigers in the panel.
- (d) Her tigers will go on jumping ahead, proud and unafraid even after her death.

**QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK SOLVED****Q1. How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tiger's attitudes?**

**Ans:** Like all beasts of prey, the tigers are the denizens of the forest. They live far away from human settlements. They are called 'chivalric.' This indicates the majestic and honourable position that they occupy in the world of animals. So, the use of the words 'denizens' and 'chivalric' adds to our understanding of the tiger's attitudes.

**Q2. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer's hands are 'fluttering through her wool' in the second stanza? Why is she finding the needle so hard to pull?**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer is weaving tigers on the panel. Her hands are moving about her wool. She is finding the needle quite hard to pull. The weight of years of her married life is lying heavy on her hand. This makes the pulling of the needle so hard.

**Q3. What is suggested by the image 'massive weight of uncle's wedding band'?**

**Ans:** It suggests the weight of the harsh and tough experience of Aunt Jennifer's married life. The image is quite suggestive. The wedding band is symbolic. It represents the unbreakable bond of marriage between the husband and the wife.

**Q4. Of what or whom is Aunt Jennifer terrified in the third stanza?**

**Ans:** In the third stanza, the poet refers to Aunt Jennifer's 'terrified hands'. The old unhappy memories are still fresh in her mind. She had passed through many testing and horrible times during her married life. These ordeals crushed and suppressed her. Their effect is still visible. So, she is still ringed with those ordeals that dominated her life.

**Q5. What are the 'ordeals' Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by? Why is it significant that the poet uses the word 'ringed'? What are the different meanings of 'ringed' in the poem?**

**Ans:** The poem addresses the experiences of marriage in the midst of constrictions. The word 'ringed' is significant. It suggests that the vicious grip of her unhappy married life is still holding her tightly. The word 'ringed' has been used in two ways. First is the conventional use. Here ring is a symbol of the sacred bond of marriage. The other is the figurative use of 'ringed'. It means encircled or surrounded.

**Q6. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character? What might the poet be suggesting, through this difference?**

**Ans:** The tigers are 'prancing'. They pace in 'sleek chivalric certainty'. They 'do not fear' the men beneath the tree. Thus, they are symbols of strength, fierceness and beauty. Aunt Jennifer, on the other hand, is weak and terrified. Her hands are finding it difficult to pull through her wool. The massive weight of the wedding band sits heavily on her hand. Her terrified hands are still ringed by the ordeals of married life. The contrast heightens the intensity.

**Q7. Interpret the symbols found in this poem.**

**Ans:** Adrienne Rich's 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', is rich in symbolism. 'The massive weight of wedding band' symbolises ordeals, hardships and worries of married life. 'Terrified hands', and 'ringed with ordeals' also indicate those unpleasant experiences that are still clinging to Aunt Jennifer physically and mentally.

**Q8. Do you sympathise with Aunt Jennifer? What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?**

**Ans:** Yes, we do sympathise with Aunt Jennifer. She has experienced hardships and ordeals during her married life. The attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer is equally sympathetic. The poet



gives many suggestive images and symbols to present an old lady who has passed through painful experiences as well as unpleasant and terrifying periods during her married life.

### **MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED**

#### **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (Word Limit: 30-40 words)**

**Q1. What do you learn about Aunt Jennifer's tigers on reading the poem?**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer's tigers were created in the panel by her own hands. They appeared to be prancing (jumping) across a screen. They looked sleek. They were bright like yellow topaz. They were majestic and courageous. They didn't fear the men beneath the tree. They paced in 'chivalric certainty'.

**Q2. How has Aunt Jennifer created her tigers? What traits of tigers do they reveal!**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer's tigers are her own creations. She works with wool and ivory needles. She has created them in the panel. They have all the traits of the beasts of prey who are denizens of green forests. They are well-built and well-groomed. They are chivalric and full of confidence.

**Q3. What difficulty does Aunt Jennifer face while making her tigers and why?**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer is making her tigers in the panels. She is using ivory needles. Her fingers are fluttering through the wool. She finds it difficult (hard) to pull even the ivory needles. The reason is obvious. The weight of unhappy and unfortunate experiences of her married life sits heavily on her hands.

**Q4. What is the weight that lies heavy on Aunt Jennifer's hand? How is it associated with her husband?**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer is working with ivory needles and wool. But she can't move her fingers freely in the wool. She finds it hard to pull even the ivory needles easily. The experiences of her past married life are quite bitter. She has unpleasant memories of her married life with her husband. The heavy weight of the wedding band sits heavily upon her hand.

**Q5. How will Aunt Jennifer's hands look when she is dead?**

**Ans:** When Aunt Jennifer dies, her hands will still look terrified. Perhaps she has experienced a lot of hardships and troubles in the past. Their effect has left its print on her hands. The ordeals that crushed her married life had surrounded and cramped her fingers and hands too.

**Q6. What will happen to Aunt Jennifer's tigers when she is dead?**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer's tigers will survive her. She has created the tigers in a panel. They are made of wool. These objects of art will survive their creator. The tigers will go on jumping, proud and unafraid.

**Q7. Describe the poetic devices used in the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.**

**Ans:** Adrienne Rich's Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' a beautiful short poem rich in symbolism and imagery. The metaphor 'bright topaz' depicts the shining yellow complexion of her tigers. The effective use of alliteration in 'sleek, chivalric certainty' describes the pace of the tigers effectively. 'The massive weight of wedding band' symbolises ordeals and hardships of Aunt Jennifer's married life. The images 'terrified hands' and 'ringed with ordeal' create the effect of oppression and terror as well as captivity.

**Q8. How are Aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her? [All India 2014]**

**Ans:** Aunt Jennifer's tigers are a picture of strength, beauty and certainty. They seem to be jumping across a screen. They "pace in sleek chivalric certainty". They are confident and impressive. Aunt Jennifer is a weak, depressed and terrified person. Life has been a cup of woes for her. She is still in the grip of those ordeals and terrors that she faced and suffered from during her married life. Her fingers are so 'terrified' that they find it hard to pull even the ivory needle. Thus, the contrast is amply highlighted.

**Q9. What are the difficulties that Aunt Jennifer faced in her life? [Delhi 2014]**

**Ans:** The life of Aunt Jennifer was overburdened by the duties of her married life. Hardships and sufferings were the parts of her married life. She had to face oppression by her husband even though she was old and weak.