

# **NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature**

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### **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 1 Two Gentlemen of Verona NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

#### **Quick Review**

'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is a beautiful and touching story of two small boys who worked really hard in the city of Verona. One day, the narrator met these boys in Verona. They were selling wild strawberries. When asked about their age and name, they told him that Nicola, the elder was 13 whereas Jacopo, the younger, was 12. Next day, the narrator found them doing 'brisk business' in shoe-shining. When the narrator asked them the reason for changing their business, they told him that they did many things. For the next few days, the narrator found them shining shoes, selling fruits, hawking newspaper, conducting tourists round the town and so on. The narrator became eager to know why these small children worked so hard. He even realised that despite their hard work, they never spent money on themselves.

Their clothes were dirty and they usually ate black bread and figs. He teased them by asking if they had plans to emigrate to America. To this they replied in negative saying that they had other plans. Then Jacopo requested the narrator to help them reach Poleta, 30 km. from Verona. The narrator agreed and took them there the next afternoon. In Poleta, they drew up at a large villa and rushed inside. He later came to know that it was a hospital where their sister, Lucia, was under treatment for tuberculosis of the spine. He asked the nurse about Lucia. She told the narrator that a bomb had destroyed their family and these boys grew to hate the Germans. After the war was over, there was peace all around. But not in the lives of these children as it was at this moment that they discovered Lucia suffering from the deadly disease. But after the treatment, she was recovering. He was further informed that her brothers made the payments every week for the smooth going of treatment. The narrator was touched by the devotion of the two boys. He could see the ray of hope for human society. Then all the three came back to Verona.

#### **Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**Q. 1. He smiled uncomfortably. 'Just plans sir'. He answered in a low voice. (Board 2014, Set 8L1922Q)**

- (a) Who is 'he' in the above lines ?**
- (b) Why did 'he' smile uncomfortably ?**
- (c) What are the 'plans' being talked about ?**

**Ans.** (a) 'He' is Nicola in above lines. 1

(b) He smiled uncomfortably because he didn't want to share his plans with the narrator. 1

(c) The 'plans' being talked about are those of emigrating to America. 1

**Q. 2. The following afternoon we drove to the tiny village set high upon the hill side. (Board Term-12013, Set 5007)**

**(a) Who went on a trip to the tiny village ?**

**(b) Which village had they driven to ?**

**(c) Why was the narrator surprised when Jacopo directed him as to where he should stop ?**

**Ans.** (a) The narrator and the two brothers, Nicola and Jacopo went on the trip. 1

(b) They had gone to Poleta. 1

(c) He thought they would stop at some humble dwelling, but Jacopo guided him to a large villa. 1  
(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013)

**Q. 3. “We should greatly like to go to the states. But here, at present, we have other plans.” (Board Term-12013, Set 8SRR)**

**(a) Who is the speaker of the above lines and whom is he talking to ?**

**(b) Why doesn't the speaker elaborate the other plans that he has ?**

**(c) What characteristic traits of the speaker are revealed from the above lines ?**

**Ans.** (a) Nicola is speaking to the narrator. 1

(b) Because he wanted to keep his secret about the treatment of his tuberculosis afflicted sister. 1

(c) Soft spoken, polite, wishing to fight his battle independently, self-respect, responsible, doesn't share his problems (reserved).

**Q. 4. They greeted us with friendly faces.**

**“I thought you picked fruit for a living”, I said. (Board Term-12012, Set 41)**

**(a) Who are 'they' ?**

**(b) How did 'they' greet the narrator ?**

**(c) What did the narrator think 'they' did for a living ?**

**Ans.** (a) Jacopo and Nicola. 1

(b) They greeted him with a smile. 1

(c) The narrator thought that they picked fruit for a living. 1

**Q. 5. There was a pause. Nicola was glaring at his younger brother in vexation. “We could not think of troubling you, sir.” (Board Term-12011, Set 43)**

**(a) Why was Nicola glaring at his younger brother ?**

**(b) What favour did his younger brother ask from the narrator ?**

**(c) What trait of Nicola's character is revealed in these lines ?**

**Ans.** (a) Nicola was glaring at his younger brother in vexation because he was asking for a favour from a stranger which was against their self-respect. 1

(b) The younger brother Jacopo had asked the narrator if he could drive them to Poleta, 30 kilometre from Verona in a car on Sunday. 1

(c) His self-respect is revealed through his behaviour. 1

**Q. 6. “The two boys were seated at the bedside of a girl of about 20, who propped up on pillows wearing a pretty lace jacket, was listening to their chatter, her eyes soft and tender.” (Board Term-12011, Set 50)**

**(a) Who are the two boys referred to here ?**

**(b) Where are the boys at present ?**

**(c) Who is the girl ? Why was she propped up on the pillows ?**

**Ans.** (a) Nicola and Jacopo. 1

(b) In a hospital at Poleta, visiting their ailing sister, Lucia. 1

(c) The girl was their sister, Lucia. She was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine and was undergoing treatment. 1

**Q.7.'You must be saving to emigrate to America', I suggested. He looked at me sideways, and spoke with an effort. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 27)**

**(a) Who is 'he' referred to here ?**

**(b) Why did the author make such a suggestion ?**

**(c) What answer did he give with an effort ?**

**Ans.**(a) Nicola is referred to as 'he' here. 1

(b) He did so on seeing the boys working hard. 1

(c) He answered that they had other plans. 1

**Q.8.'When the resistance movement began secretly to form they were among the first to join. When the war was over and we had peace at last, they came back to their beloved sister.' (Board Term-I 2011, Set 19)**

**(a) Who are the 'they' referred to here ?**

**(b) Why did they join the resistance movement ?**

**(c) What had happened to their sister ?**

**Ans.** (a) 'They' are referred to the two boys—Nicola and Jacopo. 1

(b) They joined the resistance movement because they had suffered during the war and so hated the Germans. 1

(c) Their sister was suffering from tuberculosis. 1

**Q.9.I had already told Luigi he might have the Sunday off. However, I answered, "I'll drive you out myself." (Board Term-I 2011, Set 44)**

**(a) Who was Luigi ?**

**(b) Which was their destination ?**

**(c) Who was the narrator speaking to ?**

**Ans.**(a) Luigi was the narrator's driver. 1

(b) Their destination was a hospital where they used to go to meet their sister. 1

(c) The narrator was speaking to Jacopo and Nicola. 1

### **Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q.1.Why didn't the narrator go inside Lucia's room in the hospital ? What character trait is revealed here ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The narrator didn't go inside Lucia's room in the hospital as he didn't want to interfere in the personal life of the two little boys. The narrator showed respect to the personal life of the boys.

**Q.2.Although Nicola and Jacopo are young boys, the author refers to them as Gentlemen. Why did he do so ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 38)**

**Ans.** The boys had lost their home and their father had been killed in the war as well. The war had led them to the streets. Their sister was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. They worked very hard to pay for her treatment. It did not break their spirit. They remained dedicated and selfless. They would rather work hard and earn money than have anybody feel sorry for them and help them.

**Q.3.Draw the contrast between 'childish' and 'artless' faces and the seriousness beyond their years visible on them. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 43)**

**Ans.** They were both of a tender age. Outwardly, their faces looked 'boyish' and 'artless'. They were

far from clever or cunning. However, their responsibilities had made them mature before their age, so there was a seriousness beyond their years and it was visible on their faces.

**Q.4. Why did the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 52)**

**Ans.** The boys joined the resistance movement against the Germans because their house had been bombed and their parents had been killed in the war. They had been orphaned and their sister was in the hospital. They were full of vengeance against the Germans.

**Q.5. Why did Nicola and Jacopo develop hatred for the Germans ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** Their house had been bombed and their father was killed by the Germans. They were orphaned after the war and had no home. So, they hated the Germans. ‘

**Q.6. How did the boys impress the narrator and his companion ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 63)**

**Ans.** The boys were very young but eager to do any odd jobs, for a little money. They were resourceful and dogged in their determination to do useful work. This impressed the narrator and his companion. The boys’ intention was to do a good job and earn money, not to impress anyone.

**Q.7. Who is Lucia ? What is she suffering from ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 32)**

**Ans.** Lucia was the elder sister of Nicola and Jacopo. She was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine and was in a hospital for treatment.

**Q. 8. What were the narrator’s feelings for the boys at first ? What change did they undergo and why ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** At first, the narrator was impressed by the hard work the boys put in. He became fond of them when he saw them looking after their sister who was ill. He was full of admiration.

**Q. 9. Why didn’t the two boys disclose their problems to the author ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 11)**

**Ans.** The two boys Nicola and Jacopo were too dignified to disturb a stranger with their personal matters. They did not want anyone to intrude into their privacy. So, they kept their problems a secret.

**Q. 10. Why were the narrator and his companion impressed by the two boys ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 13)**

**Or**  
**Which qualities of the boys impressed the author in the story ‘Two Gentlemen of Verona’ ?**

**Ans.** The narrator and his companion were impressed by the two boys as they were very hard working. They loved their sister deeply and above all, they had the spirit of sacrifice.

**Q. 11. What are the odd jobs Jacopo and Nicola did for a living ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 16)**

**Ans.** Jacopo and Nicola were very hard working boys. They shined shoes, sold fruits, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town and ran errands for the narrator.

**Q. 12. Why were Jacopo and Nicola working hard ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 14)**

**Ans.** Jacopo and Nicola were working hard as their sister was suffering from tuberculosis and was under treatment. They were collecting money for her treatment.

**Q. 13. Why were the two boys living in the streets of Verona ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 19)**

**Ans.** Jacopo and Nicola's father had been killed in the early part of the war. Their home was destroyed by a bomb and they were on the streets. They had no place to live.

**Q. 14. What did the nurse tell the author about the boys ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 29)**

**Ans.** The nurse told him that the two boys had no one except their sick sister in this world. They worked very hard to earn money for the treatment of their sister.

**Q. 15. Why were the boys waiting for the last bus from Padua? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 25)**

**Ans.** The two boys were very hard working. They were waiting for the last bus so as to sell their papers.

**Q. 16. Justify the title 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 23)**

**Ans.** The two boys behaved in a gentlemanly way in the story. They were kind and caring towards their sister and very polite towards others. They never wanted to exploit other's pity or kindness to achieve their end. War did not spoil their gentle nature. Hence, the title 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is justified.

**Q. 17. How were the boys useful to the author in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 40)**

**Ans.** The two boys helped the narrator by arranging seats for the Opera, providing a pack of American Cigarettes, taking them around Juliet's Tomb. Whenever they wanted the name of a good restaurant they used to help them. Thus, they helped them in many ways.

**Q. 18. How did the loss of parents in the war affect the two boys ?**

**Ans.** The loss of parents in the war forced them to work hard not only for themselves but also to take on the responsibility of getting their sister treated, for which they worked hard and did all kinds of odd jobs. This lent them a seriousness beyond their ages.

**Q. 19. What did the narrator see when he looked through the glass partition ?**

**Ans.** He saw the two boys seated at the bedside of a girl. She resembled the boys and was listening to their chatter.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Imagine yourself to be the narrator of the story, 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'. Write a letter to one of your friends to contribute some money to aid the treatment of Lucia. (Board Term-I 2012, Set EC2,036)**

**Ans.** 45 New Avenue Street  
Verona  
9 April 2014  
Dear Albert

Last week, I met two boys who can be called the Gentlemen of Verona. They are very hard-working boys. I have taken a liking to them and that's why I want to help those two boys, Jacopo and Nicola. They are putting in extra labour for their sister 'Lucia' who is not well, and is suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. For her treatment a lot of money is required. I've decided to help them by paying their hospital bills for as long as I can afford. Suddenly, I recalled you and thought to ask you



also about contributing some money to aid Lucia's treatment. I know you're a philanthropist and would not hesitate to help them.

Waiting for an early reply from your end.

Yours sincerely

A. J. Cronin

**Q. 2. 'The two boys' devotion had touched me deeply. War had not broken their spirit. Their selfless action brought a new nobility to human life, gave promise of a greater hope for human society. (Board Term-12011, Set 16)**

**Ans.** The narrator was deeply touched by the devotion of Jacopo and Nicola towards their work. They did not resort to any short cut method. They had self-respect and were highly secretive in not revealing their personal problems to the strangers. Their love and care for their sister also touched the narrator. He realized that these two boys were the embodiment of selflessness, nobility, gentlemanliness who gave promise of a greater hope for the human society. In these days of variety of disasters and distractions faced by the humans, the two boys stood apart to show him hope, faith, positive thinking. He knew their hard work would take them a long way.

**Q. 3. You are the nurse at the hospital. You are happy that you could share everything about the boys with the narrator. Write a diary entry about meeting the narrator and what you shared with him. (Board Term-12011, Set 14)**

**Ans.** Saturday, 10 January, 2014

11:30 pm

Dear Diary

I am very impressed by the two boys who visit their ailing sister, Lucia, every week. One week, they did not come alone. They were accompanied by a gentleman who wanted to know about the boys. I told him that they were all alone in the world. Their father was a widower and a singer but had been killed in a war. The bomb destroyed their home. Their sister suffered from tuberculosis of the spine. These boys loved their sister and had deep affection for her. They admitted her to this hospital. But they have to work very hard as the bills are quite high. The good thing about these boys is that they are paying the bills every week. May God give them happiness.

**Q. 4. 'Where there is a will, there is a way'. How did the two boys prove it ? (Board Term-12011, Set 29)**

**Ans.** The two boys, Nicola and Jacopo, were very hard working. Fate had never smiled on them. Their home had been destroyed and they lost their father in a bomb-blast. Their sister was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. But this did not deter their spirit. They admitted her to a nearby hospital and ensured that they paid the bill every week. For this they earned money by hawking newspapers, selling fruits, shining shoes, running errands and what not. Even war did not break their spirit. In a way, they fought against all odds and never lost the battle. They were trying their best to come out victorious from this battle.

**Q. 5. Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys.**

**Ans.** Appearances are deceptive. Nicola and Jacopo both were two little boys aged 13 and 12. They were shabbily dressed. The very first time when the author met them, they were selling wild strawberries but after that they were seen shining shoes, arranging seats for opera, showing visitors through the town and so on. Nobody could expect such hard work from two little boys of their age. They always wore shabby clothes and ate black bread and figs. Looking at the amount of earning, they

could have taken a much better meal and clothes. No doubt, they earned quite a lot but had to make payments for the hospital bills of their sister so they never spent anything on themselves.

### **Value Based Questions (3 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Both the boys at Verona were full of grit, determination and hope. At a young age they exhibited qualities that are difficult to come even in adults. This story teaches us not to lose hope and courage even in adverse situations. Elaborate. (Board Term-12013, Set 101)**

**Ans.** Jacopo and Nicola, though too young to face adverse situations, did not lose hope and courage. They were not ready to accept defeat at the hands of circumstances. Their family and home had been destroyed by a bomb-blast and their sister suffered from the tuberculosis of the spine. They had no money for her treatment. But they did not lose hope. They got her admitted in a hospital at Poleta and worked day and night to pay the bills of the hospital. They sold fruits, hawked newspaper, conducted tourists round the town, polished the shoes and what not. They worked real hard to earn money and saved it for the treatment of their sister. They never spent money on themselves. The adverse situations did not break their spirits and they remained dedicated and selfless. Thus, the story teaches us not to lose hope and courage. Rather we should face life as it comes. Running away from the problem is not the solution but finding ways to come out of the problems shows the real manly spirit.

**Q. 2. Both Nicola and Jacopo have grown up and are successful and respectable citizens. They were asked to inaugurate a 'HOME' for the abandoned children. Imagine yourself to be Nicola, address the gathering expressing your views on 'Child Care'. (Board Term-12012, Set EC2,050)**

**Ans.**

#### **Child Care**

A very good morning to all present here. Today, we are very happy to be here among you and a part of the inauguration ceremony of 'HOME'. We both are of the opinion that childhood is the most precious time of a person's life but it sometimes gets blotted by the curse of child-labour. The reasons for child labour like poverty, lack of education, lack of parental care, wasteful war, etc., mar the innocence of the children. Even we had a bad childhood. We had got destroyed in the German war. Our father was killed in the war and we turned orphans at the tender age of 13 years and 12 years. We can't forget the day when we came to know that our sister Lucia was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. We had no money for her medical expenses. We decided to work day and night for it but there was scarcity of jobs in Verona. Yet we did not lose courage. We did all sorts of odd jobs to make both ends meet and finally the day arrived when our sister got well. We were very happy. I personally feel that the government should come forward to help the needy children and provide them education so that they can lead a happy and prosperous life. Educated children will definitely blossom into responsible adults. I hope 'HOME' will also work to help the abandoned children so that they don't lose their childhood.

Thank you.

**Q. 3. Imagine you are Lucia. You have been told by the nurse in the hospital that you have completely recovered from your illness and you can go home tomorrow. You are very happy and thankful to your brothers. Write a diary entry in about 150 words, expressing your gratitude to your brothers and mentioning your future plans. Also mention the value and feeling of love towards your brothers.**

**Ans.** Wednesday  
13 June 20xx  
10:30 p.m.

**Dear Diary**

I am very happy and excited today as the nurse who was looking after me in the hospital, informed me that I have completely recovered from my illness and now I can go home. I have been in the hospital for many months and was waiting for this day to arrive. But all the credit goes to my younger brothers, Jacopo and Nicola, who faced many hardships to pay my medical bills. I really admire their sense of duty and love for me even though they are much younger in age. I have realized the value of having caring siblings. The way they looked after me was amazing. I had never expected to be taken care of so tenderly after my parents' death. I really thank God that my brothers love me so much. I've decided that once I'm out in the world, I'll work as a singer and with the earnings will give my brothers a good life. They have suffered a lot. But now I can see a ray of hope. May God bless my brothers.





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#### **Quick Review**

Mrs. Packletide, the main character of the story, once travelled in an airplane with Loona Bimberton, who talked of nothing else but the self-procured tiger skin. Mrs. Packletide got jealous and decided at that moment to kill a tiger and gift a tiger-claw brooch to Loona on her next birthday. For this, she even offered one thousand rupees to the villagers to arrange the shooting of a tiger, without much risk or exertion. The villagers were excited at the prospect of one thousand rupees and were ready to help her. The great night arrived when the killing was to be done. Mrs. Packletide, along with a paid companion, Miss Mebbin, crouched on a platform constructed specially for this on a tree. A goat was fastened as a bait for the tiger and everyone started waiting for the tiger. They had to wait for sometime and then they heard the footsteps of the tiger. Mrs. Packletide shot using her rifle and the tiger was dead. Everyone rejoiced over the killing, when they came down from the tree. Miss Mebbin drew Mrs. Packletide's attention towards the bullet wound on the goat and not the tiger. Actually, the bullet from the rifle hit the goat which died instantly whereas the tiger being an old one, just succumbed to heart-failure at the mere sound of a bullet. Anyhow, Mrs. Packletide was everywhere on the pages of the weekly and she sent the tiger-claw brooch to Loona Bimberton also. As for Miss Mebbin, she never forgot about the bullet-injury on the goat for which Mrs. Packletide had to do something so that she didn't give her away. She had to buy a weekerd cottage near Darking in which Louisa Mebbin lived happily.

#### **Extract Based Choice Questions (3 marks each)**

**Q.1. The luncheon party she declined, there are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous. (Board Term-12012, Set 52)**

**(a) Who is 'she' here ?**

**(b) Which luncheon party is mentioned here ?**

**(c) Why did she decline to attend the party ?**

**Ans.** (a) 'She' here is Loona Bimberton. 1

(b) It is the party that Mrs. Packletide wanted to throw in the honour of Loona Bimberton. 1

(c) She was jealous of Mrs. Packletide as she had been successful in killing a tiger. 1

**Q.2. In a world, that is supposed to be chiefly swayed by hunger and by love, Mrs. Packletide was an exception, her movements and motive were largely governed by dislike of Loona Bimberton. (Board Term-12012, Set 50)**

**(a) How is the world chiefly swayed by ?**

**(b) How was Mrs. Packletide an exception ?**

**(c) How was Mrs. Packletide governed ?**

**Ans.** (a) This world is swayed by hunger and love.

- (b) She was neither swayed by love nor by hunger.
- (c) All movements and motives of Mrs. Packletide were mostly governed by her dislike of Loona Bimberton.

**Q.3.'Evidently, the wrong animal had been hit and the beast of prey had succumbed to heart-failure....'. (Board Term-12012, Set 38)**

**(a) What did Mrs. Packletide wanted to kill and why ?**

**(b) How did the two animals die ?**

**(c) How did Miss Louisa Mebbin take advantage of this situation ?**

**Ans.** (a) Mrs. Packletide wished to shoot a tiger and get her pictures published. This was to prove herself superior to Loona Bimberton who had recently obtained a tiger-skin and couldn't stop boasting about it.

• (b) The goat died of the gun shot. The tiger merely died of a heart failure caused by the sound of the gun shot.

(c) Louisa Mebbin blackmailed Mrs. Packletide into buying her the weekend cottage or else she would tell Loona Bimberton that it was not the tiger but a mere goat that Mrs. Packletide had shot.

**Q. 4. Miss Mebbin had a protective elder sister like attitude towards money. (Board Term-12012, Set 36)**

**(a) Who was Miss Mebbin ?**

**(b) How did she adopt an elder sister like attitude ?**

**(c) How did she prove in the end that she was a money-minded lady ?**

**Ans.** (a) Miss Mebbin was a paid companion of Mrs. Packletide.

(b) She was money-minded and saved each and every penny given to her as tips in same Moscow hotel.

(c) She blackmailed Mrs. Packletide and forced her to buy a cottage for herself.

**Q. 5. How amused everyone would be if they knew what really happened ? (Board Term-12012, Set 37)**

**(a) Who is the speaker ?**

**(b) What had really happened ?**

**(c) Why would everyone be amused ?**

**Ans.** (a) Miss Mebbin is the speaker.

(b) Mrs. Packletide had shot the goat and not the tiger which had died of a heart-attack.

(c) Everyone would be amused as they thought that Mrs. Packletide had killed the tiger which in reality she had not.

**Q. 6. "How you shot the goat and frightened the tiger to death", said Miss Mebbin, with her disagreeably pleasant laugh. (Board Term-12012, Set 32)**

**(a) In the above statement, Miss Mebbin is making fun of Mrs. Packletide. Why ?**

**(b) What characteristic of Miss Mebbin is highlighted in the above extract ?**

**(c) How did the tiger die ?**

**Ans.** (a) Because Mrs. Packletide had missed her aim and had not killed the tiger.

(b) She is insensitive and an opportunist.

(c) The tiger probably died of a heart failure.

**Q. 7. Mrs. Packletide indulges in no more big game shooting.**

**"The incidental expenses are so heavy", she confides to enquiring friends.**

**(a) Why did Mrs. Packletide indulge in big-game hunting ?**

**(b) Why did she want to give up big-game hunting ?**

**(c) How did the incidental expenses become heavy ?**

- Ans.** (a) She wanted to outdo her rival Loona Bimberton's feat of obtaining a tiger skin.  
(b) She did so as the incidental expenses involved were very high.  
(c) She was blackmailed to buy a weekend cottage for Miss Mebbin.

**Q.8."And for Loona Bimberton, she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks and her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch was a model of repressed emotion. (Board Term-12011, Set 13)**

- (a) Loona didn't look at papers for .weeks because**  
**(b) Who gave her the gift ?**  
**(c) Her emotions were repressed because**

- Ans.** (a) they praised Mrs. Packletide.  
(b) Mrs. Packletide gave her the gift.  
(c) she was jealous of Mrs. Packletide.

**Q. 9. "Now, Now \" urged Miss Mebbin with some excitement.**

- (a) What is she excited about ?**  
**(b) What nature of Miss Mebbin is brought out through this line ?**  
**(c) Where is Miss Mebbin when she speaks this lines ? (Board Term-12011, Set 12)**

- Ans.** (a) She is excited about the money that would be gained.  
(b) These lines show that she tried to take advantage of every situation.  
(c) Miss Mebbin is with Mrs. Packletide, ready to kill a tiger.

**Q. 10. "The luncheon party she declined; there are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous/**

- (a) 'She' referred to here is**  
**(b) The luncheon party mentioned here was the one**  
**(c) The party was held (Board Term-12011, Set 23)**

- Ans.** (a) Loona Bimberton.  
(b) given in the honour of Mrs. Loona Bimberton.  
(c) to celebrate Mrs. Packletide's achievement.

**Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Why did Mrs. Packletide give up big-game shooting ? (Board 2014, Set 8L1922Q)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide gave up big-game shooting as she found it to be an affair where 'incidental expenses' were heavy. She had to pay a lot in the tiger-killing also as Miss Mebbin blackmailed her into paying for a weekend cottage. Apart from this, she had to pay the villagers also for helping her in the killing of animal.

**Q. 2. How does Louisa Mebbin exploit the incident of killing the tiger to her greatest advantage ?**

**(Board 2014, Set 8L1992Q)**

**Ans.** Louisa Mebbin is the paid companion of Mrs. Packletide. She has an elder sisterly attitude towards money. When she notice that it is the goat and not the tiger which has been killed by Mrs. Packletide's gun shot, she blackmails her into buying a weekend cottage at Darking otherwise she suggests of informing Loona Bimberton about it.

**Q. 3. How did Miss Louisa Mebbin blackmail Mrs. Packletide ? (Board Term-12011, Set 37)**

**Ans.** She blackmailed her into buying her a weekend cottage otherwise she would have told Loona Bimberton the truth that it was not the tiger but a mere goat that Mrs. Packletide had shot.

**Q. 4. What had Mrs. Packletide already arranged in her mind for Loona Bimberton ?**

**(Board Term-12011, Set 13) Ans.** She had arranged a luncheon party in her mind. Actually, her purpose was to show her and others the skin rug of the tiger, she had killed. She had also designed a tiger-claw brooch which she wanted to gift Loona Bimberton on her birthday.

**Q. 5. Mrs. Packletide was a good shot. Discuss. (Board Term-12011, Set 52)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide was not a professional hunter. When she took her shot, it wounded and killed the goat. The tiger suffered a heart-failure and died. She missed her shot but was able to annoy Loona Bimberton.

**Q. 6. Why did Mrs. Packletide decide to give a party in honour of Loona Bimberton ?**

**What did she plan to present Loona on her birthday ? (Board Term-12011, Set 59)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide's only aim in life was to surpass Loona Bimberton, who was very popular for her adventurous and exciting deeds. By giving a party in her honour, Mrs. Packletide wanted to show her that she had done a more adventurous and exciting thing by shooting a tiger. She even wanted to gift a tiger-claw brooch to Loona on her birthday just to outshine her.

**Q. 7. What was Mrs. Packletide's pleasure and intention ? Why did she decide to kill a tiger ?**

**(Board Term-12011, Set 54)**

**Ans.** She loved showing off and to be mentioned in the magazines. She drew pleasure in making others feel inferior and low. So, she decided to kill a tiger in order to be in the limelight and also to make Loona feel small.

**Q. 8. How did Louisa Mebbin manage to buy the pretty weekend cottage ? (Board Term-12011, Set 63)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide had killed the wrong animal and the tiger had died of heart attack. Only Louisa Mebbin knew this. Every newspaper and magazine reported the killing of the tiger and Mrs. Packletide did not deny it. Louisa found that enough reason to blackmail her and that is how she bought the cottage.

**Q. 9. Why were the villagers happy ? (Board Term-12011, Set 13)**

**Ans.** The villagers were very happy at the prospect of winning a thousand rupees. They posted boys at the outskirts, kept a goat as bait for the tiger and mothers hushed their singing.

**Q. 10. Do you think that Louisa Mebbin was devoted to Mrs. Packletide ? Give reasons for your answer. (Board Term-12011, Set 32)**

**Ans.** No, she was not sincere and devoted because she threatened to disclose the true facts of the hunt, if she had not paid the money that would enable her to buy a cottage for herself.

**Q. 11. "Mrs. Packletide indulges in no more big game shooting." What put her off from going on further hunts ? (Board Term-12011, Set 34)**

**Ans.** She had realized that shooting was an expensive affair after she was blackmailed by her friend and made to pay for her cottage apart from having to pay the villagers for helping her.

**Q. 12. What did Mrs. Packletide carry with her when she went to hunt a tiger and why ? (Board Term-12011, Set 45)**



**Ans.** When Mrs. Packletide went to hunt a tiger, she carried a fully loaded rifle and a pack of patience cards for her safety and the others to pass the time.

**Q. 13. What were the villagers worried about in the lesson ‘Mrs. Packletide’s Tiger’? (Board Term-12011, Set 60)**

**Ans.** They were worried that the weak, old tiger might die before the arrival of the fixed date for the shooting and they would not be able to earn a handsome amount of money.

**Q. 14. Depict the instances of humour in ‘Mrs. Packletide’s Tiger’. (Board Term-12011, Set 15)**

**Ans.** ‘Mrs. Packletide’s Tiger’ is full of witty remarks and Mrs. Packletide was a good shot is one of them. She decided to kill a tiger but paid one thousand rupees to the villagers to find a tiger who is old and she would not have to work hard on it. Secondly, when she fired a shot, the bullet, instead of hitting the tiger, hit the goat. It was her good luck that both the animals died but her shot was a missed shot.

**Q. 15. “The incidental expenses are heavy”, she confides to inquiring friends. Who is the speaker ? What is she referring to here ? (Board Term-12011, Set 16)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide is the speaker. Her paid companion Louisa Mebbin knew that Packletide was unworthy of the honour received for having killed a tiger. She feared that Mebbin would reveal the truth of the tiger’s death. She had to please Mebbin who exploited the situation. The money spent on Mebbin is referred to as incidental expenses.

**Q. 16. How did the villagers react to the tiger’s death ? (Board Term-12011, Set 18)**

**Ans.** In a moment, a crowd of excited natives had swarmed on to the scene, and they carried the glad news to the village, where a thumping of tomtoms took up the chorus of triumph. And their triumph and rejoicing found a ready echo in the heart of Mrs. Packletide.

**Q. 17. Would you agree that Mrs. Packletide was jealous ? Give reasons. (Board Term-12011, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The following reasons show that she was jealous :

- (i) Her compelling motive was the fact that Loona talked of nothing but the personally procured tiger skin, she also wanted to get one.
- (ii) She wanted to throw a party in Loona’s honour just to spite her and get popularity for herself.
- (iii) She competed with Loona by getting the attention of the press.

**Q. 18. What preparation were made for the tiger shoot ? (Board Term-12011, Set 31)**

**Ans.** An old tiger was found for the tiger shoot. A platform was constructed on a tree and a goat was kept as a bait. Mrs. Packletide Waited on the platform with a rifle and a pack of cards.

**Q. 19. What discovery annoyed Mrs. Packletide ? (Board Term-12011, Set 33)**

**Ans.** The discovery that she shot the wrong animal and the fact that the old tiger died of heart-failure due to the sound of the gun upset Packletide.

**Q. 20. How much money did Mrs. Packletide pay to the villagers ? Why ?**

**Ans.** Jealous of Loona Bimberton, Mrs. Packletide decided to hunt a tiger and send a tiger-claw brooch Loona Bimberton’s birthday. Since she was’ not a good hunter, she wanted the hunting to go without any risk. So, she paid one thousand rupees to the villagers to make arrangements for tiger hunt like finding an old tiger and not let it run away from that place.



**Q. 21. Who was Miss Mebbin ? What was her relationship with Mrs. Packletide ?**

**Ans.** Miss Mebbin was a paid companion of Mrs. Packletide. She was not at all devoted to her. She pretended to have a protective elder sister like attitude towards Mrs. Packletide.

**Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Mrs. Packletide's desire became a constant trouble for her. Explain. (Board Term-12012, Set EC2,018)**

**Ans.** Jealous of Loona Bimberton, Mrs. Packletide wished to embarrass her. She wanted to outshine her by proving that she was more adventurous than her rival Loona Bimberton who had been carried eleven miles in an aeroplane by an Algerian pilot. In her wish to procure a tiger skin, she chose to shoot an old tiger. However, having a poor aim she shot a goat rather than the tiger. Mrs. Packletide achieved what she desired to prove her superiority over Loona Bimberton and to be popular for her amazing feat. But this fulfilment came with a price. She had to buy an expensive cottage for Miss Mebbin who threatened to expose her secret. Thus, her heart's desire became a constant trouble for her as Miss Mebbin could blackmail her further whenever she wanted anything from her.

**Q. 2. Mrs. Packletide develops extreme jealousy for Loona Bimberton. She gives vent to her feelings by writing a diary entry. As Mrs. Packletide, write the diary entry. (Board Term-12011, Set 14)**

**Ans.** Friday, 23 February 2014 11 p.m.

Dear Diary

I feel utmost displeasure to see people praising Loona Bimberton. I deeply yearn to show her that I am superior and so I have planned to kill a tiger. This feat will get me a lot of publicity and I will be famous. My popularity will cause a lot of pain to Loona. After the killing, I will organize a lunch to celebrate my achievement and will invite Loona to this celebration. I will flaunt the tiger skin ring and present a tiger-claw brooch to Loona. I am really envious of her and will take any step to make her feel inferior.

Packletide

*WE ARE WITH YOU.....*

**Q. 3. Mrs. Packletide recalls her glorious period of fame and happiness over being successful at making Loona Bimberton jealous. She plans again to make it big by some other means but this time she will keep Miss Mebbin who had proved costly, miles away from her new venture. She pens down her feelings in a diary. Write this diary entry. (Board Term-12011, Set 20)**

**Ans.** Monday, 28 February 2014 10:30 p.m.

Dear Diary

I still remember the day when fame and happiness smiled at me. I succeeded at making Loona Bimberton jealous. It was the day when I shot the tiger. My feat was covered in leading newspapers. How glorious it was! I had thrown a lunch party and invited Loona also but she declined the invitation. But I can't forget the way Miss. Mebbin blackmailed me into buying her a weekend cottage. Thus, the tiger feat proved costly to me. Now I am making fresh plans to make Loona jealous but I've to keep Miss. Mebbin miles away from this new venture so as not to repeat my mistake committed earlier.

Packletide

**Q. 4. Write the character sketch of Mrs. Packletide.**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide, as portrayed in the story, is a typical woman. She is competitive, jealous, materialistic and vain. When Loona Bimberton tells her about the personally procured tiger skin, she

immediately decides to honour her and present her a tiger-claw brooch. This incident points towards her competitive and jealous nature. In order to hunt the tiger by all means, she goes to the extent of offering one thousand rupees to the villagers for shooting a tiger without any risk or exertion. In the end when she killed the goat instead of the tiger, the paid companion, Louisa tries to blackmail her by asking for a cottage which she does buy so that none comes to know the truth. So, she is a worldly lady who cares more for her reputation than her money.

**Q. 5. What comment did Miss Mebbin make after Mrs. Packletide had fired the shot ? Why did she make this comment ? How did Mrs. Packletide react to this comment ?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide fired the shot, it hit the goat and not the tiger. But both the goat and the tiger died the goat from the bullet wound and the tiger due to the sound of bullet. He perhaps died of heart-failure. Miss Mebbin was the first one to note this and she told the same to Mrs. Packletide. Miss Mebbin was a very shrewd and calculative lady. She had made up her mind to blackmail Mrs. Packletide as she knew the lady would not like anyone else to know that the tiger had died a natural death and not because of her bullet. Mrs. Packletide bought a cottage for Miss Mebbin so that she kept quiet about all this.

### **Value Based Question (3 marks each)**

**Q. 1. As one of the villagers participating in the hunting expedition, you are surprised to see an extravagant display of wealth and money for fame which ends in failure. You decide to write a diary mocking at the situation and expressing your feelings against the show of false ego.**

**Ans.** Saturday  
9 February 2014  
10 p.m.  
Dear Diary

I had an enjoyable day today as I participated in Mrs. Packletide's hunting expedition. I was very happy to get a large sum of money which would make many of my dreams come true. Mrs. Packletide paid a lot of money to all of us just for her false ego. She just wanted to show off that she was better than her friend Miss Loona Bimberton but all this was wrong. Just to satisfy her ego she had killed a tiger and distributed money among villagers for making her efforts a success. I wish she had spent this money on feeding some poor children or she had gone to some orphanage to help those poor children. It is strange that there are some people who don't have food to eat and there are others who throw money just to flaunt. This extravagant display of wealth and money for some is rather disgusting. The money should have been spent for a noble cause.

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### **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 3 The Letter NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

#### **Quick Review**

'The Letter' written by Dhumaketu is the story of an old coachman whose daughter Miriam, married a soldier and went to live with him. Ali missed her and gave up hunting after he realized the pain of separation. Five years passed but he kept on waiting for Miriam's letter. He went to the nearby post-office daily in the hope of getting a letter from her. But no letter ever came for him. Rather the clerks and other officials made fun of him. They would call out his name in mischief and when Ali would go to the window they would laugh at him. Ali used to feel bad about all this. The postman started taking him to be a mad man. But Ali, not bothering about all this, returned every day to the post-office just to hear a word from his daughter or about her well-being.

Towards the end of his life, his ill-health prevented him from visiting the post-office daily. He couldn't breathe properly. So, one day, when he visited the post-office, he told one of the clerks to do him a favour by forwarding Miriam's letter to his grave. He offered him five golden guineas for this. There were tears in his eyes. He was never seen after that and then nobody bothered to enquire about him.

Time passed. One day, the postmaster had a problem. His daughter, who lived in another town, fell ill. He anxiously waited for news of her but there was none. It was at this moment that he was reminded of Ali and his anxiety of getting a letter from his daughter. This realisation made him truly repentant of his rude behaviour towards Ali. Meanwhile there was a letter addressed to Ali. He decided to hand over the letter to Ali himself at 4 o'clock.

That night the postmaster could not sleep. At five, he heard a soft knock at the door. He opened the door only to find Ali standing there. The postmaster handed him the letter. Ali immediately disappeared after taking the letter.

Just then, Lakshmi Das, the clerk who had taken the guineas from Ali, came there and saw the postman talking to someone. He was astonished to hear Ali's name and so informed the postmaster that Ali died three months ago. The postmaster could not believe this. That evening, both of them went to visit coachman Ali's grave and placed the letter there. Now, the postmaster realised the value of human feelings and emotions in terms of letter and envelopes. Now, they were not mere postcards but much more than anyone could realize.

#### **Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**Q. 1. "The whole universe is built up through love and the grief of separation is inescapable." (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18, QUD9VQW)**

**(a) When did the speaker acquire this philosophy ?**

**(b) What pain has the speaker gone through ?**

**(c) What does the word 'inescapable' mean ?**

**Ans.** (a) The speaker here is Ali. He had been a hunter and known for his expertise in killing but now when he is

away from his own daughter he realizes it.

(b) The pain of separation.

(c) Something that can't be avoided/prevented. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Q. 2. The postmaster did not receive his own letter all that day. He worried all night, and getting up at three, went sit in the office.**

**(a) Replace any one letter of the word 'receive' to change its meaning.**

**(b) Why was the postmaster worried ?**

**(c) What did one night spent in anxiety teach the postmaster ?**

**Ans.** (a) Receive—deceive.

(b) The postmaster was worried because his daughter was not well and he had not received any letter from her.

(c) One night spent in anxiety taught the postmaster that letters are not mere words, they are emotions and something which is priceless.

**Q. 3. But when the evening of his life was drawing in, he left his old ways and suddenly took a new turn. (Board Term-I 2013, Set 101)**

**(a) What does the phrase 'evening of his life' refer to ?**

**(b) What do you understand by the phrase 'he left his old ways' ?**

**(c) Why did he take a new turn ?**

**Ans.** (a) It refers to old age of Ali.

(b) Ali had been a hunter but later he stopped 'his old ways' i.e., he stopped hunting animals.

(c) He took a new turn as he had realized the meaning of love and separation.

**Q. 4. "In the grey sky of early dawn, stars still glowed, as happy memories light up a life that is nearing its close. An old man was walking through the town, now and again drawing his tattered clothes tighter to shield his body from the cold and biting wind". (Board Term-I 2011, Set 44)**

**(a) Whose life is drawing to a close ?**

**(b) Where is he going and why ?**

**(c) What does this show about his character ?**

**Ans.** (a) Coachman Ali.

(b) To the post-office in order to check if his daughter has sent him a letter.

(c) He is determined and doesn't care for physical comforts.

**Q. 5. An old man was walking through the town, now and again drawing his tattered clothes tighter to shield his body from the cold and biting wind. (Board Term-12011, Set 61)**

**(a) Who was the 'old man' ? Where did he intend to go ?**

**(b) How did he brave the adversity of the weather ?**

**(c) What trait does his walking to the post-office even in biting cold weather reveal about his temperament ?**

**Ans.** (a) The old man was coachman Ali. He intended to go to the post-office in the hope of hearing

from his daughter.

(b) The poor man was ill-clad and his tattered clothes couldn't protect him from the biting cold. Still defying the weather he held his clothes tight and continued walking.

(c) Ali's defiant attitude towards the unfavourable weather highlights his firm determination and immense will power.

**Q. 6. "Tortured by doubt and remorse, he sat down in the glow of the charcoal sigri to wait". (Board Term-12011, Set 45)**

**(a) Who is the person referred to in this extract ?**

**(b) Why is he tortured by remorse ?**

**(c) What is he waiting for and why ?**

**Ans.** (a) The postmaster.

(b) He had been cruel, callous and insensitive towards Ali.

(c) He was waiting for a letter from his daughter as she was unwell.

**Q. 7. "The whole universe is built up through love and the grief of separation is inescapable". (Board Term-12011, Set 48)**

**(a) When did the speaker acquire this philosophy ?**

**(b) What pain has the speaker gone through ?**

**(c) Whose love changes the speaker and how ?**

**Ans.** (a) The speaker here is Ali. He had been a hunter and known for his expertise in killing but now when he is away from his own daughter he realizes it.

(b) The pain of separation.

(c) It is the love for his daughter Miriam that has changed the speaker. Now, he no longer hunts.

**Q. 8. 'But for the faith and love that warmed him, he could not have borne the bitter cold'. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 40)**

**(a) Who is being referred to as 'he' in the given extract ?**

**(b) Why was 'he' in the bitter cold ?**

**(c) How was he able to gain strength to bear the bitter cold ?**

**Ans.** (a) Coachman Ali.

(b) He went to the post-office daily despite the bitter cold and waited for a letter from his only child, Miriam. 1

(c) His love for his daughter and faith that she would write to him gave him strength to bear the bitter cold. 1

**Q. 9. 'For several days Ali had not come to the post-office. There was no one with enough sympathy or understanding to guess the reason, but all were curious to know what had stopped the old man.' (Board Term-12011, Set 21)**

**(a) Why did Ali come to the post-office ?**

**(b) Why had Ali stopped coming to the post-office ?**

**(c) Why were all curious to know ?**

**Ans.** (a) Ali came to the post-office in the hope of finding a letter from Miriam.

(b) Ali stopped coming to the post-office because he had died.

(c) All were curious to know because he had been a regular visitor and now had stopped coming to the postoffice altogether.

**Q. 10. 'Ali came out very slowly, turning after every few steps to gaze at the post-office. His eyes were filled with tears of helplessness, for his patience was exhausted, even though he still had faith.' (Board Term-12011, Set 23)**



**(a) Ali's eyes were filled with tears because.....**

**(b) Ali had faith that.....**

**(c) His patience was exhausted because.....**

**Ans.** (a) the postmaster had misbehaved with him.

(b) he would hear from Miriam.

(c) he had not received any letter from Miriam during the last five years.

**Q. 11. Beholding the wooden arch of this building, the old man was filled with the joy that the pilgrim feels when he first sees the goal of his journey. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 18)**

**(a) Ali's walking to the post-office daily even in biting cold weather shows his.....**

**(b) The post-office is referred to as Ali's place of pilgrimage as he.....**

**(c) Ali's daughter got married.....**

**Ans.** (a) optimism.

(b) went there with faith and hope.

(c) five years ago.

### **Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q. 1. The postmaster says to Ali, 'What a pest you are brother ?' Do you agree with the statement ? Give reasons. (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18, QUD9VQW, Board Term-I 2011, Set 19)**

**Ans.** Ali is not a pest. Though Ali comes daily to the post-office; he waits patiently without disturbing anyone. Hope lures him to the door whenever the post-office employees jokingly call out his 'name'. But he does not rebuke them. He silently goes and sits on his seat not bothering or troubling anyone.

**Q. 2. Why was Ali leading a cheerless existence ? (Board 2014, Set QUD9VQW)**

**Ans.** Value Points :

Old and lonely, no happiness, desperately longed for a letter from his daughter. People insulted and ridiculed him.

**Detailed Answer:**

Ali was an old man who lived a life of loneliness. There was no happiness in his life. His only daughter had shifted to Punjab after getting married and he desperately longed for a letter from her end. People at the post office insulted him, ridiculed him but he paid no attention to them. He only wanted a letter from his daughter. It seemed that the only aim of his existence was to get a letter from his daughter which came only after his death. He didn't receive it while he was alive and thus led a cheerless life.

**Q. 3. Why did Ali visit the post-office daily ? (NCT 2014) (Board Term-I 2011, Set 28)**

**Ans.** Ali used to visit the post-office everyday. He had been visiting the place for many years with the hope that one fine day he will receive a letter from his only daughter, Miriam. (The Letter)

**Q. 4. Why could Ali not enjoy a sportsman's pleasure of hunting any more after Miriam left him ?**

**(Board Term-I 2013, Set 8SRR)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

Understood the meaning of love and separation-gave up hunting partridges-could now understand the grief of parents of the hunted animals went through after getting separated from their young ones.

**Detailed Answer:**

Ali was a skilled hunter. No animal could escape his eyes. The moment he saw any rabbit or partridge

it was as good as in his bag. But then suddenly his life changed. His daughter Miriam got married to a soldier and went to live in Punjab with him. Ali got no news of her after that. He became sensitive and realized the meaning of love and separation. He could no longer enjoy a sportsman's pleasure because he felt that the animals and birds must also be having the same feelings and he stopped hunting. He could understand the grief of parents of the hunted animals which they went through after getting separated from their young ones.

**Q. 5. What were Ali's reasons for giving up hunting ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 18, Set 41)**

**Ans.** Ali was a sure shot. He realized the pain of separation on being separated from his daughter. So, he gave up hunting as he could no longer bear the thought of children being separated from parents.

**Q. 6. How do you know that Ali was a familiar face at the post-office ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 43)**

**Ans.** Ali went to the post-office daily. He was the first one to be there, people knew him and laughed at him, called out his name and enjoyed seeing him jump.

**Q. 7. Why according to Dhumaketu was the post-office a sacred place for Ali ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 54)**

**Ans.** When Ali's only daughter, Miriam, married and went away, he realised the pain of separation and understood the loneliness and grief. It had been five years and he was anxious to receive a letter – news of well being from his daughter. So he would visit the post-office daily, as a ritual in the hope of receiving a letter from Miriam.

**Q. 8. Ali had lost the zeal to do anything else except to come to the post-office and wait for his name to be announced. Comment. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 67)**

**Ans.** Ali had lost the zeal after his daughter married and shifted to Punjab. He realized how sad life was and he gave up hunting. His only aim in life now was coming to the post-office like a pilgrimage and collecting his letter.

**Q. 9. How can you say that Ali was an embodiment of love and patience ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 59)**

**Ans.** Ali was a loving father, always expecting a letter from his daughter who lived with her husband after marriage. Since the last five years, he had got no news of his daughter. He went to the post-office everyday to enquire if there was a letter from her. This shows that he was an embodiment of love and patience. .

**Q. 10. Who was Lakshmi Das ? Why did Ali give him money ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 53)**

**Ans.** Lakshmi Das was one of the employees of the post-office. Convinced by his faith that he would receive a letter from his daughter. Ali gave Lakshmi Das five golden guineas to deliver the letter at his grave, when it came because he knew his end was very near.

**Q. 11. How did loneliness come into Ali's life ? (Board Term-I 2011 Set 54)**

**Ans.** Ali was a hunter earlier. He had one daughter who got married to a soldier and left Ali. There was no news of her for five years. Ali became lonely and suffered from the pangs of love and separation. He gave up hunting. He always expected a letter from his daughter Miriam and regularly went to the post-office to look for her letter.

**Q. 12. Why did the postmaster get annoyed with Ali ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 64)**

**Ans.** Ali asked the postmaster to write down Miriam's name in his register as it could be useful when

a letter should come from her. The postmaster was annoyed at Ali's ignorance as Miriam's name was of not any significance to anyone except her father – coachman Ali.

**Q. 13. “Ali got up and saluting the post-office as though it housed some precious relic, went off-a pitiable figure a century behind his time.” In this extract what do you understand by the phrase ‘precious relic’ and ‘a century behind his time’. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 17)**

**Ans.** The phrase ‘precious relic’ here means the letter from Ali's daughter ‘Miriam’ for which he was waiting. ‘Century behind his time’ means in this fast paced world Ali happens to expect a letter from his daughter, relentlessly coming to the post-office for five long years, braving severe weather condition. So, he is old fashioned.

**Q. 14. Why was Ali called a ‘mad man’ by the men at the post-office ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 22)**

**Ans.** Ali came everyday to the post-office without fail to look for a letter from his daughter. He had been waiting for the letter for five years. So the men at the post-office called him a mad man.

**Q. 15. What kind of childhood did Ali's daughter have? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 24)**

**Ans.** Ali's daughter had a very lonely childhood. She had little communication with her father as most of the time he was out of home, busy hunting with his friends.

**Q. 16. What is the role of ‘the letter’ in the story by Dhumaketu ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 25)**

**Ans.** The whole story revolves around the letter which Ali had been waiting for. Again it is the same letter which transforms the postmaster and makes him realize the essential worth of a human letter.

**Q. 17. What was Ali's profession when he was young ?**

**Ans.** Ali was a hunter. When Ali sighted the earth-brown partridge, the poor bird was as good as in his bag – his sharp eyes would spot the hare crouching in yellow brown shrub and in another moment it was dead, even the best hunting dogs would fail but Ali never missed to notice game nor did he ever miss his mark.

**Q. 18. What brings about a change in the postmaster ?**

**Ans.** At first the postmaster is arrogant; he rebukes Ali and is insensitive to his feelings but after separation from his daughter he realizes his mistake and goes to Ali's grave to place the letter there.

**Q. 19. Why was Ali undisturbed by the insensitivity of the people ?**

**Ans.** Ali was a loving and devoted father. He was undisturbed by the insensitivity of people because he was desperate to get a letter and that had become a mission and all other things were insignificant.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Justify the title ‘The Letter’. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 19)**

**Ans.** Terribly missing his daughter, indifferent to bad weather and health, Ali went to the post-office everyday without fail in the hope to receive a letter from his daughter. The employees at the post-office made fun of him. Not bothered by their jokes he returned to the post-office the next day. Even when he was not well, struggling to breathe, with clear signs of his approaching end he made to the post-office. With his patience exhausted, but faith intact he gave five gold guineas to the post-office clerk with a promise to deliver the letter at his grave after his death. The entire lesson is woven around the letter and Ali's optimism to receive it one day.

**Q. 2. Coachman Ali and the post master share feeling of guilt but their realization comes a little too late to make amends. Describe what they feel guilty about and how the realizations comes to them. (Board Term-I 2012, Set EC2,56)**

**Ans.** Coachman Ali gambles and drinks in his younger days without caring for his family. It is only when his daughter runs away that he realizes his mistake. Life turns over a new leaf and he waits day in and day out for a letter from her which never comes. Finally, when the letter does come, he is no longer alive.

Postmaster makes fun of Ali. Only when his own daughter is ill and he gets no news of her, he realizes Ali's pain and anguish. He feels sorry for having made fun of Ali. When the letter comes, he decides to deliver it himself and make personal amends for his behaviour but it is too late but Ali is no more.

**Q. 3. After paying five gold coins to Lakshmi Das, Ali rests assured that he would get his daughter, Miriam's letter, although at his grave. He writes down the account of the journey of his life and his feelings for his daughter. As Ali, write the diary entry in 150 words. (O. D. Comptt. 2010)**

**Ans.**

15 September 2014 10 p.m.

Dear Diary

After meeting Lakshmi Das and giving him five golden guineas, I am feeling relieved now. I only wish that he will surely deliver Miriam's letter at my grave. What a miserable life I have led for the last five years.

Being a staunch lover of humanity I realised that the whole universe is made through love and grief of separation is inescapable. After the marriage of my daughter Miriam, I have realized what separation is. I have not got any letter from her for the past five years.

I wanted to tell her and show her that I have changed. I have left hunting since the day of her marriage. I wanted to tell her how much I love her. So, I became a routine visitor to the post-office for having news of my own daughter, though I was called by the names like 'pest', 'mad person', etc. But I never minded and waited for the letter only. The postman made fun of me. The post master scolded me but I had a hope for the letter. Father's heart would always miss the daughter though I was always humiliated by everyone in the post-office.

Now, I sense my last days are approaching. I have given five golden guineas to the clerk Laxmi Das and requested him to put my letter on my grave when it arrives. Ultimately, I have to leave for my heavenly abode believing the letter would come, though after my death.

May God bless you Miriam.

**Q. 4. You are one of the villagers who have noticed Ali and his helplessness. Write a letter to your friend giving an account of the life and experiences of this lovely man. (O. D. Comptt. 2009)**

**Ans.**

ABC Lane

Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur

18 May 2014 Dear friend

Today, I would like to tell you about coachman Ali's life story which will definitely bring tears in your eyes. A man who died grieving for his daughter and spent many years endlessly waiting for a letter from her. Coachman Ali was a clever shikari who was not able to pass even a day without hunting. But in the later half of his life, he left his old ways and his life took a new turn. When his only child Miriam got married and left him. For five years, he had no news of her. He now understood the meaning of love and separation. Whenever he waited for his daughter Miriam's letter outside the post-office, employees of the office laughed at him and called him a mad man, but he remained undeterred. He became unwell and knew his end was near. Therefore, he handed over five gold coins to a clerk at the post-office and told him to deliver Miriam's letter to him at his grave. When a letter for Ali arrived, the clerk, true to his promise, went to Ali's grave to deliver Miriam's letter. It is a story of an ordinary man who died waiting endlessly with no one to understand his grief and loneliness.

Abu

**Q. 5. Lakshmi Das, the clerk makes a diary entry regretting his misbehaviour towards Ali when he pestered him. Imagine you are Lakshmi Das. Make the diary entry in 150-175 words. (Delhi II, 2008)**

**Ans.**

18 June 2014

10 p.m.

Dear Diary

What a situation it was when Ali pestered me to take the money only to deliver the letter at his grave as he felt that the end of his life was near. I saw tears in his eyes but not his emotions and feelings. I was happy to get the golden coins and put them into my pocket. After giving me the coins, Ali was never seen again. Later I came to know that he was no more as he did not visit the post-office for a long time. I realized that I was wrong. I could not understand a father's feelings for his only daughter. There was one of the officials who always made fun of him and spoke rudely to him, called him a pest and misbehaved. But now I am regretting my misconduct towards him. My conscience has awakened. I realize he just used to come to seek his daughter Miriam's letter but we treated him badly.

I had to keep the promise made to him and I put the letter on his grave as promised. I feel a sense of fulfilment within myself and I will write a letter to his daughter.

Laxmi Das

**Q. 6. Imagine you are the postmaster and have just gone and laid Miriam's letter on Ali's grave. You come back home and reflect on whatever's happened. The newly awakened father's heart in you is reproaching you for having failed to understand Ali's anxiety. As the postmaster write a diary entry in about 150-175 words outlining your feelings. (Board Sample Paper 2006, Set-II)**

**Ans.**

17 July 2014

11 p.m.

Dear Diary



Today, we had gone to deliver Miriam's much awaited letter to Ali. But unfortunately, the letter was delivered to Ali's grave. I am in a position to understand Ali's concern and anxiety. My newly-awakened father's heart is reproaching me for having failed to comprehend Ali's misery. I have now realized the value of each letter and will never again view them merely as envelopes and postcards. My heart is filled with compassion and regret at having rebuked Ali so much that I actually visualised seeing Ali enter the post-office even though he has been dead for the past three months. I think, I will spend the rest of my life repenting my callous attitude at not having understood a person's pain, helplessness and misery.

### **Value Based Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Life is often a reflection of one's own deeds. God renders us according to our deeds. Do you think Ali and the postmaster are examples of this philosophical thought ? (The Letter) (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

Life is often a reflection of one's own deeds. God renders us according to our deeds.

Ali realized the meaning of separation only when his daughter left him; earlier he didn't have time for her.

Post master never understood Ali's agony and made fun of him.

He too had to face the consequences when he had to wait to get the news of his ailing daughter. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

### **Detailed Answer:**

There is no denying the fact that life is often a reflection of one's own deeds. God renders us according to our deeds. We have to believe in the Karma theory and the letter is a good example of this theory. Ali a skilful hunter did not know the meaning of grief and separation until he himself got separated from his daughter Miriam who left him after getting married. Earlier he didn't have time for her as he was busy hunting animals but after his daughter left, he used to go to the post office and sit there from morning till night, waiting for a letter from her end. The postmaster always made fun of this habit of Ali. He never paid much attention to the emotions and feelings of Ali. He never understood Ali's agony. But a day came when the postmaster had to face the same consequences when he had to go wait to get the news of his ailing daughter. He understood how difficult it was to wait day after day for something which never came. He realized that letters were not mere postcard or envelopes, they were much more than that.

Thus, we find out that 'The Letter' is an example of a philosophical thought and people should keep it in mind to lead the life in a humanitarian way.

**Q. 2. One feels other's pain only when one goes through it himself/herself. Explain the postmaster's change of heart in the chapter 'The Letter' and why it took place. (120-150 words) (Board Term-12013, Set 5007,8SRR)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

Postmaster very practical-thinks Ali to be a pest Does not feel any sympathy Ali dies-Postmaster 'sees' him and talks to him Finds out about Ali's death Personally goes to deliver the letter

Understands Ali's pain only when his own daughter is unwell and away-feels ashamed of his behaviour-One must try to empathise with others. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

### **Detailed Answer: .**

The postmaster in the story 'The Letter' was a very practical man. He used to think Ali as a pest. He had no feeling of sympathy for him or his circumstances. But then times changed and his own daughter fell ill. She lived in another city. He wanted to know about her well-being but was fully

dependent on the letter of his daughter that would inform him about it. It was at this moment that he realized Ali's pain as he himself felt it. He felt ashamed of his behaviour of calling Ali a pest. One day, while he was looking for his daughter's letter in the heap of latest arrival of letters, he found Miriam's letter in it. He decided to deliver it to Ali himself. Ali 'came' at the usual hour. He talked to him but was later informed that Ali was dead. He was shocked. He decided to go personally to his grave to deliver the letter. Thus the story teaches us to empathise with others.

**Q. 3. The word 'Letter' is interwoven in the text and imparts us the value of letters which are living documents of human emotions. Justify.**

**Ans.** Letters and envelopes are not merely dead pieces of paper. They are the living documents of human love and concern. Who else but Ali can explain it well who, in the whole chapter, kept on waiting for his daughter Miriam's letter. He even gave up hunting as, after his daughter's marriage, he realized the essence of love and the pangs of separation. These pangs of separation transformed even the postmaster who could also understand the agony of a separated father when he himself waited for his sick daughter's letter. Only a man with a father's heart can understand the anxiety and worry of another father separated from his child. The whole story revolves round the letter which both the postmaster and Ali waited for. Ali gave five gold guineas to Lakshmi Das to deliver his letter at his grave, after his death telling us the importance of Miriam's letter. Thus, due importance must be given to letters and they should not be treated as merely pieces of paper. We must realize the value of relations.



# **NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature**

## **<http://freehomedelivery.net/Chapter 4 A Shady Plot>**

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Question 2. The title of the story is 'A Shady PW. The dictionary defines the words as  
Shady adjective

- (a) Full of shade; shaded.
- (b) Casting shade; a shady grove.
- (c) Quiet, dark, or concealed; hidden.
- (d) Of dubious character or Of questionable honesty.

Plot noun

- (a) (i) a small piece of ground, generally used for a specific purpose; a garden plot.
- (ii) a measured area Of land
- (b) a ground plan, as for a building, a diagram.
- (c) storyline-the plan scheme, or main story of a literary or dramatic work, as a play, novel, or short, or.
- (d) a secret plan to accomplish a hostile or illegal purpose; a scheme.

Based on the definitions above can you predict what the story will be about? Make a brief note Of your prediction in your notebook.

Answer: Based on the definitions of the words, we can guess that the story will be about some concealed or hidden matter, whether natural or supernatural. This may be covered up by a hidden plot made by some people to achieve an evil and sinister end. It can also relate to a crime or for harassing someone.

Question 3. Based on your reading of the story above, the following questions by ticking the correct options.

1. The narrator earns his living by

- (a) writing ghost stories
- (b) working as a reader for a magazine
- (c) working as a stenographer
- (d) working as an accountant in a lumber company

Answer (d)

2. The writer was overconfident about his ability to write ghost stories because

- (a) whenever magazines wanted a ghost story, they got in touch with
- (b) he was always able to write a ghost story whenever he had to write one
- (c) the readers appreciated his ghost stories
- (d) he knew the ghost lady would help him write a good ghost story

Answer (a)

3. The sight of the ghost materializing in his room filled the narrator with

- (a) fear
- (b) excitement

- (c) joy
- (d) anticipation

Answer (d)

4. The ghost wanted John to

- (a) stop his wife from using the Ouija board
- (b) stop suing the Ouija board himself
- (c) stop his guests from using the Ouija board
- (d) stop people from using the Ouija board

Answer (d)

5. John wants the ghost to disappear before his wife the room and waves his arms at the ghost with something of the motion of a beginner when learning to swim. His movement shows his

- (a) fear
- (b) amusement
- (c) desperation
- (d) anxiety

Answer (c)

6. When the narrator says his wife is never so pretty as when she's doing something she knows he disapproves of, his tone IS

- (a) amused
- (b) ironic
- (c) angry
- (d) irritated

Answer (b)

7. The ghost says "it's all your fault. 'it' here refers to"

- (a) the narrator's wife's anger
- (b) the ghost's anger
- (c) the narrator's wife leaving him
- (d) the ghost materialising in sections

Answer (d)

8. Gladolia wishes to leave the narrator's house as

- (a) she does not like the Quija boards
- (b) she is afraid of the ghost
- (c) she is afraid of magic and hoodoo
- (d) she likes Quija boards nd hoodoo

Answer (c)

4. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What genre of stories does Jenkins want the narrator to write? Why?

Answer Jenkins wants the narrator to write ghost stories. He wants him to write stories on supernatural elements because the public likes horror. He offers him to write because he thinks he is good at it

and his ghosts are very lively.

(b) Does the narrator like writing ghost stories? Support your answer with evidence form the stow.

Answer The narrator likes to write ghost stories but not every time. He himself says that he could not contradict Jenkins because his magazine had been the only one to print his stuff. Thus we can say that he has no choice but to write ghost stories.

(c) What makes Helen, the ghost, and her other co-ghosts organise. The writer's inspiration Bureau'?

Answer In her other life Helen used to write and to become a reader in a magazine. She remembers those days as the most terrible ones, where they used to work in very tough conditions Now when she

became a ghost she planned to do something for all those who have suffered on the same grounds. It was this inspiration that let her and her co-ghosts Organise 'The Writer's Inspiration Bureau'.

(d) Why had Helen, the ghost, been helping the narrator write ghost stories? Why she going on strike? What

did she place for providing continued help?

Answer Helen the ghost the narrator to write ghost stories because he did not have ideas to write a story. She was going on strike because she and her Other co-ghosts had to work in very tough conditions. In the recent years they had even been called off from their beds. She said she would help him further if he would all his friends and acquaintances from using the Ouija board.

(e) How does the ghost undermine the narrator's faith in his ability to write ghost stories?

Answer

The ghost undermines the narrator's faith in his ability to write ghost stories by telling him that she would help him to write ghost stories only if he Stops his friends and acquaintances from using the Ouija board.

(f) Why does John want the ghost to disappear before his wife appears on the scene? What impression of his wife's Character do you form from his words?

John does not want to lose his wife's faith in him, and neither he wants his wife to get scared by seeing a ghost, because like all sensitive women, Lavinia was subject to hysterics. This is the reason why he wants the ghost to disappear before his wife appears on the scene. His wife is like any other possessive and jealous women who would never like to see her man with any other woman.

(g) Why does the narrator hesitate to be a partner to Laura Hinkle during the Ouija Board Party?

Answer The narrator hesitates to be a partner to Hinkle during the Ouija Board Party because neither did he wish to use the Ouija board because of the ghosts warning nor did he like the flirtatious behaviour of Laura Hinkle.

(h) What message does the ghost convey to the group that had assembled in the narrator's house? What is their reaction to the message?

Answer The ghost called John as a 'traitor' when the group had assembled at the narrator's house. Everyone was given the impression that the narrator was cheating on his wife because he had an affair with Helen.

(i) Do you agree with the narrator calling the assembly of women "manipulators"? Give reasons.

Answer Here the meaning the word 'manipulators' is people who control skilfully anyone or anything. The author wants to Say that the ladies were controlling the Ouija board indicator to spell out his name

and so called them manipulators. which is correct.

(j) Why is John's wife angry? What" does she decide to do?

Answer John's wife is angry because the Ouija board was conveying a message from Helen (a woman) to her husband, which filled her with suspicion about his unfaithfulness to her. She was also getting jealous of John's closeness with Laura Hinkle. She decided to leave her husband.

(k) Why does John wish he were dead?

Answer After John received 'the letter from his wife he wishes he were dead because he did not want to annoy his wife. He loved her and did want her to leave him.

(l) When confronted by Lavinia about his flirtations over Ouija Board, John insists that 'the affair was quite above-board, I assure you my love'. Bring out the pun in John's statement.

Answer A pun is "a use Of words for double meaning". In John's statement the pun is on the phrase 'above boards', which means in the open, i.e., without any dishonesty. This is true, as he is not flirting with Helen, the ghost. The Other meaning of 'above board' here relates to the fact that in the party John and Laura Hinkle were moving the Ouija board indicator above (on top of) the board.

(m) John's apprehensions about his wife's reaction to her encounter with the ghost are unfounded. Justify.

Answer John was trying to hide the ghost from Lavinia because he thought she would get scared and



misunderstand the situation. After seeing Lavinia's reaction his apprehensions get diluted because she did not swoon: rather she had a broad, satisfied smile over her face. so, his apprehensions turned out to be unfounded.

Question 5. Answer the following questions in detail.

(a) After her reconciliation with her husband, John Hallock, Lavinia writes a letter to her friend expressing how her relationship with him had almost been on the verge of breaking and what saved it. Write her letter.

1826, Carnival Road

Sydney

15 October, 2012

My dear Pamela,

How are you? I hope you are fine. It seems you have been praying for my well-being because the crucial phase through which I have passed through recently is surely due to some blessing. Before you get anxious and start presuming things. let me tell you that everything is all right now. It is just that I wished to share the whole episode with you, that I thought to write to you.

One day I heard John talking to someone in the dark. When I asked him he denied it and said he was not doing anything questionable. I gifted him an Ouija board which he denied to use. He even refused to

attend the Ouija board party. He came later where I coupled him with Laura Hinkle. To my surprise I thought I found him flirting with Laura.

TO add on the trouble the Ouija board was taking his name as a 'traitor'. I had enough reasons for getting angry and leave him.

Later my doubts got more grounds when our cook Gladolia threatened that she won't stay with us as we dealt with hoodos or black magic. John was still trying to conceal the matter from me till I finally found him with a ghost whom he was trying to hide from me. To your and my surprise the ghost was of Helen of Troy, New York who had come to help John to write a ghost story. I faced the ghost with all my strength and regretted to doubt John. I asked John to pardon me and now we both are happy again after bidding farewell to the ghost. I am at rest now because my life has been saved from turmoil.

Rest is fine

With love

Lavinia

(b) John Hallock reflects upon his experience with Helen's ghost and in retrospect he finds it quite amusing. All the same he is relieved that he is no longer plagued by it. Ironically, the self same ghost inspires his creativity and he a diary entry reflecting upon the comical aspect of his experience Write his diary entry.

15th October, 2012

9.00 pm

What an experience it was! Now when I am thinking and writing about, it I am feeling quite relaxed, but when I had faced the situation I was a little afraid and got nervous when I had to face Lavinia and answer

her queries. My meeting with the ghost was also very interesting as I came to know about certain things which I have never known. I was sitting on my desk to write a ghost story and was looking at the ceiling for inspiration. A ghost materialised in parts in front of me and let me know her name as Helen. She gave me some details about herself and it was funny to know that the ghosts had a

'Writer's inspiration Bureau' and would visit the writers like me to inspire them. She then asked me to stop my friends and acquaintances from using the Ouija board which was disturbing them. My wife gifted me an Ouija board and called for an Ouija board, party. But the board was rather heard of taking my name as a 'traitor'. I felt

Very perplexed and did not have any answer. In the a thought that had cheated on my wife.

My wife started doubting me and gave me a notice to leave me. But was not ready to reveal the real facts to her. Finally when my wife saw her She informed that she was Helen Of Troy, New York,, I never treated

Helen as a ghost. She had rather become a company to me. Now my purpose has been solved as I now have an excellent plot to write a ghost story but I wish to see the ghost once again.



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**Question 1.** With your partner answer the following questions.

(i) What are your strengths?

Strengths	Why Do You Feel So?

**Answer**

Strengths	Why Do You Feel So?
Sincerity	Whenever I am given a piece of work, I put my best effort into it.
Trustworthiness	If ever anyone confides with me, I keep it as my own matter.
Patience	This is the most important thing needed for any person to rise in life. Patience pays and it is very true because patience has brought me till here.
Positive attitude	A positive vision and outlook is what helps a person to struggle under all kinds of difficult situations. It will help to survive in whatever situation you are.

(ii) What is your dream for career?

I want to become a .....

- Is there any correlation between your strengths and aspirations?
- Do you think you can achieve your dreams? Give reasons.

**Answer** I want to become a professor in my subject.

Yes, I do find a correlation between my strengths and aspirations. The kind of mental strength I possess, I feel that I can achieve any goal in my life. But I am focused to become a professor where sincerity and dedication will help the students to shine. My positive

attitude will help them to come out from difficult situations. And with my experience I will be able to guide them in the best way possible. Yes, I can and will surely achieve my dreams. I will pursue honors in my subject and then I will go ahead with a Masters in the subject Teaching is in my blood because my parents are teaching in a high school. I tutor the children living near my house who cannot afford expensive tuitions, This helps them and I too have started getting practice in this profession.

Question 2. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What was the news that Nishikanto Ghosh gave Patol Babu?

Answer Nishikanto Ghosh told Patol Babu that his youngest brother-in-law was in search of an actor

for a scene in a film, He required a person who would be in his fifties, short and bald-headed. It reminded him of Patol Babu and thus he came to give the news to

(b) How did Patol Babu react? Why?

Answer Patol Babu was very excited. Going through a mundane life and a routine existence. he never expected such news at the age of fifty-two. when he had given up acting twenty years ago and was living like a common unknown person.

(c) Why had Patol Babu lost his first job in Calcutta?

Answer Patol Babu had a very smooth life till he lost his first job in Calcutta. There was a sudden retrenchment in his office due to the war which cost him his nine year old job.

(d) How does Patol Babu reconcile to the dialogue given to him?

Answer Patol Babu initially lost his temper when he came to know about his dialogue, He later regained composure when he remembered the words of his mentor and guru Mr Gogon Pakrashi who said that each word spoken in a play is like a fruit on a tree, Not everyone in the audience has access to it But an actor must know

how to pluck it and get at its essence and serve it up to the audience for their edification. These words helped Patol Babu to reconcile to the dialogue given to him.

(e) Who was Mr Prakashi? How do his words help Patol Babu in enacting his role?

Answer Mr Prakashi was Patol Babu's mentor and guru. His words proved to be a source of inspiration to Patol Babu in this testing time. After remembering his words he was able to fight with his initial apprehensions to go ahead With his dialogue.

(f) How do we know that Patol Babu was a meticulous man?

Answer: Patol Babu was a meticulous man because he rehearsed Well before his shot. Although his part was very small he thought to deliver it with perfection and at one go. He rehearsed his dialogue in various ways with different emotions. to come out with the best one.

(g) Why did Mr Mullick turn down Patol Babu's request for a rehearsal ?

Answer: Mr Mullick turned down Patol Babu's request for a rehearsal because they had to perform the scene in sunlight and there was a large patch of cloud approaching. To finish it off fast he turned down his request,

(h) What were the special touches that Patol Babu to his role to make it more authentic?

Answer: Patol Babu practised his dialogue in different Ways. He discovered that every time a person uttered 'Oh', it had a different emotion- It could be high or low pitched, starting high and ending low, starting and ending high, short or long drawn. gave it various attempts to come out with the best one, which was his way to make his role authentic.

Question 3. Discuss the following questions in detail and write the answers in your notebooks?

(a) 'hope the part calls for dialogue'. Who this? Why does he/she ask this question?

Answer These lines are spoken by Patol Babu to NareshDutt. He asks this question because he thought that every actor had a role to play With certain dialogues. He knew this all the time well because he had worked in a theatre when he was young. He knew that dialogues require practice and therefore demanded them

beforehand so that he could rehearse well before the final shoot.

(b) Were these people pulling his legs? Was the whole thing a gigantic hoax? A meek, harmless man like him, and they had to drag him into the middle of the city to make a laughing stock out of him.

How could anyone be so cruel?' Why does Patol Babu have these thoughts?

Answer It was very natural on Patol Babu's part to have such thoughts. When he came to know what his dialogue and role was, he was almost taken aback. He felt humiliated and this Was more so because at one time he had been a very great stage actor. people used to be very anxious to see him on stage. After having been an actor demand, it was very difficult for him to get such a short and insignificant role

(c) Patol-Babu is an amateur actor for whom a 'on-part in a movie turns into an ultimate challenge.

Discuss.

Answer When Patol Babu got his role he was upset in the beginning. Afterwards he settles down when he remembers the words of his mentor, who had told him that no role is too small. To put in the best efforts in whatever role you get is the actual work of an artist. is what he had been taught. Therefore, he takes this role as a challenge. He sorted out ways to recite his dialogue which was just the one word 'Oh'. It had now become a challenge for him to act his part in the best way possible.

(d) Do you agree with the statement that Patol Babu is a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer Of course Patol Babu is a very practical man. From the very beginning he has taken his life as it came. He was when he had a smooth life with a secure job and when he lost his he struggled with perseverance. He changed jobs some by nature and others due to circumstances, which is evidence to portray him as a practical man. He had never created any fuss with anybody He readily agrees to go for the shoot when his friend brought him the offer of a role.

(e) Why does Patol Babu walk away before he can be paid for his role? What does this reveal about his character?

Patol Babu walks away before he is paid role because he knew what he would be paid would be a trivial amount which would hurt him, being an actor. It is that he feels those people to be commercialised who cannot recognise and appreciate actual talent. He felt that the satisfaction to deliver his dialogue flawlessly was his actual gain. The satisfaction was his payment and he did not wish to sell this satisfaction. This lets us know genuine Patol Babu was. He was a passionate actor who worked just for the sake of love for the work and not for material gains.

**Question 4.** Here are some lines from the lesson. What do they tell us about Patol Babu's character? You may take help from the words given in the table below or find some of your own from the dictionary. The first one has been done for you.

passionate	actor	diligent	unassuming
talented	genial	mercenary	short-tempered
introvert	meticulous	modest	humble arrogant

- (a) That an offer to act in a film could come to a 52 year old nonentity like him was beyond his wildest dreams unassuming, modest
- (b) Indeed, there was a time when people bought tickets especially to see him.....
- (c) 'I was with Hudson and Kimberley for nine years and wasn't late for a single
- (d) It didn't matter if the part was small, but, if he had to make the most of it, he had to learn his lines beforehand. How small he would feel if he muffed in the presence of so many people? —
- (e) Patol Babu cleared his throat and started enunciating the syllable in various ways. Along with that he worked out how he would react physically when the collision took place—how his features would be twisted in pain, how he would fling out his arms, how his body would crouch to express pain and surprise—all these he performed in various ways in front of a large glass window? .
- (f) It is true that he needed money very badly, but what was twenty rupees when measured against the intense satisfaction of a small job done with perfection and dedication?
- (b) Famous, talented, worthy,
- (c) Punctual, dedicated. sincere
- (d) Perfectionist, meticulous, diligent
- (e) Passionate actor, careful, meticulous
- (f) satisfied, dedicated
- Question 5. Here are some lines from the lesson. Match the meanings of the underlined words with



their meanings listed below.

- (a) Then he had a job in a Bengali firm stimulate the imagination which he gave up in disgust when his boss began to treat him in too high-handed a fashion
- (b) A faint memory was stirred up in to surrender or relinquish Patol Babu's mind.
- (c) At first he opened a variety store staged, which he had to wind up after five years
- (d) In Jattras, in amateur theatricals, to gain control over one's in plays by the club in his actions neighbourhood, Patol Babu was always in demand
- (e) Patol Babu was about to step forward shut down when he was pulled up short by a voice shouting 'Silence!'
- (f) Patol Babu pulled himself together stopped

Answer:

- (a) gave up — to Surrender or relinquish
- (b) stirred up — stimulate the imagination
- (c) up — shut down
- (d) put up—staged
- (e) pulled up — Stopped
- (f) pulled himself together— to gain control over One's actions



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### **Chapter Sketch**

‘Virtually True’ is a story about Michael Dawson and Shultz. Both Of them are connected through a computer in the Virtual world. It is an interesting story-because this virtual world has certain real connections, which is by Michael.

### **The Story Retold**

Michael Reads the Magazine Article

The ‘miracle recovery’ story which Michael read stated ‘Sebastian Shultz, a 14 year Old boy from South London, from a coma that doctors feared might last forever’. Michael recollects the name and thinks that he had met a person with this name and reads the story ahead. Six weeks ago, Sebastian Shultz was badly injured in a motorway accident. His condition on arrival at the general hospital was described as critical though stable. Despite the boy did not regain consciousness. Only miracle could save him and now the miracle had happened.

### **Michael Runs Through the Events**

Michael dug into his memory and saw that Sebastian had been in a coma all this time. He felt nervous as to how it had happened. One month ago, Michael and his father had spent one entire Saturday afternoon at the computer fair. His Dad was crazy about computer gadgets and possessed all the latest ones. At the fair, Michael had bought one game for himself and started playing the game ‘Wildwest’ in 3D. There he played the game with a sheriff which was followed by another one. On being asked who he was, he did not reply. After a series of chases a gunshot was heard and the second sheriff back. Then came a message: game over With a score of 21095. On the printout Michael saw the figure Of the sheriff Who wore a jeans and sweatshirt. At the bottom, there was a message: ‘I’m stuck. Please help to retrieve me. Try DRAGONQUEST. Sebastian Shultz.’ Michael played the game as suggested the next morning, The aim of the game was to rescue the fair princess from wicked dragon and to collect the treasure.

While he was rescuing the princess he heard another cry from a second knight for rescuing him. He at once recognized him to be Sebastian. Michael tried his best to save him from the dragon but failed again and was invited for another attempt named ‘Jailbreak’. In this attempt also he failed to save Sebastian and then finally played the game Of ‘Warzone’ Where he was finally able to save Sebastian and hit a jackpot Of He now knew that Sebastian did not exist like human beings.

### **Michael Correlates the Virtual and the Real**

Michael wanted to know more about the miracle recovery story because he thought that the Sebastian who had recovered was the one whom he had rescued in the game. But could this be possible? He learnt that Sebastian had been playing the same psychodrive game like him. He thought that Sebastian would have been plugged into the computer when his head banged and the computer might have stored his memory in its own. He also remembered that Sebastian’s father had mentioned in the

recovery story that they had lost their of games, which would have landed in the computer fair from where Michael had purchased the game. He then checked his email, where he had Received one mail from Sebastian where he thanked Michael to save his life. He offered to meet him and asked Michael to keep the games with him as he had earned them. It was a real message from the real Sebastian. They both knew that in the reliving accident something wonderful had happened. He now knew that whatever he had experienced was 'virtually true'.



# **NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature**

## **<http://freehomedelivery.net/Chapter 7 The Frog and the Nightingale Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF>**

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### **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 7 The Frog and the Nightingale NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

#### **Introduction**

'The Frog and the Nightingale' by a well known poet is an interesting fable which focuses on the cunningness of the so-called musicians and critics. It shows the fact how some people kill the creativity of others in the name of rules and conventions. In this poem, two contrasting characters- The Frog and the Nightingale, are beautifully portrayed. The frog represents domineering and boastful behaviour of such people and the nightingale is a tender, meek and nervous bird who obeys the Frog's command innocently. Nightingale, the timid bird is so much impressed by the frog that she starts taking training from him. In order to exploit the nightingale, the frog over exerts her to death and succeeds in his tricks of getting rid of his rival.

#### **Quick Review**

'The Frog and the Nightingale' is a story in verse. It describes how a frog exploits a nightingale to earn money. This fable shows how the bad training given by the frog causes the death of the nightingale. The moral is that one should have confidence in oneself and believe in one's own talent.

Once upon a time, a frog croaked in Bingle Bog. Other creatures hated his voice but they had no choice. The loud and unpleasant noise of the frog continued from the sumac tree. He croaked there from dusk to dawn. Neither stones, prayers, nor insults, complaints could stop him from his strong determination. He was determined to express his elation through his song. One moonlit night, a nightingale perched upon the sumac tree started singing. Other creatures in the bog clapped and admired her melodious sweet song. Being surprised at the sweet melody of the nightingale, he feared that he would not be heard any more. As the nightingale sang beautifully, ducks swam to her, toads, tiddlers and teals were delighted and called the song 'divine'. But the frog was not happy.

Next night as the nightingale was ready to sing, the frog interrupted and introduced himself as the owner of the tree and known for his splendid baritone. The nightingale inquired about her song. As a critic he replied that it was not too bad but was far too long. The technique was fine but the song lacked certain force. The nightingale was flattered that such a reputed critic had discussed her art.

Being jealous, the frog took the nightingale into confidence and made an evil plan to get rid of her. He became her trainer and made her sing excessively for long hours. He started pointing out her mistakes and drawbacks. The nightingale received a huge response. Animals from miles gathered around to listen to her sweet song, and the cunning frog took admission fee from them.

The strain of training and singing was too much for that delicate and innocent bird. She grew sad and pale and miserable. The frog scolded her as she could not sing sweetly any more. The nightingale had

to bear scolding and exploitation. She lost the beauty of her voice. The other creatures stopped coming to hear her song at the concerts arranged by the wicked frog.

The frog was very angry at the failure of the nightingale. He asked her to puff her lungs to follow the fashion of the stage. The nightingale puffed up, that made her vein burst and she died.

The frog described her as a foolish creature. She was nervous, tense and prone to influence. The frog was victorious and sang unrivalled in the Bingle Bog.

### **Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)**

**Read the extracts given below and complete the statements that follow:**

**Q. 1. Now the frog puffed up with rage.**

**“Brainless bird-you’re on the stage-Use your wits and follow fashion.**

**Puff your lungs out with your passion”. (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18 QUD9VQW)**

**(a) Why was the frog puffed up with rage ?**

**(b) Give the opposite of ‘Brainless’ ?**

**(c) What happened when the nightingale puffed up her lungs ?**

**Ans.** (a) The frog’s income from the sale of tickets had come down.

(b) Intelligent.

(c) She died because of the bursting of her vein.

**Q. 2. “Other creatures loathed his voice**

**But, alas, they had no choice And the crass cacophony**

**Blared out from the sumac tree.” (NCT 2014) (Board Term-I 2012, Set 28)**

**(a) Whose voice was loathed ?**

**(b) Why did they have no choice ?**

**(c) ‘Crass-Cacophony’ means.....**

**Ans.** (a) The frog’s voice was loathed.

(b) Because the frog was stubborn and did not stop croaking.

(c) a very loud and unpleasant noise.

**Q. 3. Animals for miles around**

**Flocked toward the magic sound And the frog with great precision Counted heads and charged admission. (Board Term-I 2013, Set 101)**

**(a) From where did the animals rush to the bog ?**

**(b) What does the ‘Magic sound refers’ to ?**

**(c) How did the frog cash in on the nightingale’s talent ?**

**Ans.** (a) The animals rushed from all comers of that place, some of them even waded through water and rushed to the bog.

(b) It refers to the melodious song of the nightingale.

(c) The frog took an admission fee from all the creatures of the bog to listen to the sweet song of the nightingale.

**Q. 4. Now the frog puffed up with rage,**

**“Brainless bird-you’re on the stage-Use your wits and follow fashion**

**Puff your lungs out with your passion.” (Board Term-I 2012, Set EC2,018)**

**(a) The frog was puffed up with rage because.....**



**(b) The frog called her a brainless bird because.....**

**(c) When the nightingale puffed up her lungs.....**

**Ans.** (a) animals stopped coming to listen her song.

(b) she did not follow frog's instructions.

(c) she died because her vein burst due to strain.

**Q. 5. "Well, poor bird she should have known**

**That your song must be your own.**

**That's why I sing with panache Koo-oh -ah! ko- ash !ko-ash!"**

**And the foghorn of the frog Blared unrivalled through the bog. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 32)**

**(a) Who is referred to as the 'poor bird' in the first line?**

**(b) What is it that she should have known ?**

**(c) 'Panache' here means ?**

**Ans.** (a) The nightingale.

(b) That one should be original.

(c) Feeling of pride.

**Q. 6. So the Nightingale once more, Quite unused to such applause,**

**Sang till dawn without a pause. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 40)**

**(a) The nightingale was not used to so much appreciation as.....**

**(b) The creatures of the Bingle Bog requested her for another song as.....**

**(c) The nightingale's song made the frog think about.....**

**Ans.**

(a) she had no audience before.

(b) her musical notes were a welcome change.

(c) how to take advantage of the situation.

**Q.7. Neither stones nor prayers nor sticks, Insults or complaints or bricks Stilled the frog's determination To display his heart's elation. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 28)**

**(a) The stones were thrown at the.....**

**(b) The frog determined to.....**

**(c) The figure of speech in line 1 is.....**

**Ans.** (a) frog.

(b) croak from dusk to dawn.

(c) alliteration.

**Q. 8."But I can't sing in the weather" "Come my dear. We'll sing together Just put on your scarf and sash Koo – oh – ah! ko – ash! ko – ash !" (Board Term-I 2012, Set 55)**

**(a) Which quality of the frog is revealed here ?**

**(b) Why can't the nightingale sing ?**

**(c) Which figure of speech is used in the last line ?**

**Ans.** (a) Heartlessness.

(b) Because it is raining.

(c) Onomatopaea.

**Q. 9."In this bog I've long been known For my splendid baritone And of course, I wield my pen For Bog Trumpet now and then." (Board Term-I 2012, Set 59)**

**(a) Who is speaking and to whom ?**

**(b) What is 'Bog Trumpet' here ?**

**(c) What does the word 'baritone' mean ?**

- Ans.** (a) The frog to the nightingale.  
(b) A music magazine.  
(c) A male singing voice.

**Q. 10. I am the frog who owns this tree. In this bog I've long been known For my splendid baritone And of course I wield my pen**

**For Bog Trumpet now and then**

**(a) What does the frog talk about ?**

**(b) The lines show that the frog is.....**

**(c) The Bog Trumpet is..... (Board Term-I 2012, Set 29)**

**Ans.** (a) About his singing talent.

(b) proud/arrogant.

(c) a magazine for which he writes.

**Q. 11. 'So the frog and nightingale Journeyed up and down the scale For six hours, till she was shivering Till her voice was hoarse and quivering'**

**(a) The journey mentioned here is.....**

**(b) The nightingale was shivering because of.....**

**(c) The rhyme scheme of these lines is..... (Board Tenn-1 2012, Set 20)**

**Ans.** (a) the musical journey.

(b) cold and exhaustion.

(c) aa bb.

**Q. 12. 'Next night when the Nightingale Shook her head and twitched her tail, Closed an eye and fluffed a wing And had cleared her throat to sing She was started by a croak' (Board Term-12012, Set 28)**

**(a) The Nightingale was eager to sing because.....**

**(b) She was started by.....**

**(c) She twitched her tail to.....**

**Ans.** (a) she wanted to gain applause.

(b) the frog's croak.

(c) sing a song.

**Q. 13. Day-by-day the nightingale**

**Grew more sorrowful and pale.**

**Night on night her tired song Zipped and trilled and bounced along.**

**(a) Why did the nightingale grow sorrowful and pale ?**

**(b) What did she perform at night ?**

**(c) What is the poetic device used in the phrase 'tired song' ?**

**Ans.** (a) She was constantly scolded and forced to sing.

(b) She sang tired songs.

(c) Transferred epithet.

**Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Do you agree with the frog's assessment that the nightingale is a brainless bird ? (Board 2014, Set QUD9VQW)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

The nightingale is not a brainless bird-highly talented; her only fault is that she is trusting and unsuspecting and all such beings are credulous; her chief shortcoming is credulity. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Detailed Answer:**

The nightingale is not a brainless bird. She is a highly talented bird who is not aware of her talent. Her only fault is that she is trusting and unsuspecting. She is misled by the evil frog who only wishes her ruin. Her chief shortcoming is credulity.

**Q. 2. How did the frog impress the nightingale when he first met her ? (Board Term-12013, Set 5007)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

He said that he owned the sumac tree, was a critic of reput and wrote for Bingle Bog.

**Detailed Answer:**

The frog told the nightingale that he was the owner of that sumac tree and was famous for his 'baritone' there. He informed her that he wrote for the 'Bog Trumpet' and thus tried to impress the nightingale.

**Q. 3. What was the frog's reaction when, the earnings from the box office dropped ? (Board Term-12012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The frog was extremely annoyed with the nightingale and he made the nightingale sing day and night inspite of her pathetic condition and scolded her vehemently for not performing well.

**Q. 4. What is the irony in the statement of the frog when he says, "That your song must be your own" ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 41)**

**Ans.** The nightingale suffered disgrace and death because she was not sure that her own original song was melodious. Her lack of confidence made her believe the frog.

**Q. 5. Describe the role of the audience in the tragic fate of the nightingale. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 52)**

**Ans.** The audience in the poem are the creatures of the bog. They rejoice at the sweet and melodious songs of the nightingale. They praise her for it. She is highly impressed by the same and exerts herself to amuse them.

**Q. 6. Why did the nightingale call the frog a Mozart in disguise ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** The nightingale called the frog a Mozart in disguise because she thought he was a great singer and musician like Mozart and could help her to become a great singer too.

**Q. 7. Do you think the nightingale is brainless ? Give reasons to support your answer. (Board Term-12011, Set 12)**

**Ans.** The nightingale was not aware of her talent. She was foolish to be misled by the evil frog, who only wished her ruin. The bird called the frog the Mozart, inspite of its crass cacophony.

**Q. 8. Why is the frog's joy both sweet and bitter ? (Board Term-12011, Set 14)**

**Ans.** The frog was thrilled to see the audience. He believed he could earn a handsome amount at the cost of the nightingale, who entertained the crowd. Yet, he could not bear to see the nightingale being appreciated and applauded for her song.

**Q. 9. What was the aim of the frog ? (Board Term-12011, Set 16)**

**Ans.** The aim of the frog was to maintain his supremacy in the bog. He earned a lot of money at the

expense of the nightingale and wanted to make her realize that the bog belonged to him and not to anyone else.

**Q. 10. To some extent the nightingale was herself responsible for her downfall and death. Comment.**

**(Board Term-12011, Set 18)**

**Ans.** The nightingale was a brainless creature who got carried away by the frog's appreciation. She could not guess that she was being fooled by the frog.

(i) Her strong desire for recognition and fame left her open to exploitation.

(ii) Despite having an appreciative audience she did not have much faith in her own abilities.

**Q. 11. How did the animals in the forest react to the frog's song ? (Board Term-12011, Set 20)**

**Ans.** The animals in the forest disliked the blaring sound. They did everything they could to stop the song. They threw sticks, complained and requested but all in vain.

**Q. 12. How did the frog train the nightingale ? (Board Term-12011, Set 21)**

**Ans.** The frog made the nightingale practice continuously for six hours. She was cold and sleep-deprived, her voice became hoarse and uninspired. Still she kept on practising.

**Q. 13. Why is nightingale called foolish ? (Board Term-12011, Set 24)**

**Ans.** The nightingale was foolish as she fell prey to the frog's words. She tried to imitate him which resulted in losing her beautiful voice and in the end she died.

**Q. 14. Comment on the frog's character. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 26)**

**Ans.** The frog as depicted in the poem is very clever and shrewd. He represents people who are manipulative. He exploits the nightingale to get rid of his rival as he assessed the bird's nature very well. He himself has no talent.

**Q. 15. Why according to you did the frog exploit nightingale ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 30)**

**Ans.** The frog was very greedy and callous. He exploited the nightingale for his selfish interests.

**Q. 16. How did the frog once again become the unrivalled king of the bog ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 34)**

**Ans.** The frog acted cleverly and got rid of the nightingale. As the nightingale died, he became the unrivalled king of the bog.

**Q. 17. How does the frog introduce himself to the nightingale ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 35)**

**Ans.** The frog introduced himself as the owner of the sumac tree. He told the nightingale that he was a great writer and critic and writes for the magazine Bog Trumpet.

**Q. 18. What according to the Nightingale was a 'fairy tale' ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 39)**

**Ans.** The frog who introduced himself as a great singer and critic commented upon the nightingale's voice. He offered to train her to become a good singer. This was like a fairy tale to the nightingale.

**Q. 19. How did the animals react to the nightingale's song ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 41)**

**Ans.** The animals appreciated the song. They admired it so much that many creatures turned up to hear her song.

**Q. 20. How did the frog satisfy his greed through the nightingale's song ? (Delhi 1,2009)**

**Ans.** Frog was a very clever and cunning creature. He was jealous of the growing popularity of nightingale among other creatures of the bog. So, he criticized her song suggesting her to take vocal training from him to achieve perfection and for this he took a fee from her and also kept the ticket money from her concerts. This is how the frog satisfied his greed through the nightingale's song.

**Q. 21. What message does the poet wish to give in the poem, "The Frog and the Nightingale"?**

**Ans.** The poet wants to convey that one should exercise one's individuality and reasoning without letting others lead one blindly. One should realize one's limitations and not let others exploit them.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. How did the nightingale fall prey to the heartless frog ? (Board Term-I 2011)**

**Ans.** The frog was a hated singer in the bog. He had a rough voice and the creatures living in the bog loathed his voice still he kept on singing. But with the arrival of the nightingale the situation changed. His position was challenged. So, he posed to be a great singer and offered to teach the nightingale. The nightingale, being foolish, accepted him as her teacher and tried to imitate his voice. With the result, her own voice became hoarse and uninspired. Other creatures also became tired of listening to her song. At this, the frog scolded her. In order to please the frog, she rehearsed a lot which ended in her bursting a vein and she died.

**Q. 2. "That your song must be your own." Write the significance of the statement said by the frog in 'The Frog and the Nightingale'.**

**Ans.** It is said that one should sing one's own song. Had it been the case with the nightingale in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale', she would not have been killed. She was timid and lacked self-confidence. That was why she invited the frog's comments about her song of the last night. This was the chance when the frog could trap her. He offered to impart her training for proper singing. Being innocent she could not suspect the frog's evil designs of killing her by making her sing continuously and even in bad weather that too without proper rest. The frog exploited her and over exerted her. She obeyed his commands innocently and did not think that her song was better than his.

Ultimately, the frog succeeded in killing her and criticized her as a stupid creature who was nervous, tense and prone to influence and said that she should have thought that her song must be her own.



# **NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature**

## **<http://freehomedelivery.net/Chapter 8 Mirror Download>**

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### **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 8 Mirror NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

Sylvia Plath, a famous English woman poet, has personified the mirror in this short poem which has a very deep meaning. She expresses the pains and sufferings of her life in her poetry in an exceptionally candid manner.

In the poem, “A Mirror”, a mere glass has been made vocal. It is allowed to speak about itself and defend against silly charges.

It asserts that it is exact and truthful. It reflects every face and every object without any biased feelings. It only reveals the truth about the person. It is God’s eye which notices every minute detail. ‘Mirror’ reflects the poet’s concern with ageing. It reflects the reality accurately, even though people often do not like what it shows them. The ageing woman who comes before it shudders at her reflection. The idea is that time affects one terribly. One grows old and loses one’s charm and brilliance. Reality cannot be evaded, though one can evade the mirror, the true reflector of reality.

#### **Quick Review**

In this poem, the mirror itself is the narrator. It is transparent and accurate. It truly reflects what is before it. It is free from prejudices. It is not cruel but only truthful. Most of the time it keeps on reflecting the blank wall with some spots, opposite it, except when somebody comes before it or when there is darkness,

The mirror may be called God’s eye because it reflects every one exactly from all four angles without any prejudice.

The mirror has become a lake or a pool of water. A woman looks into its depth to know correctly what she looks like now. She is growing old. She turns her back to the mirror and faces the candles or the moon. They give her a false view of her age and beauty. They tell lies and mislead her. But the mirror plays no tricks. She bursts into tears. The mirror gets her tears as a reward. The mirror knows that the woman has lost her youth. She has been using the mirror ever since she was a young girl. Now when she comes before it she is terrified to see an old woman rising towards her, day after day like a terrible fish.

#### **Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)**

**Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**Q. 1. In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman.**

**Rises toward her day after day like a terrible fish. (Board Term-12013, Set 8SRR)**

**(a) Why does the poet refer to the ‘terrible fish’ in the last line ?**

**(b) Why has it been described as being ‘terrible’ ?**

**(c) What does the phrase ‘in me she has drowned a young girl’ mean ?**

**Ans.** (a) The phrase ‘terrible fish’ describes the hog like wrinkled face of the old woman.

(b) Loss of her youth and beauty makes her behave like a fish trapped in the pond of time which looks terrible without any grace or elegance.

(c) Since her youth she has been admiring her reflection in the mirror.

**Q. 2. I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions ,  
whatever I see I swallow immediately**

**just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike. (Board Tenn-12013, Set WKYS)**

**(a) Who does I refer to here ?**

**(b) What does the poet mean when she says the mirror has no preconceptions ?**

**(c) Which figure of speech is used in ‘I Swallow’.**

**Ans.** (a) I refers to the mirror.

(b) She means that the mirror is unbiased and reflects the image objectively.

(c) Personification.

**Q.3.’I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.**

**Whatever I see I swallow immediately**

**Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.’ (Board Term-12012, Set 39)**

**(a) What does T refer to in these lines ?**

**(b) What is meant by ‘I have no preconceptions’ ?**

**(c) Why has mirror been depicted as ‘unmisted’ ?**

**Ans.** (a) The mirror.

(b) T reflects your image objectively.

(c) The mirror is not biased either due to love or hate.

**Q.4. I am not cruel, only truthful**

**The eye of a little God, four cornered (Board Term-12012, Set 37)**

**(a) Who is T in the above lines ?**

**(b) Why is T only truthful ?**

**(c) Which poetic device has been used in line ?**

**Ans.** (a) The mirror.

(b) Because it reflects what it sees.

(c) Metaphor.

**Q.5.It is pink with speckles. I have looked at it so long**

**I think it is a part of my heart. But it flickers.**

**Faces and darkness separate us over and over. (Board Term-12012, Set 24)**

**(a) What is it which is pink with speckles ?**

**(b) When does it flicker ?**

**(c) Who is ‘us’ in the last line ?**

**Ans.** (a) The wall. ‘

(b) When faces and darkness come in between.

(c) The wall and the mirror.

**Q. 6.I think it’s part of my heart but it flickers**

**Faces and darkness separate us over and over (Board Term-12012, Set 24)**

**(a) Who is the speaker ?**

**(b) What is separated from it ?**

**(c) The poetic device used here is.....**

**Ans.** (a) The mirror.  
(b) The wall.  
(c) Personification.

**Q.7."I am important to her. She comes and goes  
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness  
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman  
Rises toward her day after day like a terrible fish." (Board Term-12012, Set 51)**

- (a) How is the mirror important to her ?  
(b) How has the mirror drowned a young girl and replaced her with an old woman ?  
(c) Which poetic device is used in line 4 ?

**Ans.** (a) It satisfies her curiosity.  
(b) The young woman has been growing old day by day.  
(c) Simile.

**Q. 8.A woman bends over me.  
Searching my reaches for what she really is  
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon (Board Term-12012, Set 48)**

- (a) What is the woman bending over ?  
(b) The candles and moon have been called liars because.....  
(c) The woman goes to them even though they are liars because.....

**Ans.** (a) The mirror.  
(b) They hide the blemishes and make people look beautiful in dim light.  
(c) The reality is too harsh for her to bear.

#### **Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q.1.What does the woman search for in the mirror everyday ? (Board 2014, Set 8L1922Q, QUD9VQW)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

The woman searches for her lost beauty in the lake and mirror-her lost young age. (CBS1 Marking Scheme, 2014)

#### **Detailed Answer:**

The woman stands in front of the mirror everyday and searches for her lost beauty in the lake and the mirror. She feels agitated of the loss of her young age as she's not able to accept the reality of her lost youth.

**Q.2.Why has mirror been called cruel ? (Board Term-I 2013, Set 7PZ8)**

**Or**

**Why does the poet call the mirror 'cruel' ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 24)**

**Ans.** Mirror is honest and shows the true reflection. It does not reflect false images so people in their agitation call it cruel.

**Q.3.Why is mirror called a 'four cornered God' ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 19)**

**Ans.** The mirror is unbiased, and from all angles it looks at its subjects like God. He treats them without any preferences.

**Q.4.What do you think the 'terrible fish' in the poem, 'Mirror' symbolizes ? What is the poetic device used here ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 50)**

**Ans.** Terrible fish symbolizes wrinkled, old face of the woman which has lost its youth and beauty. She can't come to terms with her change. Only mirror makes her realize that she is no more young and beautiful. She feels agitated and behaves like a terrible fish.

**Q.5.How has Sylvia Plath used the poetic device of 'personification' to describe the Mirror ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 51)**

**Ans.** Mirror describes itself as silver-coloured and exact. It has no preconceived notions and is not affected by love, hate or other emotions. It is objective and unbiased-woman, who bends over it can see what she really is as the mirror doesn't lie or deceives like candles or moon. It indulges in human activities – 'sees', 'swallows', 'mediates' and 'thinks'.

**Q. 6. How has Sylvia Plath projected mirror ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 53)**

**Ans.** Sylvia Plath has projected mirror as unmisted and non-biased. Unprejudiced, with no preconceived ideology, it projects the crystal clear image of an object facing it. Having four comers, it reflects all that it captures realistically and is impartial.

**Q. 7. What are the personal qualities the mirror claims to possess ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 55)**

**Ans.** Mirror is silver and exact. It has no preconceptions. It is unbiased and truthful. It is neither cruel nor indifferent.

It has four comers and has the eye of a little God.

**Q. 8. Give evidence from the poem, 'Mirror' to prove that the mirror is exact and truthful. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 59)**

**Ans.** The mirror is exact. It symbolizes truthfulness. It is free from all distortions. It shows things as they are. It doesn't hesitate to show flaws, signs of old age or loss of beauty and youth. Objectivity is the main trait of the mirror, whatever it sees, it reflects faithfully.

**Q. 9. What does the mirror do most of the time ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 14)**

**Ans.** The mirror spends most of its time watching and meditating on the opposite pink wall quietly. It keeps reflecting the opposite wall, so much that it has become a part of its heart.

**Q. 10. What aspect of life has been discussed in the poem 'Mirror'. Mention two poetic devices used in the poem. (Board Term-I 2011, Set 17)**

**Ans.** The process of ageing has been discussed in this poem. The two poetic devices used in this poem are personification and metaphor.

**Q. 11. Why is the woman, looking into the mirror, agitated ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 27)**

**Ans.** The woman is agitated because the mirror shows her the true reflection. She notices her ageing image in it and realizes that she is losing her charm.

**Q. 12. What according to Sylvia Plath, are the qualities of a mirror ? (Board Term-12011,2009)**

**Ans.** Sylvia Plath presents mirror as a symbol of truth, reality and objectivity. Unlike human beings, it is free from any preconception and prejudices, unmisted by emotions of love and hatred. Mirror has compared itself to an eye of 'a little God, viewing everything in an unbiased and fair manner. It calls itself a lake because like a lake it reflects what is shown to it truthfully. 1

**Q. 13. Why are the candles and the moon called liars ? (NCT 2014) (Board Term-12012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The moon and the candles are called liars as they never reveal the truth about anyone. They give the false reflection as they make things look brighter and glowing than they actually are.

**Q. 14. What does the phrase, 'terrible fish' symbolize in the poem, 'Mirror'?**

**Ans.** The 'terrible fish' refers to the fear of ageing that rises from the depths of her repressed mind, it also symbolizes the woman's self loathing and perception of herself as being unworthy of being loved and as old as a fish. !

**Q. 15. Why does the woman turn to those liars, the candles and the moon in the poem 'Mirror' ? ,**

**Ans.** The woman turns to the liars because they give her a false picture of being young which she is not. The mirror shows the real picture.

**Q. 16. Why is it said that the mirror swallows everything it sees ?**

**Ans.** The mirror says that whatever it sees, it absorbs that image and reflects it. It reflects the reality as it sees, uninfluenced by love or dislike.

**Q. 17. Why does the woman reject the mirror and turn towards the candles and the moon ?**

**Ans.** She is unable to accept the reality that the mirror shows her that she is ageing and isn't pretty any more. The candle and the moon don't show her the harsh reality that she has lost her youth and beauty.

**Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. As the central character of the poem The Mirror, write a letter to your best friend sharing your fear of ageing. (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18, QUD9VQW)**

**Ans.** Letter writing (Value Points): ^

**Content-2 marks**

- what I look in the mirror-do not want to believe it
- I'm really scared of losing my beauty as I'm growing older
- Still want to look magnificent
- The thought of growing old is killing
- Do you also have the same fears
- Please help me come out of this situation

**Detailed Answer:**

463, ABC Street  
London  
14th May 20 xx

Dear Pam

You were the first one to enter my thought when I wanted to share with someone my fear of ageing. I shudder at my reflection in the mirror. I do not want to believe that I am growing old with each passing day. I am losing my beauty and moving towards old age and that scares me. I want to look magnificent and gorgeous as ever.

*WE ARE WITH YOU.....*



This ageing process is scaring the wits out of me. The thought of growing old is killing. I feel that I am losing my charm and brilliance which is not acceptable to me. I know that this is the reality of life and I should not be thinking this way but somehow I am unable to cope up with the thought. I feel dejected and frustrated. Is this dejection and frustration universal ? Do you also feel the same way ? Are you also scared of getting old ?

Please help me come out of this situation. I am concerned and don't want to get affected in such a terrifying manner.

Yours sincerely Sylvia

**Q. 2. Imagine you are the mirror. Make a diary entry on a day in your life. (Board Term-12011, Set 41)**

**Ans.** 31 March, Friday 9 p.m.

Dear Diary

Today, I was just wondering how I spend my whole day. I realized that most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall. It is only the faces and darkness that separate us. Every morning a lady bends over me to know

what she really is but when I reflect her image faithfully, she is upset and agitated. She feels so because she sees her exact image of an ageing woman. I am exact. I have no preconceptions. I reflect the image in an unbiased way as I am unmisted by love or dislike. That's why the woman feels agitated. But I am happy with myself as I show people how and what they exactly are.

**Q. 3. How does Sylvia Plath effectively use personification in her poem 'The Mirror' ? (Board Term-12011, Set 33)**

**Ans.** 'The Mirror' is a perfect example of personification. The poet has successfully endowed human qualities to the mirror. The mirror tells about itself 'I am exact'. It has no prejudices or preconceptions in its mind. It shows images as they are reflected in it. The whole day it meditates on the opposite wall which is pink and speckled. It is unmisted and when the lady looks into the mirror, she gets agitated and upset at seeing her ageing image. Thus, Sylvia Plath has effectively used personification in this poem.

**Q. 4. What message does the poet wish to convey through the poem 'Mirror' ?**

**Ans.** 'Mirror' is a reflective poem. The mirror reflects the life of human beings in all its reality. Its reflection is neither twisted nor distorted. It describes the true nature of things. It has no preconceptions and personal likes or dislikes and gives an exact image of what comes before it. It is not affected by any feelings of love or hatred. In this modern era, everyone is living under an illusion. Everyone feels like the woman who looks into the mirror which is a lake for her, feels like a fish out of water and is not prepared to accept the reality of advancing age. Old age or ugliness is a hard and cruel fact that can't be escaped. Here the idea and the message of ageing is conveyed through the poem by the poet Sylvia Plath.

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## **<http://freehomedelivery.net/Chapter 9 Not Marble>**

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## **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 9 Not Marble NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

### **Introduction**

William Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets. 'Not Marble, Nor the Gilded Monuments' is one of them. In this poem, he has used poetic means to create aesthetic effects.

### **Quick Review / Summary**

In this poem, Shakespeare tries to convey the message that nothing in this world can outlive his poetic verses, be it marble or the monuments, that are covered with gold. The monuments wear away with the passage of time but his poetry written for his friend, will live longer than the stone monument which has been left uncared for. Next he has contrasted his verses with the ravages of time on monuments. The fighting, wars all overturn the monuments. They get demolished forever and everybody forgets about them after sometime. But neither Mars, the god of war, nor fire can erase the written memory of his friend's life. It will continue even after his death. The future generations will also admire him and he will live in the hearts of people till the doomsday, i.e., the day of the last judgement.

Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)(1 mark for each line in each question)

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**Q. 1. "When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
And broils root out the work of masonry,  
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall bum The living record of your  
memory." (Board Term-I 2013, Set 5007)**

**(a) The works of masonry that the poet is referring to are.....**

**(b) Mars is.....**

**(c) What does the poet mean by 'the living record' ?**

**Ans.** (a) statues and monuments.

(b) the god of war.

(c) His poetry describing his love for his friend.

**Q. 2. Not marble, nor the gilded monuments  
Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;**

**But you shall shine more bright in these contents Than unswept stone, besmear'd with  
sluttish time (Board Term-I 2012, Set 41)**

**(a) The poet's friend will outlive.....**

**(b) What will outshine the other ?**

**(c) The rhyme scheme of the stanza is.....**

- Ans.** (a) gold plated buildings of stone built in the memory of someone. 1  
(b) The words of this powerful poem written in praise of his friend will outshine those monuments 1  
(c) ab, ab 1

**Q.3.** When wasteful wars shall statues overturn,  
And broils root out the work of masonry,  
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn The living record of your memory.

- (a) What will the wasteful wars do ?  
(b) What will be the living record of the poet's friend ?  
(c) The poetic device used in the phrase 'wasteful wars' is.....

- Ans.** (a) They will uproot monuments.  
(b) The poem written in his praise.  
(c) Alliteration.

**Q.4.** 'Gainst death and all obvious enmity  
Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room,  
Even in the eyes of all posterity  
That wear this world out to the ending doom.

- (a) In line 2, 'you' refers to.....  
(b) The poet predicts that, 'you' will.....  
(c) The figure of speech in 'your praise shall still find room' is.....

- Ans.** (a) the poet's friend  
(b) live forever through this rhyme  
(c) personification

**Q.5.** Not marble, nor the gilded monuments Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme

- (a) Princes get monuments made because.....  
(b) The meaning of the word 'gilded' is.....  
(c) Monuments won't outlive this rhyme because.....

- Ans.** (a) they want to be remembered forever.  
(b) gold plated.  
(c) the poem is immortal.

**Q.6.** When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
And broils root out the work of masonry  
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn  
The living record of your memory.

- (a) Which poetic device has been used in these lines ?  
(b) Find out the word which means 'fighting, disturbances in war.'  
(c) In the line 'The living record of your memory', living record refers to

- Ans.** (a) Alliteration.  
(b) Broils.  
(c) the sonnet the poet has written for his friend.

**Q.7.** "Nor Mars has sword nor war's quick fire shall burn The living record of your memory

- Giants death and all-oblivious enmity Shall you pace forth."  
(a) The 'living record of your memory' is.....  
(b) The word 'your' represents.....

**(c) 'Mars' in the above lines is.....**

- Ans.** (a) the poem.  
(b) the poet's friend.  
(c) the God of war.

### **Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q.1. Bring out the sum and substance of Shakespeare's sonnet, 'Not Marble, Nor the Gilded Monuments' ? (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18)**

**Ans.** In this poem, the poet pays tribute to the quality of his verses also to the intensity of his love for his friend, the Earl of Southampton. The poet is confident that his verses will continue to be read for ever. His friend will outlive all other things of the world when he is described in the poet's verses. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Q. 2. What is the theme of the sonnet 'Not Marble nor the Gilded Monuments' ? (Board Term-12013, Set 101, 8SRR, 34)**

**Ans.** This is a poem about time and immortalization. The poet claims that his poem will immortalize his dear one whereas all monuments and statues will meet the dust. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Q. 3. In what way is the poet stronger than powerful rulers ? (Board Term-12012, Set 32)**

**Ans.** The creation of powerful rulers, i.e., statues and monuments are destroyed by time but the poet is more powerful than these rulers because time cannot destroy his creation, i.e., his poetry.

**Q. 4. How will the living record of the memory remain according to the poet in 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' ? (Board Term-12012, Set 36)**

**Ans.** Living record will not be washed away/broken/destroyed as it is in the form of poetry while all the other things will be destroyed.

**Q. 5. Why does Shakespeare refer to war as 'wasteful war' ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 15)**

**Ans.** Shakespeare refers to war as devastating – destructive – force. He is here describing war destroying stone structures, which relates back to the 'marble' and 'gilded monuments' that likewise do not last.

**Q. 6. How will the poet's friend and patron find a permanent place in the hearts of coming generations and lovers ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 43)**

**Ans.** Poetry will outlive mankind. It will not be ravaged by time. This poem will immortalize his friend. He will stay in the eyes of lovers till doomsday.

**Q. 7. In the poem, "Not Marble.....", what difference does the poet bring out between his rhyme and the monuments ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 45)**

**Ans.** Rhymes are eternal, they can't be destroyed. They are unaffected by wars and time. Monuments are destroyed with passage of time and wars.

**Q. 8. How has the poet personified time ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 47)**

**Ans.** The poet has personified time as a whore, a woman who is unfaithful. Time is never the same for a person. Even very great men are forgotten with the passage of time.

**Q. 9. How does the poet pay tribute to friendship ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 48)**

**Ans.** The poet pays tribute to friendship by writing a poem for his friend. The poem will be the, living record' of his friend's memory. Neither (leath nor war will be able to destroy his memory. His friend's praise will remain in the hearts of future generations.

**Q. 10. What according to the poet transcends time in the poem, 'Not marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 49)**

**Ans.** The poet's verses which immortalize his beloved will outlive the grand memorials or monuments built by princes in their memory. All signs of worldly power, glory and grandeur will fade away with the passage of time. All gold plated monuments, memorials and statues will fall to utter neglect, decay and deterioration. The words of poet's 'powerful rhyme' will be a living record of the memory of his beloved.

**Q. 11. How will the 'living record' of the poet's beloved and his memory be more powerful than wasteful wars ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 51)**

**Ans.** The words of this poem written in praise of the poet's beloved will survive as a living record of his beloved's memory. His beloved will be remembered by the coming generations through the words of this poem. Neither the wasteful wars, nor conflicts nor tumults will diminish or dim the shining glory of these words. The words of this sonnet will immortalize the poet's beloved's memory.

**Q. 12. Why does the poem refer to 'Time' as being sluttish ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** The personification of time as a slut or a loose character woman is quite significant. As a slut is not faithful to anyone man, in the same way time also keeps changing for people. It never remains the same.

**Q. 13. How does the time destroy the monuments and memorials ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 55)**

**Ans.** Time has been portrayed as a powerful element, time spoils the marbled or gilded monuments. It discolours them, breaks them or makes them dirty through its agencies like air, rain, etc.

**Q. 14. Why do rich people get their statues erected ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 64)**

**Ans.** The poet says that rich men try to get their statues erected and rich monuments made, so that they would be remembered but none of these survive the ravages of time and the men are forgotten.

**Q. 15. The poet says that neither forces of nature, nor war can destroy his poetry. What quality of the poet is revealed through these lines ? (Board Term-12011, Set 29)**

**Ans.** The poet is proud of creating art and literature. These are immortal whereas the material achievements of man are temporary. The poet is known for his self-confidence and also for his contempt for arrogant rulers.

**Q. 16. How long does the poet feel can the lover live in the rhyme written by him ? (Board Term-12011, Set 18)**

**Ans.** According to the poet, the lover can live in the rhyme till the world comes to an end, i.e., the Judgement Day. He is very sure that poetic art is immortal and lives forever.

**Q. 17. How has the poet eternalized the subject of his attention in this poem ? (Board Term-12011, Set 26)**

**Ans.** The poet has eternalized the subject of his attention by writing about him/her in his sonnet. According to the poet, stones and gilded monuments are affected by time but a poem lives forever. It



cannot be destroyed by the forces of nature or war. It is a written record which will be read and remembered by the future generations thus making it immortal.

**Q. 18. Explain in your own words how has 'poetry' been glorified by the poet, in the poem, 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'. (Board Term-12011, Set 32)**

**Ans.** The poet has glorified poetry in his poem as poetry makes a man immortal which cannot be done by any other thing. Statues and monuments erected in the remembrance of kings and rulers get destroyed by time. But his poem will outlive all these and will be a written record. It will immortalise his friend. No force of nature can outdo it.

**Q. 19. How will posterity remember the poet's friend ? (Board Term-12011, Set 35)**

**Ans.** The poet's friend will live forever through verse. Everything else will be destroyed by the powerful passage of time. The poem will serve as a written record which will move forward against death that makes others forget everything. But the posterity, will read his verses and admire them till the doomsday. His friend will be eternalised through his verses as wars and forces of nature can't affect it. He will outshine all others through his poems.

**Q. 20. What message does the poet wish to convey through his poem 'Not Marble.....'**

**Ans.** The poem conveys the message that the great and noble souls leave an indelible impact on their fellow beings and are remembered for a long time. Poet feels his poem will outlive the ravages of time. According to him, marble and stone monuments fail to immortalize rich and the powerful. He claims his poem will live longer than any man-made monuments.

**Q. 21. Describe how the monuments and statues brave the ravages of time.**

**Ans.** Time leaves its marks on everything as everything in this world is mortal. None can fight time. Monuments and statues break and get dirty with the passage of time. They also get demolished during wars.

**Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Materialistic things don't really last. What matters most are the people we care about and the values we live with. Explain this with reference to the poem 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'. (Board 2014, Set QUD9VQW)**

**Ans.** Value Points:

everything comes to an end one day  
what is most important is our relationship with our dear ones,  
the poet strengthens this idea that riches don't matter  
what is more valuable is his love for his friend.

**Detailed Answer:**

It is a well known truth that materialistic things don't really last. All signs of worldly power, glory and grandeur fade away with the passage of time. Kings and princes got their monuments erected so as to be remembered by the future generation. But all gold plated monuments, memorials and statues fall to utter neglect, decay and deterioration. They all meet the dust as they fail to outlive the ravages of time. In stark contrast to this are our relationships. They are immortal. They don't get destroyed by time. Rather they get strengthened with the passage of time. The poet is also of the opinion that riches don't matter much in this world. What is more valuable is his love for his friend. Their love would live longer than any man-made monuments. Neither death nor war will be able to destroy his memory.

Herice, it is our love and relationship which matters more in this 1 world. All other things come to an end one day.

**Q. 2. You were extremely impressed to read the poem 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'. Write a letter to a friend telling her about the' poem and your new found interest in poetry. Sign yourself as Amit/Amita of 39, D-Block, Model Town, Delhi. (Board Term-12011)**

**Ans.**

39, D-Block Model Town Delhi  
5 March, 2014

Dear Archit

Yesterday, I read a beautiful poem written by Shakespeare, 'Not Marble, Nor the Gilded Monuments'. It is a sonnet which has fourteen lines in all. It highlights the smallness of our existence, our achievements and our false glory. After reading the poem I realized that 'art' is immortal whereas 'time' is very powerful. It leaves its marks on everything. Nobody can fight time. The poem has left a deep imprint on my mind. I have developed a great interest in poetry and will try to read some more poems.



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Q1.

- (a) No water nearby, no green plants. no trees or birds, no buildings or human beings
- (b) Halt sunken in the sand, the stone edges are the corners. arms and trunk are missing. It is very old and made Of stone.
- (c) Powerful, a warrior who defeated all his enemies. He must have been arrogant and conceited.
- (d) Subdued, meek, obeyed orders, non-rebellious.

### Q2. Write a letter to your friend about the sight you saw and your impression of it.

Dear Riva,

I hope you are enjoying your ho You know that in these vacations I went to an ancient With family. I saw many places but one of them stirred me deeply. The place desert. where you could only see vast stretches Of sand. There lay a broken statue of the king named Ozymandias. He was the ruler of that land thousands of years ago.

The remains of the Statue stood mounted on a stone based pedestal.

There was an inscription engraved on it which -read as "My name is Ozymandias, king Of kings : Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair"

I was wondering how the great king must have thought that this statue Of stone Will stand forever and tell the stories of his achievements to the world. He must have thought he would become immortal and be remembered by all. Nov his status was all shattered. crumbled and his bee rolled in the sand.

Time takes its toll and does not spare anyone or anything. It made me realise that everything comes to an end with time. Nothing is immortal. I was just looking at his head half sunken in the sand and wondering where is his glorious kingdom, the lands he won. All this made me feel that we should live peacefully with others. Since all will perish one day, we should not kill or take away possessions and life from others to prove our greatness.

I will meet you when the schools re-open.

Your best friend

Anshi

### Q4: Answer the following questions by ticking the correct options.

- (a) The poem is set in \_\_\_\_\_
- (i) the wilderness
- (ii) an ancient land
- (iii) a palace

(iv) a desert

Answer: iv. a desert

(b) The expression on the face of the statue is one of \_\_\_\_\_

(i) admiration

(ii) anger

(iii) despair

(iv) contempt

Answer iv. Contempt

(c) This poem throws light on the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of Ozymandias.

(i) cruel

(ii) arrogant

(iii) boastful

(iv) aggressive

Answer iii. Boastful

(d) The sculptor was able to understand Ozymandias' \_\_\_\_\_

(i) words

(ii) expression

(iii) feelings

(iv) ambition

Answer: ii. Expression

(e) The tone of the poem is \_\_\_\_\_

(i) mocking

(ii) nostalgic

(iii) gloomy

(iv) gloating

Answer: iv. Gloating

### **Q5. Answer the following questions briefly.**

(a) "The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed. "Whose hand and heart has the poet referred to in this line?

The hand and heart referred to, here, is that of the sculptor.

(b) "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:" Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as King of Kings? What quality of the king is revealed through this statement?

In order to emphasise on him to be the most powerful of all kings, King Ozymandias calls himself 'King of Kings'. The king supposedly was very powerful, aggressive, arrogant and boastful.

(c) "Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" Who is Ozymandias referring to when he speaks of ye Mighty? Why should they despair?

Ozymandias refers to all the other rulers to come after his reign. They should despair, because according to him, they can't surpass his glory and power.

(d) Bring out the irony in the poem.

The irony of "Ozymandias" cuts much deeper as the reader realises that the forces of mortality and flexibility, described brilliantly in the concluding lines, will wear down and destroy all our lives. There is a special justice in the way tyrants are subject to time, but all humans face death and decay. The poem primarily depicts an ironic picture of Ozymandias and other rulers like him, but it is also a prominent thought on time-bound humanity: the traveler in the ancient land, the sculptor-artist who

fashioned the tomb, and the reader of the poem, no less than Ozymandias, inhabit a world that is “boundless and bare.”

(e) ‘Nothing beside remains.’ What does the narrator mean when he says these words?

When the narrator says these words, he emphasises on the fact that human life is time bound. The power and popularity of the ruler descended with the descent of the ruler. Nothing is immortal and immutable in this world.

(f) What is your impression of Ozymandias as a king?

To me, Ozymandias seems to be a very powerful tyrannical ruler, who was extremely boastful of himself and his kingdom.

(g) What message is conveyed through this poem?

Through this poem a very important message is conveyed which explains the ultimate truth of human lives that nothing is important. Everything in this world is time-bound and not immortal. The immutability of time has been explained through this poem.

**Q6: Identify and rewrite the lines from the poem spoken by the narrator, the traveller and Ozymandias:**

The Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_

The Traveller: \_\_\_\_\_

Ozymandias: \_\_\_\_\_

The Narrator: The narrator starts the poem with the introduction as to how the traveller had narrated his trip to the ancient land.

The Traveller: Two huge yet without the upper part of the body sculptures stood in the desert. Near them lay a shattered face, which had a frown and a wrinkled expression on his face. The face also held a hostile expression of cold command. The expression could be read very well on these lifeless things because of the sculptor’s artistry. On the pedestal appeared the words of the king himself. It read that his name was Ozymandias, king of kings, who commanded the forthcoming rulers to look up to him, and be saddened by the fact that they can never beat the glory he had achieved.

Ozymandias: I am Ozymandias, king of all kings: look upon my work and be despaired by my might, which you can never surpass.

Q7: Shelley’s sonnet follows the traditional structure of the fourteen-line Italian sonnet, featuring an opening octave, or set of eight lines, that presents a conflict or dilemma, followed by a sestet, or set of six lines, that offers some resolution or commentary upon the proposition introduced in the octave. Read the poem carefully and complete the following table on the structure of the poem.



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## **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 11 The Rime of the Ancient Mariner**

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**1.Look at the picture carefully and answer the questions given below:**



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WE ARE WITH YOU.....

- (a) What can you see in the picture? Does the man look happy? Give reasons for your answer.
- (b) Why does he have the bird hanging around his neck?
- (c) Have you heard of the expression- 'having an albatross around your neck'? What do you think it means? Does it mean ?
  - (i) something that you can always be proud of
  - (ii) something that you have to do because you have no choice
  - (iii) something that is with you all the time as a reminder that you have done something
- (d) What is an albatross?

**Answer.**

- (a) I can see a man with a dead albatross hanging around his neck. The man seemed deeply distressed and repentant over his deed.
- (b) The bird is a reminder of his evil action and symbolises a punishment for the sin he had

committed.

(c) Self attempt

(d) An albatross is a white ocean bird with very large wings. It symbolises a thing that causes anxiety concern.

**2.The teacher will now assign roles and ask you to read the poem aloud to show how the poem has been written in the first person (the parts in quotation marks spoken by the Mariner) and in the third person (where the narrator comments about the events taking place)**

**Answer.** Self-Attempt

**3.Here are some of the archaic words used in the poem; can you match them with the words used in modern English language that mean the same ? The first one has been done for you as an example:**

(a) stoppeth	(i) why
(b) thy	(ii) entered
(c) wherefore	(iii) stopped
(d) stopp'st	(iv) you
(e) thou	(v) lunatic
(f) may'st	(vi) at once
(g) quoth	(vii) fainting fit
(h) loon	(viii) has
(i) eftsoons	(ix) can't you
(j) dropt	(x) stopping
(k) hath	(xi) church
(l) spake	(xii) enemy
(m) kirk	(xiii) yes
(n) paced	(xiv) see
(o) foe	(xv) call
(p) aye	(xvi) trouble
(q) ken	(xvii) looking
(r) swound	(xviii) your
(s) hollo	(xix) said
(t) plague	(xx) dropped
(u) look'st	(xxi) spoke

**Answer.**

(b) – (xviii) (c)-(i) (d)-(x) (e) – (iv) (f)-(ix) (g) – (xix)

(h) – (v) (i)-(vi) (j) – (xx) (k) – (viii) (l) – (xxi) (m) – (xi)

(n)-(ii) (o) – (xii) (p) – (xiii) (q) – (xiv) (r) – (vii) (s) – (xv)

(t) – (xvi) (u) – (xvii).

**4.Using the words given above rewrite PART I of the poem in your own words. The first stanza has been done as an example.**

**It is an ancient Mariner,  
And he stoppeth one Of three.  
'By the long greybeard and glittering eye.  
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?**

**And old sailor stopped one of the three people passing by, who asked: "Old man, with your long grey beard and glittering eye, why are you stopping me?  
The bridegroom's doors are opened wide.**

**And I am next of kin;  
The guests are met, the feast is set:  
May'st hear the merry din.'**

**Answer.** The man chided the mariner if he could not hear the happy sounds as he was a close relative of the bridegroom and the doors of the marriage venue were opened. He firnher added that the guests had arrived and the dinner was arranged.

**He holds him with his skinny hand,  
"There was a ship," quoth he.  
'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!  
Eftsoons his hand dropt he.**

**Answer.** But the old man held him with his skinny hands and said : There was a ship The man at once freed his hand from the old man's grip and said, "stop you mad old man. leave me".

**He holds him with his glittering eye- The Wedding-Guest stood still.  
And listens like a three years' child:  
The Mariner hath his will. '**

**Answer.** The mariner hypnotized the wedding guest with his glittering eyes and the guest could not move. He listened to the old mariner like a small child of three and the mariner had his will.

**The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:  
He cannot choose but hear;  
And thus spake on that ancient man.  
The bright-eyed Mariner.**

**Answer.** Not having any other option, the wedding guest, helplessly sat on a stone and so the ancient mariner spoke continuously.

**"The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared.  
Merrily did we drop Below the kirk, below the hill.  
Below the lighthouse top.**

**Answer.** The old mariner continued telling his story: We started our journey by the sea cheerfully and the ship sailed below the church, below the hill and below the lighthouse top.

**The sun came up upon the left,  
Out of the sea came he!  
And he shone bright, and on the right Went down into the sea.**

**Answer.** The sun rose everyday from the left and set on the right after shining brightly for the whole day.

**Higher and higher every day.  
Till over the mast at noon- .**

**The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast.  
For he heard the loud bassoon.**

**Answer.** “Everyday the sun rose higher until it was just above our head at noon,” the old man dreamily said. By now the guest was getting impatient on hearing the sound of the bassoon, a musical instrument.

**The bride hath paced into the hall.  
Red as a rose is she;  
Nodding their heads before her goes The merry minstrelsy.**

**Answer.** The bassoon itself signified the rosy bride had entered into the hall accompanied by a band of happy singers and musicians.

**The Wedding-Guest he beat his breast.  
Yet he cannot choose but hear;  
And thus spake on that ancient man.  
The bright-eyed Mariner.**

**Answer.** The guest was too eager to go from there and was cursing himself as well as was getting irritated but he had no other option than to listen to that ancient man who spoke continuously.

**“And now the storm-blast came, and he Was tyrannous and strong:  
He struck with his o’ertaking wings.  
And chased us south along.**

**Answer.** The old man continued: “We were chased towards south by a severe and strong sea-storm that completely overtook us.”

**With sloping masts and dipping prow,  
As who pursued with yell and blow Still treads the shadow of his foe.  
And forward bends his head.  
The ship drove fast, loud roared the blast,  
And southward aye we fled.**

**Answer.** The old mariner recalled his horrible experience: “The ship’s front part dipped in the sea and the masts dropped down. The storm drove the ship southward with such force that the ship seemed to chase an enemy fiercely with a bent head.”

**And now there came both mist and snow,  
And it grew wondrous cold:  
And ice, mast-high, came floating by.  
As green as emerald.**

**Answer.** The old man narrated his tale of woe unaware of the state of the mind of the wedding guest. “It grew icy cold with mist and snow everywhere. The ship was surrounded by big, bright green pieces of floating ice.

**And through the drifts the snowy cliffs Did send a dismal sheen:  
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken- The ice was all between.**

**Answer.** The ancient mariner said that the floating ice-bergs and their surface reflected the sunshine that made them gloomy. They could see neither man nor an animal as there was only ice surrounding the ship.

**The ice was here, the-ice was there.  
The ice was all around:**

**It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,  
Like noises in a swound!**

**Answer.** The mariner recalled that they could see nothing but ice all around them. The storm howled loudly like a man in a fit and the ice also cracked making horrible noises.

**At length did cross an Albatross,  
Through the fog it came;  
As it had been a Christian soul.  
We hailed it in God's name.**

**Answer.** Amid the havoc, an albatross came emerging from the fog. The sailors thought it to be a messenger of God and called it on the ship.

**It ate the food it ne'er had eat.  
And round and round it flew.  
The ice did split with a thunder-fit;  
The helmsman steered us through!**

**Answer.** The albatross ate the food that it had never eaten. It became friendly with the sailors and flew in circles about the ship. Miraculously, the ice split making a thunderous noise and the helmsman was able to steer the ship in the right direction.

**'God save thee, ancient Mariner,  
From the fiends that plague thee thus!- .  
Why look'st thou so?'-'With my crossbow I shot the Albatross.'**

**Answer.** The wedding guest exclaimed that God had saved the mariner from the devils that troubled him and other sailors then why was he looking so wretched. The mariner repentantly answered that, it was he who shot the albatross with his cross bow.

**5. Answer the following by choosing the right option from those given below.**

**(a) The Ancient Mariner stopped one of the three wedding guests because.....**

- (i) he wanted to attend the wedding with him**
- (ii) he wanted him to sit with him**
- (iii) he wanted him to listen to his story**
- (iv) he wanted to stop him from going to the wedding**

**Answer.** (iii) he wanted him to listen to his story

**(b) The wedding guest remarked that he was 'next of kin' which means that.....**

- (i) he was a close relation of the bridegroom**
- (ii) he was a close relation of the bride**
- (iii) he was next in line to get married**
- (iv) he had to stand next to the bridegroom during the wedding**

**Answer.** (i) he was a close relation of the bridegroom

**(c) 'He cannot choose but hear' means.....**

- (i) the mariner was forced to hear the story of the wedding guest**
- (ii) the wedding guest was forced to hear the story of the mariner**
- (iii) the mariner had the choice of not listening to the story of the wedding guest**
- (iv) the wedding guest had the choice of not listening to the story of the mariner**

**Answer.** (ii) the wedding guest was forced to hear the story of the mariner



**(d) 'The sun came up upon the left. Out of the sea came he;' This line tells us that the ship.....**

**(i) was moving in the northern direction**

**(ii) was moving eastwards**

**(iii) was moving in the western direction**

**(iv) was moving towards the south .**

**Answer. (iv) was moving towards the south**

**(e) The Wedding-Guest beat his breast because.....**

**(i) he could hear the sound of the bassoon**

**(ii) he was forced to listen to the Mariner's story when he wanted to attend the wedding**

**(iii) the sound of the bassoon meant that the bride had arrived and the wedding ceremony was about to begin and he could not attend it**

**(iv) the sound of the bassoon announced the arrival of the bride and the start of the wedding ceremony**

**Answer. (iii) the sound of the bassoon meant that the bride had arrived and the wedding ceremony was about to begin and he could not attend it**

**(f) The storm blast has been described as being tyrannous because.....**

**(i) it was so fierce that it frightened the sailors**

**(ii) it took complete control of the ship**

**(iii) the storm was very powerful**

**(iv) the sailors were at its mercy**

**Answer. (ii) it took complete control of the ship**

**(g) The sailors felt depressed on reaching the land of mist and snow because.....**

**(i) there was no sign of any living creature**

**(ii) they felt they would die in that cold weather**

**(iii) they were surrounded by icebergs and there seemed to be no sign of life**

**(iv) everything was grey in colour and they felt very cold**

**Answer. (i) there was no sign of any living creature**

**(h) The sailors were happy to see the albatross because.....**

**(i) it was the first sign of life and therefore gave them hope that they might survive**

**(ii) it split the icebergs around the ship and helped the ship move forward**

**(iii) it was a messenger from God and it lifted the fog and mist**

**(iv) it gave them hope of survival by splitting the icebergs**

**Answer. (iii) it was a messenger from God and it lifted the fog and mist**

**(i) The two things that happened after the arrival of the albatross were.....**

**(i) the icebergs split and the albatross became friendly with the sailors**

**(ii) the icebergs split and a strong breeze started blowing**

**(iii) the ship was pushed out of the land of mist and the ice melted**

**(iv) the albatross started playing with the mariners and ate the food they offered**

**Answer. (ii) the icebergs split and a strong breeze started blowing**

**(j) 'It perched for vespers nine' means .....**

**(i) the ship stopped sailing at nine o'clock every day**

**(ii) the albatross would appear at a fixed time every day**

**(iii)the albatross would sit on the sail or the mast every day**

**(iv)the albatross was a holy creature**

**Answer.** (ii)the albatross would appear at a fixed time every day

**(k) ‘God save thee, ancient Mariner, From the fiends that plague thee thus!- Why look’s thou so?’ means .....**

**(i) the mariner wanted to know why the wedding guest was looking so tormented**

**(ii) the wedding guest wanted to know why the mariner was looking so tormented**

**(iii)the wedding guest wanted to know whether some creatures were troubling the ancient mariner**

**(iv)the ancient mariner wanted to know whether something was troubling the wedding guest**

**Answer.** (ii) the wedding guest wanted to know why the mariner was looking so tormented

**6. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**(a) How did the ancient mariner stop the wedding guest?**

**Answer.** The ancient mariner stopped one of the three wedding guests forcefully. He wanted to tell him the adventurous story related to him.

**(b) Was the wedding guest happy to be stopped? Give he was a close relative of bridegroom and reasons for your answer.**

**Answer.**No, the wedding guest was not happy to be stopped because he was a close relative of the bridegroom and wanted to attend the marriage ceremony in time but he was forced to hear the story of the mariner.

**(c) Describe the ancient mariner.**

**Answer.** The ancient mariner is the narrator in the poem. He is an old sailor who has a long grey beard and glittering eyes. He seems to be fighting with unnaturally skinning hands that held the wedding guest. He seems to be a sociable guy before undertaking that fateful trip down to the Arctic. His life undergoes a major change as he shoots an albatross. He suffers from guilt and remorse for having killed the albatross. He repents his action and his penance continues through the rest of his life as he feels the urge to share his story with whoever he meets.

**(d) How does the mariner describe the movement of the ship as it sails away from the land?**

**Answer.** The mariner describes the movement of the ship as it sails away from the land with joy. He exclaims when he starts sailing ‘The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared.’

**(e) What kind of weather did the sailors enjoy at the beginning of their journey? How has it been expressed in the poem?**

**Answer.** The weather was fine for the sailors and the sun was also bright. The poet has given its description as such:

The sun came up upon the left. „

Out of the Sea came he

And he shone bright, and on the right

Went down into the sea.

**(f) How did the sailors reach the land of mist and snow?**

**Answer.** The sailors reached the land of mist and snow because of the loud roaring blast that drove the ship faster towards the mist and snow.

**(g) How does the mariner express the fact that the ship was completely surrounded by icebergs?**

**Answer.** The mariner expresses the fact that the ship was completely surrounded by icebergs by saying-: "The ice was here, the ice was there  
The ice was all around.  
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled Like noises in a swound."

**(h) How do we know that the albatross was not afraid of the humans ? Why did the sailors hail it in God's name?**

**Answer.** We know that the albatross was not afraid of the humans because it started playing with the mariners and ate the food they offered. The sailors hailed it in God's name because it gave them hope of survival by splitting the icebergs.

**(i) What was the terrible deed done by the Mariner? Why do you think he did it?**

**Answer.** The terrible deed done by the mariner was that he shot the albatross with his cross bow. He did it to get rid of the troubles being faced, but soon he realised his mistake to find more troubles after the death of albatross.

**7. There are a number of literary devices used in the poem. Some of them have been listed below. Choose the right ones and write them down in the table as shown in the example. In each of the cases explain what they mean.**

simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, hyperbole, repetition

(a) The Wedding-Guest stood still, And listens like a three years' child:	Simile; the wedding guest was completely under the control of the mariner
(b) Below the kirk, below the hill, Below the lighthouse top	
(c) The sun came up upon the left, Out of the sea came he	
(d) The bride hath paced into the hall, Red as a rose is she	
(e) And now the storm-blast came, and he was tyrannous and strong:	
(f) With sloping masts and dipping prow, As who pursued with yell and blow Still treads the shadow of his foe	
(g) The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around	

**Answer.**

- (b) Repetition; here we find the occurrence of the same word 'below' used for laying supreme stress.  
 (c) Personification; here an inanimate thing "The Sun" has been personified like an animate thing.  
 (d) Simile; here the bride is compared with red rose and for comparison, the word "as" has been used.  
 (e) Personification; here 'the storm blast' has been animated as tyrannous and strong.  
 (f) Personification and hyperbole; here exaggeration — The storm has been shown as a person with unmatched powers. His powers have been exaggerated.  
 (g) Repetition; here the word "ice" has been repeated for emphasis.

**8. In groups of four discuss what you think happens next in the poem. Share your views with the rest of the class.**

**Answer.** Self-Attempt

**9. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**(a) In which direction did the ship start moving? How can you say?**

**Answer.** The ship started moving in the northern direction. We can say this because the poet says the sun rose in the right and he also says the south wind blew behind the ship.

**(b) Why does the mariner say that 'no sweet bird did follow'?**

**Answer.** He says so because the mariner had killed the albatross. It no more followed the ship for food or for playing with the mariners.

**(c) How did the other mariners behave towards the Ancient Mariner at first? How many times did they change their mind about the Ancient Mariner? What does this tell us about their character?**

**Answer.** At first all the mariners said that the ancient mariner had done a wrong thing by killing the bird. Then, when the weather improved, they all said that he had done the right thing by killing the bird. Finally when the ship stopped moving they said he had committed a crime by killing the bird. They changed their mind three times. This shows that they did not have an opinion of their own or a mind of their own.

**(d) How did the soiling conditions change after the ship had moved out of the land of mist and snow? What or who did the mariners blame for this change?**

**Answer.** After the ship left the land of mist and snow, it entered an area where the weather was very hot. Then the ship moved into the sea where the breeze was blowing fine. From here the ship moved into a region where the weather was very hot and it was still all around. There was no breeze at all so the ship could just not move.

**(e) What is indicated by the line 'The bloody sun, at noon,/Right up above the mast did stand,/No bigger than the moon' ?**

**Answer.** This line states that the sun was shining very bright and it was right above the ship. It was very hot but the size of the sun was not very big. The poet compares it to the size of the moon.

**(f) How does the mariner describe the fact that they were completely motionless in the middle of the sea ?**

**Answer.** The mariner says that there was no air and no movement. He compares their ship to a painted ship which stands still on a painted ocean.

**(g) What is the irony in the ninth stanza? Explain it in your own words.**

**Answer.** The ship is stuck in the middle of the sea with water all around. The weather is extremely hot and mariners need drinking water. In spite of there being water, there was not a drop of drinking water available. That is the irony in this stanza.

**(h) What is the narrator trying to convey through the description of the situation in the tenth and eleventh stanza?**

**Answer.** Through the tenth and eleventh stanza, the poet brings out the condition of the creatures in the sea. As there was no breeze blowing, the creatures had started dying. At night it appeared as though death was dancing at the gate of the ship. The condition of the sailors was pathetic.

**(i) What or who did the mariners feel was responsible for their suffering?**

**Answer.** The mariners felt that the ancient mariner was responsible for their suffering. He had killed an innocent bird, the albatross, without any provocation.

**(j) Describe the condition of the mariners as expressed in the thirteenth stanza.**

**Answer.** The sailors were feeling very thirsty as there was no drinking water available. Their throats were dry and they could not speak even a word.

**(k) Why did the mariners hang the albatross around the neck of the Ancient Mariner?**

**Answer.** The mariners hung the albatross around the neck of the Ancient Mariner in order to remind him of the ghastly deed he had committed by killing the innocent bird.

**10. Like part one, the second part also has a number of literary devices. List them out in the same way as you had done in question number seven and explain them.**

**Ans.**

Excerpt	Literary device
1. out of the sea come he,	Personification: The sun has been compared to a human being capable of movement.
2. And it would work'em woe.	Alliteration: The letter 'w' has been repeated thrice.
3. Nor dim nor red, like God's own head,	Simile: Sun has been compared to God's glorious head.
4. The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew The furrow followed free	Alliteration: The letter 'f' has been repeated and blew and flew has repetition of ew sound.
5. And we did speak only to break the silence of the sea!	Hyperbole: The speakers have exaggerated their action of speaking.
6. All in a hot and copper sky the bloody sun at noon	Metaphor: Sky and the sun have been indirectly compared to copper and blood respectively.
7. As idle as a painted ship	Simile: The ship has been compared to a painting.
8. Day after day, day after day	Repetition: The words have been repeated.
9. Water, water every where not any drop to drink.	Irony: Though there is lot of water but the sailors could not drink even a single drop.
10. The death-fires danced at night.	Personification: Fire has been shown as doing a dance of death.

**11. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?**

**Answer.** Rhyme scheme of the poem: ab cb

**12. Find examples of the use of interesting sounds from the poem and explain their effect on the reader.**



1. The ice 'cracked and growled, and roared and howled' ..... ..... .....	Coleridge uses onomatopoeic words which use harsh 'ck' sounds to make the ice sound brutal. He also gives the ice animal sounds to give the impression it has come alive and is attacking the ship.
--	---

**Answer.**

2. breeze blew alliteration alliteration is used to give a reinforcement to the sound.
3. foam flew alliteration
4. furrow followed free alliteration
5. hot and copper sky metaphor, visual imagery— The elements in a literary work used to evoke mental images, not only of the visual sense, but of sensation and emotion as well. Sky looks like a hot piece of copper.
6. bloody sun visual and sensational imagery.
7. Day after day, day after day repetition the poet uses this technique for emphasis.
8. Water, water everywhere repetition for emphasis.
9. like a witch's oil simile used to bring out a comparison.

**13. The poem is full of strange, uncanny or supernatural elements. Discuss how these elements appear in the poem. You should consider:**

- the strange weather;
- the albatross as a bird of “good omen”
- the spirit from the land of mist and snow”
- the strange slimy creatures seen in the sea
- the ocean appearing to rot
- the death fires and sea water being referred to as witch's oil

**Now write a paragraph about the supernatural elements in the poem and how they add to the events that take place in the poem.**

**Answer.** Supernatural elements make the poem interesting and there are surprises and surprises for the readers. The poet could have said this very incident in a simple manner. Use of these supernatural elements such as the 'albatross being a sign of good omen, 'the ocean appearing to rot', 'the death fires dancing' etc keeps the suspense and thrill alive, besides creating a lot of visual imagery.

**14. Every ship is supposed to have a log book, which is filled in every day by the captain. If he dies, the next senior officer fills it in (usually the First Mate).. Decide on appropriate dates (the mariner's tale was supposed to be thought of as already very old when the poem was published: it should be no later than about 1700 AD; other clues to the date are the light-house and the mariner's crossbow).**

**If you wish you can make the log look old by staining the pages, by your handwriting and spelling. Write a series of entries for the log for the important events that take place in the ship as recorded in the poem. The first one has been done as an example.**

**1701 AD**

**Today we left the shore at 3.30 p.m. under glorious sailing conditions. We have 230 men on board. We are sailing with cargo towards Portugal. The journey is expected to take 90 days. We are well stocked with food and water to last us 250 days in case of any emergency. Hopefully we will not face any untoward happenings. God .be with us!**

**You could also do this as an oral activity, recording the entries on audio tape and using voice effects and other sound effects if you can.**

**Answer.** Self-attempt.

### **15. Performing the poem**

**This is a very dramatic poem, excellent for reading aloud or even dramatising it. The class could be divided into groups and given the different dramatic moments from the poem to be performed as follows:**

- the first storm that they encounter**
- the time spent in the land of mist and snow**
- the coming of the albatross and the subsequent events till they move out**
- the killing of the albatross till they reach the silent seas**
- the suffering of the sailors in the hot region till they hang the albatross around the Ancient Mariner's neck**

**Answer.** Student to role-play the situations in groups.

**17. The poem has seven parts to it. The class could be divided into five groups and each group be asked to read one part of the remaining poem. Each group would then have to report their findings. The report can be made interesting with illustrations/power point presentations. Help could be taken from the following websites:**

**[www.online-literature.com/coleridge/646/](http://www.online-literature.com/coleridge/646/)**

**[www.gradesaver.com/the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner/](http://www.gradesaver.com/the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner/text.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Col2Mar.html)**

**[text.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Col2Mar.html](http://text.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/Col2Mar.html)**

**[www.enotes.com/rime-ancient-mariner-text](http://www.enotes.com/rime-ancient-mariner-text)**

**Answer.** Self-attempt.

### **18. In your groups discuss the following:**

- (i) Why did the Ancient Mariner stop the particular wedding guest to listen to his tale?**
- (ii) Why did he have to tell his tale to someone?**
- (iii) What is the poet trying to convey through this poem?**

**Answer.**

**(i)** "The ancient mariner was feeling himself burdened with the crime of killing the albatross. Other mariners also felt that the ancient mariner was responsible for their suffering. They hung the albatross around the ancient mariner's neck as a reminder of his sin. Now in order to lighten his burden, he stopped the wedding guest to narrate to him his tale of woe.

**(ii)** The Ancient Mariner stopped a man on his way to a wedding function to narrate his experience at the sea. Though there was no particular reason for the Ancient Mariner to stop the wedding guest, yet there seemed a kind of moral suggestion to love all men and birds equally. He did not want others to meet the same fate as he had.

**(iii)** The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is a ballad. Through this poem, Coleridge conveys a message to get close to God through prayer. The Ancient Mariner committed a sin that was rebuked by all. The Ancient Mariner relieved himself of his psychological burden by telling his tale to the wedding guest. The poet associates himself with Ancient Mariner to tell this allegorical poem in order to convey a powerful message to respect all the creatures of the world.

# NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature

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#### Class 10 English Literature Chapter 12 Snake NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

##### 1.Snakes generate both horror and fascination. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

**Answer.** Snakes generate both horror and fascination because our reasoning often misleads us.

Though snakes

are creations of nature, we are afraid of them. Snakes also fascinate us but we do not understand the beauty of nature, and being human, we have the impulse to kill it even though we are astounded by its beauty. Snakes are found in different colours and different sizes. They say that nature is more powerful than human beings. But still they generate horror which is just because of small instincts of natural world.

##### 2. Read what W.W.E. Ross feels when he sees a snake and fill in the table given below:

**The Snake Trying**

The snake trying

to escape the pursuing stick,

with sudden curvings of thin

long body. How beautiful and graceful

are his shapes!

He glides through the water away

from the stroke. O let him go

over the water

into the reeds to hide

without hurt. Small and green

he is harmless even to children.

Along the sand

he lay until observed

and chased away, and now

he vanishes in the ripples

among the green slim reeds.

WE ARE WITH YOU.....

What is the snake doing?	Words to describe the snake	Poet's plea

Answer.

What is the snake doing?	Words to describe the snake	Poet's plea.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The snake is gliding through the water to escape the stroke of the stick.</li><li>• The snake vanishes in the green slim reeds.</li></ul>	thin, long, beautiful, graceful, small, green, harmless.	to let the snake go unhurt into the reeds

**3. Given below is the summary of the poem Snake in short paragraphs. However they are Jumbled. Work in pairs and put the summary into a logical sequence.**

(a) After drinking water to satisfaction, the snake raised his head dreamily and flickered his forked tongue and licked his lips. The snake looked around like a God and then slowly proceeded to curve round and move away from the water trough.

(b) The poet felt much like the ancient mariner who had killed the albatross for no reason. He wishes that the snake would come back. He thinks of the snake as a king in exile who has to be crowned again. He also regrets having missed his opportunity of knowing and understanding one of the lords of life.

(c) As the snake put his head into the hole to retreat into the earth, the poet was filled with a protest against the idea of the snake withdrawing into his hole. The poet put down his pitcher, picked up a log and hurled it at the snake. The snake twisted violently and with great alacrity vanished into the hole in the wall.

(d) A snake visited the poet's water trough on a hot afternoon to quench his thirst. The poet who had also come to the trough to fill water in a pitcher waited for the snake since he had come at the trough prior to the poet.

(e) The voices of education inside the poet tell him that it was the fear for the snake that made him refrain from killing him. However, the poet feels that though he was quite afraid of the snake, he did actually feel honoured that a snake had come to seek his hospitality from the deep recesses of the earth.

(f) He is guilt-ridden and feels that he has to atone for the meanness of his action of throwing a log at the snake.

(g) The snake rested his throat upon the stone bottom and sipped the water into his slack long body. After drinking water, he raised his head just like cattle do and flashed his forked tongue, thought for a moment and then bent down to drink some more water.

(h) Education and social conventions make the poet think that the golden brown poisonous snake must be killed and that as a brave man he must undertake the task of killing the snake.

(i) The poet instantly felt sorry for his unrefined and contemptible act and cursed the voices of education and civilization that had shaped his thought processes and urged him to kill the snake.

(j) However, the poet instinctively likes the snake, treats him like a guest and feels honoured that it had come to drink at his water trough. The poet questions himself and wonders whether his not daring to kill the snake proved that he was a coward and whether his desire to talk to the snake reflected his perversity.

**Answer.**

- 1.-(d) 2.-(g) 3.-(a) 4. – (h)  
5.-(e) 6.-(c) 7.-(f) 8.-(b)  
9.-(i) 10.-(j)

**4. Based on your reading of the poem, answer the following questions by ticking the correct options:**

**(a) 'he lifted his head from his drinking as cattle do' – The poet wants to convey that the snake.....**

- (i) is domesticated**  
**(ii) is innocent**  
**(iii) is as harmless as cattle**  
**(iv) drinks water just like cattle**

**Answer.** (iii) is as harmless as cattle

(b) 'Sicilian July', 'Etna smoking' and 'burning bowels of the earth' are images that convey that .....

- (i) there are snakes in volcanic areas  
(ii) the poet lived in a hot area  
(iii) it was a really hot day when the snake came  
(iv) Sicilian snakes are dangerous

**Answer.** (iii) it was a really hot day when the snake came

(c) 'A sort of horror, a sort of protest overcame me' – The poet is filled with protest because .....

- (i) he doesn't want to let the snake remain alive  
(ii) he fears the snake  
(iii) he doesn't want the snake to recede into darkness  
(iv) he wants to kill it so that it doesn't return

**Answer.** (iv) he wants to kill it so that it doesn't return

(d) In the line 'And as he slowly drew up, snake-easing his shoulders, and entered farther' the phrase snake 'easing' his shoulders means.....

- (i) loosening its shoulders  
(ii) slipping in with majestic grace  
(iii) moving slowly  
(iv) moving fast

**Answer.** (iii) moving slowly

(e) 'He seemed to me like a king in exile...' The poet refers to the snake as such to emphasize that the snake.....

- (i) is like a king enduring banishment  
(ii) is like a king due to be crowned  
(iii) is a majestic king who came for a while on earth  
(iv) is a majestic creature forced to go into exile by man

**Answer.** (iv) is a majestic creature forced to go into exile by man



(f) 'I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act' — The poet is referring to.....

(i) the snake going into the dreadful hole

(ii) the accursed modern education

(iii) the act of throwing a log of wood at the snake

(iv) the act of killing the snake

Answer. (iii) the act of throwing a log of wood at the snake

**5. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**(a) Why does the poet decide to stand and wait till the snake has finished drinking?**

**What does this tell you about the poet? (Notice that he uses 'someone' instead of 'something' for the snake.)**

**Answer.** The poet decides to stand and wait till the snake has finished drinking because he thinks that the snake came before him. The poet stands waiting with his pitcher 'I came down with my pitcher' and feels that there is some guest at the water trough. The poet feels himself honoured that someone has come to drink water from his trough. This shows that the poet is a lover of nature who sees the snake as a big creation of nature.

**(b) In stanzas 2 and 3, the poet gives a vivid description of the snake by using suggestive expressions. What picture of the snake do you form on the basis of this description?**

**Answer.** The snake that came to the water-trough down from a fissure in the earth wall was yellow-brown slack, soft-bellied. He sipped with his straight mouth, softly drank through his straight gums, into his slack long body, silently.

**(c) How does the poet describe the day and the atmosphere when he saw the snake?**

**Answer.** It was a hot day. The poet came out in pyjamas because of the heat, to fill his pitcher. It seemed to be a day of 'Sicilian July, with Etna smoking'. The atmosphere was gloomy when the snake emerged from the fissure to drink water at the trough.

**(d) What does the poet want to convey by saying that the snake emerges from the 'burning bowels of the earth'?**

**Answer.** The poet wants to convey that the snake came out of the dark hell. He means that the snake comes out of the fissure from the bottom of the earth which is all dark and black as hell.

**(e) Do you think the snake was conscious of the poet's presence? How do you know?**

**Answer.** The snake was not conscious of the poet's presence for it came very peacefully trailing his yellow-brown belly down over the edge of the stone water trough. It rested its throat upon the bottom where the water was dripping and sipped with his straight mouth softly into his slack long body.

**(f) How do we know that the snake's thirst was satiated? Pick out the expressions that convey this.**

**Answer.** The snake's thirst was satiated for, after drinking silently he lifted his head 'as cat do' satisfied and flickered his forked tongue from his lips 'as one who has drunken' and slowly proceeded to draw his slow length curving round And climb again the broken bank of my wall-face.

**(g) The poet has a dual attitude towards the snake. Why does he experience conflicting emotions on seeing the snake?**

**Answer.** On seeing the snake the poet has conflicting emotions. There is something that actually wants him to like the snake but at the same time his education preaches him to kill it as it might be

dangerous to him. He also sees it as his guest and feels honoured that a guest has come to drink water. Hence, he is covered with guilt after throwing the log on the poor innocent snake.

**(h) The poet is filled with horror and protest when the snake prepares to retreat and bury itself in the 'horrid black', 'dreadful' hole. In the light of this statement, bring out the irony of his act of throwing a log at the snake.**

**Answer.** The snake moved slowly into the hole and suddenly the poet 'picked up a log and threw it at the water-trough to kill the snake'. The snake hearing the 'clatter' hastily moved 'into the black hole'. The poet now regretted his action and blamed himself for acting the way he did. He wished the snake could come back for him to crown it like a king.

**(i) The poet seems to be full of admiration and respect for the snake. He almost regards him like a majestic God. Pick out at least four expressions from the poem that reflect these emotions.**

**Answer.** The poet is full of admiration and respect for the snake. He respects it like a guest who has come to his water-trough to drink water. He 'stands and waits' to fill his pitcher and tells the snake to drink because it came before him. He considers him 'like a god' and wishes the snake would come back so that he could crown him 'like a king'. He feels he had missed his 'chance with one of the lords', when the snake recedes back into its hole.

**(j) What is the difference between the snake's movement at the beginning of the poem and later when the poet strikes it with a log of wood? You may use relevant vocabulary from the poem to highlight the difference.**

**Answer.** When the snake comes to the water-trough he 'trails his yellow-brown soft-belly' smoothly down silently. And when he has drunk the water he looked around like a god slowly proceeding to go into the fissure but when the poet picked up a 'clumsy log' and threw at the snake it 'writhed like lightning and was gone into the black hole'.

**(k) The poet experiences feelings of self-derision, guilt and regret after hitting the snake. Pick out expressions that suggest this. Why does he feel like this?**

**Answer.** After hitting the snake the poet has feelings of self-derision, guilt and regret. He blames the voice of education that lures him to hit the snake. He thinks how 'paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!' He despises himself and his inner voice curses human education'.

**(l) You have already read Coleridge's poem The Ancient Mariner in which an albatross is killed by the mariner. Why does the poet make an allusion to the albatross?**

**Answer.** The poet places the blame on the voice of education for his action to have tempted him into hitting the snake and hopes he need not pay for his negative action like the sailor that killed 'the albatross'. The poet wishes the snake to come back for him to crown it like a king but believes it would never do so and sees it 'like a king in exile'.

**(m) I have something to expiate'-Explain.**

**Answer.** Although the poet hits the snake under the influence of his education he feels sorry and wishes the snake would come back so the poet could crown it like a king but he misses the chance. He thinks he has to make amends for this petty mistake.

**6.The encounter with the snake and the dual response of the poet to his presence at the water-trough reflect a conflict between the civilized social education and natural human instincts. The poet writes a diary entry highlighting how he was torn between the two voices. Write his diary.**

**Answer.** I have a reaction of fear and fascination for the snake. There is a conflict between my natural feelings and my rational thinking. I have feelings of affection as if crushed by our social education. My reasoning often misleads me. Although I hit the snake under the influence of my education, yet I feel sorry for my mean act. So my natural instinct prevails in the end.

By nature I am sympathetic, considerate and peace loving but education turns me into a brute and kills the natural man in me. I mean to say this education also makes me egoistic and selfish which urges me to kill the snake to satisfy my social needs.

The nature of the conflict which grips my mind at the sight of the snake draws the conflict between the use of rational powers and intuitive powers. I listen to my rational voice and attack the snake only to regret my mean and vulgar act.

My education with forces of ignorance, cruelty and barbarity makes me think that our rationality and intellect produce in us fears, doubts and superstitions.

It is our instinctive nature which prompts us to do the acts of goodness.

**7.Alliteration is the repetition of sounds in words, usually the first sound. Sibilance is a special form of alliteration using the softer consonants that create hissing sounds, or sibilant sounds. These consonants and digraphs include s, sh, th, ch, z, f, x, and soft c. Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound it represents for a rhetorical or artistic effect of bringing out the full flavor of words. The sounds literally make the meaning in such words as “buzz,” “crash,” “whirr,” “clang” “hiss,” “purr,” “squeak,” etc. It is also used by poets to convey their subject to the reader. For example, In the last lines of Sir Alfred Tennyson’s poem ‘Come Down, O Maid’, m and n sounds produce an atmosphere of murmuring Insects:**

**... the moan of doves in immemorial elms,**

**And murmuring of innumerable bees.**

Notice how D H Lawrence uses both these devices effectively in the following stanza.

**He reached down from a fissure in the earth-wall in the gloom**

**And trailed his yellow-brown slackness soft-bellied down, over the edge of the stone trough**

**And rested his throat upon the stone bottom,**

**And where the water had dripped from the tap, in a small clearness,**

**He sipped with his straight mouth,**

**Softly drank through his straight gums, into his slack long body,**

**Silently.**

**To what effect has the poet used these devices? How has it added to your understanding of the subject of the poem? You may record your understanding of snake characteristics under the following headings:**

**(a) Sound**

**(b) Movement**

**(c) Shape**

**Answer.**

**(a) Sound:**

• He sipped with his straight mouth, Softly drank through his straight gums, into his slack long body, silently-Alliteration (sibilance)

**(b) Movement:**

• And flickered his two forked tongue from his tips and mused a moment -Alliteration.

• And depart peaceful, pacified and thankless into the burning bowels of the earth Alliteration.

(c)shape:

- And trailed his yellow-brown slackness soft-bellied down over the edge of the stone trough. – Alliteration (sibilance)
- Being garth-brown earth-golden, from the burning bowels of the earth. – Alliteration.

**8.The poet has also used both repetition and similes in the poem. For example-‘must wait, must stand and wait’ (repetition) and ‘looked at me vaguely as cattle do’ (simile). Pick out examples of both and make a list of them in your notebooks. Give reasons why the poet uses these literary devices.**

**Answer.**

Repetition	Simile
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• And must wait, must stand and wait</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• as cattle do, as drinking cattle do</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to feel so honoured I felt so honoured</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• And slowly and slowly very slowly</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He had come like a guest in quiet.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I was afraid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• And lifted his head dreamily, as one who tongue.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I was most afraid</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• And flickered his tongue like a forked night the air</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• from the burning bowels of the earth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• And looked around like a God</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Into the burning bowels of the earth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• writhed like lightning</li><li>• he seemed to me again like a king.</li></ul>

**9. A calligram is a poem, phrase, or word in which the handwriting is arranged in a way that creates a visual image. The image created by the words expresses visually what the word, or words, say. In a poem, it manifests visually the theme presented by the text of the poem. Read the poem given below. Try to compose a calligram. You could pick a subject of your choice.**

## Snake

Snake glides  
through grass  
over  
Pebbles  
forked tongue  
working  
never  
speaking  
but its  
body  
whispers  
listen.

Answer.

Keith Bosley ~

Kite-A Calligram poem

A  
Kite  
is soaring  
high in sky  
A dive and a dip  
It soars like a ship  
Beautiful and high  
Tying earth  
and  
sky

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# **NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature**

## **<http://freehomedelivery.net/Chapter 13 The Dear Departed Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF>**

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### **Class 10 English Literature Chapter 13 The Dear Departed NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF**

#### **Summary**

'The Dear Departed' is dedicated to the old people who are neglected due to the increasing materialism of their families. Abel Merry weather is an old man who had two daughters, Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan. One day, Mrs. Slater 'found him dead'. She informed Mrs. Jordan and her husband Ben and started waiting for them. Meanwhile she discussed with her husband about a clock and the bureau – a writing desk with drawers, which she always liked and wanted to possess. Suddenly an idea struck her mind and she decided to bring the clock and the bureau down to her room before the arrival of Mrs. Jordan. Henry did not approve of it but later helped in getting the bureau down. It was at the moment of shifting that the Jordans arrive. But they never realized what had happened. All of them sat to have tea. They discussed the obituary announcement in the papers and insurance premium payment. The little daughter of Slaters – Victoria put them in a doubt that she saw grandfather going to 'Ring-O-Bells' instead of the insurance office. She was told by her mother to bring the keys so that they could find the premium receipt in the drawers. Victoria went up reluctantly but the next moment she was back when she saw grandfather rising from his bed. She informed everyone downstairs. By the time they came out of their shock, grandfather came down. He told them that he had a headache and so was a bit dazed. It was here during the discussion that he noticed his clock and bureau in Henry's room. He got annoyed and asked for the reason. Then Mrs. Jordan informed him that Mrs. Slater was perhaps deceiving everybody by trying to steal the clock and the bureau before anybody arrived. Grandfather got angry. He told them that he had decided to change his will. He further added that he would give away everything to somebody who cared for him and not his daughters who took him to be a burden. The sisters were unable to digest this. They apologised but grandfather didn't listen to them. Then he told them his plans that he was going to marry Mrs. John Shorrocks, the keeper of 'Ring-O-Bells' and alter his will in her name. He invited them to attend his marriage on Monday, twelve o'clock at St. Philip's Church and left the house.

#### **Extract Based Questions (3 marks each)**

**Read the extracts given below and briefly answer the questions that follow:**

**Q. 1. "It didn't take you long to start dividing my things between you." (Board 2014, Set 8L1922Q)**

**(a) Who speaks these words and to whom ?**

**(b) What things are being referred to ?**

**(c) Why did they start dividing the things ?**

**Ans.** (a) These words are spoken by Abel Merry weather to his family members.

- (b) He is referring to the bureau, clock, slippers, etc.  
(c) They started dividing the things because they presumed Abel to be dead.

**Q. 2. 'Are we pinching it before Aunt Elizabeth comes ?' (Board Term-I 2013, Set 5007)**

- (a) Who is asking this question and to whom ?**  
**(b) What has happened before this incident ?**  
**(c) What reaction of the speaker is evident from the given lines ?**

**Ans.** (a) Victoria is asking her parents.  
(b) The parents have brought down the bureau from the grandfather's room.  
(c) The girl understands that her parents are stealing the bureau (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Q. 3. They'll stretch, won't they ? I am not going to have them wasted.**

- (a) What is they ?**  
**(b) What does the speaker want the listener to do ? Why ?**  
**(c) What will happen when 'They' will stretch ? (Board Term-I 2013, Set 8SRR)**

**Ans.** (a) Abel Merryweather's slippers.  
(b) She wants him to wear them as they are new and his own are old and worn out.  
(c) The slippers are small for Henry. She says they will stretch once he starts wearing them.  
(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Q. 4. "Mrs. Slater : I'm not satisfied but it's the best we can do till our new black's ready and Ben and Elizabeth will never have thought about mourning yet, so we'll outshine them there.**

- (a) What is Mrs. Slater dissatisfied with ?**  
**(b) What is the reference to 'new black' and why is it required ?**  
**(c) What does her speech reveal about her character ? (Board Term-12011, Set 44)**

**Ans.** (a) She is not satisfied with her mourning dress yet.  
(b) She needs a new mourning dress as her father has died.  
(c) She is a hypocrite, competes with her sister and doesn't have any regret of her father's death.

**Q. 5. "Are we pinching it before Elizabeth comes ?" (Board Term-12011, Set 43)**

- (a) What does 'it' refer to here ?**  
**(b) How does Victoria conclude that her parents are pinching 'it'?**  
**(c) Mention two reasons that Mrs. Slater gives for her action.**

**Ans.** (a) It refers to the bureau here. Henry tells Victoria that he and his wife are going to bring the grandfather's bureau down.  
(b) Victoria concludes because they want to bring it down before Aunt Elizabeth comes.  
(c) She tells them that she has always wanted to have the bureau after grandfather's death. She tells them that  
'Elizabeth is sharp and will drive a hard bargain.'

**Q. 6. That was a near thing. Open the door, Victoria. Now, Henry, get your coat on. (She helps him).**

- (Board Term-12011, Set 61)**  
**(a) What was a near thing ?**  
**(b) Why has Victoria been asked to open the door ?**  
**(c) Why has Henry been asked to wear a coat ?**

**Ans.** (a) The speaker and her husband being caught in the act of stealing.  
(b) To usher in her aunt and uncle.  
(c) Because it is black in colour and it would make him appear to be in mourning.

**Q. 7. No, for myself it's such a relief to get into the black. And now perhaps you'll tell us all about it. What did the doctor say ? (Board Term-12011, Set 41)**

**(a) What is a great relief for the speaker ?**

**(b) What does the speaker mean by telling us all about it ?**

**(c) Who is the speaker of these lines ?**

**Ans.** (a) To get into the black mourning dress is a relief.

(b) They want to know how the old man died.

(c) Elizabeth or Mrs. Jordan.

**Q. 8. Chut! Be quiet! It's ours now. Come Henry, lift your end.**

**(a) Identify the speaker.**

**(b) Why is the speaker insisting on being quiet ?**

**(c) What 'our now' is being talked about ?**

**Ans.** (a) Mrs. Slater. .

(b) As they are stealing grandpa's bureau before others come.

(c) The bureau of grandpa.

**Q. 9. "Victoria, if that's your aunt and uncle you're not to open the door."**

**(a) Whose instructions are these for Victoria ?**

**(b) Why should her aunt and uncle not be allowed ?**

**(c) What was being done in their absence ? (Board Term-12011, Set 50)**

**Ans.** (a) Amelia, her mother.

(b) As they are shifting the bureau containing a locked desk and they don't want to be caught red-handed.

(c) Both Amelia and Henry were in grandfather's room shifting an old-fashioned bureau.

**Q. 10. "I don't call that delicate, stepping into a dead man's shoes in such haste." (Board Term-12011, Set 38)**

**(a) Who is the speaker ?**

**(b) When does the speaker say these words ?**

**(c) What does the speaker mean by 'stepping into a dead man's shoes' ?**

**Ans.** (a) Mrs. Jordan. 1/2

(b) When she notices Henry wearing grandfather's slippers.

(c) Stepping into a dead man's shoes is to take the position of the dead man although one might not be capable

of it. She remarked that he was in a hurry to step into the grandfather's shoes and didn't even wait for his funeral. 1+1/2

**Q. 11. No, if I'm not to have him you shan't either. We quarrelled because Elizabeth said she wouldn't take you off**

**our hands at any price. She said she'd had enough of you to last a life time, and we'd got to keep you.**

**(Board Term-12011, Set 42)**

**(a) Who is I ?**

**(b) Why is there a quarrel ?**

**(c) Who had got to keep the old man according to the speaker ?**

**Ans.** (a) T stands for Mrs. Slater.

(b) They quarrel over Elizabeth's attempt not to keep the old man with her at any price.

(c) Mrs. Slater and Henry.

**Q. 12. I'll tell you what I've got to do. On Monday next I've got to do three things.**

**(a) These words are spoken by to..'**

**(b) The listeners' reaction to the speaker's declaration is that they are**

**(c) has made the speaker decide on three things. (Board Term-12011, Set 14)**

**Ans.** (a) Abel; his family.

(b) taken aback.

(c) Family's negligent attitude towards the speaker.

**Q. 13. 'She's never been here since grandfather bought it. If it was only down here instead of in his room, she'd never guess it wasn't our own.**

**(a) These words are said by**

**(b) The word 'it' referred to here is**

**(c) The speaker is planning to (Board Term-12011, Set 12)**

**Ans.** (a) Amelia. .

(b) the bureau.

(c) bring the bureau down.

**Q. 14. "He's done it on purpose, just to annoy us".**

**(a) Who is the speaker ?**

**(b) Who is 'He' ?**

**(c) What has he done to annoy the others ? (Board Term-12011, Set 40)**

**Ans.** (a) Mrs. Jordan.

(b) Grandfather – Abel Merryweather.

(c) He had not paid the premium – instead had gone to a public house.

**Q. 15.1 may be wrong. But I don't think father will fancy living on with you after what's happened today.**

**(a) Who speaks the above lines ?**

**(b) What is the argument about in the conversation ?**

**(c) Why wouldn't father want to stay with the listener ?**

**Ans.** (a) Mrs. Jordan.

(b) The argument is over the place where Mr. Abel Merryweather should be staying.

(c) Mrs. Slater had behaved in a very mercenary manner and she wanted to take over her father's belongings as soon as he died.

### **Short Answer Type Questions (2 marks each)**

**Q. 1. What are the three things that grandfather plans to do on next Monday ?**

**(Board 2014, Set PRE2N18,8L1922Q, NCT 2014,2013 Set 8SRR)**

**Ans.** (i) To go to the lawyer to alter his will.

(ii) Pay insurance premium

(iii) Get married at St. Phillips church to Mrs. Shorrocks (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

### **Detailed Answer:**

Grandfather plans to do three things on next Monday. He decides to consult a lawyer and alter his will in favour of Mrs. John Shorrocks. Secondly he decides to marry Mrs. Shorrocks and third he has to pay his insurance premium which is due.

**Q. 2. Justify the title 'The Dear Departed'. (Board 2014, Set PRE2N18, 2012 Set 64)**

**Ans.** (i) The play revolves around the father. Fathers are loved by their children, but here he is not dear/truly loved by them as they are more interested in dividing up his belongings and are upset when they are informed that he is getting married and that they will not inherit.

(ii) The father has not departed, they presume he is dead without checking or calling a doctor.

**Q. 3. Why did the two sisters fight with each other ? (Board 2014)**

**Ans.** Grandfather decided that in his new will, he would leave all his money and things to the person he would be living with when he died. This led to another spat between the daughters. Since both of them were very keen to get his money and things, they wanted that he should stay with them. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014)

**Q. 4. Why was black the dress code for the day ? (Board Term-12013, Set 5007)**

**Ans.** Amelia had come to the conclusion that Abel Merryweather had passed away. So, the entire family had gathered to mourn the death of the grandfather. Black is the colour for mourning so they all had worn black.

**Q. 5. Why is Mrs. Amelia Slater so edgy and nervous in the beginning of the play ? (Board Term-12013, NWKYS)**

**Ans.** In the beginning of the play, Mrs. Amelia Slater is very edgy and nervous. Actually, she wants to steal grandfather's bureau as she likes it very much but she wants to shift it to her room before the Jordans come and for that she has to do it quickly. She doesn't want the Jordans to know about her theft.

**Q. 6. Bring out the irony in the title of the play, 'The Dear Departed'. (Board Term-12013, Set 7PZ8) (Board Tenn-I 2012, Set 38)**

**Ans.** Grandfather, the departed in this play, was not dear to his daughters and son-in-laws. Though they did not anxiously wait for his death, they actually did not regret even his sudden passing away.

**Q. 7. What decision did Abel Merryweather take regarding his will ? What were his future plans for himself ? (Board Term-12012, Set 49)**

**Ans.** He decided to make a new will and leave all his belongings to whomever he was living with when he dies. First, he would visit his lawyer, to alter his will. Second, he would go to the insurance office and pay his premium. Third, he would marry Mrs. John Shorrocks who kept the 'Ring-O-Bells' in Philip's church.

**Q. 8. What does Mrs. Slater want to possess from the grandfather's room ? What were her plans after his death ? (Board Term-12012, Set 55)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Slater has her eye on grandfather's bureau and the clock. She intends to grab her share of her grandfather's property. She and her sister Mrs. Jordan are after jewellery, insurance, etc.

**Q. 9. Mrs. Slater represents a great materialistic character in the play, 'The Dear Departed'. Give two evidences in support of the statement. (Board Term-12012, Set 59)**

**Ans.** When she is sure about the death of her father, she tries to grab all the essentials of her father first. Then she turns her attention to his insurance policy. She doesn't want anyone to come there before she takes everything in her possession. She has no sympathy for anyone.

**Q. 10. Why does Elizabeth wish to draw up a list of Grandpa's things ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 60)**



**Ans.** Both the sisters, being calculative and selfish, did not want to be in any loss. Hence, Elizabeth wanted all the things to be listed so as to be able to get more than her share of inheritance.

**Q. 11. Why did Victoria think that the behaviour of her parents was callous ? (Board Term-I 2012, Set 16)**

**Ans.** Victoria thought the behaviour of her parents was callous as after the so-called departure of Grandpa's soul, they were only bothered about money and other materialistic things.

**Q. 12. Briefly describe the character of Victoria in 'The Dear Departed'. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 18)**

**Ans.** Victoria, the granddaughter, has been depicted as a compassionate and loving character who loved her grandfather and was very upset at the materialistic behaviour of the elders after the so-called death of her grandfather.

**Q. 13. In what way is 'The Dear Departed' satirical ? Comment on the nature of human beings.**

**(Board Term-I 2012, Set 21)**

**Ans.** 'The Dear Departed' brings out children's greed; they are more interested in what they will inherit and try to grab a lion's share. The play shows how children sometimes care more for what they will receive from their parents than for their welfare and happiness.

**Q. 14. What change in the grandfather's will lead to another spat between his two daughters ? Why ?**

**(Board Term-I 2011, Set 39)**

**Ans.** Grandfather decided that in his new will, he would leave all his money and things to the person he would be living with when he died. This led to another spat between the daughters. Since both of them were very keen to get his money and things, they wanted that he should stay with them.

**Q. 15. Why was the family surprised /shocked to see the grandfather awake ? (Board Term-I 2011, Set 25)**

**Ans.** The family was shocked to see the grandfather alive as all of them wanted to share his belongings which they would not be able to do then.

**Q. 16. What was the reason for delay in opening the door when Mr. & Mrs. Jordan came ?**

**(Board Term-I 2011, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The Slaters wanted to bring the bureau down but did not want the other couple to know about it. So they delayed the opening of the door as at that moment they were in the process of bringing the bureau down.

**Q. 17. Why does Mrs. Slater decide to shift the bureau from grandfather's room before the arrival of the Jordans ? (Textual)**

**Ans.** Abel, the grandfather, is 'found dead' in the room by Mrs. Slater. She informs her sister and then starts waiting for her to come for the mourning. At that time it strikes her that grandfather's things will be divided between the two of them. She loves the grandfather's bureau. So she decides to shift it to her room before the arrival of Jordans so that she can tell them that the bureau is their and not grandfather's. That way she will be the sole owner of it.

**Q. 18. Ben appreciates grandfather saying 'It is a good thing he did' later he calls him a 'drunken old beggar', why does he change his opinion about her grandfather ?**

**Ans.** Ben changes his opinion about grandfather and calls him a 'drunken old beggar' later because he realises that he has not paid his insurance premiums and so they will not get any benefit of money from his insurance.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (4 marks each)**

**Q. 1. Victoria Slater is truly attached to her grandfather. She is confused by the behaviour of the elders at home, their attitude towards the old man.**

**As Victoria write a diary entry in not more than 150 words, outlining the incidents and the elders' feelings towards the misfortune. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 39)**

**Ans.** 28 February, 20xx

Tuesday •

10 pm.

Dear Diary

I am quite confused by the behaviour of the elders towards my grandfather. As soon as they found him to be dead, it was as if mother was in a hurry to divide Grandpa's belongings. She informed aunt Elizabeth who arrived along with uncle. To my shock, none of them were feeling sad about the departed soul. Rather they started fighting for Grandpa's properties. Is this what we call love and affection? Bureau, grandpa's slippers and many other things were gaining priority at that moment. My mother and aunt forgot that their father was dead. They were being so materialistic. It was a terrible experience. Thank God! Grandpa is still alive. Now I wonder would they accept if I pay them back in the same coin.

Victoria

**Q. 2. You are Abel Merryweather. Express your ideas/feelings after you wake up and come to know about your daughters' feelings, greed and intentions in the form of a letter to your friend. (Board Term-I 2012, Set 30)**

**Ans.** 3 March, Thursday 10 p.m.

Dear John

After an unbelievable experience of watching the selfishness of my family members, I have made my final decision. Let me first narrate you the incidents that led to this decision. One day I woke up only to find them fighting for my property. Both my daughters and son-in-laws were discussing this matter. They were being blunt and impolite. I saw them in their true colours that day. They were outdoing each other in considering me as a burden for them. They made me realize that they had only been tolerating me for five long years. Though all of them were in black mourning dress it never appeared that they were really sad. All of them were greedy, impolite, insensitive, dominating and what not. It was only my granddaughter who was an exception. So I've decided to marry Mrs. Shorrocks who seems to be quite humane. This was a horrible experience of my life which I wanted to share with you.

Abel

**Q. 3. How is hypocrisy of the two sisters brought out in the play, 'The Dear Departed' ? (Board Term-12012, Set 29)**

**Ans.** The two sisters in the play lived by double standards. Each of them tried to surpass the other. Amelia tried to steal the bureau before Elizabeth's arrival whereas Elizabeth was late because she wanted to reach there in mourning dress. She was in no hurry to reach her father's house even after hearing the news of his death. Both of them laid more stress on getting materialistic gains from Abel's death as Amelia wanted to steal the clock whereas Elizabeth wanted grandfather's watch. Their hypocrisy reached its height when at tea, they discussed about newspaper announcement even before

confirming his death. But when Abel came down, both of them were shocked. Further they got a terrible blow when their father announced his marriage to Mrs. Shorrocks and the change of his will.

### Value Based Question (4 marks)

**Q. 1. You are Victoria and you are really angry and disturbed at the way your parents, uncle and aunt have behaved with your grandfather. Express your thoughts and feelings about the value of the love of grandparents in a person's life in the form of a diary entry in about 150 words.**

**Ans.** Thursday

27 April, 2014 9:30 p.m.

Dear Diary

I am very upset and disappointed today. I was informed by my parents in the morning that my grandfather is dead. It was a terrible news. I was shocked as it was an unexpected news. But more shocking was the behaviour of my parents especially my mother. She turned out to be a materialistic lady who was more concerned about the bureau and the clock in grandfather's room rather than the dead grandfather. I had never thought that my parents, uncle and aunt are greedy. Today I found that each one of them was interested in benefits that they could get after grandfather's death rather than the old man himself. I am disillusioned by their materialistic attitude. Why don't they realise the importance of fatherly affection and love ? I love my grandfather and thank God that he is not dead. I always look towards him whenever I'm troubled. His experience and knowledge always helps me come out smoothly from my problems. I hope ma, pa and others will soon understand the value of parents' love and give grandpa his due regard and respect in the future.



*WE ARE WITH YOU.....*

# NCERT SOLUTIONS For Class 10 English Literature

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/Chapter 14 Julius Caesar>

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### Class 10 English Literature Chapter 14 Julius Caesar NCERT SOLUTIONS For Download 2017 2018 New Edition PDF

#### Question 1. Consult a dictionary and find out the difference between

- (a) killing
- (b) murder

(c) assassination

(a) Killing is an act of a person or a thing that kills.

(b) Murder means killing of a person under conditions specifically covered by law. It is characterised by deliberation or during committing another crime.

(c) Assassination refers to killing suddenly or secretly especially a politically prominent person, or to destroy or harm viciously, as assassination of character.

#### 2. Popular and powerful leaders have been assassinated in the past and in recent times. Can you name some of them?

**Answer** Some of popular and powerful leaders who have been assassinated in the past and in recent times are

**Mahatma Gandhi** The father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30th January, 1948.

**Indira Gandhi** The prime Minister Of India, Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31st October, 1984.

**Rajiv Gandhi** The former Prime Minister Of India and the son Of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21st May, 1991.

**John F Kennedy** The thirty-fifth President Of the United States, John F Kennedy was assassinated on 22nd November, 1963.

**Robert F Kennedy** The younger brother of John F Kennedy and a senator from New York. Robert F Kennedy was assassinated on 5th June, 1968.

**Abraham Lincoln** The sixteenth President Of the United States. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on 14th April, 1865.

**Benazir Bhutto** The former prime Minister of Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on 27th December, 2007

**Martin Luther King Jr** One of the leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated on 4th April, 1968.

#### Question 3. Discuss in groups the reasons why the leaders you named in (2) were assassinated. Is assassination the end to a problem?

Have a group discussion on the topic in the context of past/present day political assassinations.

**Answer** Some details and reasons have been given for the assassination of the above mentioned leaders. The reasons highlight the fact that the assassinations did not cause the problem to end.

**Mahatma Gandhi** The father of the Nation. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on 30th January, 1948. A Hindu radical Godse later surrendered to the police and was hanged on 15th

November 1949. The reason was severe dislike for Gandhi's policies and the partition of India.

**Indira Gandhi** The former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Satwant Singh and Beant Singh, her own bodyguards, on 31st October, 1984. While Beant Singh was killed by Gandhi's other bodyguards. Satwant Singh was later arrested and executed. The reason were differences related to the measures taken to suppress Sikh militancy.

**Rajiv Gandhi** The former prime Minister of India and the son of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in a suicide bomb attack carried out by LTTE suicide bombers. The reasons were political.

**John F Kennedy** The thirty-fifth President of the United States, John F Kennedy was assassinated on 22nd November 1963, allegedly by Lee Harvey Oswald. Lee was later killed by Jack Ruby on 24th November, 1963, even before he could be indicted or tried. The reasons were political.

**Robert F Kennedy** The younger brother Of John F Kennedy and a Senator from New York, Robert F Kennedy was assassinated on 5th June, 1968, by Sirhan Sirhan (a Palestinian). Initially sentenced to death in a gas chamber, he was later handed the punishment Of life imprisonment. The reasons were Political.

**Abraham Lincoln** The sixteenth president of the United States. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on 14th April, 1865, by John Wikes Booth, a well-known actor. Both later died in an encounter with soldiers. The reasons were political.

**Benazir Bhutto** The former Prime Minister of Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on 27th December, 2007 Her assassinator first shot and then detonated a bomb. when she was leaving from a rally at Liaquat National Bagh. Though Baitullah Mehsud is being alleged as the main mastermind behind the murder, nothing has been proved yet. The reasons were political.

**Martin Luther King Jr** One of the leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement. Martin Luther King Jr was assassinated 4th April, 1968, by James Earl Ray, Ray was convicted and sentenced to 99 years in prison. He later died in prison at the age of 70. The reasons were believed to be political. The above given material can be used in the group discussion in the class.

**Question 4. Answer the following questions by ticking the correct options.**

(i) When Caesar says "Nor heaven nor Earth have been at peace to-night" he sounds

- (a) worried
- (b) angry
- (c) joyous
- (d) frightened

Answer: (a)

**(ii) Caesar's reference to the senators as 'graybeards' shows his**

- (a) confidence (b) cowardice (c) arrogance (d) ambition

**(iii) Decius Brutus changes Caesar's mind about going to the Senate**

by appealing to his

- (a) ambition (b) vanity (c) greed (d) genorosity

Answer (b)

**(iv) The offer that Cassius makes to Antony assasination is that**

- (a) the conspirators would like to be friends with him
- (b) he may take Caesar's body to the pulpit and speak to the crowd praising Caesar for his achievements
- (c) his recommendations Will be strong as that Of the conspirators While distributing the powers and benefits to friends
- (d) he may join the conspiracy against Caesar

Answer (a)



**(v) Cassius tries to stop Brutus from letting Antony speak at Caesars funeral as he**

- (a) knows the Roman mob loves Caesar and Antony
- (b) knows Brutus is not a good orator
- (c) knows they should not have killed Caesar
- (d) knows Antony is a good orator who can away the mob

Answer (d)

**(vi) What prophecy does Antony make over Caesars dead body?**

- (a) Romans will see Caesar's ghost roaming on the streets
- (b) Rome will experience fierce civil war in Which many people Will die
- (c) Rome will be ruled by Ate
- (d) Roman women will smile at the death Of Caesar

Answer (b)

**(vii) After listening to Brutus speech, the third citizen says' 'let**

him be Caesar. This clearly shows he

- (a) has not understood Brutus reason for killing Caesar
- (b) loved Caesar more then he loves Brutus
- (c) loves Brutus more then he loved Caesar
- (d) thinks Brutus killed Caesar to assume power

Answer (c)

**(viii) When Antony calls the conspirators 'honourable man' tone is**

- (a) admiring (b) flattering (c) angry (d) mocking

Answer (d)

**(ix) Antony's reference to Caesar's conquest of the Nervii is to**

- (a) remind the mob of Caesars greatness a warrior
- (b) make the mob feel afraid Of being attacked by the war-like race
- (c) make the crowd weep for Caesar who died at war
- (d) stop and collect his emotions as he is feeling very upset

**(x) Antony's remark Mischief; thou art afoot, Take thou what**

course thou wilt; shows him to be

- (a) a ruthless manipulator
- (b) an honourable man
- (c) a loyal friend
- (d) a tactful man

Answer (a)

**Question 5. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**(a) How do the heavens forth' the death of Julius Caesar?**

Answer It was believed that when kings or princes die. a bright star shoots in the sky and falls down. It leaves a blazing light behind it. So, when Caesar was murdered. a star blazed forth in the sky.

**(b) What does Calpurnia try to convince Caesar of?**

Answer Calpurnia tries to convince Caesar that what she has seen in her dream means a danger to his life. So. he must not go to the senate-house. He must not leave home. Caesar doesn't listen to hers and murdered

**(C) Why does Calpurnia say 'Caesars wisdom is consumed in confidence'? what does she mean?**

Answer

She says this because she is afraid Of something happening to Caesar if he goes Out. What she means is that he is overconfident because Of his wisdom, but the ill omens mean that something bad will happen today

**(d) What does Calpurnia dream about Caesar? How does Decius Brutus interpret the**

**dream?**

Answer: Calpurnia dreamt that statue had a hundred spouts and pure blood ran from them. Many strong Romans came smiling. They bathed their hands into it. She meant this as an ill-omen. So, she asked Caesar not to go to the senate-house that day. But Decius Brutus interpreted the dream saying that the Romans's bathing their hands in his blood that Caesar's blood was his 'spirit of influence'. It should be treated as a great thing, It shall serve as colours added to a coat of arms, an object of reverence, mementos and a badge of service.

**(e) What are the arguments put forward by Decius Brutus to convince Caesar to go to the Capitol?**

Answer First, Decius Brutus convinces Caesar that the dream is good omen. Secondly, the senators want to crown him. If he does not go to senate today, the senators' minds may change and they may not offer him the crown later on.

**(f) Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar?**

Answer Decius Brutus appeals to Caesar's vanity by telling him that the senators want to crown him, whereas Calpurnia only talks about her dream, which was ominous. It appears that Caesar is not very superstitious and his vanity overcomes any doubts that he had.

**(g) What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators? How does Caesar respond to it?**

Answer: The conspirators put a petition before Caesar to repeal the banishment of Metellus Cimber's brother, who had been banished by Caesar on valid grounds. Caesar responds to it by refusing to do so because this will undermine his authority and also make laws made earlier meaningless.

**(h) Who says 'Et tu Brute' When are these words spoken? Why?**

Answer: The words 'Et tu Brute' are spoken by Caesar just before dying conspirators when Brutus stabs Caesar. Caesar speaks these words as Caesar has not expected such a treacherous act from him as Brutus was his trusted friend.

**(i) In the moments following Caesar's death what do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death?**

Answer: In the moments following Caesar's death the conspirators proclaim that tyranny is over with his killing. Now the people will have liberty, freedom and enfranchisement because Caesar is no alive.

**(j) Seeing the body of Caesar, Antony is overcome by grief. What does he say about Caesar?**

Answer He praises Caesar. He his conquests, glories, triumphs and spoils. He calls him 'mighty' and wonders how 'low' he lies in his death. He pays him a warm homage by calling him a 'bleeding piece of Earth' and 'the ruins of the noblest man'. He also calls him 'the choice and master spirits Of this age' that ever lived.

**(k) Whom does Antony call "the choice and master spirits of this age". Why?**

Antony calls Caesar as 'the choice and master spirits Of this age' because no human being matched him in any way. He was simply unparalleled in every human aspect.

**(l) How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony's speech?**

Answer Brutus and Cassius respond to the of Antony in different ways. Cassius feels the Antony's words will affect the audience so that it goes against them. At this Brutus's that he will address the public first, giving the reasons for Caesar's assassination. He (Antony) will speak later on only with their permission.

**(m) Why does Cassius object to allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral? How does Brutus overcome this objection?**

Cassius does not think it proper that Antony Should speak at Caesar's funeral because his words may change the mood of the audience. But Brutus tells that Antony will be allowed to say only their permission.

**(n) What are the conditions imposed by the conspirators before allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral?**

Answer: The conspirators laid down the following conditions on Antony's speaking at Caesar's funeral.

- (i) He will speak only after Brutus has finished speaking.
- (ii) He will not blame the conspirators for killing Caesar.
- (iii) He can speak whatever good he wants of Caesar, but must mention that he is speaking this with the permission of all of them.

**(o) When he is left alone with the body of Caesar what does Antony call Brutus and the others?**

Answer He calls them butchers and curses them.

**(p) What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?**

Answer Antony predicts that the whole of their country will witness a civil war, which will be bloody and destructive. Foul be so

Common that all feelings of compassion will vanish from the hearts of man. The ghost of Caesar shall roam about to take revenge and

punish. tie enemies. The Earth polluted by the evil smell of rotting bodies.

**(q) What reasons does Brutus give for murdering Caesar?**

Answer: Brutus gives various reasons for murdering Caesar. First of all, he says that Caesar was ambitious. He would have become a dictator if he had lived. He loved Caesar, no doubt, but he loved Rome more. So, Brutus states that they killed Caesar more for the sake of Rome and not for any personal reasons.

**(r) Who says, "Let him be Caesar"? What light does this throw on the speaker?**

Answer The third citizen, who signifies the common citizen of Rome, speaks the above words while Brutus has finished his speech justifying the reasons for Caesar's death. Brutus too has proclaimed that the people can slay him if he becomes ambitious like Caesar. This shows that the citizens were fully satisfied with the reasons given by Brutus and there was all praise for Brutus. They praise Brutus and show their sympathy for the act.

**(s) Why is Antony's speech more effective?**

Answer Antony's speech is more effective because he appeals to the basic sentiments of the common people, i.e. the mob. He very cleverly directs his speech towards Caesar's greatness as a human being. He, in that way, arouses their basic instinct of revenge against the conspirators. He does so by stating from will that Caesar's has left everything to them.

**(t) At the end of the scene, what is the fate of Brutus and Cassius?**

Answer By his skillful oratory Antony has aroused the anger and hatred of the mob against Brutus, Cassius and other conspirators. The mob plans to torch their houses with the burning sticks of wood from Caesar's pyre. Pursued by such a hostile, furious and bloodthirsty mob, Brutus and Cassius have no option but to run away from Rome to save their lives.

**Question 9: Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow?**

(i) Caesar: Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once. Of all the wonders that, I yet have heard, it seems to me most that men should fear: seeing that death, a necessary end, comes when it will come.

(a) Whom is Caesar speaking to? Why does he say these words?

Answer Caesar is speaking to his wife Calpurnia. Caesar says these words because Calpurnia has seen a horrible dream indicating Caesar's death. So, she requests him not to go to the senate-house and remains at home.

(b) What fears has the listener expressed?

The listener Calpurnia has shown her fear that her dream means danger to Caesar's life. It indicates that Caesar may be killed or may die, this is the fear.

(c) What is the basis for the fears expressed?

Answer The basis is that Calpurnia has seen a horrible dream. In it she has seen unnatural occurrences. These are like the lioness giving birth in the streets and graves opening up with throwing of the dead persons.

(ii) But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar: I found it in his closet, 'it's his will: Let but the commons hear this testament-

which, pardon me. I do not mean to read— and they would go and kiss dead Caesars wounds.

(a) Who speaks these words? Where is the speaker at this moment?

Antony says these words to the mob. He is in 'he Capitol at this moment.

(b) What are the contents of Caesars will that he is referring to?

Answer The contents of Caesar's will are that he has given everything belonging to him to the people Of Rome, These are his money, gardens and orchards,

(c) Why does the speaker read Caesar's will to the citizens?

Answer The speaker reads Caesars will to prove that Caesar was not ambitious and should not have been assassinated. On the other hand, he was a prey of the conspirators ambition.

(d) What is the reaction of the listeners to the will?

Answer The listeners get agitated and violent. They are after the conspirators who have murdered Caesar in cold blood.

**Question 10. A reporter covers the event Of the assassination of Julius Caesar in the Senate giving graphic details and a catchy headline. Write the newspaper report in about 200 words.**

Answer

### **Breaking News**

Julius Caesar Murdered in Cold Blood in the Senate by Rohit Basu, Special Today our beloved leader Julius Caesar was killed by fellow senators in the

Senate House by stabbing. The details of this dastardly deal are really frightening.

In the morning when Caesar had just taken his seat in the Senate, Metellus Cimber petitioned him to repeal tre banishment of his brother. Caesar refused to accede to his request. as his brother was valid grounds. Many senators, Who were all part of the conspiracy then surrounded him to press him to repeal the order. When Caesar also refused them. one by they all stabbed him with daggers which had been hidden in their clothes.

Caesar fell down, crying, "Et tu Brute", as Brutus, who of the persons who had stabbed him, was a friend of his. Then the conspirators started proclaiming that Caesars tyranny was over and also started celebrating.

Just then, Mark Antony, who was a follower of Caesar, entered tre Senate and was aghast at what he saw. He told the conspirators to kill him also if they wanted, as there was nothing left for him in life.