

# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/> A Dog Named Duke

### Extract Based Questions (3 Marks each)

**Q.1.** Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:

“All they knew was that their new neighbour walked like a struggling mechanical giant and that he was always pulled by a rampageous dog.....”

(a) Who does ‘they’ stand for ?

(b) Who walked like a struggling giant and why ?

(c) What does the word, ‘rampageous’ mean ? (Board Term 1, 2015 6SOOKQ5, BR7GWHM)

**Ans.** (a) Neighbours. (CBSE Maridng Scheme 2015) (1×3=3)

(a) Why did Duke never jump on Chuck again?

(b) What special quality did Duke exhibit here ?

(c) Why did he take a post beside his master’s bed? (Board Term 1, 2012, Set 35)

**Q. 2.** ‘Go run around the house Duke’. But Duke wouldn’t. He’d lie down with a reproachful eye on Hooper.

(a) What do these lines tell us about Duke ?

(b) Reproachful means

(c) Duke was unhappy with Hooper because (Board Term 1, 2014 FROK4W1)

**Ans.** (a) Neighbours.

(b) Check as his can side was paratyped

(c) Showing violent and wild behaviour

**Q. 3.** He never jumped on Chuck again. From that moment, he took up a post beside his master’s bed around the clock.

**Ans.** (a) Duke was shocked to see that his master could not maintain his balance when he had jumped on him. Immediately, he understood his master’s problem and never jumped on him again.

(b) Duke was sensitive, loving and caring.

(c) Duke knew that his master needed company, so he took a post beside his master’s bed. (1×3 = 3)

**Q. 4.** When two fellows stare at each other, day in, day Out, and one can’t move and the other can’t talk, boredom sets in.

sets in.

(a) Who are the ‘two fellows’ here? Mention who can’t talk and who can’t move.

(b) Who tried to break the ‘boredom’ and how ?

(c) How could the boredom harm the fellows ? (Board Term 1, 2012, Set 39 and Set 45)

**Ans.** (a) Chuck Hooper and his dog Duke are the two fellows here. Duke can’t talk while Chuck can’t move.

(b) Duke tried to break the boredom by forcing Chuck to take him for a walk. ,

(c) Duke felt restless and uneasy; whereas this state of inactivity would have made Chuck completely confined to the bed. (1×3 = 3)

**Q. 5.** A few weeks ago,, worded as jf in a special tribute to Duke, an order came through from the chemical company’s headquarters.

(a) Who is Duke ? What has happened to him ?

(b) What did the order say ?

(c) How was it a tribute to Duke?

**Ans.** (a) Duke is Chuck Hooper’s pet dog. He has met with an accident.

(b) The order said that Chuck had been promoted as the Assistant National Sales Manager. .

(c) It was a tribute to Duke as he only was responsible for his promotion. So, the credit goes to him. (1×3 = 3)

**Q. 6.** Thirteen months from the moment he worked full days. Chuck Hooper was promoted as the Regional Manager coverings more than four states.

(a) What helped Chuck Hooper achieve the promotion mentioned here ?

(b) What did Chuck’s promotion reveal about the company’s management ?

(c) Who did Chuck owe his success to himself or Duke ? (Board Term 1, 2012, Set 42)

**Ans.** (a) Hooper’s strong determination helped him to achieve the promotion. ‘ ‘ \* ‘

(b) Chuck’s promotion revealed that the company’s management was compassionate and fair. They had full faith in the abilities of their employees.

(c) Chuck owed his success to both, to himself and Duke. Both were equally responsible. Without Duke he would never have been able to walk again. (1×3 = 3)

**Q. 7. He was a 23 kilo missile of joy. He hit Chuck above the belt, causing him to fight to keep his balance.**

**(a) Who has been called a 'missile of joy' ?**

**(b) How did he hit Chuck ? Why ?**

**(c) Why did Chuck find it difficult to maintain his balance ? (Board Term 1, 2012, Set 43)**

**Ans.** (a) Chuck's dog, Duke, has been called 'a missile of joy'.

(b) Duke jumped with great excitement to express his joy on meeting his master.

(c) Chuck did not expect Duke to jump on him suddenly and that too with such great force. Secondly, his disability did not allow him to withstand the impact.

### **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)**

**Q. 1. How did Duke meet his end ? (Board Term 1, 2014 FROK4WI)**

**Ans.** On the evening of 12, October 1957, the Hoopers had guests as Hooper had got quite well. Suddenly, they heard the screech of brakes outside. When Chuck looked outside, he was awestruck. Duke had met with a serious accident. His

injuries were severer and he died. This day brought darkness in the lives of the Hoopers.

**Q. 2. How did it take for Chuck to stand on his own feet ? (Board Term 1, 2014, MZPD310)**

**Ans.** After the accident, Chuck remained in the hospital for a month, in a critical stage. When he came home on his wheelchair, his dog Duke helped him walk back into life step by step, day by day. Chuck was discharged from the hospital in March and by mid-April he was able to stand on his feet

**Q. 3. Why did Chuck visit his office? What problem did it present before all? (Board Term 1, 2014 NCT-R)**

**Ans.** Chuck visited his office with an offer of spending an hour a day. But his bosses were in dilemma. They did not know what to do with a salesman who was unable to move around and could work only an hour a day.

**Q. 4. What was Duke's reaction when he saw Chuck after he came back from the hospital? (Board Term 1, 2014 ZEZXJX)**

**Ans.** When Chuck was brought home, Duke could not contain himself on seeing his master. In sheer joy, he jumped on his master; though he seemed to realize soon that he should not have done so.

**Q. 5. Do you think the story of Duke and Chuck is an inspiration for those who give up without trying? (Board Term 1, 2013, PNZTXU?)**

**Ans.** The story conveys that, 'When all is lost, future still remains'. All odds, all challenges, all tragedies and all handicaps of life can be overcome with strong determination, persistent hardwork, patience and a little cooperation from loved ones. They can help one change one's destiny.

**Q. 6. What special qualities did Duke exhibit to be an extraordinary dog ? (Board Term 1, 2013, PNZTXU9)**

**Ans.** A rough-playing, 23-Kilo Doberman Pinscher, Duke was a four-year-old red-coloured dog of incalculable enthusiasm. Full of life, he loved to have boisterous fun, but once he realized his master's grave problem, he took upon himself the responsibility of bringing him back to his feet. His extraordinary intelligence, sincerity and tenacity endeared him to the Hoopers and the people around them.

**Q. 7. How was Charles Hooper injured in the accident ? (Board Term 1, 2013, AGRO-91; 2012, EWAJ2JM Set 34)**

**Ans.** One evening in the autumn season, Chuck Hooper was returning home after the day's work in his car. Suddenly, another car, in front of him, applied brakes and Hooper's car banged into it. Hooper suffered severe brain injuries. Consequently, the left side of his body got paralyzed.

**Q. 8. Why was 4th January an eventful day for Chuck Hooper ? (Board Term 1, 2013, NUZJUD2; 2012, Set 47)**

**Ans.** 4th January was an eventful day for Chuck Hooper because that day he walked 200 metres without Duke's support from the chair to his office. Chuck also decided to work for an hour that day.

**Q. 9. In 1953, Hooper was a favoured young man. Explain. (Board Term 1, 2013, EWAJ2JM)**

**Or**

**What kind of man was Charles Hooper before the tragic accident? (Board Term 1, 2012, Set 61)**

**Ans.** Hooper was a favoured young man who had everything in his life, popularity, success and a respectable job. He was once a player of the university football team. He was the Zonal Sales Manager in a chemical company and was very ambitious.

**Q. 10. Write a character sketch of Hooper. (Board Term 1, 2012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** Hooper was a popular, civilized, cheerful, hard-working young man holding a high position in his company. An accident left him completely paralyzed. He felt depressed and lost. With Duke's help, he was able to make tentative movements.

Encouraged by his success and with Duke's help, his steely will bore fruit. He resumed his office work and was promoted to the Assistant National Sales Manager.

**Q. 11. What targeted Chuck hit on 1st March ? Who helped him ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 48)**

**Ans.** On 1st March, Chuck started working for the whole day. His dog, Duke, played a vital role in bringing his life back to normal. He had motivated him and helped him in his exercises.

**Q. 12. How did Hooper take his first step after the accident ? (Board Term I, 2012, Set 46)**

**Ans.** One day Chuck idly hooked the leash on Duke's collar. It was as if the dog understood what he had to do. He forced to his feet. With Marcy's support, he put his left foot forward. Slowly and cautiously he took some more steps.

**Q. 13. How did Chuck and Marcy differ in their views regarding dogs ? (Board Term I,2012, Set 50)**

**Ans.** Chuck loved dogs while Marcy did not have a liking for them. Hooper brought Duke much against the wishes of Marcy. Marcy took a long time to adjust with and to get along with Duke, their dog.

**Q. 14. How did Marcy react after Duke met with a fatal accident ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 51)**

**Ans.** Though Marcy was worried and distressed, she herself carried him to the hospital and got him the best possible treatment.

**Q.15. Why do you think Charles Hooper's appointment as the Assistant National Sales Manager is considered as a tribute to Duke ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 55)**

**Ans.** Charles Hooper's appointment as the Assistant National Sales Manager was considered as a tribute to Duke because this was in consonance with the fighting spirit of Duke. Duke had assumed all the responsibility for leading him back to his office desk. He had rekindled a hope in Hooper and had taught him to cope with the challenge successfully.

**Q.16. How did the members of the staff react when Chuck visited his district office without Duke ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 56)**

**What was the reaction of the staff when Chuck visited his district office ? What did he say to his manager Gordon Doule ? (Board Term 1,2010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** When Chuck visited his District Office without Duke, his colleagues were amazed. He told the manager that he would come to the office daily for at least one hour.

**Q. 17. Why was Hooper depressed after coming home from the hospital ? (Board Term I, 2012, Set 59)**  
**Or**

**Why was Hooper depressed at home after being released from the hospital ? (Board Term 1,2010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** Hooper had suffered from a paralytic attack and was unable to move or walk. When his wife, Marcy left for work everyday, he was left alone in the house, he was bed-ridden and missed company. He was then hit by pain and grief and felt depressed.

**Q. 18. How did Marcy react when Duke was run over by a car ? . . . (Board Term 1,2012, Set 65)**

**Ans.** Marcy was not really a dog lover but over a period of time, she had developed a soft corner for Duke. She was deeply distressed when she saw Duke's pathetic condition. She told the people around her to phone the vet. Refusing help, she picked up Duke and drove him to the animal hospital where he breathed his last the next morning.

**Q. 19. How did Hooper feel when he returned to his home ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 68)**

**Ans.** When Hooper returned he was excited at first. Later, as he was bed-ridden, he felt lonely and depressed as Marcy went out for work.

**Q. 20. What efforts were made by Duke to bring his master Charles back to his feet once again ? Give at least two instances. (Board Term 1,2010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** (i) Duke couldn't befriend Chuck on bed and so quivering with impatience he went to the bed and poked his nose under Charles' elbow and provoked him to get up. (ii) During Charles' initial efforts, Duke kept the leash taut so that Charles would not fall.

(ii) During Charles' initial efforts, Duke kept the leash taut so that Charles would not fall.

**Q. 21. What is considered as a fitting tribute to Duke by Chuck ? Why ? (Board Term 1,2010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** Chuck was promoted as the Assistant National Sales Manager. Duke had played a vital role in bringing him back to his feet. He had motivated him and helped him in his exercises.

**Q. 22. Which incident transformed Chuck Hooper from a favoured young man to an unfortunate young man ? (Board Term 1, 2010, Set B1)**

**Ans.** Chuck had everything going for him—a job, house and family when a car accident left him paralysed on his left side, robbing him of the ability to talk or move.

**Q.23. What problems did Chuck face on returning to the company headquarters ? (Board Term I, 2010/Set C2)**

**Ans.** Chuck worked hard for a comeback, but as a salesman he couldn't move. He was confined to his chair. Initially, he was able to work only for an hour.

**Q.24. "Duke lay down with a reproachful eye on Hooper." What is Duke trying to convey to Hooper ? (Board Term I, 2010, Set B1)**

**Ans.** Duke looks at Hooper critically as if trying to convey his displeasure at Hooper's weakness, his inability to fight his condition.

**Q. 25. What led Marcy to limit the course of physiotherapy ? (Board 2010 Set A2)**

**Ans.** Duke was working very hard with Hooper. He took him for walks, very patiently waiting for each of Hooper's steps. Marcy immediately realized that physiotherapy wouldn't be that much help as compared to the dog's efforts to help him recover, so she limited the course of physiotherapy.

**Q. 26. Why do you think Charles Hooper's appointment as the Assistant National Sales Manager is considered to be a tribute to Duke ?**

**Ans.** Charles Hooper was appointed Assistant National Sales Manager and the credit for this goes to the dog Duke. It was only because of Duke that Hooper could leave his wheelchair and start walking. Duke assumed all the responsibility for leading him back to his office-desk. He had rekindled a hope in Hooper and had taught him to cope with the challenge successfully. That's why his fresh promotion was a tribute to Duke.

**Q. 27. They said that they would create a desk job for Hooper at the headquarters.**

**(i) Who are they ?**

**(ii) Why did they decide to do this ?**

**Ans.** The word 'they' refers to the office colleagues of Hooper who came from the company to tell him to take a year off. They decided to do this as Hooper was in a critical stage. He had been put on a wheelchair as his arms and legs were paralyzed. Hooper had a field job which he would not be able to manage with these physical conditions.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)**

**Q. 1. One is often unable to taste the fruit of one's hard work. Explain with reference to the story 'A Dog Named Duke'. (Board Term I 2015 BR7GWHM, 6SOOKQ5)**

**Ans. Value points:**

Chuck and Duke shared understanding and responsibility for each other

Chuck made the effort and finally walked because of Duke.

Duke remained at his side during his most difficult time. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015) 4

**Detailed Answer:**

Duke was a loyal, faithful, understanding and intelligent dog. He had realized Chuck's handicap after their very first meeting. Since then he did not ever jump at him after that. Duke would keep on motivating Chuck to move by nudging and poking him. He took Chuck for walk every day, covering a greater distance than before every time. Later, he insisted on two rounds in a day. Largely due to Duke's efforts Chuck recovered. Yet, when the time came to reap the fruits of one's efforts, to see Chuck being promoted in the office, he died. But such kind acts are always remembered by the one who are benefitted by his efforts. They are regarded as motivators and God's messengers.

**Q. 2. Charles Hooper's life is a source much of inspiration for the normal people as it is for the physically challenged ones. Do you agree ? What values can be learnt from his life ? [Value Based Question] (Board Term I 2013, AGRO-91)**

**Or**

**Discuss the message conveyed in the story, 'A Dog Named Duke'. (Board Term I 2013, XITIMG7)**

**Ans.** Life is a continuous journey; a strange mixture of sweetness, bitterness, joys and sorrows. Some are unable to stand upright in the times of adversity and crumble but those who maintain courage and endurance, successfully overcome the grief. Chuck could have chosen to remain paralysed and not respond to Duke's helpful gestures. But he kept the flame of hope kindled and with his strong will power, overcomes his handicap. The story conveys the message that coping up with the challenges of life and accepting them as they come can give one an inner strength to find solutions to the most complex problems of life.

**Q.3. Charles Hooper was a man of exemplary courage and perseverance. Nominate him for an award the "Hero Amongst Us". (Board Term I 2012, Set 72)**

**Ans.** Charles Hooper was a man of courage. He met with a serious accident and became paralyzed but then mustered courage to adapt himself to the new situation. He displayed great perseverance during his struggle for survival with the help of his dog Duke. Not a single day went effortless. There was a commendable gradual progress from moving a step down the first day of his effort to walking up to the porch, then to the fence post, to the intersection

and finally to the district office. Many a times he lost his balance and fell down exhausted but he had wonderful endurance that kept him going. Hooper was a person full of determination. He set dates as objectives and with the help of Duke, could achieve the same. He had faith in himself and in his ability, No one could dare to say that a paralyzed man couldn't do the job of a moving salesman taking into account the hard work he did for a successful comeback. Hence, they created a special desk job for him. All along, his dog Duke helped him in his struggle for survival.' Undoubtedly his courage and power of endurance made him a strong contender for the award Hero Amongst Us.

**Q. 4. As Chuck, write a letter to your friend in about 150 words sharing your experiences after your accident and Duke's efforts to get you back on your road to success. (Board Term 12012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** Marcy House

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1957 : ,

Dear Robert,

Hope you are in best of spirits.

Duke has proved to be a saviour in our lives. Though he was a playful dog, yet Marcy disliked him. When I met with an accident, I suffered from subdural haemorrhage that left my left side paralyzed.' I was completely bed-ridden. To give me company, Duke was called back from the kennel. He was an extraordinary dog. His techniques were unique. He urged me to walk. He rekindled a hope in me and taught me to cope up with the challenge successfully. We strived daily and with gradual and constant efforts, I was out of the wheelchair. I not only conquered my handicap with Duke's assistance but also regained my job and was also promoted as the Assistant National Sales Manager. Sadly, Duke met with an accident one day and we were heartbroken at his sudden death. My life today is the gift of Duke only. Tears well up in my eyes at the thought of his loss.

Reply to me soon.

With lots of love Chuck ,

**Q. 5. Imagine you ate Chuck and you are upset over Duke's death. You wish to give a tribute to Duke. Write an article titled 'Duke—My Saviour' in about 150 words. (Board Term 12012, Set 39)**

**Ans.** Duke—My Saviour

Duke was my best friend, the saviour of my life. He was a Doberman Pinscher, a loyal and a dedicated breed. He was responsible for getting me back on my feet after the accident that left me paralysed on the left side due to subdural haemorrhage. He was concerned about my health and hence assumed all the responsibility to make me stand on my feet again.

He took me for a walk everyday. I, who was totally bed-ridden, was able to move and walk because of the sincerity, confidence and dedication of Duke. I not only got my job back but also a promotion and I owe it all to my friend, Duke. Little did I realize that I would lose him forever in an accident. All that I am today is just because of him and my life itself is a gift from him.

**Q. 6. Chuck Hooper is asked to deliver a speech, after his complete recovery. Write the Speech in about 150 words for him emphasising the traits of his character which helped him to cope with the crisis that came in his life. (Board Term 12012, Set 64)**

**Ans.** Good morning dear friends, .....

One needs to be strong in order to face the challenges of life. The credit of my recovery, undoubtedly, goes to Duke but my firm determination will power helped me to fight against all odds. I had complete faith in myself and my companion, Duke. His presence, like a shadow next to me, gave me confidence to venture out on the ' road. .

Courage and perseverance fortify a person. They help him get a control on his life. My tenacious nature helped me to resume work. Having a positive attitude, patience and faith helped me to overcome the adverse . circumstances.

**Q. 7. Give a character sketch of Chuck Charles Hooper in your own words citing examples from the lesson 'A Dog Named Duke' in about 150 words. (Board Term 12012, Set 28, Set 45)**

**Ans.** Chuck Hooper was a dynamic and a competitive young man. He became the Sales Manager in a chemical factory at a Very young age. He was determined and courageous and took life as a challenge. He always wore a smile on his face. After the accident, he was a physical and mental wreck but he had complete faith in himself and his companion, Duke. He worked hard on his fitness with the help of Duke and with courage, faith, determination and endurance he showed signs of significant recovery in his health conditions. He kept trying to get back on his 'feet and walk despite of all odds. With slow and steady persuasion, Duke became instrumental in helping him on the road to recovery and success. He was not only back on job but also got promoted as the Assistant National Sales Manager. He gave the credit of his success to Duke who will always be an integral part of his life.

**Q. 8. How did the dog help Chuck come out of his critical condition ?**

**Or**

**Duke was an extraordinary dog. What special qualities did he exhibit to justify this? Discuss. (Textual) (Board Term 12012, Set 58)**

**Ans.** Duke, the dog played a very significant role in bringing Chuck out of his critical condition. He was an extraordinary dog having special qualities and was the one who helped Chuck to increase his stability and endurance. He would take Chuck for a walk along the street, increasing the target everyday. He would stand still when Chuck sometimes struggled to get-up after tripping and falling. Even though he was a dog, he had assumed the responsibility of getting Chuck back on his feet, which he successfully did.

Duke was a faithful and a loyal dog with extraordinary powers. He knew how impossible challenges could be accomplished. He nudged, needled, poked and forced his master to walk. He set new goals for him everyday.

Chuck's success is a tribute to his extraordinary dog. ; ,

**Q.9. When a person loses something, he is shocked and gets into a state of denial leading to anger. In such a situation, coping well leads to acceptance and a changed way of living in view of the loss. Taking clues from what happened or might have happened to Hooper, write your views on 'Coping with Losses'.(Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** Loss is an inevitable part of life. During our lifetime we experience a variety of losses like the death of a beloved, loss of job financial security, or a relationship breakup. With loss comes grief. It is a very stressful phase of life. It can very quickly deplete your energy and emotional reserves. The most important thing is not let your grief control your life. Support of someone is very essential to combat grief.

Chuck had everything going for him—a job, house and family but an accident robbed him of the ability to talk and move. He was then hit by pain and grief and felt depressed. Duke, his Doberman proved to be a Saviour in his life. He rekindled a hope in the family and taught him to cope with the challenge successfully. He not only conquered his handicap with Duke's assistance and regained his job but was also promoted as the Assistant National Sales Manager. We should take inspiration from his life and should remain firm and strong in challenging adversities,

**Q. 10. Imagine you are Marcy. You have seen your husband's struggle against all odds to finally get back to work. You are happy that he has been promoted to the post of Assistant National Sales Manager. Write a letter to a friend telling her about Chuck's courage and determination. (Board Term 12012, Set 48)**

**Ans.** 37-A, Vasant Vihar,

New Delhi

13th February, 20 xx

Dear Julien,

Hope you are in best of spirits.

I am heartbroken at the sudden death of Duke. His death is a great loss for my family. How can I forget what he has done for our family. Chuck is well settled today and living a normal life but this happiness is a gift from Duke. We owe everything to Duke. , .

The credit of Chuck's recovery undoubtedly goes to Duke but his firm determination and iron willpower have also helped him to fight against all odds. The way Chuck regained his balance is by no means a joke. I have seen the intelligent handling of Duke and the unconditional faith and trust in between the two. I am happy that he has been promoted to the post of Assistant National Sales Manager. He is doing well but I feel sad as Duke is no more. His positive attitude, patience and faith in Duke has helped him overcome the adverse circumstances and reach such heights. We owe our happiness to the extraordinary dog, Duke.

Do write soon.

Truly yours,

Marcy

**Q. 11. Imagine you are Chuck and you are upset over Duke's death. You wish to give a tribute to Duke. You consider Duke to be an angel who came as a saviour for you. Write your views in your diary. (Board Term 12012, Set 47)**

**Ans.** Monday, 25th November, 20xx 10:30 p.m.

Dear Diary «

After the car accident, I was completely bed-ridden due to the paralytic stroke on my left side, I was left alone in the house and missed company. I was then hit by pain and grief and felt depressed and lost. It was at this crucial juncture that Duke, my Doberman came as an angel in my life. He is responsible for getting me back on my feet. He assumed all the responsibility to make me stand on my feet. His sincerity, confidence and dedication brought me out

of the deep, distressing water. I only got my job back, but was also promoted.

On 13 October 1957, Duke met with a fatal end. Little did I realize that I would lose him forever in an accident. His death has left a void in my life. My promotion to Assistant National Sales Manager is a special tribute to Duke. I owe a great deal to Duke, his devotion and dedication. My life itself is a gift from him. I am forever grateful to him and owe my success to him. Good night diary.

**Q. 12. Marcy was not fond of dogs and more so of big dogs. Yet when Duke died, she was devastated. After many days, she was able to pen down her feelings in her diary. Write a page of Marcy's diary. (Board Term 12010, Set C)**

**Ans.** Dear Diary,

It has been a month since we buried Duke. Tears well up in my eyes, at the thought of his loss. People whom I have not met for two years might feel surprised at the change that has come in my attitude. Oh! how I hated that huge dog when Chuck brought him home, he seemed to take so much place and expected everyone to pamper him. Somehow I feel that Duke knew that I didn't like him, so he remained out of my way. He was so much Chuck's dog that he would follow him like a shadow. That fatal accident changed my life for better or worse. My first instinct was to put Duke into a kennel as the thought of looking after him in the absence of Chuck was unthinkable. I finally got him home after much pressure from all quarters. Chuck who was slowly going into depression didn't really care at that time, a chance touch at the collar of Duke charged him up. It was as if Duke had become the instructor and Chuck the student. I saw the silent understanding, I saw the intelligent handling, I saw the unconditional faith and trust in each other. Gradually, I realized how ignorant I had been, how I had missed the opportunity to befriend this lovely creature who was ready in attendance. The way he helped Chuck regain his balance is by no means joke. The last two years of his life, Duke devotedly served his master. I am amazed at the change that has come over me. My tolerance level for big dogs has increased. I was heart broken at his sudden death. If only I had shown him my love before, but man cannot turn put the clock back.

**Free Home Delivery**

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

# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Man Who Knew Too Much

**Q1. With your partner, discuss and narrate an incident about a person who likes to show off. Check whether your classmates agree with you.**

**Ans.** You can be at peace with yourself when you are true to yourself. Showing off doesn't pay in the long run. It may impress some for some time but not all, all the time. My friend Ramesh falls in this category. Whenever you see him, you would always find him with half a dozen books. In the class, he interrupts the teachers for one or the other reason. If the teacher says that the World War II was fought in 1940s, Ramesh does not tolerate this kind of generalisation. He stands up and says, "Sir, to be exact from 1939 to 1945." This lean and thin spectacled pantaloone had faced many interviews including the N.D.A. It was not the Board that interviewed him but it was Ramesh who interviewed the Board. The result was obvious. Everytime he got a rejection letter.

**Q2. Now read about the "Professor" who knew too much and find out if he knew enough!**

**Ans.** Attempt yourself.

**Q3. The 'Professor' knew too much. How did he prove himself? Fill up the space with suitable examples from the story, using the given clues:**

(a) about muzzle velocity:

(b) after a thirty mile walk:

(c) his salute on payday:

(d) the loud sound of a high flying invisible aeroplane:

(e) about hand grenades:

(f) during cook house duties:

**Ans:** The 'Professor' certainly knew too much.

He had everything on the tips of his fingers. He borrowed training manuals and read them all at night. He troubled instructors with questions. He always tried to show that all others, including his instructors, knew much less than him.

(a) about muzzle velocity: When a Sergeant defines muzzle velocity or the speed at which the bullet leaves the rifle, the Professor interrupts, "Two thousand, four hundred and forty feet per second".

(b) after a thirty mile walk: After a thirty mile walk he was not only wonderfully tireless but would display his terrible heartiness. He would say, "What about a song, chaps?"

(c) his salute on payday: His salute on payday was a model to behold. When officers in sight he would swing his skinny arms marching like a Guardsman.

(d) the loud sound of a high flying invisible aeroplane: The 'Professor' could unmistakably identify it by the harsh engine note, due to the high tip speed of the airscrew.

(e) about hand grenades: The 'Professor' gave a very specific answer about the fragments of the outside of a grenade. He told, "Forty- Four".

(f) during cook house duties: During cook house duties he protested against the unscientific and unhygienic method of peeling potatoes resulting in sheer waste of vitamin values.

**Q4. Based on your reading of the story, answer the following questions by choosing the correct options.**

(a) Private Quelch was nicknamed 'Professor' because of \_\_\_\_\_

(i) his appearance. ,

(ii) his knowledge.

(iii) his habit of reading.

(iv) his habit of sermonising.

(b) One could hammer nails into Corporal Turnbull without his noticing it because \_\_\_\_\_

(i) he was a strong and sturdy man.

(ii) he was oblivious to his surroundings.

(iii) he was a brave corporal.

(iv) he was used to it.

(c) The author and his friend Trower fled from the scene as \_\_\_\_\_

(i) they had to catch a train.

(ii) they could not stand Private Quelch exhibiting his knowledge.

(iii) they felt they would have to lend a helping hand.

(iv) they did not want to meet the cooks.

- Ans:** (a) (iv) his habit of sermonising.  
(b) (i) he was a strong and sturdy man.  
(c) (ii) they could not stand Private Quelch exhibiting his knowledge.

**Q5. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- (a) What is a 'nickname'? Can you suggest another one for Private Quelch?  
(b) Private Quelch looked like a 'Professor' when the author first met him at the training depot. Why?  
(c) What does the dark, sun-dried appearance of the Sergeant suggest about him?  
(d) How was Private Quelch's knowledge exposed even further as the Sergeant's classes went on?  
(e) What did the Professor mean by "intelligent reading"?  
(f) What were the Professor's ambitions in the army?  
(g) Did Private Quelch's day to day practices take him closer towards his goal? How can you make out?  
(h) Describe Corporal Turnbull.  
(i) How did Private Quelch manage to anger the Corporal?  
(j) Do you think Private Quelch learnt a lesson when he was chosen for cookhouse duties? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans:** (a) A 'nickname' is an informal, often humorous name given to a person. The name is connected with his real name, his personality or appearance or with something he has done. The nickname of Private Quelch was the 'Professor'. Another nickname for him could be 'Mr. Show Off'.

(b) Private Quelch looked like a 'Professor' when the author first met him at the training depot. He was lanky, stooping, frowning through his horn-rimmed spectacles. A five-minute-conversation would bring out his debating skills and abilities. All these traits are generally found in university professors.

(c) The Sergeant who was describing the mechanism of a service rifle to the soldiers was as dark and sun-dried as raisins. He was wearing North-West Frontier ribbons. The sun-dried appearance of the Sergeant suggested that he had served in British India. There, the scorching heat of the sun baked the skin and made it tanned like raisins.

(d) The Sergeant didn't relish when Private Quelch interrupted him. He went on lecturing. When he had finished, he turned with his questions again and again to the Professor. But it only enhanced the Professor's reputation and glory. He had all by heart, the parts of the rifle or its use and care. The Professor knew them all. His knowledge exposed even further as the Sergeant's classes went on.

(e) The smart answers given by the Professor made the Sergeant ask if he had taken any training before. The Professor replied confidently, "No, Sergeant. It's all a matter of intelligent reading." The Professor meant that he had read everything thoroughly and with concentration.

(f) The Professor's greatest ambition in the army was to get a commission. In pursuit of his ambition he worked hard reading the training manuals. He tried to impress the instructors and the senior officers by his knowledge, promptness and smartness. But he would go step by step. As a first step, he meant to get a stripe.

(g) Private Quelch's day-to-day practices might have not won him a commission in the army but it was not the end for him. Whenever he spoke, the squad listened to him in a cowed, horrified kind of silence. Instead of being nominated for a commission, he was nominated for permanent cookhouse duties. But everybody believed that his nomination for the commission was just a matter of time.

(h) Corporal Turnbull was a smart youngman.

But he was not aman to be fooled around or talked frivolously with. He had come from Dunkirk with all his equipment correct and accounted for. He was the hero of soldiers. They thought him so tough that they could hammer nails into him without his noticing them.

(i) Corporal Turnbull was explaining that the outside of a grenade was divided up into a large number of fragments. The Professor at once told that the correct number was forty four. The Corporal said nothing, but his brow tightened. He was the kind of man not to be trifled with. He didn't like any interruption. He cut the Professor to size by sending him for permanent cookhouse duties.

(j) There is no indication that Private Quelch learnt any lesson when he was chosen for cookhouse duties. He didn't stop exhibiting his knowledge. When he entered the kitchen he started finding fault with the working staff. He protested against the 'unscientific' and 'unhygienic' method of peeling potatoes. He considered it a 'sheer waste of vitamin values'.

**Q6. At first, Private Quelch was a hero in the eyes of his fellow soldiers. Support this observation with suitable examples from the story in about 100 words.**

**Ans:** At first, Private Quelch impressed all his fellow soldiers with his profound knowledge about everything under the sun. He was nicknamed as the 'Professor'. The lanky, stooping and frowning 'Professor' was almost a hero in the

eyes of his fellow soldiers. He had earned a certain respect from his colleagues. He wanted to get on in life. He had a brain that had a flair for details. He was always to the point and specific. In the very first lesson in musketry, he left his mark on the fellow soldiers. He had no liking for generalisation. When it came to telling the velocity at which the bullet leaves the rifle, the Professor was there to correct to the last digit. The Sergeant in the hope of revenge turned his questions again and again to tire Professor. But the Professor was prompt in answering all tire questions. Similarly, the Professor irritated Corporal Turnbull by interrupting and correcting him. He was sent for permanent cookhouse duties. Later on, his fellow soldiers couldn't stand him for exhibiting his knowledge. They fled away whenever they saw him.

**Q7. Private Quelch knew 'too much'. Give reasons to prove that he was unable to win the admiration of his superior officers or his colleagues in about 100 words.**

**Ans:**No doubt, Private Quelch or the Professor knew 'too much'. He was a lanky and stooping man frowning through his horn-rimmed spectacles. He was aptly nicknamed the Professor. But Private Quelch's habit of exhibiting his knowledge irritated his fellow- soldiers as well as his superior officers. Each time when one of his colleagues made a mistake, he would publicly correct him. He was always very condescending. He tried to show how superior he was to all of them. He badgered the instructors with questions. When a Sergeant instructor described the muzzle velocity well over 2000 feet per second, the Professor corrected him. He replied 2440 feet per second. The irritated Sergeant in the hope of revenge, turned his questions again and again to the Professor. Corporal Turnbull cut the Professor to size for interrupting him. He snubbed Private Quelch by nominating him for permanent cookhouse duties. Even his colleagues fled when the Professor was nearby to avoid his sermonising.

**Q8. (a) Write down the positive and negative traits of Private Quelch's character instances from the story.**

Positive traits	Instances from the story
(i)	
(ii)	
(iii)	
(iv)	
Negative traits	Instances from the story
(i)	
(ii)	
(iii)	
(iv)	

**(b) Now, share your notes with the class. Add details if you need to.**

**(c) Attempt a character sketch of Private Quelch using your notes in about 100 words.**

Positive traits	Instances from the story
(i) Knew 'too much'	All doubts on the subject lost after five minutes'

	conversation with him
(ii) Very specific	When a Sergeant told the trainees that a bullet leaves the rifle at the speed of over two thousand feet per second, the Professor immediately interrupted him. He corrected him by saying, "Two thousand, four hundred and forty feet per second."
(iii) Meant to get on	'He was sure to get a commission, before long.'
(iv) Diligent	Borrowed training manuals and stayed up late at night reading them.
<b>Negative traits</b>	<b>Instances from the story</b>
(i) Disturbing	'A voice interrupted.' The Professor interrupted when a Sergeant was delivering his lesson.
(ii) Badgered the instructors	He irritated and badgered the instructors with questions.
(iii) Air of superiority	'..... how condescending he was'.
(iv) Exhibitionism	His fellow soldiers fled to avoid his exhibitionism.

(b) Attempt yourself.

(c) Character Sketch of Private Quelch

Private Quelch was a soldier without a rank. He was a tall and stooping man. He appeared frowning through horn-rimmed spectacles. His appearance, his reading habit and his deep knowledge earned him a nickname of the Professor.

Private Quelch meant to get on in life. He had brains. He was sure to get a commission before long. But as on first step, he meant to get a 'V'-shaped stripe. Private Quelch was not only ambitious but also very diligent. Even his fellow soldiers gave him credit for that. He borrowed training manuals and read late at nights. He had a flair for details and hated vague generalisations. He was always correct to the last digit.

The great defeat in Private Quelch was his sense of exhibitionism. He utilised his "intelligent reading" only to badger the instructors with questions. He irritated a Sergeant by his interruption during the lesson. In the hope of revenge, he turned with his questions again and again to the Professor. Similarly, he annoyed Corporal Turnbull trying to correct him publicly. He was punished and nominated for permanent cookhouse duties. Private Quelch was too showy. He always tried to show that he was much superior to all his fellow soldiers. He

was always condescending. In the end his colleagues tried to avoid him. They feared his sermonising and fled when he was nearby.

### **Writing Task**

**Q9. You are the 'Professor'. Write a diary entry after your first day at the cookhouse, describing the events that led to this assignment, also express your thoughts and feelings about the events of the day in about 175 words.**

**Ans:** Army Training Depot, Liverpool.

20th July, 1948 Dear Diary,

Corporal Turnbull was certainly not fair to me today. Perhaps he had taken his revenge. What was my fault? I don't like vague generalisations-. When it came to counting the fragments of the outside of a grenade, he should have been very specific. 'Large number' was a vague explanation. I gave the answer that was correct to the last digit—44 segments. I was expecting a nomination for the commission. He shocked me when he nominated me for permanent cookhouse duties.

My first day at cookhouse was quite a disgusting one. There is no system there. I protested against the unscientific and unhygienic method of peeling potatoes. Quite ridiculous and disgusting! Who should tell these fools that they are only wasting vitamin values by doing so. I will have to educate that gang of louts. They think that I am showy. But what can I do? I love knowledge and love to show it. And this is my fault. I can't help it.

### **Additional Questions Solved**

#### **I. Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 words)**

**Q1. Describe the physical appearance of Private Quelch. What was he nicknamed and why?**

**Ans:** Private Quelch was a tall and stooping young man. He always seemed to be frowning through his horn-rimmed spectacles. He got a nickname within the first week of his army life. He was called the 'Professor' by his colleagues. He had knowledge and information about everything under the sun. Those who had doubts on the subject lost them after five minutes' conversation with him.

**Q2. What was the reaction of the Sergeant when Private Quelch interrupted him during his first lesson in musketry?**

**Ans:** The 'Professor' knew too much and used to badger the instructors with questions. During the first lesson in musketry, he publicly corrected a Sergeant. The Sergeant expressed that a bullet leaves the rifle at the speed of over 2000 feet per second. Immediately the Professor interrupted, "Two thousand four hundred and forty feet per second." The Sergeant didn't take it kindly. Perhaps in the hope of revenge, he turned with his questions to the Professor. But the Professor answered each of them. It only enhanced his glory.

**Q3. What was Private Quelch's main ambition and how did he work in pursuit of his ambition?**

**Ans:** Private Quelch's main ambition was to get a commission. He meant to get on in his life and make a career. He had a very smart and fertile brain. As the first step, he meant to get a stripe. In pursuit of his ambition, he worked really hard. He borrowed training manuals and woke up late at nights reading them. He always tried to impress his senior officers with his ability, smartness and, of course, knowledge. He was sure to get a commission sooner or later.

**Q4. How did the Professor try to impress and influence his senior officers? Did he get the desired success?**

**Ans:** Private Quelch was showy by nature. Exhibitionism was one of the dominant parts of his personality. He always tried to impress his senior officers by his profound knowledge. He badgered the instructors with questions. He drilled with enthusiasm. When he saluted his senior officers, he was a model to behold.

But Private Quelch didn't get the desired success. His exhibitionism irritated his senior officers. Corporal Turnbull snubbed him by nominating him for permanent cookhouse duties.

**Q5. How did the Professor infuriate his colleagues with his 'horrible heartiness' ?**

**Ans:** Private Quelch always took pains to show that he was different from others. He badgered the instructors with questions. He drilled with enthusiasm. He remained 'miraculously tireless' even after a route march of thirty miles. This 'horrible heartiness' of the Professor infuriated his colleagues. They found themselves tired after the route march.

**Q6. Give examples from the text to show how superior and condescending the Professor was.**

**Ans:** The Professor always walked with an air of superiority. He considered his colleagues nothing more than a gang of louts. He was always condescending and would remark "Let me show you fellow", or "No, you'll ruin your rifle". Each time when one of them made a mistake, the professor would publicly correct him. Whenever one of them shone, the Professor outshone him.

**Q7. How would the Professor recognise a plane flying high overhead ?**

**Ans:** The Professor was far ahead of his colleagues. He had a lot of knowledge and information of things related to the army. The narrator and others were once out for a walk and heard the drone of a plane flying high overhead. But none of them could see it in the glare of the sun. Without even a glance upward, the Professor gave his verdict, "That, of course, is a North American Harvard Trainer". The Professor could identify it by the harsh engine note, due to the high tip speed of the airscrew.

**Q8. What happened on 'the drowsy summer afternoon that was 'such a turning-point' in the Professor's life? Or**

**How did Corporal Turnbull snub the Professor?**

**Ans:** One afternoon, Corporal Turnbull was taking a lesson on the hand grenade. He was telling that the outside of a grenade was divided up into a large number of fragments. The Professor quipped, "Forty- four segments". Corporal Turnbull was not a man to be trifled with. He threw the grenade to the Professor and asked him to give that lecture. Unashamed, Quelch gave them a wonderful lecture. But Turnbull snubbed him. He was nominated for permanent cookhouse duties. It was a turning-point in the Professor's life and he became a stock of laughter for all.

**Q9. What did the narrator and his friend Trower see when they were returning from the canteen?**

**Ans:** When the narrator and his friend Trower were returning from the canteen, they saw the Professor sermonising there. Three cooks were standing against the wall. In his monotonous tone, Quelch was expressing his resentment and protest at the way they peeled potatoes. In his opinion, it was quite unscientific and unhygienic to peel potatoes in such a way. He wanted to draw their attention to the sheer waste of vitamin values. The narrator and his friend fled as they couldn't stand the sermons of the Professor anymore.

**Q 10. How did the Professor behave was on cookhouse duties? Did he change himself?**

**Ans:** Old habits die hard. The Professor was snubbed by Corporal Turnbull. He was nominated for permanent cookhouse duties. But the Professor remained unaffected. When he entered the cookhouse, he started sermonising colleagues. He showed his resentment at the most unscientific and unhygienic method of peeling potatoes. He drew their attention to the sheer waste of vitamin values.

**Q11. Justify the title 'The Man Who Knew Too Much'.**

**Ans:** 'The Man Who Knew Too Much' is the most appropriate and logical title for the lesson.

In the Professor, the author Alexander Baron presents a unique man. He surprises everyone with his knowledge and up-to-date information. However, his showy nature, an air of superiority and exhibitionism irritate and infuriate his colleagues and superior officers. By and by, he loses sympathy and love of his colleagues. They can't stand his exhibitionism and run away when he is near them.

**Q12. What message does Alexander Baron want to give to the readers in 'The Man Who Knew Too Much'?**

**Ans:** Exhibitionism of knowledge is never liked and admired. It only irritates others.

In the story the Professor thinks himself an extraordinary genius. He thinks his colleagues just a gang of louts. He even doesn't spare his instructors and badger them with questions. His tendency to outshine others makes him a stock of laughter for others. Corporal Turnbull finally teaches him a lesson by giving him permanent cookhouse duties.

**I. Value-Based Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words)**

**Q1. Love and sympathy win people and colleagues but exhibitionism of knowledge and the tendency to outshine others only irritate them. Give a character sketch of Private Quelch or the Professor in your own words including all his traits and shortcomings.**

**Ans.** Private Quelch was a soldier without rank.

He appeared lanky, stooping and frowning through his horn-rimmed spectacles. Due to his display of knowledge and reading habit he was nicknamed the Professor. Those who had any doubts on the subject, lost them after five minutes' conversation with him.

The greatest aim of the Professor was to get a commission. In pursuit of his ambition he really worked very hard. He borrowed training manuals and read them late at nights. He drilled with enthusiasm and remained miraculously tireless even after route marches. Technical definitions, the parts of the rifle, its use and care, he had them all by heart. But his exhibitionism and sense of superiority made him an unpleasant character. Each time any of his colleague made a mistake, the Professor would publicly correct him. His colleagues could not stand this exhibition of knowledge and fled when he was near.

Private Quelch knew too much about things and knew too little about people. He could never win the hearts and sympathy of his instructor and colleagues. The Professor badgered the instructors with questions. Similarly, he tried to cop&6t Corporal Turnbull when he^ts describing the outside of a gre«dde. Corporal Turnbull was not a man to be

trifled with. He showed the Professor his right place. Quelch was sent for the permanent cookhouse duties. He became a stock of laughter for others. Turnbull proved to be more than a match for the Professor.

**Q2. How did Corporal Turnbull prove to be more than a match for the Professor? How was Quelch snubbed and shown his place by the Corporal? What made Quelch a stock of laughter and a joke for his colleagues?**

**Ans:** Corporal Turnbull was a smart young man. He could not be trifled with. He had come from Dunkirk. .

It was a drowsy summer afternoon. Corporal Turnbull was taking a lesson on the hand grenade. He told that the outside of a grenade was divided into a large number of fragments. A voice interrupted, "Forty- four-segments". The Corporal looked over his shoulders. All were thunderstruck. Suddenly he tossed the grenade to the Professor and asked him to give that lecture. Quite unashamed, Quelch climbed to his feet and gave a wonderful lecture on the grenade.

Corporal Turnbull didn't take the Professor's gesture very kindly and supportingly. He snubbed him by asking him to fall in with the others. He deliberately announced that the Professor was nominated for permanent cookhouse duties. The Professor became a stock of laughter and a joke for his colleagues. He was really shown his place by Corporal Turnbull.

**Q3. Private Quelch or the Professor impressed with his brain, knowledge and diligence but irritated and infuriated his colleagues and senior officers with his behaviour, exhibitionism and the tendency to outshine and outsmart others. Justify the statement giving examples from the text. What lessons can we learn from Quelch's experience?**

**Ans:** Private Quelch was rightly nicknamed the Professor. He was gifted with a very sharp brain and had hunger for knowledge and information. Day in and day out, he lectured his fellow soldiers on every aspect of human life. At first they had a certain respect for him. Soon they started living in terror of his approach. His superior air and condescending nature made others feel small.

Private Quelch did earn 'a certain respect' for his diligence and wide range of reading. His only ambition was to get a commission and in pursuit of this ambition, he really worked hard. He had all things by heart. He could identify a flying plane by its harsh engine note due to the high tip speed of the airscrew. The Professor had developed a bad habit of publicly correcting the mistakes of his colleagues and his superiors. His friends and colleagues began to hit back at him with clumsy sarcasms and jokes. The Professor didn't spare even his instructors. He would badger the instructors with questions. Corporal Turnbull didn't spare him. He snubbed him by sending him to the cookhouse. In short, the Professor could have earned respect and honour which was due to him. We can learn a lesson from Quelch's experience. Exhibitionism and tendency of belittling others made him an unpleasant character. 'Knowing too much' is not as important as earning the love and sympathy of our friends and colleagues.

# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

<http://freehomedelivery.net/> Keeping it from Harold

NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

<http://freehomedelivery.net/> Keeping it from Harold

**Q1. Based on your reading of the story, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option: “**

**(a) Mrs. Bramble was a proud woman because**

**(i) she was the wife of a famous boxer.**

**(ii) she had motivated her husband.**

**(iii) she was a good housewife.**

**(iv) she was the mother of a child prodigy.**

**(b) “The very naming of Harold had caused a sacrifice on his part.” The writer’s tone here is**

**(i) admiring (ii) assertive**

**(iii) satirical (iv) gentle**

**(c) Harold had defied the laws of heredity by**

**(i) becoming a sports person**

**(ii) being good at academics**

**(iii) being well-built and muscular**

**(iv) respecting his parents**

**(d) Harold felt that he was deprived of the respect that his classmates would give him as**

**(i) they did not know his father was the famous boxer, ‘Young Porky’.**

**(ii) his hero, Jimmy Murphy had not won the wrestling match.**

**(iii) he had not got Phil Scott’s autograph.**

**(iv) Sid Simpson had lost the Lonsdale belt.**

**Ans:** (a) (iv) she was the mother of a child prodigy.

(b) (ii) assertive.

(c) (ii) being good at academics. •

(d) (i) they did not know his father was the famous boxer, ‘Young Porky’.

**Q2. Answer the following questions:**

(a) What was strange about the manner in which Mrs. Bramble addressed her son? What did he feel about it?

(b) Why was it necessary to keep Harold’s father’s profession a secret from him?

(c) When Mr. Bramble came to know that he was to become a father what were some of the names he decided upon? Why?

(d) Describe Mr. Bramble as he has been described in the story.

(e) Why was Mrs. Bramble upset when she came to hear that Bill had decided not to fight?

(f) Who was Jerry Fisher? What did he say to try and convince Bill to change his mind?

(g) How did Harold come to know that his father was a boxer?

(h) Why was Harold upset that his father had not told him about his true identity? Give two reasons.

(i) Do you agree with Harold’s parents decision of hiding from him the fact that his father was a boxer? Why/Why not?

**Ans:** a) Harold didn’t like the manner in which Mrs. Bramble addressed her son. Nor did he relish the habit of his mother of referring to herself in the third person. She spoke as if she were addressing a baby. She would never use “I” but said, “Yes, mother will hear you, precious”. Now Harold was a young man of ten. He had already won the spelling and dictation prize to his credit. He felt bad about it.

(b) Harold was very different from ordinary children. Harold’s parents wanted to keep Mr. Bramble’s profession a well-guarded secret from him. Harold was made to believe the fiction that his father was a commercial traveler. They didn’t want Harold to die of ‘disgrace’ by knowing the truth that his father was a man of ‘wrath’ and a bloody boxer.

(c) Mr. Bramble was a famous boxer. When he came to know that he was to become a father he had many names in his mind for his child. All of them were related to the world of boxing. He wanted his child to be named John, if a boy, after Mr. John L. Sullivan or if a girl, Marie, after Miss Marie Lloyd. But he had to sacrifice his choice when his wife opposed him.

(d) Mr. Bramble was an ‘excellent man’ and nobody ‘could help liking him’. He was a professional boxer better known as ‘Young Porky’. There was not a boxer in London

whom he could not overcome in a twenty- round contest. He was famous for his left hook. But he was a very considerate, self- sacrificing and diffident character. He could sacrifice his name, fame, and money as a boxer not to 'disgrace' Harold.

**(e)** Mrs. Bramble didn't like professional boxing. Nor did she want Harold to know that his father was 'Young Porky'. But she was upset when she came to hear that Bill had decided not to fight. Big money was involved in the fighting. The winner was to get 500 pounds and even the loser was to get 120 pounds. Boxing had earned good money for the family and made possible to give Harold a good education. That money could give Harold a better start in life than they had ever had.

**(f)** Mr. Jerry Fisher was a boxing coach or trainer at the White Hart. He was a hard trainer. Bill's fight with Jimmy Murphy was going to be a national affair. He was proud of Bill and was sure of his victory. He was shocked to know that Bill had given up the idea of fighting. He tried to convince Bill to change his mind. He reminded him of the handsome money that he would get by participating in the fight.

**(g)** Jerry Fisher disliked Bill now and he wanted to take revenge. The best way of taking revenge was to disclose Bill's real identity to his son Harold. He disclosed that Bill was not a commercial traveller but a professional boxer, popularly known as 'Young Porky'.

**(h)** When Harold came to know that his father was actually 'Young Porky', he was upset. He realised that he had been deprived of the honour of being the son of 'Young Porky'. His schoolmates wouldn't dare to call him 'goggles' if they knew that 'Young Porky' was his father. He had already betted two shillings that Jimmy Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky.'

**(i)** Harold's parents' decision of hiding from him the fact that his father was a boxer was not correct. They thought that Harold would die of disgrace if he came to know that his father was a man of wrath and called 'Young Porky'. The truth was the other way around. Harold was deeply interested in boxing. He had betted two shillings that Jimmy Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. It was a dramatic irony that his parents hid from him the fact of which he could swank like anything.

**Q3.** The sequence of events has been jumbled up. Rearrange them and complete the given flowchart.

- (1) Major Percy and Bill come to the house.
- (2) Harold comes to know that his father is a boxer.
- (3) Bill tells his wife that he is doing it for Harold.
- (4) Jerry Fisher tries to convince Bill to reconsider.
- (5) Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.
- (6) Harold wants to know what will happen to the money he had bet on Murphy losing.
- (7) Mrs. Bramble is informed that Bill had decided not to fight.
- (8) Mrs. Bramble resumes work of darning the sock.

(9) Harold is alone with his mother in their home.

<b>Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.</b>

- Ans: 1. Harold is alone with his mother in their home.  
2. Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.  
3. Mrs. Bramble resumes work of darning the sock.  
4. Major Percy and Bill come to the house.  
5. Mrs. Bramble is informed that Bill had decided not to fight.  
6. Bill tells his wife that he is doing it for Harold.  
7. Jerry Fisher tries to convince Bill to reconsider.  
8. Harold comes to know that his father is a boxer.  
9. Harold wants to know what will happen to the money he had bet on Murphy losing.  
Choose extracts from the story that illustrate the characters of these people in it.

Person	Extracts from the story	What this tells us about their characters
Mrs Bramble	(Para 12) "Bill we must keep it from Harold"	She was not honest and open with her son; concerned mother
Mr Bramble	(Para 33)	
Percy	(Para 109)	
Jerry Fisher	(Para 110)	

Ans:

Person	Extracts from the story	What this tells us about their .
--------	-------------------------	----------------------------------

		characters
Mrs Bramble	(Para 12) "Bill we must keep it from Harold"	She was not honest and open with her son; concerned mother
Mr Bramble	(Para 33) "The scales have fallen from his eyes".	'Mr. Bramble was confused, diffident and easily influenced.
Percy	(Para 109) "I'd be ashamed to be so spiteful."	Concerned about Harold and Bill; talkative
Jerry Fisher	(Para 110) "Tommy", said Mr Fisher, ignoring them all , "you think Your pa's commercial . He ain't . He's a Fighting man." ignoring them ignoring them all, "you ignoring them all, "you ignoring them all, "you	Revengeful; adamant



**Listening Task**

**Q4. The teacher will ask the students to answer these questions based on an interview given by the legendary WWE wrestler, Kane to Chris Carle of IGN. The students are to listen to the interview.**

- 1. What were the video games that Kane liked playing earlier and which games later?**
- 2. Who was Kane's favourite wrestler when he was first getting into wrestling and who were some of the other wrestlers who influenced him into taking up wrestling?**
- 3. How according to Kane had the WWE changed in the past ten years?**
- 4. Does Kane prefer performing with the mask or without the mask?**
- 5. Why does Kane wrestle these days even though he has accomplished almost everything?**
- 6. What is your impression of Kane as a person after you have heard this interview?**

**Ans:** For self attempt.

**Writing Task**

**Q5. Many people are of the opinion that violent, physical sports such as boxing, kickboxing and wrestling, to name a few should be banned while others think otherwise.**

**Express your opinion on the topic by either writing in favor of banning these sports or against banning them. While**

**writing, you should also include the rebuttal to your questions. Try not to go beyond 200 words.**

**Ans:** BANNING VIOLENT PHYSICAL SPORTS

Many people think that violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing, wrestling, bull-fighting, to name a few, should be banned. And they think rightly so. What's the main aim of sports and games? Pleasure and entertainment. They provide us thrill or 'excitement'. They lift our spirits. We feel more animated and alive. And the entertainment that sports and games provide us is the healthy and wholesome entertainment. On the other hand, violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing and bullfighting provide us a vulgar pleasure. It is violent and sadistic in nature. When we watch hockey, badminton or cricket we enjoy them. We appreciate Gavaskar for defence, Vivian Richards for attack and Sachin Tendulkar for style. Similarly, we adore Maradona or Pele not for their foul play or hitting the opponents but for their scoring abilities. Similarly, we admire Federer for his craftsmanship and Nadal for his power play in lawn-tennis. All these sports lift us physically, mentally as well as spiritually.

Watch a ten or fifteen-round boxing match. What do you like the most in a boxing match? You like the punches, hooks and the maximum damage that a boxer can do to his opponent. At every punch or hook your desire to see assault and your blood is aroused. Before the bout ends you find both the players wounded, bleeding and their faces cut at more than half a dozen places. Some players even lose their lives during boxing bouts. What is bullfighting? It shows sheer lack of decency, lack of good taste that one craves for such violent sports. Such bloody and violent sports should be banned.

**Q6. A large part of the story is composed of conversation between the characters.**

**Can you convert it into a play and in groups, present your version of the play before the class? Before that, decide on the members of cast, minimum props required and also the costumes.**

**Ans:** A Classroom Activity.

**Q7.** The teacher will ask the students to answer these questions based on an interview given by the legendary WWE wrestler, Kane to Chris Carle of IGN. The students are to listen to the interview.

1. What were the video games that Kane liked playing earlier and which games later?
2. Who was Kane's favourite wrestler when he was first getting into wrestling and who were some of the other wrestlers who influenced him into taking up wrestling?
3. How according to Kane had the WWE changed in the past ten years?
4. Does Kane prefer performing with the mask or without the mask?
5. Why does Kane wrestle these days even though he has accomplished almost everything?
6. What is your impression of Kane as a person after you have heard this interview?

**Q8, Many people are of the opinion that violent, physical sports such as boxing, kickboxing and wrestling, to name a few should be banned while others think otherwise.**

**Express your opinion on the topic by either writing in favour of banning these sports or against banning them. While**

**writing, you should also include the rebuttal to your questions. Try not to go beyond 200 words.**

**Ans:** BANNING VIOLENT PHYSICAL SPORTS

Many people think that violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing, wrestling, bull-fighting, to name a few, should be banned. And they think rightly so. What's the main aim of sports and games? Pleasure and entertainment. They provide us thrill or 'excitement'. They lift our spirits. We feel more animated and alive. And the entertainment that sports and games provide us is the healthy and wholesome entertainment. On the other hand, violent physical sports such as boxing, kick boxing and bullfighting provide us a vulgar pleasure. It is violent and sadistic in nature. When we watch hockey, badminton or cricket we enjoy them. We appreciate Gavaskar for defence, Vivian Richards for attack and Sachin Tendulkar for style. Similarly, we adore Maradona or Pele not for their foul play or hitting the opponents but for their scoring abilities. Similarly, we admire Federer for his craftsmanship and Nadal for his power play in lawn-tennis. All these sports lift us physically, mentally as well as spiritually.

Watch a ten or fifteen-round boxing match. What do you like the most in a boxing match? You like the punches, hooks and the maximum damage that a boxer can do to his opponent. At every punch or hook your desire to see assault and your blood is aroused. Before the bout ends you find both the players wounded, bleeding and their faces cut at more than half a dozen places. Some players even lose their lives during boxing bouts. What is bullfighting? It shows sheer lack of decency, lack of good taste that one craves for such violent sports. Such bloody and violent sports should be banned.

**Q9. A large part of the story is composed of conversation between the characters. Can you convert it into a play and in groups, present your version of the play before the class? Before that, decide on the members of the cast, minimum props required and also the costumes.**

**Ans:** A Classroom Activity.

**Additional Questions Solved**

**I. Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 WORDS)**

**Q1. How was Harold Bramble at the age of ten?**

**Ans:** Harold was a 'young man' of ten. He was far more mature and intelligent than any other child of that age. He had already won the spelling and dictation prize. The spectacled child spoke with toneless rapidity, affected by youths of his age. Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy. He was different from ordinary children, devoted to his books and an admirable model of behaviour. Defying the laws of heredity, Harold 'had run to intellect as his father had run to muscle.'

**Q2. Why was Mrs. Bramble proud of bringing such a prodigy as Harold into the world?**

**Ans:** Harold was a constant source of amazement. He was so different from ordinary children. He was devoted to books and a perfect model of goodness and intelligence. He had already taken the spelling and dictation prize and two prizes at the Sunday-school. So his mother Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy and genius.

**Q3. Bill Bramble and his wife were To Vers of truth but they had to sacrifice truth for Harold. Give a reasoned answer.**

**Ans:** Harold's very 'perfection' made Mrs. and Mr. Bramble resort to deliberate evasions and falsehood. They had to sacrifice truth for their child. They thought that Harold would die of dishonour if he came to know the truth. He should not know that Bill was a 'man of wrath' and a professional boxer known as 'Young Porky'. Harold had started taking notice of things and people. He was made to believe that his father was a commercial traveller.

**Q4. Why was Bill's profession kept a guarded secret not to be disclosed to Harold? Why was he made to believe the fiction that Bill was a commercial traveller?**

**Ans:** His parents regarded Harold as being of a superior order. Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy and 'perfect' child. His parents thought that Harold would not be able to tolerate the dishonour of being the son of a 'man of wrath'. He would be ashamed to know that his father was a professional boxer. He was known among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. Hence, Harold was fed on the fiction that Bill was a commercial traveller.

**Q5. Describe two common traits of Major Percy Stokes.**

**Ans:** Major Percy Stokes was Mrs. Bramble's brother. He had a tight grip over Bill Bramble. He was very persuasive. Mr. Bramble had fallen in with his suggestion that his real identity should not be exposed to Harold. Major Percy was instrumental in Bill's decision of withdrawing from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour. Mrs. Bramble didn't like his suggestion nor his company. Percy had borrowed enough money from his sister. He was very talkative and no one liked his voice except himself.

**Q6. Describe Bill Bramble highlighting his obliging and self-sacrificing nature. Give two examples to prove your point.**

**Ans:** Mr. Bill Bramble was a professional boxer and ironically called 'a man of wrath'. Actually in private life he was the mildest and most obliging of men. He always yielded to everybody. The very naming of Harold caused a sacrifice on Bill's part. He wanted to name the child John, if a boy and Marie, if a girl. However, he had to withdraw his suggestion with the utmost good humour because his wife wanted to name him Harold. He yielded to Major Percy's suggestion and withdrew from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour. He did this sacrifice for Harold.

**Q7. Harold grew up defying the laws of heredity. How? Give two examples.**

**Ans:** Harold Bramble grew up defying the laws of heredity. His father Bill Bramble was a professional boxer better known as 'Young Porky'. Harold was a spectacled boy. He was devoted to books excelling in intelligence and academics. He was different from ordinary boys and regarded as being of a superior order.

**Q8. Describe Bill as a professional boxer.**

**Ans:** Bill Bramble was a professional boxer. He was famous among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. There was hardly a man in London whom he could not overcome in a twenty-round contest. He had an ability to hook his fellow anywhere. He was gifted with a left hook. He was going to fight a twenty-round contest against Murphy after a week.

**Q9. What made Bill withdraw from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour?**

**Ans:** Harold's parents regarded him as being of a superior order. Bill didn't want that Harold should ever come to know that his father was 'a man of wrath'. He was known among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. His trainer Jerry Fisher believed in good newspaper coverage and publicity. Harold read his 'Mail' regularly. This meant that he

(Harold) would come to know the real identity of his father. Hence, for the sake of Harold, he accepted Major Percy's suggestion. He withdrew from the contest at the eleventh hour.

**Q10. Why did Mrs. Bramble not approve of Bill's and her brother Percy's suggestion of withdrawing from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour?**

**Ans:** Mrs. Bramble didn't like her husband's profession. Nor did she want that Harold should know Bill's real identity. But she was aware of the fact that his fight with the American boxer Murphy involved a handsome amount. The winner would get 500 pounds and the loser 120. The money earned from boxing made it possible for them to give Harold a good education. Hence, she didn't like Bill's withdrawing from the contest.

**Q11. Why was Jerry Fisher's anger directed against Bill Bramble and Major Percy?**

**Ans:** Jerry Fisher was Bill's trainer at the White Hart. He was a hard-taskmaster. He was proud of Bill but was infuriated when he came to know that he was withdrawing from the contest at the eleventh hour. He considered that he had been badly treated. And what he wanted at the moment was revenge. His anger was also directed against Major Percy. He considered him at the bottom of the whole thing.

**Q12. How did Jerry Fisher take his revenge on Bill?**

**Ans:** Jerry Fisher was a trainer of Bill. He was fond of Bill and was sure that he would beat Murphy. But he was infuriated when he came to know that Bill was withdrawing from the contest at the eleventh hour. He considered that he was badly treated and itched for revenge. He did take his revenge by revealing to Harold that his father was not a commercial traveller but 'a man of wrath'. He was a professional boxer known among Londoners as 'Young Porky'.

**Q13. How did Harold react when Jerry Fisher revealed true identity of his father Bill?**

**Ans:** The fiction of the commercial traveller was exploded. Harold came to know that his father was a professional boxer. He was famous as 'Young Porky'. He called the act of hiding his father's identity as a 'rotten' and the silliest idea. Ironically, he had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. He felt so proud of his father. His schoolmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles' had they known that he was the son of 'Young Porky.'

**Q14. Why did Harold call his parents' efforts to hide his father's identity as 'Young Porky' as the 'rotten' and 'silliest idea'?**

**Ans:** Harold's parents couldn't even dream that their spectacled child was so much interested in boxing. He had saved his pocket money and betted two shillings that Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. Ironically, he was the son of 'Young Porky'. By hiding this fact from him, his parents had done the silliest possible thing. They had deprived him of the honour of being the son of such a great boxer. His classmates called him 'Goggles'. None would have dared if they had known that he was the son of 'Young Porky'.

**Q15. The dramatic irony in the story is that the Brambles tried to hide the fact that could have been a matter of pride and swanking for Harold. Give a reasoned answer.**

**Ans:** Harold's parents and Major Percy exercised all their energy in hiding this fact from Harold that Bill was 'a man of wrath'. Harold was fed on the fiction that his father was a commercial traveller. Ironically, the spectacled Harold had deep interest in boxing. He had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last even ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. Little did he know that he was the son of 'Young Porky'. It was not a matter of disgrace but a matter of pride and swanking if he had known the true identity of his father earlier.

**Q16. Justify the title of the story, 'Keeping It from Harold'.**

**Ans:** P.G. Wodehouse has titled the story 'Keeping It From Harold'. The title is appropriate, meaningful and logical. Harold's father was a professional boxer. But it was kept a guarded secret from Harold. He was led to believe that Bill was a commercial traveller. This concealment of Bill's true identity was the silliest of ideas. When the truth came into light, it evoked a strong reaction in Harold. He was publicly deprived of that glory and honour of which he was the real owner. All this happened because of 'Keeping It From Harold'.

**II. Value-Based Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 WORDS)**

**Q1. Harold was an embodiment of decency, good behaviour, and intelligence but hated truth being kept from him. Give a pen-portrait of Harold Bramble in your own words.**

**Ans:** Harold Bramble was a ten-year old prodigy. He started showing signs of a genius at quite a young age. He had won the spelling and dictation prize last term 'on his head'. The spectacled child was a constant source of amazement to Mrs. Bramble. His mother was highly proud of bringing such a prodigy into this world. Harold was totally different from ordinary children of his age. He was devoted to his books. He was a model of decency, good behaviour and intelligence. His parents regarded him as 'being of a superior order'. This very 'perfection' of Harold became a sort of drawback for the Brambles. They were led to believe that Mr. Bramble's profession would bring discredit and great embarrassment to Harold. Hence, they sacrificed truth and fed him on a fiction that Bill was

commercial traveller. Harold seemed to defy the laws of heredity. He had 'run to intellect as his father had run to muscle'.

Harold hated truth being kept from him. Ironically, Harold was deeply interested in boxing. He had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. When he came to know that his own father was 'Young Porky' he was stunned. He called his decision of withdrawing from the contest for him as the 'silliest' of all ideas. He could have felt proud of his father and swanked like anything. His classmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles'. His father's true identity would have been the greatest honour and pride for him.

**Q2. An overprotective and possessive mother in Mrs. Bramble never lets her understand either Bill or Harold. Draw a character sketch of Mrs. Bramble highlighting all the important traits of her personality.**

**Ans:** Mrs. Bramble is presented as a dominating and decisive personality. She is feared and respected by Mr. Bramble and her brother Major Percy. She takes all the major decisions. Mr. Bramble is made to yield to her in good humour. The very naming of Harold proves that when it comes to decision making, Mrs. Bramble has the final say. The poor husband had to withdraw his suggestion with the utmost good humour. Mrs. Bramble is a possessive and overprotective mother. Harold doesn't like that she should address him as if she is addressing a baby. Mrs. Bramble is highly proud of bringing such a prodigy as Harold into the world. Harold's unique character and his perfection becomes a drawback for her. She persuades her husband that Harold should not be disgraced and embarrassed by knowing Bill's real profession. Here, she is totally mistaken like Mr. Bramble and Major Percy. She fails to see the other side of Harold's personality. She can't even dream that her spectacled and scholarly son can have such a deep interest in boxing. Ironically, Mrs. Bramble fails to understand that Bill's true identity could have been a matter of pride and swanking for Harold. But she is more practical than Bill. No doubt, she hates Bill's profession. She realises that Bill's boxing career has earned a lot of money for the family. With that money they could give Harold the best possible education. She is shocked when she comes to know that Bill has withdrawn from the contest against Murphy.

**Q3. Self-sacrifice, mild and obliging nature contrasted with the terrible performances of the boxer 'Young Porky'. Highlighting the main features of Bill Bramble's personality draw his character-sketch in your own words.**

**Ans:** Bill Bramble presents a great contrast as a professional boxer and a private man. He was a gifted professional boxer. He had the ability to hit his opponent in the eye while apparently meditating an attack on his stomach. There was not a man whom he could not overcome in a twenty-round contest. He was the possessor of a left hook. It had won the approval of his fans and newspapers. He was famous among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. Bill was a square-jawed man with an irregularly-shaped nose. His being a professional boxer became the root cause of trouble for the family. Everyone took pains to hide his true identity from Harold. The child was fed on the fiction that Bill was a commercial traveller.

In private life, Bill was the mildest and most obliging of men. He behaved like a diffident crab before Mrs. Bramble and Major Percy. He was easily influenced and persuaded. He was a man of self-sacrificing nature who would yield to everybody. The very naming of Harold had caused a sacrifice on his part. He wanted to name the child John or Marie. But Mrs. Bramble insisted that Harold was a sweet name. The poor man withdrew his suggestion with the utmost good humour. He withdrew from the contest against Murphy not to cause disgrace and embarrassment to his prodigy son. Little did he know that his true identity could have been a matter of great pride and honour for his spectacled prodigy son.

**Q4. Why did Harold's parents take so much pains to hide Bill's true identity as a 'man of wrath' or a professional boxer from Harold? Did they succeed in their mission? What is the message that Alexander Baron wants to give to the readers in 'The Man Who Knew Too Much'? Give a reasoned answer.**

**Ans:** Harold's uniqueness and 'perfection' became a sort of drawback for the Brambles. They considered him as being of a superior order and were proud of giving birth to such a prodigy. They didn't want to embarrass their scholarly and spectacled son. They didn't want to tell that his father was a 'man of wrath' and a professional boxer. He was nicknamed 'Young Porky'. Unfortunately, – they were ill-advised in this regard. The senior curate of the parish and Major Percy Stokes, ill advised the Brambles to hide Bill's true identity. The prodigy was fed on the fiction that his father was a commercial ' ~ traveller. Even Bill made all sacrifices and withdrew from the contest against Murphy at the eleventh hour.

All our ill-advised and silly fears can be ? false. This is the lesson Mrs. Bramble should have learnt. Even they couldn't keep , it from Harold. Jerry Fisher in a fit of anger revealed to Harold that his father was not a commercial traveller but a professional boxer 'Young Porky', The fact which could have been a subject of highest honour, pride and swanking was unnecessarily kept a guarded secret from Harold. He had betted two shillings that Murphy would

not last even ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. Harold's schoolmates would not have dared to call him 'Googles' had they known that he was the son of 'Young Porky'.

**Q5. Describe the ironical ending of the story. The fact that the Brambles took so much pains and care to hide from Harold could have been the subject of greatest pride, honour and swanking for Harold. Describe Harold's reaction at the disclosure. Justify your answer giving , examples from the text.**

**Ans:** They say what man proposes, God disposes. Mr. and Mrs. Bramble took so much pains and care to hide a simple fact that his father Bill was a professional boxer. Harold's uniqueness and 'perfection' led Mrs. Bramble and her husband to create a myth. They felt that Bill's true identity would be a subject of dishonour and embarrassment for their prodigal son. He was not to know that his father was a 'man of wrath' and famous among Londoners as 'Young Porky'. Unfortunately, many others misguided them. The senior curate of the parish and Major Percy Stokes goaded the Brambles to keep it from Harold. Foolishly, Harold was fed on the fiction that his father was a commercial traveller.

The whole ill-advised plan of the Brambles and Percy turned out to be a miserable failure and anti-climax. In a fit of anger Jerry Fisher revealed Bill's true identity. Harold's reaction was most unexpected. Little did they know that their spectacled prodigy had deep interest in boxing. Harold had betted two shillings that Murphy would not last even ten rounds against 'Young Porky'. The withdrawal of Bill from the contest appeared to Harold as 'rotten' and silly. His schoolmates would not have dared to call him 'Goggles' had they known that he was the son of 'Young Porky'. Ironically, the fact that they hid from Harold, could have been the subject of great honour, pride and swanking for him.



# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

<http://freehomedelivery.net/> Best Seller

<http://freehomedelivery.net/> Best Seller

<http://freehomedelivery.net/> Best Seller

**Q1. Based on your reading of the story, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.**

**(a) The narrator says that John was “ \_\_\_\_\_ of the suff that heroes are not often lucky enough to be made of.” His tone is sarcastic because \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) he hated John.
- (ii) he felt that John was a threat to him.
- (iii) John was not particularly good-looking.
- (iv) nobody liked John.

**(b) Pescud felt that best-sellers were not realistic as**

- (i) American farmers had nothing in common with European princesses.
- (ii) men generally married girls from a similar background.
- (iii) American men married girls who studied in America.
- (iv) American men did not know fencing and were beaten by the Swiss guards.

**(c) “Bully”, said Pescud brightening at once. He means to say that \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) he is a bully.
- (ii) his manager was a bully.
- (iii) he was being bullied by his co-workers.
- (iv) he was doing very well at his job.

**(d) The narrator says that life has no geographical bounds implying that \_\_\_\_\_**

- (i) human beings are essentially the same everywhere.
- (ii) boundaries exist only on maps.
- (iii) one should work towards the good of mankind.
- (iv) he was happy to travel to other countries.

**Ans:** (a) (iii) John was not particularly good-looking.

(b) (i) American farmers had nothing in common with European princesses.

(c) (iv) he was doing very well at his job.

(d) (i) human beings are essentially the same everywhere.

**Q2. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**(a) One day last summer the author was travelling to Pittsburg by chair car. What does he say about his co-passengers?**

**(b) Who was the passenger of chair No. 9? What did he suddenly do?**

**(c) What was John A. Pescud’s opinion about best sellers? Why?**

**(d) What does John say about himself since his last meeting with the author?**

**(e) How did John’s first meeting with Jessie’s father go? What did the author tell him?**

**(f) Why did John get off at Coketown?**

**(g) John is a hypocrite. Do you agree with this statement? Substantiate your answer.**

**(h) Describe John A. Pescud with reference to the following points:**

- Physical appearance \_\_\_\_\_
- His philosophy on behaviour \_\_\_\_\_
- His profession \_\_\_\_\_
- His first impression of his wife \_\_\_\_\_
- His success \_\_\_\_\_

**Ans:** (a) One day last summer, the author was travelling to Pittsburgh by chair car on business. Most of the passengers were ladies. They were in brown-silk dresses cut with square yokes, laces and dotted veils. There were men who looked as if “they might be in almost any business.” However, his attention was drawn by the black, bald-spotted head just visible above the back of seat No. 9.

(b) John A. Pescud was the passenger of chair No. 9. Suddenly he hurled a book on to the floor between his chair and the window. The book was named “The Rose Lady and Trevelyan”. It was one of the best-selling novels of the present day.

**(c)** John A. Pescud didn't hold a very high opinion about best sellers. The fiction writers are not consistent with their scenes and characters. They are far removed from reality. Their account is highly unreal, exaggerated and romantic. Sometimes the American hero falls in love with a royal princess from Europe. He follows her to her father's kingdom. But in real life people choose life- partners belonging to their own status.

**(d)** The author asked John how he was getting along with the company. John replied that he was getting on pretty well. He had his salary raised twice since they met last time. He got a commission too. He had bought a "neat slice of real estate". The firm was going to sell him some shares of stock. He was "in on the line of General Prosperity". He also broke the news that he got married eighteen months ago.

**(e)** John met Jessie's father at his ancestral house. At eleven sharp, he rang the bell. An old man about eighty showed up and asked what he wanted. John showed him his business card. He told the old man how he followed his daughter from Cincinnati, his business, salary and prospects. Then the old man related anecdotes and humorous occurrences. The Colonel expressed that he had never been so fortunate as he felt after meeting him.

**(f)** John got ready to get off at Coketown. The author was surprised as the place didn't hold much prospect for selling plate-glass. However, John told that while coming back from Philadelphia, his wife Jessie saw some petunias in a pot in one of the windows there. She used to raise such flowers in her old Virginia home. So he thought of getting off there to dig up some of the cuttings or blossoms for her.

**(g)** John is a hypocrite. What he says, he does the opposite. He expresses his uncharitable views regarding the best-sellers as they are far removed from reality. They are too romantic. But in real life people marry somebody in their own status. But John is another Trevelyan. He is just a commercial traveller but runs after Jessie whose father is a lineal descendant of belted earls. He is searching petunias for his 'princess'.

**(h)** • Physical appearance. A small man with a wide smile and an eye fixed on the end of the nose. A bald-spotted head.

- His philosophy on behaviour. When a man is in his home town, he ought to be decent and law-abiding.
- His profession. Travelling salesman for a plate-glass company.
- His first impression of his wife. '... the finest looking girl. Nothing spectacular but just the sort you want for keeps'.
- His success. Salary raised twice in a couple of years. Got a commission. Bought real estate. The firm going to sell some shares of stock. On the line of 'General Prosperity'.



**Q3.** Complete the flow chart in the correct sequence as it happens in the story.  
Hint: It begins from the time the author first saw Jessie till the time they marry.

**Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.**

Mrs. Bramble is amazed to think that she has brought such a prodigy as Harold into the world.

**Q4.** Irony refers to the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of their literal meaning. Working in pairs;, bring out the irony in the following:

(a) The title of the story, "The Best Seller".

(b) Pescud's claim, "When people in real life marry, they generally hunt up somebody in their own station. A fellow usually picks out a girl who went to the same high school and belonged to the same singing-society that he did."

(c) The name Trevelyan.

**Ans:** (a) Ram : The title of the story, "The Best Seller" is ironical.

**Sita :** That it is. Irony refers to the use of words to convey a meaning that is opposite to their literal meaning.

**Ram:** John A. Pescud doesn't like 'best-sellers' like "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan."

**Sita :** He thinks that they present a highly unreal, exaggerated and romantic version of life.

**Ram:** But he himself is the "Best Seller".

**Sita :** After all, he is a travelling salesman. He knows all the tricks and arts of selling.

**Ram:** And he sells such an incredible story.

**Sita :** He criticises Trevelyan but imitates his real life.

**Ram:** He is another Trevelyan hunting for petunias for his princess Jessie Allyn.

(b) **Ram :** Don't you feel John A. Pescud is a hypocrite.

**Sita :** Without any doubt, he is.

**Ram:** Pescud claims "When people in real life marry, they generally hunt up somebody in their own station."

**Sita :** He thinks that "A fellow usually picks out a girl who went to the same high school and belonged to the same singing society that he did."

**Ram:** What John A. Pescud claims, he does just the opposite.

**Sita :** This is what irony is. He criticises best-sellers. They present a highly unreal, exaggerated and romantic version of life.

**Ram:** But John doesn't marry a sales girl. He falls in love with the "finest looking girl, a descendant of belted earls. She was the owner of a grand mansion as big as the Capitol at Washington. ^

**(c) Ram :** In the end, the narrator wishes good luck to John, calling him Trevelyan.

**Sita :** The address is ironical.

**Ram:** Trevelyan falls in love with a royal Princess from Europe. He follows her to her father's kingdom or principality.

**Sita :** And John A. Pescud does exactly the same.

**Ram:** John criticises the hero of "The Rose and Trevelyan" but imitates him.

**Sita :** He doesn't run after a sales girl but after the finest girl, a descendant of belted earls.

**Ram:** And this modern Trevelyan hunts petunias for her princess Jessie Allyn in Coketown.

**Q 7, A newspaper reporter hears of the marriage of Pescud and Jessie. He interviews them and writes an article for the paper entitled: A Modern Romance.**

**Working in groups of four, write the article.**

**Ans:** A Modern Romance

It happens. It may defy logic or reason but it happens. This is what they call a "modern romance". It happens not only in the best sellers like "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan" but even elsewhere. Our hero is John A. Pescud. He is a travelling salesman of a plate-glass company. He is doing rather fine in his professional life. He had had a raise in salary twice in two years and bought some real estate. Our hero strongly believes in traditional middle class values. He hates running after princesses and thinks that a person should choose a girl of his background and status. He hates Trevelyan, the American hero from Chicago falling in love with a royal European princess and following her to her father's kingdom.

So far so good. But our hero, John A. Pescud is clean-bowled when he sees "the finest looking girl" in the train while going to Cincinnati. He falls in love at the first sight. He follows her right up to Elmcroft, a place deep in Virginia. He finds that she is the daughter of Colonel Allyn who is a lineal descendant of belted earls. The Allyns live in a huge mansion as big as the Capitol at Washington. The girl pretends to be a princess who doesn't want to talk to a commoner. She even threatens him not to meet her father who can feed him to his fox hounds if he does so. Pescud meets the Colonel. He hides nothing and tells him that he wants to win the love of his daughter. The Colonel makes him comfortable and relates anecdotes and humorous occurrences. John and Jessie meet again. And lo! They are married after a year. Do you know what is our hero doing now? Our Trevelyan is hunting for petunias in Coketown for his princess. Good luck, Trevelyan! I mean, John A. Pescud.

### **I. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (30-40 WORDS)**

**Q1. Describe the people in the chair car by which the narrator was going to Pittsburgh on business.**

**Ans:** One day last summer, the narrator was travelling to Pittsburgh on business. The chair car was well-filled with people. They were typical people one usually finds on chair cars. Most of them were ladies. They were in brown-silk dresses cut with square yokes, laces and dotted veils. They refused to have the windows raised. There were men with business like attitudes and behaviour.

**Q2. Who was the passenger of chair No. 9 and how did he attract the attention of the narrator?**

**Ans:** The narrator leaned back idly in chair No. 7 and looked at the small, bald-spotted head with curiosity. He was just visible above the back of No. 9. Suddenly the man in No. 9 hurled "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan," one of the best-selling novels of the present day to the floor. The man was John A. Pescud of Pittsburgh. He was a travelling salesman for a plate-glass company. He was an old acquaintance of the narrator whom he had not seen in two years.

**Q3. What does John A. Pescud tell about himself or his career? Give two examples to prove that he was doing well in life.**

**Ans.** John A. Pescud was a travelling salesman of a plate-glass company. He was doing quite well in life. He had his salary raised twice since he met the narrator last time. He got a commission too. He had bought some piece of good real estate. The firm was going to sell him some shares of stock. In brief, he was in "on the line of General Prosperity."

**Q4. Why is John A. Pescud so critical of best-sellers of the present day?**

**Ans:** John A. Pescud tries to give an impression that he believes in middle class values and pragmatism. He is quite critical of the modern best-sellers because they are far removed from reality and real life. They present a highly

idealistic, exaggerated and romantic version of life. They describe an American hero falling in love with a royal princess from Europe. In real life, when people marry they choose their life-partners who belong to the same background or status.

**Q5. Describe one of the best-sellers of present time “The Rose Lady and Trevelyan” in your own words. Why doesn’t John A. Pescud show much appreciation for it?**

**Ans:** “The Rose Lady and Trevelyan” was one of the best-selling novels of its times. Here, the hero Trevelyan falls in love with a royal princess from Europe who is travelling under an alias. The hero follows the princess to her father’s kingdom or principality. Trevelyan calls Princess Alwyna, “dearest and sweetest of earth’s fairest flowers.” He calls himself an “uncrowned sovereign”. The very idea of a Chicago man picking up a sword is ridiculous. The novel presents a highly exaggerated, unreal, idealistic and romantic version of life. Hence, he doesn’t show much appreciation for the novel.

**Q6. How did John A. Pescud meet his future wife Jessie for the first time?**

**Ans:** John A. Pescud saw his future wife Jessie Allyn for the first time in a train. He was going to Cincinnati on business about 18 months ago. There he saw “the finest looking girl” he had ever laid his eyes on. “Nothing spectacular” but the kind of girl one would like to have as a life-partner. She changed cars at Cincinnati and took a sleeper to Louisville. John followed her all along but never losing track of her. He followed her to her grand mansion.

**Q7. Describe the huge white house of the Allyn on top of the hill as John A. Pescud saw it.**

**Ans:** The huge white house of the Allyn was at a thousand feet highest. The yard was full of rose-bushes, box-bushes and lilacs.

The mansion was as big as the Capitol at Washington. Colonel Allyn and his daughter Jessie lived there in their ancestral house. It had fifty rooms and the ceilings were twenty-eight feet high.

**Q8. Describe the first meeting of John A. Pescud with Jessie Allyn in the front yard of her ancestral mansion.**

**Ans:** On the third day of his arrival, John A. Pescud caught the young lady walking in the front yard. John was as respectful and earnest as he could. He told her why he followed her there. He wanted to get acquainted with her and hoped her to like him. The young lady replied that she was aware of all his activities throughout the journey. She replied that her father was a descendant of belted earls. He wouldn’t allow his meeting with her. She affected as if she had no interest in him.

**Q9. Describe John A. Pescud’s meeting with Colonel Allyn. What was its outcome?**

**Ans:** The next morning at eleven John A. Pescud rang the doorbell of the Colonel’s mansion. For a few seconds John was nervous in the presence of the Colonel but soon got his nerve back. He told the old man everything, the purpose of his visit, his job and prospects and his little conduct of life. He clearly told that he wanted “to make a hit” with the young lady. The Colonel made him comfortable and they talked for two hours. The old man narrated anecdotes, humorous occurrences and a fox hunting story. John Pescud appeared to be satisfied with his meeting with the Colonel.

**Q10. Describe the second meeting of John A. Pescud with Jessie Allyn at Elmcroft. How was it different from the first?**

**Ans:** After meeting the Colonel, John A. Pescud got a chance after two days to speak to Miss Jessie Allyn alone on the porch. In this meeting, Jessie didn’t appear to be affecting her ancestral greatness and grandeur. She rather ridiculed her father for telling stories about the old African and the green water melons. Suddenly, John’s foot slipped and he was nearly tumbled off. She appeared to have been prepared for the inevitable. She skipped into the house through one of the big windows. John married her a year after.

**Q11. What made John A. Pescud get off at Coketown?**

**Ans:** John was getting off at Coketown. The narrator asked why he was getting off there. He could hardly do any business there. John told the narrator that he had a little trip to Philadelphia. While coming back, his wife Jessie saw some petunias in a pot in one of those windows in Coketown. So John thought he would drop off there for the night. He would see if he could dig up some of the cuttings or blossoms for his dear wife.

**Q12. “Good luck to you, Trevelyan,” I said. “And may you get the petunias for your princess!” Give the importance of these last words of the narrator. Why was John A. Pescud called Trevelyan?**

**Ans:** Trevelyan is the hero of the best-selling novel of its times “The Rose Lady and Trevelyan.” He falls in love with a royal European princess and follows her to her father’s kingdom or principality. Though John A. Pescud criticises Trevelyan but in reality, he imitates him. He follows the daughter of Colonel Allyn, a descendant of belted earls, Jessie to her grand mansion. Like Trevelyan, John would hunt for petunias for his princess Jessie; The narrator sarcastically and ironically, wishes him good-luck.

**Q13. Describe the ironical ending of the story, Best Seller.**

**Ans:** Irony refers to the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of their literal meaning. "Good-luck to Trevelyan

And may you get the petunias for your princess!" These words of the narrator say everything about John A. Pescud. John doesn't like Trevelyan's running after a royal European princess. The love story sounds unreal, exaggerated and highly romantic. A man in real life must choose a girl of his background and status. But ironically, he (John) imitates Trevelyan and follows Jessie, the descendant of belted earls to her huge mansion as big as the Capitol at Washington.

**Q14. Justify the title 'Best Seller'. Was John A. Pescud the 'best-seller'?**

**Ans:** The title "Best Seller" is apt, appropriate and logical. John A. Pescud is a travelling salesman for a plate-glass company. He knows all the arts and tricks of selling. No doubt, he does not show his approval for the best-selling novels of his day like "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan". He thinks that they present a highly unreal, exaggerated and romantic view and version of life. In real life people choose their life-partners who belong to the same background and status. However, he sells his love story. He falls in love with the "finest looking girl", a descendant of belted earls living in a grand mansion as big as the Capitol at Washington.

Value-Based Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 WORDS)

**Q1. Describe the meeting of the narrator and John A. Pescud in the chair car. How was this meeting different and ironical from the previous ones? •**

**Ans:** One day last summer, the narrator was pleasantly surprised. He saw an old acquaintance John A. Pescud in a chair car after two years. They shook hands and finished with such topics as rain, health, residence and destination. Pescud was a small man with a wide smile. He was a travelling salesman for a plate-glass company.

During their earlier meetings they discussed the local topics and departed. However, this time John initiated a discussion on best-sellers. He particularly discussed "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan". The hero of "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan" was an American. He fell in love with a royal princess from Europe. He followed her to her father's kingdom. John A. Pescud didn't like such exaggerated and far-fetched versions of life. He believed that people in real life generally marry somebody belonging to their background and status. John replied that he was married 18 months ago to the "finest looking girl."

Pescud told that he met Jessie in a chair car. The meeting was not less romantic than the meeting of Trevelyan with the Princess Alwyn. She was the daughter of Colonel Allyn, who was a descendant of belted earls. He met the Colonel and told him why he was there. Ultimately, they got married after a year.

The narrator asked why he was getting off at Coketown. John's reply was quite ironical. He replied that his wife Jessie saw some petunias in a pot in one of those windows in Coketown. He wanted to see if he could dig up some of the cuttings or blossoms for her. The narrator only wished good luck to him in getting petunias for his "princess".

**Q2. Is John A. Pescud a hypocrite? He pretends to have moral standards or opinions that he never practises in life. Justify your answer by giving examples from the text.**

**Ans:** Who is a hypocrite? A person who pretends to have moral standards or opinions that he actually doesn't have. Judging by this yardstick John A. Pescud is a hypocrite. He pretends to cherish middle class values. He strongly believes that people in real life marry "somebody in their own station. John A. Pescud is very critical of the modern best-sellers: The world they create is a false world of romance and fantasy. The world of best sellers is far removed from the harsh realities of life. In "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan", the hero Trevelyan is an American. He falls in love with a royal princess from Europe. He follows her to her father's kingdom or principality.

John A. Pescud seems to be doing exactly what he so strongly opposes and criticises in real life. Like Trevelyan he has a chance of meeting with the "finest looking girl".

Like Trevelyan he follows her to the grand mansion of her father. It is as big as the Capitol at Washington. Colonel Allyn is a lineal descendant of belted earls. He appears to be as proud as Julius Caesar. His meeting with Jessie Allyn is nothing less romantic than the meeting of Trevelyan with Princess Alwyn. So is their marriage. When asked why he is getting off at Coketown, Pescud replies that he hopes to dig up some of the cuttings of petunia flowers for Jessie. The last words of the narrator expose the hypocrisy of this incurable "Trevelyan".

"Good-luck to you, Trevelyan ..... And may you get the petunias for your princess! "

**Q3. John only knows too well how to sell himself and his ideas to others. Draw a pen-portrait of John A. Pescud in your own words highlighting all the important features of his character.**

**Ans:** John A. Pescud is the main character of O. Henry's story 'Best Seller'. He is a resident of Pittsburgh and a travelling salesman. He works for a plate-glass company. He is a small man with black, bald-spotted head and a

broad smile. He seems to be going on well in life. He did have his salary raised in two years, got a commission and bought a piece of land. In his own words, he is in on the line of 'General Prosperity'. He has his "little code of living". When a man is in his home town, "he ought to be decent and law abiding".

John A. Pescud professes to entertain middle-class values in life. He believes that in real life people marry the partners in their own background. He is highly critical of best-sellers like 'The Rose Lady and Trevelyan'. Here, the American hero falls in love with a royal princess from Europe.

He follows her to her father's kingdom or principality. The modern best sellers present a highly unrealistic and romantic version of life. However, John A. Pescud seems to be imitating Trevelyan in his own life. He falls in love with Jessie Allyn at the first sight. He follows her to her grand mansion as big as the Capitol at Washington. Her father Colonel Allyn is a lineal descendant of belted earls and looks as proud as Julius Caesar.

John Pescud is really the 'Best seller'. He sells 'himself and his ideas so well to the narrator, to Jessie and the Colonel. He is soft spoken and highly persuasive. Even after marriage this modern Trevelyan wanders in search of petunias for his princess.

**Q4. John and Jessie were made for each other. How did John A. Pescud's meeting with Jessie Allyn get converted into their marriage? Describe the role of Colonel Allyn in this episode.**

**Ans:** John A. Pescud's meeting with Jessie Allyn has all the ingredients of a great romance. It seems as if they were made for each other. Their meeting is in no way less romantic than the meeting of Trevelyan with Princess Alwynna in "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan". John was going to Cincinnati eighteen months ago. In the chair car he saw "the finest looking girl". She was nothing "spectacular" but the sort of girl one would like to have as his life-partner. A tall old man, looking as proud as Julius Caesar, was there to receive her at Virginia. He found out that the girl was the daughter of Colonel Allyn, a descendant of belted earls. Their mansion at the top of the hill was as big as the Capitol at Washington. The girl told him that she was keeping an eye on all his activities during the journey. She told that her father would feed him "to his fox-hounds" if he tried to meet her. She couldn't talk to him as they were not properly introduced. John felt quite at home in Colonel's company. He frankly told the purpose of his visit. He wanted to "make a hit with the little lady". He told him about his career, his prospects and his little code of conduct. The Colonel made him comfortable by narrating anecdotes and humorous occurrences. Two evenings later, John and Jessie met again on the porch. And finally they got married a year after.

**Q5. Give a character-sketch of Jessie Allyn in your own words highlighting her wonderful understanding of man and matters.**

**Ans:** Jessie Allyn of the story 'Best Seller' is an imitation of Princess Alwynna of "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan". She certainly shows some similarities and resemblances. John A. Pescud met her when he was going to Cincinnati eighteen months ago. John finds her "the finest looking girl" he has ever laid his eyes on. She was the kind of girl one would like to have as his life-partner.

Jessie Allyn shows a wonderful understanding of man's nature and behaviour. She is aware of what John is doing and how he is following her from Cincinnati to Virginia. She keeps her eye on all his activities without letting him know anything. She maintains an affected style and behaviour. She shows herself and her family beyond the reach of commoners like John A. Pescud. She calls her family a "lineal descendant of belted earls". Jessie threatens John not to meet her father otherwise he would feed him to his fox hounds. She even pretends not to talk to him as they were not properly introduced. But suddenly, things come to such a pass that she agrees to marry a commoner. She marries a travelling salesman for a plate-glass company.

**Q6. Justify the title 'Best Seller'. Describe the dramatic irony inherent in the title and the story.**

**Ans:** Irony refers to the use of words to convey a meaning that is opposite of their literal meaning. The title 'Best Seller' is quite ironical. O'Henry is best known for his ironic plot and surprise endings. Here, in the story we have the main character John A. Pescud. He doesn't show any liking or appreciation for the best-sellers of the modern times. The world they create is far removed from reality and real life. He particularly criticises the hero of "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan". Here we find an American falling in love with a royal princess from Europe. He follows her to her father's kingdom. John A. Pescud argues that this doesn't happen in real life. In real life, people marry girls of the same social background and status.

Ironically, John A. Pescud himself turns out to be the 'Best Seller'. He sells a highly romantic and exaggerated version of his life-story to the narrator. He is not at all different from Trevelyan of "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan". The girl Jessie Allyn is nothing less than Princess Alwynna. Her father is a descendant of 'belted earls'. Things move at a fast pace. John meets the Colonel and tells why he is there and what he wants. The Colonel makes him comfortable by narrating anecdotes and amusing occurrences. Finally, John marries Jessie after a year. And John, another version of Trevelyan goes out in search of petunias for his 'princess'. The title is apt, logical but ironical.

Therefore, the irony is that John himself is the 'Best Seller' while he criticises the best-sellers of his times. John talks something but does the opposite. The situation contains an element of dramatic-irony as well

## NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Brook

### Extract Based Questions.(3 Marks each)

Read the extracts given below and answer the following questions: –

**Q.1. T come from haunts of coot and hern;**

**I make a sudden sally**

**And sparkle out among the fern,**

**To bicker down a valley'.**

**(a)Who comes from the haunts of coot and hem ?**

**(b)What does it do among the fern ?**

**(c)Why does the word, 'bicker' mean here ?(Board Term 1,2015 6SOOKQ5)**

**Ans. (a) The brook**

**(b)It shines.**

**(c)Rush quickly**

**Q. 2. I chatter, chatter, as I flow ‘**

**To join the brimming river,**

**For men may come and men may go,**

**But I go on forever.**

**(a)What is the rhyme scheme of the above stanza ?**

**(b)Name the poetic device used in the first line.**

**(c)Explain the meaning of the third and fourth lines. (Board Term 1,2014 NCT-R)**

**Ans. (a) abab.**

**(b)Onomatopoeia/Personification. ,**

**(c)It means that man is mortal but the objects of nature are immortal. (1×3=3)**

**Q. 3. I chatter, chatter as I flow,**

**To join the brimming river,**

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

**(b)Which figure of speech is used in these lines ?**

**(c)What does the expression chatter, chatter indicate ? (Board Term 1,2014 ZEZDXJX)**

**Ans. (a) The Brook.**

**(b)Personification/Onomatopoeia.**

**(c)The continuous crackling flow of the brook. (1×3=3)**

**Q.4, “Till last by Philip’s farm I flow**

**To join the brimming river,**

**For men may come and men may go,**

**But I go on forever.”**

**(a)Where is Philip’s farm situated ?**

**(b)What does the phrase brimming river mean ?**

**(c)Which poetic device is used here ? (Board Term 12013, AGRO-91; 2012, Set-28)**

**Ans. (a) Philip’s farm is situated close to the river into which the brook finally merges.**

**(b)The river is full to the brim; it is overflowing with water.**

**(c)Personification/Refrain. (1×3=3)**

**Q. 5. “I wind about, and in and out,**

**With here a blossom raining,**

**, And here and there a lusty trout,**

**And here and there a grayling.”**

**(a)Name the poem from which the above stanza has been taken.**

**(b)What has been described in the above lines ?**

**(c)What does 'trout and 'grayling' refer to ? (Board Term 12012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** (a) The Brook.

(b)The life of the brook.

(c)Trout and grayling refers to different kinds of fishes. (1×3=3)

**Q. 6. "I chatter over stony ways,**

**In little sharps and trebles,**

**I bubble into eddying bays,**

**I babble on the pebbles."**

**(a)How does the brook move ?**

**(b)What is the mood of the brook as it flows towards the river ?**

**(c)What poetic device has been used in the last two lines ? (Board Term 12012, Set 37)**

**Ans.** (a) The brook moves in swift current with tremendous noise.

(b)The brook is in a joyous mood. It seems to be talking and looking forward to joining the river.

(c)Alliteration. . (1×3=3)

**Q. 7. "I come from haunts of coot and hern,**

**I make a sudden sally ,**

**And sparkle out among the fern To bicker down a valley."**

**(a)Explain: 'I make a sudden sail/.**

**(b)How does the brook sparkle ?,**

**(c)Name a poetic device used in the above lines. (Board Term 12012, Set 38)**

**Ans.** (a) It means that the brook ^merges suddenly.

(b)The brook reflects the sunlight and sparkles.

(c)Alliteration/Personification. (1×3=3)

**Q.8."I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,**

**Among my skimming swallows;**

**I make the netted sunbeam dance Against my sandy shallows."**

**(a)Name the literary device used in this stanza.**

**(b)Why did the swallows touch the surface of the brook ?**

**(c)What do 'slipping', 'sliding', 'glooming' and 'glancing' reflect ? (Board Term 12012, Set 43)**

**Ans.** (a) Alliteration.

(b)The swallows touch the surface of the brook to catch the fish.

(c)All these words reflect the various moods and movements of the brook. (1×3=3)

**Q.9. "I murmur under moon and stars;**

**in brambly wilderness;**

**I linger by my shingly bars;**

**I loiter round my cresses."**

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

**(b)What does the word 'linger' indicate ?**

**(c)When does 'I' murmur ? (Board Term 12012, Set 44)**

**Ans.** (a) The Brook. .

(b)The word 'linger' indicates slow and soft movement.

(c)The brook murmurs while passing through brambly wilderness under the moon and stars. (1×3=3)

### **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)**

**Q.1. Why has the poet used the word 'babble' for 'The Brook' ? (Board Term 12015)**

**Ans.** As the brook moves, its swift current strikes against the pebbles and stones under it, producing a tremendous noise. Thus, the brook seems to be 'talking' as it moves. Also its rapid spiral movement creates spirals of bubbles and it sounds very cheerful.

**Q.2. As a reader of 'The Brook', you feel the music created by the words used in it. You write a diary page appreciating the musical side of the poem. Write the diary page about the musical effect created by the words. (Board Term 12012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The brook's varying movements create an exhilarating musical effect. "Chattering over stony ways" creates the effect of a rhythmic movement combining high and low musical notes. "I steal by lawns" creates a slow, lethargic and rhythmic movement. The "Lingering", "Loitering" movements are followed by speedy "pace, curve and flow". :

**Q. 3. What are the different companions of the brook ? (Board Term 12012, Set 40)**

**Ans.** The brook carries all that comes in its way, from the blossoms to fishes, the sand, pebbles, small stones and all that comes floating by.

**Q. 4. Why have the lines 'For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever' been repeated in the poem several times ? What is the significance of these lines ? (Board Term 12012, Set 41)**

**Ans.** The lines "For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever" have been repeated in the poem several times in order to lay emphasis on the brook being immortal. It is ironical that man is so arrogant though he is merely a mortal.

**Q. 5. How does the poet compare the life of a brook with that of a man ? (Board Term 12012, Set 47)**

**Ans.** The brook flows through the fields and meadows and joins the sea. Similarly, man takes birth, grows old and dies. Men live for a short period but the brook goes on forever.

**Q. 6. What are the different things found floating in the brook ? (Board Term 12010, Set B1 and 2012, Set 46)**

**Ans.** The different things that can be found in the brook are the blossoms, the lusty trout, grayling and the foamy flakes.

**Q. 7. How many hills and bridges does the brook pass during its journey ? (Board Term 12012, Set 49)**

**Ans.** The brook passes through thirty hills and fifty bridges during its journey before it finally joins the brimming river.

**Q. 8. How is the journey of the brook similar to the human life ? (Board Term 12012, Set 32,52)**

**Ans.** The brook is immortal whereas the human life is transient. The brook overcomes all hurdles on the way to its destination whereas the humans are subjected to emotional breakdowns and despair . N

**Q.9. "Tennyson not only describes the beautiful journey of die brook but also comments on the transitory nature of human life." Comment. (Beard Term 12012, Set 53)**

**Ans.** Man's life is not eternal. He takes birth, lives and then dies. For a human being, death marks the end of his life. The brook is immortal. Though the brook merges into a river, it remains ever flowing from its origin.to the point of merger. It goes on forever. .

**Q.10. What is the'refrain' in the poem,'The brook' ? What effect does it create 7 (Board Term 12012, Set 61)**

**Or**  
**What is the symbolic meaning conveyed by 'For men may come and men may go, but I go on forever' ? (Board Term 12010, Set B1)**

**Ans.** The refrain of the poem is 'For men may come and men may go, hut I go on forever'. It shows the transitory . nature of human life and the eternal life of nature. Man is mortal and continues his journey till he meets his death. The brook on the other hand is immortal. It is perennial and flows on till eternity.

**Q. 11. The journey of a brook is eternal and forever. Explain,(Board Term 12012, Set 68)**

**Ans.** The brook has a constant and an eternal journey. It moves on incessantly overcoming all the difficulties that it faces on its way. Though it merges into the sea, it remains ever-flowing from its origin to the point of merger. It is immortal. It goes on forever. •.

**Q. 12. Describe a lesson of life that the brook teaches us. (Board Term 12010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** The brook teaches us that life is full of hurdles but we should not slow down. We must continue ahead keeping our goals in mind. If we do so, we are sure to achieve happiness and fulfilment.

**Q. 13. What is the message given by the brook ? (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**

**Or**  
**What does the poet want to convey through this poem ? (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**

**Ans.** The message given to us by the brook is that man is mortal and the brook immortal. There are many hurdles in life's long journey but we should carry on keeping our goals in mind. '

**Q. 14. Describe four movements that the brook makes during its journey. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** The four movements that the brook makes during its journey are sWift, splaShy bubbly and noSsy.

**Q. 15, How do the expressions 'bicker down', 'hurry down', 'slip between ridges', 'chatter, chatter' help in creating the image of the young river ? (Board Term 12010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** All the expressions suggest energy, enthusiasm, frivolous behaviour that can be associated with a young person- always quarrelling, talking, hurrying, taking short cuts etc. , ,

**Q. 16. flow has the poet given speed and rhythm to his poem 'The Brook' ? (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** The poet has given speed and rhythm to the poem 'The Brook' through the ample use of rhyiming words and onomatopoeic words.

**Q. 17. Describe the brook's journey from thirty hills to the brimming river. (Board Term 12010, Set CI)**

**Ans.** The movement of the brook is swift, splashy, bubbly and noisy on its journey. It passes through 30 hills, ridges, twenty villages, a little town and fifty bridges till finally it joins the brimming river.

### **Long Answer, Typo Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)**

**Q. 1. How does the poem, The Brook, teach the value of generosity, courtesy and benevolence ? Which values out of these do you think are missing and need to be imbibed by our young generation ?**

**(Board Term 1,2015 6SOOKQ5, BR7GWHM)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

•The brook is generous, it deposits silt across its bank throughout the way; it nourishes the soil and prevents soil erosion

•Courteous as it never repels anything but draws everything along.

•Today's generation misses the quality of courtesy above everything else . This needs to be imbibed

**Detailed Answer :** The poet draws a parallelism between the journey of a brook and the humans. The brook is generous. It deposits silt across its bank throughout the way. It nourishes the soil and prevents soil erosion. The brook is also very courteous as it never repels anything, but draws everything along. Just like the journey of the brook, humans also have to pass through various ups and downs in life. Like the brook, we too have to overcome them and move on, forgetting mutual differences. Today's generation misses the quality of courtesy and patience above everything else. This needs to be imbibed.

**Q. 2. What kind of an attitude does the brook reflect in general towards the various situations that it comes across on its journey towards the river ? What message do we get from it ? (Board Term 1,2014 MZPD310)**

**Or**

**Bring out the parallelism between the movement of the brook and the course of human life.(Board Term 1,2014 NCT-R; 2012, Set 56)**

**Ans.** The brook is a symbol of life. The poet has compared the brook's journey with that of human life. Just like a human being, the brook also emerges (takes birth), grows young, becomes old and wise. In its childhood, it is very cheerful. It moves rapidly and swiftly.

In its youth, it is full of strength. It 'frets', 'bickers' and 'chatters' which are symbolic of young age. It is a source of life and support for other living things like fish, blossoms, etc. Then it reaches its old age. Like human beings, it becomes weak and moves slowly. It 'slides' by hazel covers and 'steals' by lawns. Now the brook flows silently. Its ultimate aim is to reach its destination, i.e., the brimming river.

The brook faces and overcomes many difficulties and hurdles in its way. Man should learn a lesson from the brook. He should not lose heart in the face of hurdles, pressures and dangers. He should not be fret and fume in the face of difficulties.

**Q. 3. Obstacles and hurdles are a part and parcel of man's life. Discuss with reference to the poem 'The Brook'.(Board Term 12013, NVZJUD2; EWAJ2JM)**

**Or**

**The brook comes across many hurdles in the course of its journey. Compare its journey with man's life.(Board Term 12012, Set 35)**

**Ans.** The journey of both, the brook and human beings commences with birth. Both have a desire to move forward and explore the world. Neither the life of a man nor the journey of the brook is smooth. Both come across different situations. Just as the brook passes through many ups and downs throughout its journey, man also faces many ups and downs in his life. As man moves forward, he becomes mature and finally his life comes to an end. Similarly, the brook moves forward and its journey ends when it merges in the river. The only difference between the two is that the brook is eternal whereas man's existence is transitory.

**Q. 4. The Brook is a symbol of energy and determination to us. Describe in about 150 words.(Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 64)**

**Ans.** The poem draws a parallel between the journey of the brook and the journey of human life. Similar to the journey of the brook, human life also passes through many ups and downs. The brook passes through many hills, ridges, towns, villages and bridges and reveals its mood by the sound it makes when it moves on. Similarly, man also has to overcome many hurdles and difficulties in life and struggle hard to reach his destination. Neither the life of man nor the journey of the brook is smooth. But, just as the brook goes on undaunted and heads towards its destination, human beings must also go on.

**Q. 5. Write a note on the brook's journey from 'the haunts of coot and hem' to the brimming river in 150 words.(Board Term 12012, Set 50)**

**Ans.** The brook emerges from the places which are frequently visited by water birds like 'coot and hern'. It emerges suddenly to flow down a valley with a lot of noise. During its journey it passes many hills, towns, villages and passes under bridges. It silently crosses both fertile and fallow land, lawns filled with flowers and goes through the wilderness full of thorny bushes. The brook also passes many 'fairy fore lands' which are covered with willow weed and mallow. It flows slowly when it passes the strange places. It then curves and flows to join the brimming river.

**Q.6. Like human beings, brook also has different stages of life. Describe its various stages with suitable examples from the poem 'The Brook'. (Value Based Question) (Board Term 12010, Set A)**

**Ans.** The brook goes through different stages of life as does a human being. In the way a child takes birth, the brook emerges from the haunts of coot and hern. Just like a child, the brook chatters and babbles. It is as energetic as a human being in the initial stages of its life. As human beings work to fulfil their aim in life, the brook's aim is to join the brimming river. Man faces a lot of challenges in life, likewise, the brook takes many twists and turns during its second course.

In the third course, the brook slows down and slips, slides, and finally steals by the lawns and grassy plots. In the same way, in old age, man becomes quiet and understanding.

**Q. 7. Does the title 'The Brook' suit the poem? Comment**

**Ans.** 'The Brook' is an autobiographical poem. The poet has used the poetic device personification in this poem. The brook narrates its journey right from the time it emerges from the 'haunts of coot and hems' to its end which is 'to join the brimming river'. Personification has made this narration quite interesting. The use of words like frets, bicker, chatter bring before us an image of a young angry man, whereas the movement is described by many other beautiful comparisons. The description is very vivid and makes one feel as if the brook is a living thing, narrating the story of its own life. Hence, the title "The Brook" is appropriate.

**Q.8. How has the poet made use of the comparisons in 'The Brook'?**

**Ans.** The lines 'For men may come and men may go, but I go on forever' are very significant. These lines are the refrain of the poem- They depict the striking contrast between the brook whose journey is eternal and never ending and the human life which is transitory and has to come to an end one day or the other. These lines tell that man is mortal, whereas the brook, a symbol of nature, is immortal.

**Q. 9. How is an aura of mystery and magic created in the poem? (HOTS)**

**Ans.** The brook enjoys a long journey. It emerges from the place which is frequently visited by water birds. From there it flows down the valley and through towns. On its way it creates a lot of noise while crossing stony paths and fields. Sometimes, the brook moves in a zig-zag manner. It's a source of life for the fish and flowers. The water in it is so transparent that its bottom is clearly visible. The sunbeams also seem to dance on it. When passing through thorny wilderness, it just murmurs. When the brook originates it flows rapidly but gradually it slows down. It has only one thought in its mind and that is to join the river which it finally meets at Philip's farm and becomes one with the river. The description of its journey and the places it passes by, like many a 'fairy foreland' give the poem its aura of mystery and magic.

**Q. 10. What is the central idea of the poem? Describe. (HOTS)**

**Ans.** The central idea or the theme of the poem is the comparison between the eternal, continuous and never-ending journey of the brook and the transitoriness of a man's life.

The brook overcomes many hurdles and struggles throughout its journey and keeps on moving. It never stops. Similarly, human beings also have to face many ups and downs. They should not accept defeat, but must go on like the brook.

One must keep on moving towards one's goal and reach, their destination.

# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/> How I Taught My Grandmother to Read

### Extract Based Questions

**Q.1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: "It is the story of an old lady and her ardent desire to go to Kashi or Varanasi."**

(a) Whom does 'it' refer to ?

(b) Describe the character of the old lady on the basis of above mentioned lines.

**Ans.** (a) It's meter to the novel kashiyatre

(b) The old lady was kind and helpful.

(c) Ardent means very passionate.

**Q.2. "At times, I used to regret not going: to school, so I made sure that my children and grand children studied well".**

(a) Who is the speaker of these lines?

(b) What did the speaker regret ?

(c) What did the speaker decide to do ? (Board Term 12013, NVZJUD2; 2012, Set 34)

**Ans.** (a) Awa, the grandmother.

(b) The speaker regretted not being educated in childhood.

(c) Awa decided to educate her children and grand children well. (1×3 = 3)

**Q.3. "I felt so very dependent and helpless\* We ate well—off: but what use of money when I cannot be independent**

(a) Who is the speaker of these lines ?

(b) When did the speaker feel so very 'dependent and helpless'?

(c) By 'independent' the speaker here means. (Board Term 12012, Set 28)

**Ans.** (a) The grandmother.

(b) When the speaker had gone for a wedding in the neighbouring village her grandmother opened the magazine, looked at the pictures but was unable to read anything. It was at this moment that she felt dependent and helpless and understood the value of literacy.

(c) To be able to read and write and to be literate represents actual independence. (1×3 = 3)

**Q.4. "But I knew I loved her immensely and there had to be some reason why she was talking to me. I looked at her**

**face. It was unhappy and her eyes were filled with tears."**

(a) Who is 'V' and 'she' in the above extract ?

(b) Why did the grandmother want to talk with the narrator ?

(c) Why was grandmother unhappy ? (Board Term 12012, Set 37)

**Ans.** (a) 'I' is the narrator, Sudha Murthy and 'she' is the grandmother.

(b) The grandmother was feeling distressed, so she wanted to tell her granddaughter about her inability to read.

(c) The grandmother was unhappy because she felt helpless and dependent due to her inability to read. She regretted that she didn't go to school. (1×3 = 3)

**Q. 5. "The amount of homework she did was amazing. She would read, repeat, write and recite.**

(a) Who is 'she' in the above lines ? What 'homework' is being talked about there ?

(b) Why was she so keen on doing the homework ?

**Ans.** (a) 'She' is Avva, the grandmother. The homework is the practice of reading repeatedly, writing and reciting

(b) She was keen because she wanted to learn how to read and write so that she could be independent. She had fixed

(c) The extract shows her willpower and strong determination.

**Q.6. "When I came back to my village, I saw my grandmother in tears. I was surprised, for I had never seen her cry even in the most difficult situations."**

(a) Who is T in the above extract ? Where did she/he return from ?

(b) Why was the grandmother in tears ?

(c) What does the last line of the extract tell you about the grandmother's character ?

**(Board Term 12012, Set 41) (1×3 = 3)**

**Ans.** (a) Sudha Murthy is T in the extract. She returned from a neighbouring village after attending the marriage.

(b) Grandmother was in tears as she realized how helpless and dependent she was due to her inability to read.

(c) The last line of the extract indicates that she was determined and strong and had taken life as it came.

**Q.7."Childishly I made fun of the old lady. But she just smiled."**

**(a) Who made fun of the old lady ?**

**(b) Why did the speaker make fun of the old lady ?**

**(c) Why did the old lady smile ? (Board Term 12012, Set 44) (1×3 = 3)**

**Ans.** (a) The granddaughter made fun of the old lady. ,

(b) The narrator made fun of the old lady because she wanted to learn the alphabet at the age of 62.

(c) The old lady smiled because she had confidence. She believed that for learning, age was no bar.

**Q.8."I felt so very dependent and helpless. We are well off but what use of money when I cannot be independent,"**

**(a) Who is T in these lines ?**

**(b) Why did she feel dependent ?**

**(c) What does the phrase 'well off' mean ? (Board Term 12012, Set 46) (1×3 = 3)**

**Ans.** (a) The grandmother.

(b) She felt dependent because she was illiterate.

(c) Well off means prosperous. ;

### **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)**

**Q. 1. What were the gifts exchanged between the granddaughter and grandmother ?**

**Ans. Value Points:**

Grandmother gifted her a frock material-granddaughter gifted her the Kashi Yatre-novel.(CBSE Marking & Scheme 2015)

**Detailed Answer:**

The Grandmother gifted her granddaughter a frock material and touched her feet as a sign of respect. The narrator gave her the novel-Kashi Yatre as a gift.

**Q. 2. How did the granddaughter react to her grandmother's request to teach her to read ? (Board Term 1,2015 6SOOKQ5,2014 FROK4WI)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

At first made fun of her – age bar – seeing her grandmother's determination to overcome illiteracy – started teaching her in earnest (CBSE Marking scheme 2014),

**Detailed Answer:**

When the grandmother requested the granddaughter to teach her to read at first, she made fun of her. She wouldn't understand why at the age of sixty-two her grandmother had resolved to read and write. Then seeing her determination to overcome all obstacles she (granddaughter) started teaching her in earnest.

**Q. 3. Why did the grandmother depend on her granddaughter to know the story of 'Kashi Yatre' ? (Board Term 1,2014 ZEZXJX) Or**

**Why did the grandmother feel so helpless when her granddaughter went to attend a marriage ? (Board Term 1,2012 Set 40)**

**Why was the grandmother upset when her granddaughter went to attend the wedding ?**

**(Board Term 1,2010 Set CI)**

**Ans.** As the grandmother was illiterate, she was unable to read the next episode of 'Kashi Yatre'. She felt embarrassed at asking the villagers to read it for her. So she felt miserable and dependent without her granddaughter.

**Q.4. Who was Triveni ? What made her popular ? (Board Term 1,2014 NCT-JR)**

**Or**

**What made Triveni a popular writer ? (Textual) (Board Term 1-2012, Set 54)**

**Or**

**"Even after 40 years, people continue to appreciate Triveni's novels" In the light of this remark what makes Triveni a popular writer ? (Board Term 1, 2010, Set CI)**

**Ans.** Triveni wrote in the Kannada language. Her writing style was easy and had the power to convince the readers. Her stories were inspired from real life and were interesting. The readers can relate themselves with the characters in the stories as her stories were related to the lives of the ordinary people.

**Q. 5. What were the circumstances which made the grandmother realize the importance of education ? Why had the grandmother not gone to school ? (Board Term 1,2013, XITIMG7)**

Or

**What incident made the grandmother realize the importance of education ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 49,53)**

**Ans.** Like other villagers/the grandmother was also fond of the weekly magazine, 'Karmaveera'. As she was not educated, she was dependent on her granddaughter to read that magazine for her. In her granddaughter's absence, she could not read the next episode of 'Kashi Yatre'. She felt embarrassed at asking the villagers to read it for her. This incident made her realize the importance of education. The grandmother had never gone to school because she was born in an era when education of the women folk was not given much importance.

**Q. 6. How had the narrator planned to surprise her grandmother ? How was she herself surprised ?(Board Term 1,2012, Set 35)**

**Ans.** The narrator had planned to surprise her grandmother by gifting her a copy of the novel, 'Kashi Yatre'. The narrator was herself surprised when her grandmother touched her feet to show a mark of respect to the Guru.

**Q.7. What message does the story 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read' convey ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 39)**

**Ans.** The story 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read' conveys that there is no age bar for learning. One can learn at any age, provided she/he has a strong will power and determination.

**Q. 8. Why did Krishtakka want her children to study well ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 58)**

**Ans.** Krishtakka was not only the narrator's grandmother but also her student. She had a great zeal to learn to read Kannada and to become independent. She wanted to overcome her inability to read. She had been born in an era when education for women was not given much importance. Later, she understood the importance of education in life and thus, wanted her children to study well.

**Q. 9. The novel 'Kashi Yatre' had a great impact on the narrator. Explain. (Board Term 1,2012, Set 60)**

Or

**Which aspect of the serial 'Kashi Yatre' appealed to the grandmother ? (Board Term 1,2010, Set B2)**

**Ans.** Grandmother had a keen interest in the novel 'Kashi Yatre'. She identified herself with the protagonist whose ardent desire to visit Kashi and sacrifice for others had a great impact on the narrator.

**Q. 10. Why was the grandmother so keen on doing the homework ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 62)**

**Ans.** The grandmother was keen on doing the homework because she wanted to become literate. She found her illiteracy to be a one, handicap for her. She wanted to be independent and self-reliant.

**Q. 11. "Awa or the narrator's grandmother was a wonderful student". Justify with the help of the story.(Board Term 1,2012, Set 63)**

Or

**How was Awa a wonderful student ? (Board Term 1,2010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** At the age of sixty-two, Awa resolved to learn the Kannada alphabets which was highly appreciable. She did a great amount of homework. She would untiringly read, repeat, write and recite which was amazing.

**Q. 12. "Krishtakka was illiterate but a very intelligent learner". Explain. (Board Term 1,2012, Set 68)**

**Ans.** Though illiterate, grandmother was a very intelligent lady. She could reproduce the entire story after reading it. She made-up her mind to learn to read and write at the age of sixty two and she did it very successfully.

**Q.13. The grandmother in the story 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read' was a very determined woman, yet at the same time very emotional. Justify. (Board Term 1,2012, Set 72)**

**Ans.** The grandmother was determined to learn how to read. She worked hard with strong determination in order to achieve her target before the deadline she had set for herself. After she had accomplished her desire, she expressed her gratitude to her granddaughter. She touched the little girl's feet because she felt it was her duty to pay respect to her teacher irrespective of the gender and age. The grandmother seemed to be very emotional when she told the story of her life to her, granddaughter. .

**Q. 14. The grandmother touched the feet of her granddaughter. How did she justify this gesture of hers ?(Value Based Question) (Board Term 1,2010, Set 64)**

**Ans.** It is a part of our culture that we touch the feet of God, elders and teachers as a mark of respect. But the grandmother touched the feet of her granddaughter. She justified the gesture by saying that she had not touched the feet of her little granddaughter but that she had given respect to the teacher who had taught her so well that she became literate.

**Q.15. In the lesson 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read' more than anybody else grandmother was interested in knowing about the latest episode of 'Kashi Yatre'. Why was she so much interested in it**

**?(Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** She was interested as it was the story of an old lady and her ardent desire to go to Kashi and worship Lord Vishweshwara which is considered to be the ultimate punya. The story is of her straggle to go there. The grandmother identified herself with the protagonist as she too had not been to Kashi.

**Q.16. How did Triveni, the writer capture the imagination of the readers ? (Board Term 12010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** Triveni, the popular writer, dealt with complex psychological problems in the lives of the ordinary people. The readers could associate themselves with the characters in her story and hence, followed them.

**Q. 17. What major Hindu belief did Triveni revolve her story around ? (Board Term 12010, Set A2)**

**Ans.** Most Hindus believe that going to Kashi and worshipping Lord Vishweshwara is the ultimate punya. Her story revolved around this desire, which is in the heart of every Hindu.

**Q. 18. What circumstances forced Sudha Murthy to become a teacher at the young age of twelve ?(Board Term 12010, Set B1)**

**Ans.** The grandmother's realization of her shortcoming, ha- firm resolution to empower herself and her faith in Sudha's ability to teach her made Sudha a teacher at a young age.

**Q. 19. How did Triveni's death leave a void in Kannada literature ? (Board Term 12010, Set C1)**

**Ans.** Triveni was a popular writer who wrote in an easy style and convincing manner She touched the lives of ordinary people by dealing with issues close to their lives. Thus, her early demise left a void in Kannada literature.

**Q. 20. Which aspect of the serial 'Kashi Yatre' appealed to the grandmother ? (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**

**Ans.** The aspect of the serial 'Kashi Yatre' which appealed to the grandmother was the protagonist's desire to go to Kashi and sacrifice her happiness for others.

**Q. 21. Do you think that the grandmother was really impressed or influenced by the Kannada writer Triveni ? Why or why not ? (Board Term 12010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** Yes, she associated herself with the main character of 'Kashi Yatre'.

**Q. 22. What is the theme of the novel 'Kashi Yatre' ? (Value Based Question) (Board Term 12010, Set A2)**

**Ans.** The novel describes the travails of an old lady and her deep yearning to undertake the much-cherished and arduous journey to Kashi. She ultimately sacrifices even her deepest desire in order to help an orphan girl. Thus, it is a story of yearning, struggle and sacrifice.

**Q. 23. What was the name of the magazine in which 'Kashi Yatre' appeared ? How often did the villagers receive it? (Board Term 12010, Set C1)**

**Ans.**The name of the magazine was 'Karmaveera'. The villagers received it once a week.

**Q. 24. Could the grandmother succeed in accomplishing her desire to read ? How ? (Textual)**

**Ans.** Grandmother had a keen desire to read. To achieve success in her desire, she worked very hard. She read, repeated, wrote and recited, i.e., she did everything that the lesson demanded. Her capacity to do the homework was 'amazing'. She showed that there is no age-bar for learning.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)**

**Q.1. "All times, I used to regret not going to school, so I made sure that my children and grandchildren study well. "With reference to Krishtakka's saying, do you agree that one understands the importance of something that one does not have in one's life ? What does it reflect about the character and values of the speaker ? (Board Term 12014, FROK4WD (Value Based Question)**

**Ans. Value points;**

- Always insisted on studying learning.
- Realized the importance of education, especially where she found herself to be completely dependent on her granddaughter.
- Granddaughter/despite being a girl was made literate by her grandmother keeping in mind the void she had felt in her life all along.
- Grandmother – quite radical, liberal, modern in making her children and grand children literate When she herself had been the victim of society's restriction.

**Detailed Answer :**

One understands the importance of something only, when it is not present in one's life. Due to society's restrictions, Krishtakka could not study at the right age. But she always missed studying and learning. She realized the importance of education, especially when she found herself to be completely dependent on her granddaughter. She felt helpless when she couldn't read 'Karmaveera'. She made her granddaughter literate despite her being a girl. She did so keeping in mind the void she had felt in her life all along. We can call the grandmother quite radical, liberal and

modern in making her children and grandchildren literate when she herself had been the victim of society's restrictions.

**Q. 2. "I will keep Saraswati Pooja day during Dussehra as the deadline," says the grandmother. What does this statement reflect about the speaker? What is the importance of being determined and punctual in our day-to-day life? (Board Term 12014 MZPD310)**

**Ans.** Grandmother was an old lady of sixty-two. She decided that she would learn to read so that she would become independent. She had set a deadline for herself and was determined to achieve it. Her willpower helped her to succeed in learning how to read. She believed that for learning, age is never an obstacle and she proved it right. Both determination and punctuality can take us a long way towards our destination. They provide us with the motivation to fight difficulties and overcome hurdles.

**Q. 3. "The narrator felt happy that her student, her grandmother had passed with flying colours".**

**Comment. (Board Term 12013, EWAJ2JM),**

**Ans. Value Points:**

Grandmother was able to read the Kannada alphabets by the date. She could read the first page of the book gifted to her by granddaughter (CBSE Marking Scheme 2013) 4

**Detailed Answer:**

Krishtakka proved to be a wonderful student. She read, repeated, wrote and recited all her lessons with great enthusiasm and concentration. Despite her age, the amount of work the grandmother did was amazing. On the day of the Dussehra festival, when she gifted her teacher (the narrator) with a frock material, the narrator also gave the grandmother a copy of 'Kashi Yatre' which by that time had been published in the form of a novel. When the grandmother read the novel, 'Kashi Yatre' and the author's name, TMveni as well as the publisher's name; the narrator's joy knew no bounds and she knew that her student had passed with flying colours.

**Q. 4. Education is important for all—young and old alike. Discuss, with reference to 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read'. (Board Term 12013, XtTIMGT) (Value Based Question)**

**Ans.** I do agree that, 'Education is important for all—young and old alike'. Many instances can be cited in support of this statement. Although the grandmother was unlettered and unschooled, she realized the importance of reading and took a keen interest in literature. Secondly, she was fully aware of the drawback of being an illiterate. So she made it a point to ensure that her children and grandchildren studied well. She herself resolved to learn to read and write at the age of sixty-two so that she could be independent. It was all because she knew well that an educated person does not have to depend on others. Education helps one to gain confidence and opens the door for new opportunities. •

**Q. 5. The old lady in 'Kashi Yatre', Sudha Murthy's grandmother and Sudha herself share some common values of characters. What values are they? How are they important for our contemporary society? (Board Term 12013, AGRO-91)**

**Ans.** The principal character of 'Kashi Yatre' had an ardent desire to go to Kashi. The grandmother had a similar wish.

She identified herself with the protagonist of the novel and followed her story with great interest. Both have a : compassionate nature and the spiritual learning; Both are the epitome of love, determination, willpower and dedication. The narrator, Sudha herself is a twelve year old girl and has developed a bond with her grandmother. She too is sincere and hard working. As a loving teacher, she gifts her student 'Kashi Yatre'. She too is caring and respects the feelings of her grandmother. Thus, all the three characters leave a permanent impression of dedication, sacrifice and love on the reader's mind, , ; .

**Q.6. Imagine you are Krishtakka and you have achieved the goal that you had set before yourself. Write a letter to one of your nephews telling him about your achievement in about 150 words. (Board Term 1,2012, Set 40)**

**Ans.** Murthy Villa

Karnataka –

26th November, 20xx

Dear Ramanatham,

How are you? I am fine here! I wanted to share my experience of learning how to read at this age. It is a dream come true for me. I am unable to express my joy for being able to read and write. Now I am not dependent on 'anyone'.

I realized the importance of reading when I could not read 'Kashi Yatra' in the absence of Sudha. I felt handicapped and dependent at that time. It was then that I decided to learn to read and write. I set myself a target-date. With my strong will power and determination and undoubtedly with Sudha's diligent labour, I achieved my target 3 before

Saraswati Pooja on Dussehra. ± ;

Today, I am able to read quite well. I shall always be indebted to Sudha. She has helped me realize my goal and raised my self-esteem.

Do write soon Yours affectionately,

Krishtakka

**Q.7. What made the narrator's grandmother identify herself with the old lady of the novel 'Kashi Yatre'?(Board Term 12012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The principal character of 'Kashi Yatre' had an ardent desire to go to Kashi and worship Lord Vishweshwara. The grandmother had a similar wish as it was a popular belief that worshipping Lord Vishweshwara in Kashi was the ultimate punya.

In the story, there was an orphan girl, who wanted to marry but had no money. The old lady gave all the money she had saved for her Kashi visit to the girl. This act of sacrificing pleased the grandmother the most. She identified herself with the protagonist of the novel and followed her story with great interest. Her compassionate nature and the spiritual learning endeared her to the grandmother.

**Q. 8. Suppose you are Sudha Murthy. Write a letter to your friend telling her how and why you taught your grandmother to read. (150 words) (Board Term 12012, Set 38; 2010, Set C1)**

**Ans.** Murthy Villa, ,

Karnataka.

26th April 20xx

Dear Asha .

You will be glad to know that I've taught my grandmother to read. I wanted to share my experience of helping my grandmother become literate with you.

You know, granny was very fond of the novel 'Kashi Yatre'. She would listen with great interest and full concentration when I would read out the story to her. Thereafter, she would discuss the story with her friends. However, when I came to visit you last month, there was no one whom she could ask to read out the story for her. She felt disappointed as she was illiterate. The reason behind her illiteracy is not lack of interest but the fact that people in those days did, not give much importance to girl's education. On her request, I taught her the Kannada alphabet. Now she is able to read as well as write. Really it is very satisfying to teach others. You too should try it. \*

Reply soon to my letter.

Your friend,

Sudha . ,

**Q. 9. Suppose you are the grandmother. How did you feel when your granddaughter gave you the novel 'Kashi Yatre' to read ? Write about your feelings in your diary in about 150 words. (Board Term 12012, Set 43,42)**

**Ans.** 10, Saturday, December 20xx

Dear Diary,

I am feeling more confident and free today. I have become independent. I no longer feel embarrassed due to my dependence on others for reading. I can read well as I realized my shortcomings and worked hard to overcome them.

Sudha is a wonderful teacher. She has been my guiding light. She helped me in transforming my personality. I , accomplished my task in time- Sudha has gifted me the novel 'Kashi Yatre' as a mark of respect and appreciation. I was both thrilled and delighted to receive the novel in front of everyone. She has raised my self-esteem. My heart's desire to be able to read has been fulfilled and I shall ever be indebted to Sudha for it. I am full of gratitude and blessings for her. This is a gift. I shall always cherish.

Good Night Diary.

**Q.10. Compare and contrast the character of the grandmother with Juliette. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans. Grandmother**

The grandmother in the story 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read' is a sixty-two year old lady. She enjoyed listening to 'Kashi Yatre' as she related herself with the protagonist. She is very loving and affectionate towards her grandchildren. She decides to learn how to read and write and sets Saraswati Puja day as the deadline. She is very humble. This can be seen from the fact that she touches her granddaughter's feet to show her respect, as her granddaughter has taught her how to read. She is very enthusiastic about reading, diligent and works very hard.

**Juliette**

She is a fickle-minded young woman.' She changes her mind too often. When she decides to sell the Villa, she

wants more money for it than it is worth. This shows that she is very greedy. When she sees the potential buyers Jeanne and Gaston; her cleverness comes to the fore. She flatters the lady hoping to impress them. She is keen on maintaining appearances. She needs money but refuses to work to earn it. ‘

**Q. 11. You are Krishtakka. Write a letter to Triveni, the popular IJ\$\$\$K telling her why you like ‘Kashi Yatre’ and how it motivated you to read.(Board Term 12010, Set BI)**

**Ans.** Murthy Villa,  
Karnataka

26th May, 20x x

Dear THveniJi,

I wish to thank you for the way, unknowingly, you have;bkipi\$| about a change in my life. I am an avid reader of your novel ‘Kashi Yatre’.

My granddaughter would read out the weekly episode to me. I enjoyed the story as I could identify myself with the novel’s main character, an old woman who did not go to Kashi as she had sacrificed her savings for the or-phan girl’s marriage. w .

When my granddaughter was away, I could not find out what was going on in the story as there was no one whp could read it for me. I then decided that I too would learn how to read. With her help, I soon learnt the Kannada alphabet, and now am able to read quite well. . .

All this would not have happened, and I would have remained illiterate, if you had not written such interesting and inspiring stories.

Thanking you once again.

Yours sincerely,  
Krishtakka

**Q. 12. The writer’s grandmother is convinced that age is no bar when it comes to learning. She wantsto convey the same message to her friends. Write a speech in about iS& words to be delivered by the grandmother conveying this most important message to her friends in the’t\$feple courtyard. (Value Based Question)**

**Ans.** Dear friends, good evening. I want to stress upon you that age is no bar when it comes to learning. I was born at a time when it was not necessary to educate the girls. I got married when I was quite young and had children at a very young age. I became busier with the coming of my grandchildren. Like other people, I too was fond of ‘Kashi Yatre’. Since I could not read, my granddaughter read it aibud for me but her week long absence made me realize my dependence on her. It was then that I decided to team Kannada. I set Saraswati Fooja during Dussehra festival as my deadline^ I put in a lot of hard work. My granddaughter proved to be a good teacher. She undertook the task of making a 62 year old woman literate. 1 achieved the target I had set for myself. There is nothing impossible, you just need strong willpower and determination to make it possible.

Thank you.

**Q. 13. Give a character-sketch of the grandmother.**

**Ans.** The Grandmother was an old lady of sixty-two. She was uneducated as she had never been to school. She regretted her illiteracy when her granddaughter went to attend a wedding ceremony. At that moment, she felt helpless and dependent as she could not read ‘Karmaveera’ on her own. She didn’t know how to read. This incident brought a change in her life. She decided that slie wbuld learn to read so that she would become independent. Her will power arid firm determination helped her and she succeeded in learning to read. She believed that ‘for learning, age is never an obstacle’ and she proved it right. She was a traditional lady who believed in touching the feet of God, elders and teachers; that’s why, on Dussehra festival, she touched the feet of her granddaughter as a mark of respect towards her teacher. TcvsUm up, she was an affectionate lady with great will-power and firm-determination.

\* “”V

# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Road Not Taken

### Extract Based Questions (3 Marks each)

**Q.1.** “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could”

(a) Name the poem and the poet of above extract.

(b) What does the poet mean by ‘yellow wood’ ?

(c) He could not travel both the roads, why ?

**Ans.** (a) The poem is ‘The Road Not Taken’, and the poet is Robert Frost.

(b) ‘Yellow wood’ means the decomposing leaves and the autumn season.

(c) Being an individual, the poet could not travel two roads at the same time.

**Q. 2.** “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both And by one traveller, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth”;

(a) What does the yellow wood mean ?

(b) Why does the poet stand long ?

(c) What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza ?

**Ans.** (a) Yellow wood refers to the decomposing leaves and the autumn season.

(b) The poet was in a dilemma about which road to take. Both the roads were equally worn and were covered with leaves.

(c) abaab. (1×3=3)

**Q. 3.** “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood.

And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveller, long I stood : And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth.”

(a) Name the poem and the poet of these lines. 1

(b) Why did the poet look down as far as he could ?

(c) What do the roads represent in these lines ? (Board Term 12012, Set 49)

**Ans.** (a) The poem is ‘The Road Not Taken’ and the poet is Robert Frost.

(b) The poet is at a point where he cannot travel on both the roads and has to make a decision. He looks down as far as he can to help him make the decision.

(c) The roads represent the choices that one has to take in life. (1×3=3)

**Q. 4.** “And both that morning equally lay,

In leaves no step had trodden black, .

Oh, I kept the first for another day!

Yet knowing how way leads on to way .

I doubted if I should ever come back.”,

(a) Who does ‘both’ refer to ?

(b) Why does the poet doubt his coming back ?

(c) Why would the poet like to come back ? (Board Term 12012, Set 52)

**Ans.** (a) ‘Both’ refers to the two roads.

(b) The poet doubts his coming back because one path would lead to another path.

(c) The poet would like to come back to travel on the road not taken. (1×3=3)

### Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)

**Q.1.** ‘The Road Not Taken’ is a poem of all times. Comment on it. (Board Term 1,2015 BR7GWHM)

**Ans. Value Points:**

The poem is relevant for all times as everyone faces dilemmas at every step in life and they have to take decisions. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

**Detailed Answer:** The poem is relevant for all times as everyone faces dilemmas at every step in life. We have to face the difficulty of making a choice in life. One should move on without looking back or thinking whether it was a right choice or not.

**Q. 2.** In the poem “The Road Not Taken”, where is the poet and what does he see in front of him ? (Board Term 12015, 6SOOKQ5)

**Ans. Value Points:**

The poet was in a forest and he saw a road dividing into two in front of him leading into the forest(CBSEMaflldrtgScheme;2015)

**Detailed Answer:** Robert Frost came across a path which diverged into two roads. One road is less trodden and full of challenges, while the other is a beaten track without any difficulty.

**Q. 3. Which road does Robert Frost choose and why ? (Board Term 12014, NCT-R; 2013, AGRO-91; 2012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** Robert Frost comes across a path which diverges into two roads. One road is less trodden and full of challenges while the other is a beaten track without any difficulties. He chooses the road which is less travelled by the people, because, it is more inviting and the poet is adventurous by nature and loves to take challenges.

**Q. 4. How is a road a metaphor ? Use examples from the poem 'The Road Not Taken' to support your answer.(Board Term 12014, MZPD310)**

**Bring out the symbolism in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.(Board Term 12012, Set 72)**

**Ans.** The poem is concerned with a choice made between the two roads. The poet tells himself that he will explore one and then come back and explore the other, but he knows that he will probably be unable to do so. The poem is about something more than the choice of paths in a wood, for that choice might be relatively unimportant. We interpret his choice of a road as a symbol for any choice in life between alternatives that appear almost equally attractive. Through the years, however, we come to find that the choices we make and the paths we choose, will make a difference in our lives.

**Q. 5. The final stanza in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' starts 'with a sigh'. Why ? (Board Term 12013, NVZJUD2)**

**Ans.** The final stanza in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' starts 'with a sigh'. It is a sigh of relief and satisfaction. The poet is satisfied with all that has happened in his life and the position that he is in. It is a sigh of relief that on that day he had taken the 'road less travelled by' and 'that has made all the difference.'

**Q. 6. The title 'The Road Not Taken' is an appropriate title for the poem. Comment. (Board Term 12013, PNZTXU9)**

Or

**Justify the title, The Road Not Taken. (Board Term 12012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** The title brings out the theme of the poem in which every person at some stage of his life comes across situation where he has to make a choice. The decision taken to do things differently makes one stand out of the crowd. The title is figurative as the roads symbolize the dilemmas of life. The title "The Road Not Taken' is fully justified.

**Q. 7. "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood." What do the two roads indicate here ? What was the poet's dilemma? (Board Term 12012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** The two roads indicate the choices one makes in life. The poet has presented the dilemma that one goes through while taking a decision regarding one's future. Man faces such dilemma as he is afraid of making the wrong choice which could have far reaching consequences. Man, therefore, takes a less risky and acceptable decision.

**Q. 8. What is the theme of the poem 'The Road Not Taken'? (Board Term 12012, Set 40)**

**Ans.** The theme of the poem is that one should accept the challenges in his life. Man should dare to walk on the untrodden path and take risk. Tough challenges have far reaching consequences. They can change a person's life.

**Q. 9. Why did the poet leave the first road ? (Board Term 12012, Set 46)**

**Ans.** The poet leaves the first road that is well trodden and chooses the one that is less travelled by'. It is the second road that is full of challenges. It is this road that would make him stand out and that has 'made all the difference'.

**Q. 10. The poet says, 'I took the one less travelled by and that has made all the difference'. What is the difference that the poet mentions ? (Board Term 12012, Set 56)**

**Ans.** The poet says that it was his choice of that particular road which has shaped his life. The poet adopts the less travelled path and faces problems. But later, he achieved both success and fame as a famous poet in America as well as in his own country, England. He stands out in the crowd today as a result of his tough decision.

**Q. 11. What conflict does the poet face in "The Road Not Taken" ? (Board Term 12012, Set 60)**

Or

**What dilemma did the speaker face in the poem "The Road Not Taken" ? (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**

**Ans.** The conflict that the poet faces is to choose one of the two, roads and whether his decision would be the right one.

One road is less trodden, adventurous and full of challenges, while the other road is more trodden upon. It is a beaten track which is easy and without any difficulties.

**Q. 12. In the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', why did the poet feel like travelling both the roads ?(Board Term 12012, Set 62)**

**Ans.** Once, the poet came across a junction when his path diverged into two. One road was well trodden upon while the other road was grassy as less people had travelled on it. He felt like travelling both the roads because he was not sure of the outcome of his choice. He wanted to have an experience of both the situations.

**Q. 13. What do the two roads symbolize in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' ? (Board Term 12012, Set 63)**

**Or**

**What does the road symbolize in the poem ? How much important is it to take the right 'road' in life ?(Board Term 12010, Set BI)**

**Ans.** The two roads symbolize the choices that one has to make in life. It is very important to make the right choice because we can never retrace our path and go back. One road would lead on to another and there is no coming back. ,

**Q. 14. The poet kept the other road for another day. Was he able to travel back on that road ? Explain.(Board Term 12012, Set 70)**

**Ans.** The author had kept the other road for some other time. He could never come back as the road he took led to other roads. Each road taken would have something new for him to explore. There was no coming back to that road again. .

**Q. 15. "Robert Frost did not feel dejected and disappointed on choosing the second road." Justify the statement with suitable examples from the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. (Board Term 12010, Set AI)**

**Ans.** The poet leaves a sigh of relief on having made this choice. Repetition of T shows his sense of pride in exercising , his individualism and his saying that it has made all the difference.

**Q. 16. What makes the narrator's choice difficult in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'. (Board Term 12010, Set BI)**

**Ans.** One road is frequently travelled by people. It is a known, beaten track which seems to be safe. The second road appears to be a less travelled one and full of challenges. That is why it is a difficult choice.

**Q. 17. What message does Robert Frost give to his readers through his poem 'The Road Not Taken'.(Board Term 12010, Set CI)**

**Ans.** It shows us that one should be ^villing to exercise one's individualism. One should not follow the crowd but be different from others. We should accept challenges and be ready to take risks in order to succeed in life.

**Q. 18. What does the choice made by the poet indicate about his personality in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' ?(Board Term 12010, Set AI)**

**Ans.** The poet chose the road less travelled by. This indicates that he believes in charting his own path in life rather than doing what others expect him to do. He is adventurous and loves to take risks in life. He wants to stand out in the crowd.

**Q. 19. Why did the poet doubt his coming back on the same intersection in life ? (Board Term 12010, Set CI)**

**Ans.** The poet is pragmatic enough to know that one way leads to another, meaning that life moves on, retracing one's ] steps is not in the nature of things. The choices made today will mark his life later through the years.

**Q. 20, According to the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', what Robert Frost would tell after a period of time ? Why ?(Board Term 12010, Set AI)**

**Ans.** According to the poem, 'The Road Not Taken', the poet would be telling with a 'sense of sigh', that he took the road 'less travelled by' and that has made all the difference. It is only by taking challenges that one can become successful in life. Following the crowd will not make you stand out.

**Q. 21. What message does the poem 'The Road Not Taken' give us ?**

**Ans.** The poet conveys a very important message in this poem. He tells us that man comes across many situations when he has to take a decision which sometimes can be crucial.

We must make the right choice by keeping in mind that 'opportunity knocks only once'.

### Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)

**Q. 1. What would you like to become in life ? Would you follow the crowd or choose a destination which would be exemplary for others. Give reasons for your answer taking hints from the poem 'The Road Not Taken'.(Board Term 12013, PNZTXU9)**

**Ans.** I would like to make my individualistic choice that would help me to choose a destination which would be exemplary for others. It is true that every person faces a dilemma in life. He comes across the problem of making

choices in life. The important thing is how the decisions are taken. The road is symbolic of the opportunities that come in our life and compel us to take the right decision. The divergence of the road is symbolic of the dilemma we face in life when one is caught in a problem. The choices have to be made thoughtfully and wisely. Adventurous people take the less travelled path. All these choices decide their future. Their life is affected by these choices as the step once taken cannot be retraced.

**Q. 2. Imagine Robert Frost writes a letter to his friend Tom Hawkins about the factors that helped him to decide on what to do next in life and why he chose to be adventurous and different from others. Write the letter in about 150 words. (Board Term 12012, Set 57)**

**Ans.** Robert house

Washington 23th September, 1957

Dear Tom,

Hope you are in the best of spirits.

A time comes in the life of every man when he has to make a difficult and an important choice. The decision taken can prove to be wrong, but the decision has to be made as the choice made affects one's future prospects. I too came across such a junction in my life when I had to choose between poetry and teaching in school. I gave a serious thought to each road. I was well aware of the fact that my life was affected by the choice I would make because the step once taken cannot be retraced. Finally, I chose the less travelled path as I am adventurous by nature and also because I want to be different from others. I took the risk of shifting my family to England to promote my professional interest. I am grateful to God that my choice was right. I employed traditional patterns to write poems. Today, I stand out in the crowd. I am among one of the country's best loved poets. I am a well known and an acknowledged poet today.

With lots of love,

Robert Frost –

**Q. 3. Does the speaker seem happy about his decision ? (Board Term 12012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** The poet is in an indecisive state. He is assailed by doubts concerning his choice. He is well aware of the fact that if his choice turns out to be misplaced, there will be no going back. He also has a feeling that his choice might be crowned with success. ,

The unknown is not always a risky business. It might open the door to success too, as it happened in the case of the poet himself. Being adventurous by nature, he decides to plunge into the unknown. He seems happy about the decision as taking risk is a part of his nature.

**Q. 4. At every stage of life, man has to make crucial decisions. Keeping in mind Robert Frost's poem, 'The Road Not Taken', describe a peculiar situation where you took a decision that changed the course of your life. (Board Term 12012, Set 67)**

**Ans.** Everyone comes across a problem in life in which he has to take a decision which can change his life. The decision can prove to be wrong as its impact on our future is unpredictable. Consequences of wrong choices will have to be faced by the person himself. Nonetheless, the decision has to be taken. It is not always a risky business. The choice may be crowned with success too as it happened in the case of the poet himself.

The poet, once, came across a junction when his path diverged into two. He wanted to experience both the situations, but the decision had to be made. It was ultimately his choice of that particular road which changed his life. The poet adopted the less travelled path, faced problems but later achieved both success and fame not only in England, but in America too.

One cannot get everything in life. He has to take a decision and stick to it. Tough decisions make him stand out in the crowd. We should accept challenges and be ready to take risks in order to succeed in life.

**Q. 5. Based on your understanding of the poem 'The Road Not Taken', write a diary entry of the speaker in the poem about the day he had to make a choice. (Board Term 12010, Set A2)**

**Ans.** Monday, 25th April, 2015

10.30 p.m.

Dear Diary

In every person's life there comes a point of time when he has to make a choice. Such a time came in my life too. I was in a dilemma as to what I should do. People generally take the much travelled path as it is tried and tested. However, there was another path that I could take on which I had never travelled. There would be difficulties and problems and risks. Maybe it would not be the right choice, but it appealed to me more, as if it was waiting to be tried. I decided to keep the first one for another day, knowing well that I might not ever come back. I have made a decision, how it will turn out, nobody knows. In the evening of my life, I will be telling this story to someone. It is

difficult to forecast whether I will be happy or full of regret at the choice I have made. Well, only time will decide.

Good night. , ,

**Q. 6. The poem 'The Road Not Taken' revolves around a serious conflict of life. What is this conflict ? How is it resolved ? (Value Based Question)**

**Ans.** The serious conflict in this poem is the choice that one often comes across in his lifetime. Man gets many opportunities in life. He gets an opportunity to choose between them. The decision that he has to take is important as it can change his whole life. He can't retrace his steps once he starts moving on the path he has taken. So, one must make a choice after weighing the pros and cons of the opportunities that life shows in one's path. It is none the less important to stick to the decision once taken. Risks involved will help him stand out in the crowd. .



# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/> The Solitary Reaper

### Extract Based Questions (3 Marks each)

**Q.1.** Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow:

'Behold her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary highland lass !  
Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here or gently pass!' (Board Term 12014, MZPD310)

- (a) Why does a speaker ask to stop or gently pass ?
- (b) To whom does the poet say 'stop here or gently pass'!
- (c) What does 'behold her' mean ?

**Ans.** (a) The speaker says so lest the girl should be disturbed and stop singing?

(b) To the passers-by

(c) look at her

**Q. 2.** "Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow.

For old, unhappy, far off things."

- (a) What do the 'plaintive numbers' refer to ?
- (b) Why does the poet use the word 'perhaps' here ?
- (c) Pick out a word similar in meaning to 'to move continuously'. (Board Term 12013, EWAJ2JM)

**Ans.** (a) 'The plaintive numbers' refer to, the highland girl's

(b) The poet uses the word 'perhaps' here because he doesn't know her language.

(c) Flow.

**Q. 3.** "I listened motionless and still And, as I mounted up the hill,

The music in my heart I bore,

Long after it was heard no more."

- (a) What music is the poet talking about in these lines ?
- (b) What effect does the music have on the poet ?
- (c) How is the poet able to hear this music even after the maiden has stopped singing?

(Board Term 12012, Set 39)

**Ans.** (a) The poet is talking about the music of the maiden's song in these lines.

(b) The music mesmerizes the poet and he stops to listen to it. He carries the memories of the song in his heart long after he moves away from the scene.

(c) The poet carries the music as a cherished memory in his heart. (1×3=3)

**Q. 4.** 'A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard

In spring time from the cuckoo bird;

Breaking the silence of the seas .....

Among the farthest Hebrides"

- (a) Why does the poet compare the reaper's voice to the song of the cuckoo bird ?
- (b) Name the poet of the poem.
- (c) Name the literary device used in the third line. (Board Term 12012, Set 41,47)

**Ans.** (a) The poet feels that the girl's voice is sweeter than the sweet voice of the cuckoo, that is why; he makes this comparison.

(b) William Wordsworth.

(c) Alliteration/personification. (1×3=3)

**Q. 5.** "Or is it some more humble lay, .

Familiar matter of today ?

Some natural sorrow loss or pain,

That has been and may be again ?"

- (a) Who is singing and where ?
- (b) What is the poet trying to guess ?
- (c) What does 'humble lay' stand for ? (Board Term 12012, Set 46)

**Ans.** (a) The Solitary Reaper is singing in the field. ' r

(b)The poet is trying to guess the theme of the song.

(c)'Humble lay' stands for common man of the song and the song may be about the common, simple people or situations. (1×3=3)

**Q. 6. "Alone she cuts and binds the grain;**

**And sings a melancholy strain;**

**Listen for the vale profound v ;**

**Is overflowing with the sound."**

**(a)Who is 'she' in the above lines ?**

**And sings a melancholy strain;**

**Listen for the vale profound v ;**

**Is overflowing with the sound."**

**(a)Who is 'she' in the above lines ?**

**(b)What kind of a song is she singing ?**

**(c)What does the expression 'vale profound' mean ? (Board Term L2013, Set 53)**

**Ans.** (a) 'She' in the above lines refer to the solitary reaper.

(b)She is singing a sad and melancholic song.

(c)'Vale profound' means the deep valley. (1×3=3)

**Q. 7. "No nightingales did ever chant, ;**

**More welcome notes to weary bands,**

**Of travellers in some shady haunt,**

**Among Arabian Sands."**

**(a)Who are the weary bands ? What welcome notes do they hear ?**

**(b)Why are the notes of the nightingale welcome ?**

**(c)What are "Arabian Sands" ? (Board Term 12012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** (a) The weary bands are the travellers. They hear the welcome notes of the nightingale.

(b)The notes of the nightingale are welcome because they are sweet and soothing.

(c)Deserts signifying weariness are the 'Arabian Sands'. (1×3=3)

## **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)**

**Q.1. How was the poet affected by the song of the Solitary Reaper ?**

**(Board Term 12014, NCT-R/ZEZDXJX; 2012, Set A1)**

**Or**

**What is the effect of Solitary Reaper's song on die poet William Wordsworth ? (Board Term 12012, Set 58)**

**Ans.** The poet was spellbound by the sweetness of the song of the Solitary Reaper. Though, he could not understand the language of the song, he stood there motionless and captivated enjoying the melodious song. It fascinated him so much that he carried its sweet melody in his heart for a long time.

**Q. 2. Why was William Wordsworth fascinated by the Solitary Reaper's song ?**

**(Board Term 12013, AGRO-91; 2012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** The poet was spellbound when he heard the melancholic song of a Solitary Reaper in Scotland. She was alone, reaping the harvest. The melodious song fascinated him so much that he compared it with the song of a nightingale and a cuckoo.

**Q. 3. Why does the poet want the passers-by to "stop here or gently pass" ?**

**(Board Term 12012, Set 35,37,60)**

**Ans.** The poet was fascinated by the melodious song of the Solitary Reaper. The musk of her song and the melodious voice made him spellbound. The girl was busy in her work. So, the poet wishes the passers-by to "stop here or gently pass" so as to not disturb her.

**Q.4. Why is the nightingale's song a welcome song ? (Board Term 12012, Set 42)**

**Ans.** The poet feels that the weary travellers would forget their tiredness and they would feel refreshed when they , listened to the melodious notes of the nightingale's song. The soothing song would give relief to the travellers from fatigue and exhaustion, that is why he compares it to a 'welcome song'.

**Q. 5. Why has William Wordsworth compared the Solitary Reaper's song with the song of a nightingale and a cuckoo bird ? (Board Term 12012, Set 48)**

**Ans.** William Wordsworth has compared the Solitary Reaper's song with the song of a nightingale and a cuckoo bird to emphasize the sweetness of the girl's song. He himself is spellbound and the song resounds in his ears long afterwards.

- Q.6. What are the probable themes of the song sung by the Solitary Reaper ? (Board Term 12012, Set 49,71)**  
**Ans.** The probable themes of the songs sung by the Solitary Reaper which the poet presumes are a tale of some far off happening, or of a natural sorrow, or of a loss or of a parting from some dear ones.
- Q. 7. Why does the poet call the reaper 'Solitary' ?(Board Term 12012, Set 50)**  
**Ans.** The poet calls the reaper 'Solitary' because she is all alone in the field, reaping the crop and singing a sad song all to herself.
- Q. 8. How does the poet bring out the beauty of the song of the Solitary Reaper ? (Board Term 12012, Set 72)**  
**Ans.** He compares her song to the sweet notes of the nightingale and the cuckoo, both birds that sing in romantic surroundings. The song of the nightingale is a very welcome sound to the tired travellers as it signifies that they are approaching an oasis. The song of the cuckoo bird brings joy to the listeners as it is a harbinger of spring after the long, cold winter. The song of the reaper arouses the same feelings of pleasure and joy in the poet's heart. It also lends a feeling of romance to the poem.
- Q. 9. How was the poet affected by the song of the Solitary Reaper ? (BoardTerm 12010, Set A1)**  
**Ans.** The poet was held spellbound by the sweetness of the song. He stood motionless and still so that he could listen to her song. The melodious song fascinated him so much that he carried its sweet melody in his heart for a long time.
- Q. 10. The poet could not understand the theme of the song ? Why ? What were the guesses made by him ?(Board Term 12010, Set B1)**  
**Ans.** The poet could not understand the theme of the song because the dialect used by the reaper was unfamiliar to him. He presumed that she might be singing about some battles fought long ago or some personal sorrow due to some tragic incidents in the past. .
- Q. 11. Where was the Solitary Reaper ? How did the poet hear her ? (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**  
**Ans.** The Solitary Reaper belonged to Scotland. She was alone in the fields. The poet was passing that way when he heard the girl singing while reaping the harvest. The whole valley was resounding with her melodious voice. The poet stood motionless to listen to her song.
- Q. 12. The 'Solitary Reaper' describes a memorable experience of William Wordsworth. Describe.(Board Term 12010, Set A1)**  
**Ans.** The poet describes the memorable experience which he had a long time ago. A young girl was standing all alone in a Scotland valley and was singing a song. The song was so enchanting that the poet compared it to the song of a nightingale or a cuckoo. He was spellbound and stood there for a long time. Even now he remembers her song as he carried the memory of the young girl's song in his heart. '
- Q. 13. The Solitary Reaper sings a melancholy strain. How does it affect the poet ? (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**  
**Ans.** The poet was very much moved by the song of the reaper, because even though he could not understand the language he could understand well that it was a sad song.
- Q. 14. When and where does the cuckoo sing ? ' (Board Term T2010, Set C2)**  
**Ans.** The cuckoo sings in spring time, in the most remote group of Islands (Hebrides) that lie to the north west of Scotland.
- Q. 15. Discuss the comparison of the Solitary Reaper's sOng with the other birds as given in the poem.(Board Term 12010, Set C1)**  
**Ans.** The Solitary Reaper's song was sweeter than the song sung by the nightingale or the cuckoo bird. The poet compares the Solitary Reaper's song to that of a nightingale or a cuckoo bird. He says that the solitary reaper's song is as much welcoming to the heart as that of a nightingale's song to a weary traveller. He says that it induces as much thrill in the atmosphere as that of a cuckoo bird announcing the arrival of the spring time.
- Q. 16. At the end how did the poet react to the reaper's song in the poem 'The Solitary Reaper' ?(Board Term I 2010, Set C2)**  
**Ans.** The poet was very much touched by the song of the reaper even though he could not understand the language, he could understand well that it was a sad song.
- Q. 17. How could the poet hear the song of the Solitary Reaper ? When could it be heard no more ? .(Board Term 12010, Set B1)**  
**Ans.** The poet could hear the song as he carried the music in his heart. He remembered the music even after he could not hear the song any more.

**Q. 18. Does the title 'The Solitary Reaper' suit the poem ? Comment. (Board Term 12010, Set B)**

**Ans.** The title 'The Solitary Reaper' is quite significant. The girl was all alone in the field, reaping and binding the grains. She was quite engrossed in her work and singing. She was unaware of the presence of the poet or other passers-by, the whole valley was echoing with her sad song which equally specifies that the reaper was all alone.

**Q. 19. How has the poet made use of the comparisons in 'The Solitary Reaper' ? (Board Term 12010, Set A)**

**Ans.** 'The Solitary Reaper' is a poem in which beautiful comparisons have been made. The girl is compared to the talented singers of nature like the nightingale and the cuckoo bird. But her song is even more melodious than theirs. The song mesmerizes the poet who stands still just to listen to the melodious song of the reaper.

**Q. 20. How is an aura of mystery and magic created in the poem ?(HOTS)**

**Ans.** The song sung by the Solitary Reaper is melodious and magical/It is sweeter than the stiffs Of the nightingale and the cuckoo bird. Her melodious voice cast a spell on the poet Who is mesmerized by the melody of the song. The song haunts him for a long time and leaves an everlasting impression on his mind,

**Q. 21. Why do you think Wordsworth has chosen the song of the nightingale and the cuckoo for comparison with the Solitary Reaper's song ?**

**Ans.** Wordsworth has compared her song with the songs of the cuckoo and the nightingale because both are very melodious and have a very sweet voice.

Their songs always have a thrilling effect. They are liked by many:poets and travellers.

The poet himself is spellbound as the solitary reaper's song resounds in his ears long afterwards.

**Q.22. In the first stanza, some words or phrases have been used to show that the girl working in the fields is alone.Which are those words and phrases? What effect do they create in the mind of the reader?**

**Ans.** The words-'single', 'solitary' and 'singing by herself' emphasize that the solitary reaper was working all alone and in a lonely place.

The reader is forced to feel that she has experienced something tragic in the past and these phrases relate to her .tragedy, they also create a picture of romance and isolation.

### **Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)**

**Q. 1. William Wordsworth describes the scene of the solitary reaper to his sister Dorothy in a letter. As Wordsworth write the letter. (Board Term 12012, Set 72)**

**Ans.** 667 Maple Road

25th December, 20 xx Dear Dorothy,

I want to share my experience with you when I was in Scotland during the summer season. I had such a memorable experience that I could not restrain myself from writing to you.

I have had a wonderful time walking in the countryside and feel the need to share my feelings with you. While walking, my feet were arrested by a musical voice which was filling the valley. A highland girl was cutting the grain and singing on her own. She was oblivious of anyone. Her voice was certainly sweeter than that of the nightingale in the Arabian desert. There was a thrilling quality about her song. I was reminded of the Cuckoo bird's song in the Hebrides island. I couldn't understand the words as she was singing in a strange dialect, but the tone made me feel that it was a sad song. As I continued on my walk, her voice kept reverberating in my ears. I shall never forget it. I really missed you at that time, take care of yourself.

Yours lovingly,

Wordsworth

**Q. 2. How has the poet brought out that the song sung by the Solitary Reaper was really enchanting and incomparable ? (Board Term 12012, Set 40)**

**Ans.** The song is enchanting and the poet is mesmerized by it. He compares it to the songs sung by the nightingale and the cuckoo. He feels that the song sung by the maiden is better than the songs sung by these birds that are known for enchanting people with their beautiful songs. The song has left a permanent mark in his heart. It has left an everlasting impression on his mind. It has remained a lovely memory with the poet for ever afterwards. The music had a calming effect on him and he has carried the music in his heart.

**Q. 3. "Music is a universal language that binds us all." Write a diary entry describing your experience of listening to the reaper's song. (Board Term 12012, Set 61)**

Or

**Imagine you are William Wordsworth. Write a diary entry in about 150 words describing your experience of listening to the reaper's song. (Board Term 12012, Set 52)**

Or

**Wordsworth had a wonderful experience listening to the highland girl while out for a walk in the countryside.**

**He comes home and pens down his feelings in his diary. Write his diary. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 20xx 10.30p.m.

Dear Diary,

I had such a wonderful time walking in the countryside and feel the need to record my feelings. While walking, my feet were arrested by a musical voice which was filling the valley. A highland girl was cutting the grain and singing on her own. She was oblivious of anyone. Her voice was certainly sweeter than that of the Nightingales in the Arabian desert. There was a thrilling quality about her song. I was reminded of the Cuckoo bird's song in the Hebrides island. I couldn't understand the words as she was singing in a strange dialect, but the tone made me understand that it was a sad song. As I continued on my walk, her voice kept reverberating in my ears. I shall never forget it.

**Q. 4. Some beautiful experiences amidst nature become sweet memories to us. Reflecting upon William Wordsworth's poem 'The Solitary Reaper' write your memories in the form of a diary entry. (Board Term 12012, Set 68)**

**Ans.** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 10:00 a.m.

Dear Diary,

Natural experiences that man comes across enhance his inner joy. They bring him closer to God and his creation. They leave an everlasting impact on his mind and heart. I had a similar experience with nature. While passing through the hills of Scotland, a melodious song caught my attention. The song was so enchanting and melodious that it still lingers in my ears. The entire valley seemed to be flooded with the beautiful voice of the Solitary Reaper. The song was so captivating that I stood there motionless so as not to disturb her singing.

The song was sweeter than the sweet notes of both the nightingale and the cuckoo, who sing in romantic surroundings. I couldn't understand the theme of the song as the dialect was unfamiliar to me. Perhaps, she was singing some sad and plaintive note. Whatever the theme, the music of the song made me spellbound and I stood there motionless listening to the girl's song. It seemed as if the song was never-ending. It touched my heart. The song has left an everlasting impression on my mind. I still bear in my heart the memory of the melodious song. Thank you diary.

**Q. 5. How does the poet bring out the incomparable quality of the reaper's song? What effect does it have on the poet? (Board Term 1 DAY 2009)**

**Ans.** The incomparable quality of the reaper's song is brought out by comparing her with the nightingale and the cuckoo bird. These two birds are best known for their remarkable and melodious quality of singing. The poet is impressed by the girl's song and says that she sang better than these two singing birds. The poet is spellbound by the magic of the song. It leaves an everlasting impression on his mind.

**Q. 6. How has Wordsworth admired and idealised the simple rustic life in 'The Solitary Reaper'? (HOTS)**

**Ans.** Wordsworth was an admirer of simple rustic life. The 'Solitary Reaper' is a Scottish peasant girl who is full of life. She is reaping and binding the grain, but all this time, she is singing all by herself, unaware of the poet's presence. The song is sung in an unfamiliar dialect; hence, the theme of the song is not clear to the poet. Even then the song is melodious and the poet carries its everlasting memory with him.

# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## <http://freehomedelivery.net/> Lord Ullin's Daughter

### Extract Based Questions (3 Marks-each)

**Q.1.** "A Chieftain, to the highlands bound,  
Cries, "Boatman, do not tarry!  
And I'll give thee a silver pouud To row us o'er the ferry!"—

- (a) Who is the Chieftain here? Where is he going to ? , ,
- (b) What does he offer to induce the boatman to row them across ?
- (c) Trace a word that means the chief of a clan.

**Ans.** (a) The 'Chieftain' is the lover of Lord Ullin's daughter. He is going to the highlands.

(b) He offers a silver pound to the boatman to row them across.

(c) Chief of a clan = chieftain. (1×3=3)

**Q. 2.** "Now ye fo' be ye jguld crqps ochgyle, This dark and stormy weather ?  
O, I am the chief of Ulva's and this, Lord Ullin's daughter."

- (a) Why is the speaker of the first two lines here ?
- (b) Who is the second person here ? Who is the other person with him ?
- (c) Why is the speaker surprised when the other person asks him to help them across Lochgyle ?

**Ans.** (a) The speaker of the first two lines is the boatman.

(b) The second person here is the Chieftain, chief of Ulva's isle. The other person with him is his beloved, Lord Ullin's daughter.

(c) The speaker is the boatman who is surprised when the other person asks him to help them across Lochgyle because the weather is dark and stormy. (1×3=3)

**Q.3.** 'And fast before her father's men.

Three days we've fled together,  
For should he find us in the glen,  
My blood would stain the heather".

- (a) For how long have they fled together and why ?
- (b) Who does 'we' in the second line refer to ?
- (c) From whom have 'we' fled and why ?

**Ans.** (a) Both have fled together for three days from fear of Lord Ullin. '

(b) 'We' in the second line refers to the Chieftain of Ulva isle and his beloved Lord Ullin's daughter.

(c) 'We' i.e., the Chieftain and his beloved have fled from Lord Ullin because he is opposed to their alliance. (1×3=3)

**Q.4.** "His horsemen hard behind us ride;

Should they our steps discover;  
Then who will cheer my bonny bride.  
When they have slain her lover ?" \* V' ?

- (a) Whose 'horsemen' are behind whom ?
- (b) What would happen if the speaker is caught? : '
- (c) What is the chief anxiety of the speaker ?

**Ans.** (a) Lord Ullin's horsemen are after the Chieftain of Ulva isle and his beloved, Lord Ullin's daughter.

(b) If the speaker is caught, he will be slain instantly.

(c) The chief anxiety of the speaker is who will cheer up his lovely beloved after he is killed by Lord Ullin's horsemen. (1×3=3)

**Q. 5.** Out spoke the hardy Highland wight,

"I'll go, my chief – I'm ready;  
It is not for your silver bright,  
But for your winsome lady:

- (a) Who is 'the hardy Highland wight'?
- (b) What promise does she make ?
- (c) What character of this 'Highland wight' is revealed here ?

**Ans.** (a) 'The hardy Highland wight' is the boatman.

(b) He promises that he will ferry the Chieftain and his beloved, Lord Ullin's daughter.

(c) These lines reveal that the 'Highland wight' is a man of integrity. He is not after money. (1×3=3)

**Q. 6. "And by my word !the bonny bird**

**In danger shall not tarry;**

**So, though the waves are raging white,**

**I'll row you o'er the ferry."**

**(a) Identify the speaker and the person spoken to.**

**(b) What is the occasion ?**

**(c) What promise does the speaker make?**

**Ans.** (a) The hardy Highland wight, i.e., the boatman is the speaker. He is speaking to the Chieftain and his bonny beloved, Lord Ullin's daughter.

(b) The Chieftain and his beloved want to cross the glen at the earliest as they are being chased by Lord Ullin 'and his horsemen. The Chieftain is asking the wight to ferry them across hurriedly.

(c) The speaker, i.e., the boatman promises to row them over in the ferry. (1×3=3)

**Q. 7. "By this the storm grew loud apace. .**

**The water-wraith was shrieking; ;**

**And in the scowl of heaven each face**

**Grew dark as they were speaking".**

**(a) What had become of water as the storm grew fierce ?**

**(b) What change occurred in the aspect of the sky ?**

**(c) Why do you think the water-wraith was shrieking ?**

**Ans.** (a) The water had assumed the shape of a ghost in that wild weather.

(b) The sky looked frowning in that rough and wild weather. The humatvisoes had become dark, The water-wraith was shrieking to give a premonition of the tragedy that was going to befall the Chieftain and his beloved. (1×3=3)

**Q. 8. "But still as wilder blew the wind.**

**And as the night grew drearer,**

**Adown the glen rode armed men,**

**Their trampling sounded nearer".**

**(a) Why did the glen assume a fearful form ?**

**(b) What kind of weather it was ?**

**(c) Who were 'the armed men' ?**

**Ans.** (a) The glen assumed a fearful form as the wind grew wilder and the night became drearer.

(b) It was rough and wild weather.

(c) The armed men were the horsemen of Lord Ullin. (1×3=3)

**Q. 9. "O haste thee, haste!" the lady cries,**

**Though tempests round us gather;**

**I'll meet the raging of the skies,**

**But not an angry father."**

**(a) Who is the lady here ?**

**(b) Why does she cry ?**

**(c) Why was her father angry ? .**

**Ans.** (a) The lady is Lord Ullin's daughter.

(b) She cries lest her father and his men should kill her lover.

(c) Her father was angry because she had fled with her lover, the Chieftain of Ulva, against his wishes. (1×3=3)

**Q. 10. "The boat has left a stormy land,**

**A stormy sea before her,**

**When, O! too strong, for human hand,**

**The tempest gather'd o'er her"**

**(a) Where is the boat now ? Whom is it carrying ? .**

**(b) What do 'stormy land' and ' stormy sea' indicate ? .**

**(c) Explain: 'too strong for human hand'.**

**Ans.** (a) The boat is now in the stormy sea. It is carrying Lord Ullin's daughter, her lover and the boatman.

(b) A 'stormy land' indicates 'storm' in the household of Lord Ullin and 'stormy sea' indicates roughness of the sea.  
(c) The tempest had become so furious that it was difficult to be tackled easily. It has become too rough and wild. (1×3=3)

**Q. 11. "And still they row'd amidst the roar**

**Of waters fast prevailing;**

**Lord Ullin reach'd that fatal shore**

**His wrath was changed to wailing."**

**(a) How do you know that it was difficult to row?**

**(b) Why is the shore called 'fatal'?**

**(c) Why did Lord Ullin's anger change to wailing?**

**Ans.** (a) They had to row in the middle of the roar of water which had enveloped them all over. Obviously, it was difficult to row.

(b) The shore is called 'fatal' because it is going to claim the life of the Chieftain and his beloved, Lord Ullin's daughter.

(c) Lord Ullin's anger changed to wailing because the tempest was going to swallow his beautiful and charming daughter. (1×3=3)

**Q. 12. "For, sore dismay'd through storm and shade,**

**His child he did discover,**

**One lovely hand she stretch'd for aid,**

**And one was round her lover."**

**(a) Who is 'he' and who is 'his child'?**

**(b) What did she do to seek help?**

**(c) Comment on the situation at this point in the story.**

**Ans.** (a) 'He' is Lord Ullin and 'his child' lovely daughter who is struggling with the stormy waves.

(b) She extended her hand towards her father to seek his help.

(c) The situation was most pathetic. The storm had overwhelmed her. She had extended one hand towards her father for help and her other hand was around her lover. (1×3=3)

**Q. 13. "Come back! Come back!" he cried in grief**

**'Across this stormy water.**

**And I'll forgive your highland chief.**

**My daughter! – O my daughter!"**

**(a) Who is 'he'?**

**(b) Why, did 'he' urge her to come back?**

**(c) Could the change in 'his' heart save his daughter?**

**Ans.** (a) 'He' is Lord Ullin.

(b) 'He' urged her to come back because she was sure to be swallowed by the sea in that stormy weather.

(c) No, the change in 'his' heart could not save his daughter. She and her lover, the Chieftain of Ulva isle, were drowned in the sea. (1×3=3)

**Q. 14. "Twas vain' the loud waves lash'd the shore,**

**Return or aid preventing;**

**The water wild went o'er his child,**

**And he was left lamenting."**

**(a) What was 'vain'?**

**(b) Why was he 'left lamenting'?**

**(c) What happened to the lovers?**

**Ans.** (a) Lord Ullin's assurance to forgive his daughter and her lover was 'vain' because the storm had claimed their lives.

(b) Lord Ullin was 'left lamenting' because he saw his daughter drowning, along with her lover.

(c) Both the lovers were drowned by the stormy sea. (1×3=3)

### **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 Marks each)**

**Q. 1. Why does Lord Ullin's daughter defy her father and elope with her lover? (Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** Lord Ullin's daughter defies her father and elopes with her lover as she values love for her lover more than her father. She elopes knowing well that she won't be allowed to marry the chieftain. So, she defies her father due to love.

**Q. 2. What did Lord Ullin see on reaching the shore ? How did he react to the situation ? (Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** When Lord Ullin reached the shore, he saw to his horror that his daughter and the Chieftain were completely surrounded by dangerous sea storm. It was going to drown them. He reacted in asking his daughter to return as he would forgive her and her lover. He also started weeping.

**Q. 3. Why does Lord Ullin's wrath change into wailing ?(Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** Lord Ullin's wrath changed into wailing as he saw his daughter was going to be drowned by the dangerous sea storm. He then was not Lord Ullin but a father. He therefore, asked her to return.

**Q. 4. Who is the Chieftain and what does he say to the boatman ?**

**Ans.** The chieftain is the chief of a clan in Ulva's isle. He is bound for the Highlands. He asks the boatman to row him and his beloved across the Lochigyle as his beloved is Lord Ullin's daughter and Lord Ullin's men are after them to kill.

**Q. 5. What does the Chieftain say to the boatman about Lord Ullin ?**

**Ans.** The Chieftain says to the boatman that Lord Ullin, his beloved's father, is after his life and that of his beloved. They have fled together for three days. If he finds them in the valley, he will kill him. So, they must cross Lochgyle at once.

**Q. 6. How did the boatman react after hearing the Chieftain ?**

**Ans.** The Highland boatman heard the Chieftain. Then he told him that he would take them across without any delay. He offered to do so not for any money but for his attractive lady. He did so even though the waves were getting very high.

**Q. 7. How did the weather become so dangerous ?**

**Ans.** Very soon the storm grew very loud. The sea water rose high menacingly. It assumed a ghost-like form and shrieked. All the faces of those who spoke grew dark in the dirty look of the sky. Everything looked dangerous.

**Q. 8. What amazing thing happened then ?**

**Ans.** The boatman promised the Chieftain to ferry them without any delay. But the storm became dangerous- Then ..., the stamping feet of Lord Ullin's horsemen could be heard coming nearer and nearer them.

**Q. 9. How did Lord Ullin react seeing his daughter in the grip of death ? .**

**Ans.** Lord Ullin saw that his beloved daughter was drowning. He cried to her in grief to come back across the stormy water. He told her that he would forgive her and her lover, the Chieftain. .

**Q. 10. Describe how the Chieftain and his beloved died.**

**Ans.** Very soon the loud waves of the stormy sea pounded the seashore. No aid was possible. The wild stormy water went over Lord Ullin's daughter and the Chieftain. They drowned instantly.

### Long Answer Type Questions (80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)

**Q. 1. How do the two lovers meet their end in 'Lord Ullin's Daughter' ? Give the account in 150 words.(Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** The manner in which the two lovers meet their end in this poem is really very sad and tragic. They, decided to elope because Lord Ullin was against them. He sent his men to catch and kill them. The boatman rowed them over the ferry. But the waves were strong and fierce due to the tempest, The water was rising high to the skies. Lord Ullin had reached the shore. He was crying as the sea storm was going to drown them. He called his daughter back because his fatherly instinct lay heavy on him. He wanted his daughter to come back. But the sea waves soon overpowered them and drowned them. Lord Ullin kept weeping as there was nothing he could do to save them. The scene was really heart-moving.

**Q. 2. Imagine you are Lord Ullin. Your rigidity and narrow-mindedness cost you your daughter's life. You curse yourself for having opposed her alliance with the Chieftain. Narrate your experience as a father lamenting the loss of your child in the form of a diary entry. (Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** Wednesday, 20th August, 20x x 8.30 p.m.

Dear Diary,

I lament the day when my beloved daughter drowned with her lover the Chieftain of Ulva. I curse my rigidity and narrow-mindedness which cost me my daughter's life. Love is natural and now I realize she did no wrong in falling in love with the Chieftain. But she should have thought about our tribe's honour. She should not have eloped with the Chieftain. She should have taken us all in confidence and we would have found out some way before the tragic end of my daughter. I curse myself that I opposed her alliance with the Chieftain out of anger and hard-heartedness. My heart cries out and this is not the grief of the chief of our tribe but that of a father. All fathers know how dear their children are to them but it is all over now. I regret having put my soldiers behind her and the Chieftain. Instead, I should have valued the changing times and the changing values of our tribe. But now nothing can be done. We must think over

such issue^ with an open heart and not deal with them with rigidity.

Lord Ullin.

**Q. 3. Answer the following in about 150 words. Imagine you are one of the chiefs of Lord Ullin's cavalry. Narrate your experience, as you witnessed a father lamenting the loss of his child, in your diary. (Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** 20th April, 20x x 11.25 p.m.

Dear Diary, , ,

I witnessed a terrible sight today. Actually, we had been given orders by Lord Ullin to catch hold of chief of Ulva who had eloped with his daughter. We followed both of them. At last we reached the seashore after three days. We faced lots of problems on the way. To our horror we found that there was a wild seastorm. The water was reaching the skies. Very soon it was a different scene as the chieftain, Lord Ullin's daughter and the boatman were drowned. Then I saw Lord Ullin wailing bitterly over the drowning of his beloved daughter. He was raising his hands upwards towards the sky. He was crying most pitifully. Now Lord Ullin was not Lord Ullin but a helpless father seeing his own daughter drowning. The storm was violent and unabated. The scene was very fearful. Seeing Lord Ullin lamenting over there, was the most piteous sight. I felt choked within as I could no longer see him wailing so piteously.

**Q.4. You are Jenny, one of the best friends of Lord Ullin's daughter. Her death at sea has shocked and disturbed you. You sympathize with the lovers and are very sad. Express your feelings to another friend of yours who recently came to know about this tragic incident (Board Term 12012)**

**Ans.** 18th November, 20 x x

My dear Pearl,

I hope you are well, perhaps you know that Lord Ullin's daughter drowned with her lover, the Chieftain while crossing the Lochgyle in the ferry. It was really tragic that they drowned with the boatman in the terrible sea storm. Actually, Lord Ullin had sent his men after them with the orders for killing the lovers when they found them. Lord Ullin himself had been chasing them in his great anger. I feel great sympathy for the daughter. She had fallen in love with the Chieftain and I find it no crime. I am on the side of the lovers as love is divine and natural. This is really tragic that they had to die such a tragic death. They had not seen life as such. How cruel it was that they had to die in their youth? I am feeling greatly shocked and you may also be feeling the same. But we can do nothing about luck or destiny. However, this tragic incident can't be forgotten.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny.

**Q. 5. The chief of another tribe friendly to Lord Ullin's, writes a letter to Lord Ullin about how his daughter died;**

**Lord Ullin replies to this letter: Write this letter on his behalf. (V. Imp.)**

**Ans.** Lord Ullin's clan/tribe Scottish Moor Scotland

20th August, 20 xx My dear Lord Ullin,

Thank you for your letter sympathizing with me over the irreparable loss of my only daughter. I feel that I am responsible for her death at a personal level. But I couldn't ignore my tribal or social responsibilities. I couldn't allow her to marry the Chieftain of Ulva and so I issued orders to catch them. But the tragedy occurred. As the head of the clan, I followed the couple when they eloped. My men had orders to kill them wherever they were found. Me and my men found my daughter and her lover crossing the deadly Lochgyle seashore, They had not gone too far and could be saved if they had returned. The sea had already assumed demoniac shapes..

The storm had become intense and deadly with water waves assuming ghost-like shapes. The sky was scowling. Seeing their death as imminent, my fatherly heart melted and I called out to them to return. I told them that I would forgive them if they returned safe and sound. But the couple didn't heed my saying so and instead went ahead into the deadly sea. I saw them being enveloped in the stormy waves and soon they were drowned. I can't forget the scene which claimed my daughter's life. I shall regret it ever.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Ullin

**Q. 6. Who are the lovers? Why are they trying to escape and what happens to them in the end ?**

**Ans.** The lovers are the Chief of Ulva's Island and Lord Ullin's lovely daughter. Their tribes are enemies to each other.

So Lord Ullin has been pursuing the Chief of Ulva, his daughter's lover. They are trying to escape from Lord Ullin's men. They have orders to catch them and kill them. That's why, the Chief of Ulva and his beloved ask the boatman for a favour. It is to ferry them across the stormy water without any more delay. The weather is really dark and

stormy and looks menacing, but they also fear for their lives. While crossing the sea in the ferry, they drown in that bad weather

**Q. 7. What is a ballad? How is 'Lord Ullin's Daughter' a ballad ?**

**Ans.** A ballad is a long narrative poem. It tells a story having romance, suspense etc. It is musical also. It can be sung with a musical instrument. It often deals with heroic deeds. 'Lord Ullin's Daughter' has all these qualities. It has romance, suspense, heroic deeds etc. The lyrical quality is due to its ab ab rhyme scheme. Then there is repetition of sounds. It is 'b' in bonny bride, 'r' in 'dark and stormy weather' etc. This makes it musical. This poem is, thus, a tale of love and adventure, as all ballads are, so it is a ballad.

**Q. 8. What message does 'Lord Ullin's Daughter' convey to the readers ?(Value Based Question)**

**Ans.** The poem 'Lord Ullin's Daughter' is a tragic story of two lovers who lost their lives for the sake of their love. It was due to the false ego and stubbornness of Lord Ullin which culminated in the drowning of the couple in the sea. This poem conveys the message that thoughtless and rash decisions can lead to disastrous results. Sometimes, ego of the parents leads to catastrophic results. Dictatorial parents do not try to understand the feelings of their young children. It gives rise to a conflict resulting from the clash of the rebellious nature of youth and the authority of parents. Vision and foresight can help prevent family breakups.



# NCERT Solutions For Class 9 English Literature Reader

## [http://freehomedelivery.net/ Villa for Sale](http://freehomedelivery.net/)

### Extract Based Questions (Marks each)

Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: ,

**Q. 1.** "While you were upstairs, I had been thinking a lot about your papa and mamma."

(a) Who spoke these words and to whom ?

(b) How does the statement differ from the statement made by him earlier ?

(c) What impression do you form about the speaker ? (Board Term 12015, BR7G WHM)

**Ans.** (a) Gaston speaks these words to Jeanne.

(b) Earlier he did not want Jeanne's parents to stay with them but now he is showing concern for them.

(c) He is a selfish and hypocritical man.

**Q.2.** Mind you, if someone had bought it on the very day I placed it for sale, then I might have felt sorry because I would have wondered if I hadn't been a fool to sell at all.

(a) How long ago had the speaker put up her Villa for sale ? .

(b) Why would she have considered herself a fool if she had managed to sell it on the day she put up the notice ?

(c) In what way is her remark ironic ? (Board Term 12014, FROK4WI)

**Ans.** (a) The speaker had put up her villa for sale more than a month ago.

(b) Because then she would have realized the villa's true value & the art-

(c) Suggested by Gaston and loses a lot of money. 'to'U ft ^QWWiltlaillig-Sdiwa^aal) (4×3=3)

**Q. 3.** Please don't joke, Gaston. What this lady says is perfectly right. Will you tell me, Madame, what price you are asking for the Villa ?

(a) Who asks Gaston not to joke ? Who does 'this lady' refer to ?

(b) What was the joke told by Gaston ?

(c) Why was Gaston joking while speaking to the lady ? (Board Term 12014, NCT-R)

**Ans.** (a) Jeanne asks Gaston not to joke. 'This lady' refers to Juliette.

(b) 'On the principle of people who like children and haven't any can always go and live near a school'.

(c) Gaston was joking because he was not at all interested in buying the villa. (1×3=3)

**Q. 4.** "You are an exception. Frenchmen usually have to consult about ten people before they get a move on listen! Do you or don't you want to sell this house ?"

**Ans.** (a) Who is the speaker of these lines ?

(b) Who is being talked about here ?

(c) What is the nationality of the speaker ? (Board Term 12012, Set 34)

**Q. 5.** "You said just now, Madame, that times were hard...;

Would you like me to get you the engagement ?

(a) Who speaks these lines and to whom ?

(b) Were 'times' really bad for Madame ?

(c) What 'engagement' was the speaker talking about ? (Board Term 12012, Set 35)

**Ans.** (a) These lines are spoken by the Maid to the Juliette.

(b) Yes, the times were really bad for the Madame. She was hard pressed for money.

(c) The speaker was talking about the role of a cook in a film. (1×3=3)

**Q.6.** "Nobody thinks about anything else round here now. You see, they pay so well. The manager is offering a thousand francs for a real beggar who has had nothing to eat for two days."

(a) Who is the speaker of these lines ?

(b) To whom is she speaking ?

(c) What proposal does she make to the listener ? (Board Term 12012, Set 37)

**Ans.** (a) The Maid.

(b) Juliette.

(c) The Maid proposes to the listener to take up a role in a film in order to supplement her dwindling income. (1×3=3)

**Q. 7.** "That was a month ago and now I have only one thought, that is to get the wretched place off my hands; I would sacrifice it at any price. One hundred thousand francs if necessary and that's only twice what it cost me."

- (a) Who is the speaker in the above lines ?  
 (b) Why does the speaker refer to the place as 'wretched' ?  
 (c) How much will the speaker sell the place for ? (Board TenHi I 2012, Set 38)

Ans. (a) Juliette.

(b) Juliette was in need of money and no one had come to purchase the villa yet. So, she refers to the place as wretched.

(c) 100 thousand francs. (1×3=3)

**Q. 8. "I made a hundred thousand francs and a Corot!"**

- (a) Who is the speaker here ? What question is he/she answering ?  
 (b) 'A Corot' What does this expression mean in the conversation ?  
 (c) What quality of the speaker's character is revealed here ? (Board Term 12012, Set 39)

Ans. (a) The speaker is Gaston. He is talking about the profit he has made.

(b) A Corot refers to the painting of the great French painter.

(c) It shows that the speaker is shrewd and money-minded. (1×3=3)

**Q. 9. "I am going upstairs for a moment. If that is the lady, tell her I will not be long. It won't do to give her the impression that I am waiting for her."**

- (a) Who speaks these words to whom ?  
 (b) Who is the 'lady' here ? Why is she expected to visit the speaker ?  
 (c) What does the speaker try to pretend here ? (Board Term 12012, Set 40)

Ans. (a) Juliette to her maid.

(b) The lady is Jeanne who had come to see the villa. .

(c) Juliette was trying to show that she was not waiting for Jeanne. She didn't want to seem too eager. (1×3=3)

**Q.10. "But the sign has been hanging on the gate for over a month now and I am beginning to be afraid that the day I**

**bought it was when I was the real fool."**

- (a) Who is the speaker in the above extract ?  
 (b) What sign has been hanging on the gate for more than a month ?  
 (c) Why does the Speaker feel that she was a fool ? (Board Term 12012, Set 41,42)

Ans. (a) JuBette.

(b) 'for Sale' was the sign hanging on the gate for more than a month.

(c) The speaker felt that she was foolish to have purchased the villa. She also felt that she had paid more than it was worth. . (1×3=3)

**Q. 11. "I am going upstairs for a moment. If that is the lady, tell her I will not be long. It won't do to give her the impression that I am waiting for her."**

- (a) Why is the speaker going upstairs ?  
 (b) 'It won't do to give her the impression', what impression is the speaker talking about?  
 (c) What character traits of the speaker are revealed in the above passage ? (Board Term 12012, Set 43)

Ans. (a) The speaker is going upstairs to avoid the lady.

(b) The speaker is talking about the impression that there were no buyers for the villa.

(c) The speaker is calculating, clever and pretentious. (1×3=3)

**Q. 12. "You are an exception. Frenchmen usually have to consult about ten people before they get a move on,"**

- (a) Who is the speaker?  
 (b) Why is the speaker interested in buying that villa ?  
 (c) Why does the speaker feel that Mr. Gaston is an exception ? (Board Term 12012, Set 44)

Ans. (a) Mr. Al. Smith, a Hollywood film maker.

(b) The speaker is interested in buying the villa because it is near Paramount Studios where she was supposed to shoot for a movie.

(c) The speaker feels that N& Catson is an exception because he made the deal very fast and did not consult anyone. (1×3=3)

**Q. 13. 'I tell you what I will do. I will be philanthropic and let you have it for two hundred thousand.'**

- (a) Who is the speaker?  
 (b) What is the speaker going to do ?  
 (c) What is two hundred thousand ? (Board Term 12012, Set 45)

**Ans.** (a) The speaker is Juliette.

(b) The speaker is going to see her villa. ,

(c) Too hundred thousand francs is the selling price for the villa. (1×3=3)

**Q. 14. “You folk are queer. You think about the past all time. We always think about the future.”**

**(a) Who are ‘you’ and ‘we’ here ?**

**(b) What is the difference between ‘you’ and ‘we’ ?**

**(c) Why does the speaker call “you” queer ? (Board Term 12012, Set 46)**

**Ans.** (a) ‘You’ are the Frenchmen while ‘we’ are the Americans.

(b) Difference between the Frenchmen and the Americans is in the thinking about past and future respectively.

(c) The speaker calls the Frenchmen queer because they think about the past. (1×3=3)

### **Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 marks each)**

**Q. 1. What was the maid’s suggestion to Juliette in the play ‘A Villa For Sale’ ? (Board Term 1,2015 6SOOKQ5)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

Maid shows concern—suggests she join the movie she was acting in offers to teach her cooking..

**Detailed Answer:** As Juliette’s business was hitting an all time low, her maid suggested her to play the part of a cook in a movie so as to earn some money she also offered to teach her cooking.

**Q. 2. Why was Mrs. A1 Smith not interested in going over the house ? (Board Term 1,2015 6SOOKQ5)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

She wanted to bring down and raise a new building. (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

**Detailed Answer :** Mrs. A1 Smith, an American lady, wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films so she wanted to bring the villa down and raise a new building convenient for her So she was not interested in going over the house. .

**Q. 3. Why does Juliette call her house ‘a wretched place’ ? (Board Term 1,2015 BR7GWHM)**

**Ans. Value Points:**

(a) Juliette could not get any prospective buyers.

(b). The sign ‘For Sale’ had been put up for one month. . (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

**Detailed Answer:** The sign ‘For Sale’ had been put up for one month by Juliette. She was expecting a healthy deal, but could not get any prospective buyers. This set her calling her house ‘a wretched place’,

**Q. 4. Why is Gaston not interested in buying the villa in the beginning ? (Board Term 1,2013 AGRO091; 2012, Set 28)**

**Ans.** Gaston was reluctant to buy the villa because he thought his wife was buying it for her parents, who would bring her sister’s children with them.

**Q. 5. What is your impression about Mrs. A1 Smith ? (Board Term 1,2013 XIT1MG7; 2012, Set 37)**

**Ans.** Mrs. A1. Smith is a rich American lady who is engaged in making films. She is a self-opinionated, over-confident and a brusque lady. She is prejudiced against the French people and has a high opinion of Americans. In the end, she is outsmarted by Gaston, who is a Frenchman.

**Q. 6. How did Jeanne react to Gaston’s decision to purchase the villa ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 51)**

**Ans.** Jeanne was extremely surprised at Gaston’s decision to purchase the villa. She was taken aback by her husband’s views and his sudden change of plans. ... .

**Q.7. What proposal does the maid make to Juliette ? Why ? , (Board Term 1,2012, Set 35)**

**Ans.** The maid’s proposal to Juliette was that she should accept the role of a cook in a film as she was facing great financial difficulties.

**Q. 8. Why did Gaston quote three hundred thousand francs for the villa ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 52)**

**Ans.** Gaston did not want to spend money on a villa that would later be utilized more by his wife’s parents and her sister’s children. He quoted only three thousand francs for the villa with an expectation that the owner would refuse to sell off the villa at such a low price and he then would not be forced by his wife any longer.

**Q. 8. Why was Jeanne so desperate to buy a villa in the play, ‘A Villa for Sale’ ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 38)**

**Why does Jeanne want to buy a villa ? (Textual)**

**Ans.** Jeanne was desperate to buy a villa for her parents so that they could come and stay with Jeanne for a month or so every year. She also wanted to make a modern kind of study.

**Q. 10. Who is better in business—Juliette or Gaston ? Why ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 53; 2010, Set C1, C2)**

**Or**

**How does Gaston eventually prove himself better in business than Juliette? (Board Term 1,2010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** Gaston was a better businessman as he outsmarts Juliette in making a deal. Juliette waits for one month before, ? Gaston sells it within seconds, without even buying it, and that too at a much higher price.

**Q. 11. Briefly describe Mrs. Al Smith. (Board Term 1- 2012, Set 55)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Al Smith is an American lady who works in films. She is a rich business woman who does not like, to waste time. She is highly self-opinionated and a jingoist. She is thoroughly professional by nature and quick in taking decisions.

**Q. 12. What were the expectations of Juliette after putting the 'Villa for Sale' sign ? (Board Terhi 12012, Set 59)**

**Ans.** Juliette was facing hard time as her business was running very low. She decided to sell off her villa. Since it was near Joinville, the French Hollywood, she was expecting to find a buyer soon who would be willing to buy it for a good price.

**Q. 13. Explain "the whole thing was going to be much more of a sell than a sale." (Board Term 12012, Set 63)**

**Ans.** Juliette had put her villa for sale expecting a healthy deal but even after a period of one month, she could not strike a good deal as there were hardly any buyers. This set her thinking that the task of selling the villa may not be a profitable proposal. Rather it may prove to be a great disappointment.

**Q. 14. What were the flaws pointed out by Gaston in the villa put up for sale by Juliette ? (Board Term 12012, Set 63)**

**Ans.** Gaston pointed out that the garden was merely a yard with a patch of grass in the middle. The salon was impossible and the one existing could not be called a salon. He felt that the 25 yards of cretonne and a desk of paint was no special offer at all. > >

**Q. 15. "On the principle of people who like children and haven't any can always go and live near a school." Explain this comment contextually. (Board Term 12012, Set 65)**

**Ans.** Gaston made this comment in response to Juliette's observation that even though the garden of the villa was very small yet it made no difference as it was surrounded by other gardens. In harmony with this line of thought, people who don't have children of their own but like children, ran go and live near a school

**Q. 16. In what way did Juliette flatter Jeanne? 1 ' (Board Term 12012, Set 67)**

**Ans.** Juliette flattered Jeanne by saying that the villa would suit her as she suited it and also by saying that there was no other graceful house for the elegant lady Jeanne.

**Q. 17. Why is Mrs. Al Smith in a hurry ? (BoardTerm 12012, Set 69)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Al Smith was a film maker. She did not waste time as she always had a lot of work to do. She did not have time for petty things. Hence, she was always in a hurry. '

**Q. 18. Why was Juliette disappointed ? (Board Term 12012, Set 70)**

**Ans.** Juliette was in a hurry to dispose off the villa as her business was very low. As the villa was near Joumtle, near French Hollywood, she was expecting to find a buyer soon for a lucrative price. She felt disappointed as she was unable to find a suitable buyer for her villa even after a month. ' '

**Q. 19. Why did Mrs. Al Smith want to buy the Villa ? (Board Term 12010, Set BI)**

**Ans.** Mrs. Al Smith was an American lady who worked in films. She wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films as it would be quite convenient for her.

**Q. 20. Give any two personality traits of Jeanne. Support your answer with examples. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** Two personality traits of Jeanne are as follows: , . –

(i)Jeanne is easily impressed. Juliette's praise of her impresses her and she Feels flattered.

(ii)She is docile. She takes her criticism lightly. '

**Q. 21. In the end, Gaston has changed his views of buying the Villa. Give reasons to support your answer.(BoardTerm 12010,Set A1)**

**Ans.** He has done better business during the absence of Juliette and Jeanne. Being an opportunist, he (Ranges his mood of buying the Villa in the end.

**Q. 22. Why did the maid agree to act in the film ? (Board Term 12010, Set A1)**

**Ans.** Her mistress gave her a fixed salary and she would earn much more by acting daily for one hour only. So, the maid agreed to act in films to add spice to her salary.

**Q. 23. Gaston was indeed a clever businessman. Explain. . t ! (Board Term 12010, Set B2)**

**Ans.** Gaston really proved to be a clever businessman. Vety cleverly he sold Juliette's Vila, pretending to be its real

owner, for three hundred thousand francs. He then bought the villa for two hundred thousand francs, thus making a cool hundred thousand francs profit for himself. <

**Q. 24. While you were upstairs, I have been thinking a lot about Papa and Mama. Describe how Gaston contradicts himself through this dialogue. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)**

**Ans.** Earlier, he did not want Jeanne's parents to stay with them, but now he is showing concern for them.

### **Long Answer Type Questions .(80-100 Words> (4 Marks each)**

**Q.1. Do you agree that Mrs. Al Smith is the representative of the American outlook. How?**

**(Board Term 12014/FROK4WI)**

**Ans.** I do agree that Mrs. Al Smith is the representative of American outlook. She is always complaining that the French people have a queer way of doing business. They usually consult ten people before they decide on anything. She takes pride in saying that the Americans only think about the future whereas the French stick to the past. Thus she is proud of her culture and critical of the French. She also believes that Frenchmen are apprehensive and backward looking. She is not justified in her opinion. Gaston proves that he is a shrewd businessman who can outsmart any American.

**Q.2. Why was Mrs. Al Smith not interested in going over the house ? (Board Term 12014, MZPO310)**

**Ans.** Being an American filmmaker, Mrs. Al Smith wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films. She wanted to knock the villa down and build a bungalow in its place. So, she wasn't interested in going over the house. Moreover, she trusts and believes others easily. She does not care to examine and analyse others when she presumes that Gaston is the owner of the villa, she asks him the price of the villa and gives him a Cheque for the amount and leaves the place in a hurry.

**Q. 3. Imagine you are Gaston. Write a letter to your father telling him how chance and intelligent thinking helped you make a huge profit (150 words). (Board Term 12012, Set 39)**

**Ans.** 43, Ashok Vihar New Delhi 16th September, 20 x x Dear Father,

I am thrilled today as I have struck upon a deal in which I have made a huge profit.

Jeanne had a craze for a villa. I was not keen on buying one, so only went to have a look for Jeanne's satisfaction. Juliette, the owner of the villa, demanded two hundred thousand francs which I felt was quite high. When Jeanne had gone upstairs to see the villa, I came across Mrs. Al Smith, who was keen to buy the villa for three hundred thousand francs. I realized it was a good opportunity to make a profit. So, I pretended to be the owner of the house and struck a good deal with Mrs. Al Smith making a profit of hundred thousand francs, I am sure you would appreciate my presence of mind. See you soon.

Yours affectionately,

Gaston

**Q. 4. You are Gaston. Write a diary entry expressing your Joy on having made a huge profit by selling the villa. Also, share your feelings of regret for cheating your unsuspecting wife. Write the diary entry in about 150 words.**

**(Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 34)**

**Ans.** Saturday 30th December, 20xx 10.00 p.m.

Dear Diary,

Jeanne's craze for a villa led us to Juliette's villa. I was uninterested in buying the villa but went there to have a look for Jeanne's satisfaction. When the ladies went for an inspection of the villa, there was an entry of Mrs. Al Smith. She was in a great hurry and hence, mistook me to be the owner of the villa. Taking advantage of the situation, I got her to make a deal, thereby earning a profit of a hundred thousand francs. My wife was pleasantly surprised when I finalized the deal with Juliette. Although I am happy to strike this deal, at the same time I regret cheating my wife, Jeanne. She does not suspect my actions. Tomorrow, I shall tell her the reality. Hope she too will excuse me this time. I pledge not to cheat her again in the future. It was immoral and unethical to indulge in such an act. I shouldn't have betrayed her confidence. I shall apologise to her, first thing in the morning.

Thank you diary.

**Q. 5. Imagine you are Jeanne Gaston's wife. You come to know about Gaston's dishonest deal. Write a letter to Mrs. Juliette revealing the truth and requesting her to cancel the deal with Gaston and to sign a fresh deal with Mrs. Al Smith in 150 words. (Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 50)**

**Ans.** 43, Ashok Vihar

0 New Delhi

2nd January, 20 xx

Dear Juliette,

I am greatly disheartened and shocked by the unprincipled behaviour of my husband. He has showed his true colours of cleverness. He has proved himself to be shrewd, calculating, business-minded and opportunistic. Initially, he was unwilling to buy the villa for he feared that the villa would be occupied by my parents and sister's children. Later I was shocked when I came to know the truth that he has cheated both you and me. He has made a handsome profit out of the deal.

I am shocked to realize that my feelings are not important to him. I have lost trust in my husband and want to teach him a lesson. I request you to kindly cancel the deal with Gaston and sign a fresh deal with Mrs. Al Smith. Thanks.

Yours truly

Jeanne

**Q. 6. You are Jeanne. After coming home, you realize that the villa was not actually bought and your husband has fooled both you and the landlady of the villa. You are filled with rage, disgust and helplessness because of your husband's betrayal. Write your feelings in the form of a diary entry. (Board Term 12012, Set 41)**

**You are Jeanne. After coming home you realize that the villa was not actually bought and your husband has fooled both you and the landlady of the villa. You are angry as you find yourself in a helpless situation.**

**Express your feelings in your diary. (Board Term 12012, Set 48)**

**Ans.** Sunday 20th October, 20xx 10:00p.m.

Dear Diary, ;

I am full of disgust after being cheated by Gaston today. I am disheartened to learn that I have been fooled by him. It was very selfish of him to say that he was buying the villa for my parents, but I was shocked when I came to know the truth. He has cheated both Juliette and myself. Now, I understand why he was in such a hurry to buy the villa. He has proved himself to be very practical and money minded. How could he be so uncaring of my feelings? I am feeling very depressed and curse the day when I got married to him. His behaviour has lately been very unprincipled and unscrupulous, I wish Gaston would have behaved better I feel so helpless because of his betrayal I have decided I shall not talk to him. .

Goodnight.

**Q. 7. What does the sale of the villa reveal about Gaston? (Board Term 12012, Set 44)**

**Ans.** Jeanne wanted the villa for her parents and her sister's children. Gaston was not at all enthralled on account of it and found fault in the villa and said that the price was too high for the purchase. Juliette, the owner of the villa offered two hundred thousand francs while Mrs. Al Smith was ready to buy it for three hundred thousand francs. As Mr. Gaston was mistaken for the owner, he struck the deal in order to make money. Gaston is an opportunist. He was clever and hypocritical. He could turn any situation to his advantage. He had great presence of mind and insight into Mrs. Al Smith's psychology,

**Q. 8. Do you think Gaston is a shrewd businessman or a plain cheater? Give reasons to support your answer. (Value based) (Board Term 12012, Set 60)**

**Ans.** Gaston was not a cheater, but a shrewd businessman. He had a strong business instinct. Seeing Mrs. Al Smith, he sensed profit. He showed presence of mind by posing as the owner of the villa and selling it for three hundred thousand francs. He then bought the villa for two hundred thousand francs, thereby making a clear and effortless profit of one hundred thousand francs. 1

**Q. 9. You are Gaston. You reveal your fake deal with Mrs. Al Smith to your wife Jeanne and she leaves you to stay with her parents. Write a letter to her expressing your repentance over the issue and requesting her to come back. (Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 54)**

**Ans.** 73-A, Joinville

Britain

14th October, 20 x x Dear Jeanne,

I was well aware of the fact that you wanted the villa for your parents. Though I was disinterested in the beginning, I had reconciled with the situation. Entry of Mrs. Al Smith made me sense profit and I could not refrain myself from making the deal with her I had no intention of hurting you or anyone else. I just tried to grab the opportunity that came to me. I am sorry for the betrayal and will surely undo the wrong. I shall buy an equally elegant villa for your family. But please come back early.

Waiting for you.

Gaston