

**STEWART SCHOOL**  
**Class VIII**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**Question Bank**

**FIRST TERM - 2020 - 2021**

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

**Lesson-1-Where the Mind is without Fear**

**Q1. Where the mind is without fear  
And the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free**

**i) What does the poet mean by the expression 'the mind is without fear' ? Which poetic device is used in the second line?**

**Ans-**The expression 'the mind is without fear' means the mind is free from the fear of oppression of the British rule and disrespect.  
The poetic device used in the second line is alliteration, where the consonant 'h' is repeated in ' head is held high.'

**ii ) What does the poet mean by the expression 'where knowledge is free' ?**

**Ans-** The expression means that knowledge is not the monopoly of the privileged few, it is freely accessible to all irrespective of caste, creed, colour, status, religion and gender.

**iii) Whom does the poet pray and why?**

**Ans-**The poet prays to God, the universal father to awaken his countrymen and help his country turn into a heaven of freedom where people will live fearlessly with dignity and self-respect and grow and prosper into a new world.

**iv) Whose mind is the poet talking about and what does the poet say about their state of mind?**

**Ans-**The poet talks about the minds of his countrymen -the minds are full of fear due to British oppression and subjugation.

**v) Explain the quote 'head is held high'. Name the poem and the poet.**

**Ans-** It means that people live with self respect and dignity.

The name of the poem is 'Where the mind is without fear' and the poet is Rabindranath Tagore.

**Q2. "Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from the depth of truth  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection.**

i) What is referred to as the 'world' here? How can it be broken into fragments?

Ans- The poet's own country India is referred to as the 'world' here. It can be broken into fragments if people raise imaginary walls among themselves on the basis of caste, creed, colour, region, religion, culture etc.

ii) What are the narrow domestic walls? How can they break the world into fragments? Which figure of speech is used in the above extract? Mention with example.

Ans- The narrow domestic walls refer to the imaginary walls raised within the country on the basis of caste, colour, creed, region, religion etc. They break the country into fragments by making people hate one another and fight with one another. These barriers result in disunity, disruption and disharmony in the country.

iii) Who will achieve perfection according to the poet? How will it be achieved?

Ans- The poet's own countrymen will achieve perfection. It will be achieved by living fearlessly, with rational thinking, respect and dignity and continuously striving towards development and progress.

iv) To whom is the poem addressed? What kind of a poem is it?

Ans- The poem is addressed to God, the universal father. It is a half sonnet and a prayer song.

#### ***Lesson 4 - Rain, Rain, Go away***

**Q1. "It is a statement. We are going out with the Sakkaros to Murphy's Park."**

i) Who is the speaker here? Who else is there? Who are the Sakkaros?

Ans- Lillian Wright is the speaker. Her husband George is with her. Sakkaros are their new mysterious neighbours.

ii) The speaker has arranged a picnic to Murphy's Park. How did she arrange it?

Ans- Lillian went to Mrs Sakkaro's house to make acquaintance and suggested the trip so that their boys could have fun. Mrs Sakkaro couldn't refuse her proposal.

iii) What did the speaker notice about Mrs Sakkaro when she had gone to their residence?

Ans-The speaker observed that Mrs. Sakkaro was very particular about cleanliness and hygiene which was evident from the way she poured a glass of water for Lillian without allowing a single drop to fall into the sink and gave the glass to her wrapped with a clean napkin.

iv) What other peculiarities are mentioned in the story about the Sakkaros? Give two examples of it.

Ans-The Sakkaros always checked the weather. Mrs Sakkaro came out of her house many times to check whether it was going to rain. The family subscribed all the newspaper just to know the weather report correctly.

v) What are the various things that the Sakkaros consulted before going on the picnic? What devices did they carry with them?

Ans- The Sakkaros consulted the weather bureau, read the weather report from the newspapers and listened to the radio report on that day's weather. They carried with them a pocket radio and an aneroid barometer.

Q2. It was a cheerful day at Murphy's park, with a cheerfully bright sun in a blue, blue sky.

i) Who went to the Murphy's park? How did they go there?

Ans-The Wrights and the Sakkaros went to the Murphy's park. They went there in George Wright's car.

ii) Who arranged the trip to Murphy's park? How did she do it?

Ans- Lillian Wright arranged the trip to Murphy's park.. She went to Mrs Sakkao and suggested that their boys would have fun if they went on a trip to Murphy's park.

iii) Where did Lillian take the boys once they were in the park? Why?

Ans- Lillian took the boys to the amusement section of the park, so that the boys could enjoy the thrill of every ride the park had to offer.

iv) What did the Sakkaros have at the refreshment area? Which things offered by the Wrights did they refuse to eat?

Ans-The Sakkaros had too many cotten candies.  
They refused to take hot dog and orange drink offered by the Wrights.

v) Why were the Sakkaros so much worried about the weather? Answer in view of the twist in the story at the end.

Ans- The Sakkaros were very worried about the weather because they were made of sugar and if it rained, they would melt.

### *Lessson - 5 -The Road Not Taken*

*Q1. Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both...*

i) Who is 'I' here? What does 'yellow wood' signify? What do you understand by the expression 'diverged'?

Ans- 'I' is the poet, Robert Frost himself. Yellow wood signifies that the season is autumn and the leaves of the trees in the wood have turned yellow. The expression 'diverged' means forked into two.

ii) Why could he not travel both the roads? How long and how far did he look at the first road? Why is the second road described as 'just as fair'?

Ans- The poet could not travel both the roads because being one traveller, he could not take the two roads at the same time.

He looked at the first road as far as he could until it disappeared into the undergrowth.

The poet described the second road as 'just as fair'. After looking at the first road, he decided to take the second, as it's "just as fair." By "fair," the poet could mean "good" and "attractive." In other words, the second road through the woods was just as welcoming and enticing as the first road. However, the poet could also mean that taking the second road was just as right or as good a choice as taking the first road.

iii) Why did the poet think that the second road had a better claim? Why did he doubt if he would ever again come back to take the first road?

Ans-The poet thought that the second road had a better claim because he found it to be grassy and it wanted wear. It did not look worn out or damaged due to overuse.

He doubted because he knew that one road led to another and it would be difficult for him to come back and take the second road.

iv) What do the phrases 'lay in leaves' and 'trodden black' mean? Which road did the

poet ultimately take?

Ans- The phrase 'lay in leaves' means covered with leaves and 'trodden black' means turned black due to being constantly walked upon. He finally took the second road.

v) What does the poet imagine himself saying about his choice in the future? What do the two roads symbolically stand for? Name the poet and the poem.

Ans- The poet imagines himself saying about his choice ages and ages hence that once he stood where two roads diverged into a yellow wood and he had to make a choice. He chose the road less travelled by and that made all the difference. 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. The name of the poem is The Road Not Taken and the poet is Robert Frost.

### *Chapter - 6 - A Tale of Two Cities*

*Q1 Answer the following questions in relation to the story 'A Tale of Two Cities':*

i) Describe the street and the city of Saint Antoine.

Ans- Saint Antoine was the poorest part of Paris. The children living there had the faces and sad voices of old men, hunger seemed to be written on the face of every man and woman. The shops there contained the worst bits of meat and only the cheapest of loaves. The only bright things in the city were the weapon shops that sold the sharpest of bright knives and the most murderous guns.

ii) What happened in the street? How did it change the mood of the people there?

Ans- When a wine barrel was dropped, it broke in the street. Red wine began to flow and formed little pools in the hollows and cracks among the stones. The poor people of the street stopped doing everything and ran to the spot to collect some of the wine before it disappeared into the ground. Some tried to drink it with their hands, some brought cups and some others dipped clothes in the wine and put them in their mouths. For a time laughter of poor and miserable people rang out in the street of Saint Antoine.

iii) Who was Lucie Manette? What had happened in her life? Why did she come to Paris and with whom? What did she find out in the end?

Ans -Lucie was the daughter of Dr Manette. When she was a baby, her mother died and her father disappeared. She was taken

to London and was put in charge of Mr Jarvis Lorry who took care of her money and education.

After many years she got the information that her father was alive and came to Paris to see her father with Mr Jarvis Lorry. She found out in the end that her father had become a very old man and he was in the care of his old servant Defarge in whose house he was staying alone in a room making shoes.

***Q2. "Immediately, everyone left whatever they were doing and ran to the spot to collect some of the wine before it disappeared into the ground."***

**i) What had happened so that everyone left what they were doing? Where did it happen?**

**Ans-** A wine barrel broke in the middle of the street and the poor people who hardly got to taste wine left everything and ran to collect and drink the wine. It happened in the street of Saint Antoine.

**ii) Why did the people run to collect wine? What does it tell about their living condition?**

**Ans-** The people of Saint Antoine ran to collect wine because they were very poor and hardly got a chance to taste wine. It tells us about their miserable living conditions, that they were deprived of food and basic necessities of life.

**iii) Mention the different ways in which the people tried to collect wine.**

**Ans-** Some knelt down to drink it from their hands, some brought cups and tried to fill them, others dipped clothes in the wine and put them in their mouths.

**iv) Who was watching the people? Where was he? What was he thinking looking at the struggle?**

**Ans-** Monsieur Defarge was watching the people. He was standing outside his wine shop. He was thinking that it was not his affair and as that barrel was broken, they must bring him another.

**v) What did a person write on a wall? What did he use to write it? Name the author of the novel from which this extract has been taken.**

**Ans-** A person wrote the word 'BLOOD' on a wall in the public place. He used a mixture of mud and red wine to write. The name of the author is Charles Dickens.

## *Lesson - 7 - Ozymandias*

**Q1. "The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed"**

i) Whose hand is being referred to in the given line? Who does the word 'them' refer to?

Ans- The hand of the sculptor is being referred to here. "Them" refers to the expressions of anger, scorn and contempt on the face of Ozymandias.

ii) Explain the two meanings of the word 'mocked'.

Ans- The two meanings of the word 'mocked' are-

a) copied- The sculptor copied the angry and contemptuous facial expressions of King Ozymandias while making the sculpture.

b) ridiculed- While working at the sculpture, the sculptor ridiculed the scornful and haughty expressions on the face of Ozymandias.

iii) Whose heart is being referred to in the line? What had it fed?

Ans- Ozymandias' heart is being referred to. It fed emotions of scorn and contempt.

iv) Where do the passions of the old king survive?

Ans- The passions of the old king survive in the broken and trunk-less statue of Ozymandias.

v) What message does the broken sculpture of Ozymandias give us?

Ans- The broken statue of Ozymandias gives us the message that even the mightiest kings and empires decline and fade away. Nothing remains forever on earth.

## *Lesson - 8 - Gorillas in the Mist*

**Q1. "We brought him back to the camp and tied him up while we went with poor Digit's autopsy."**

i) Who brought whom back to the camp? What had the captured person done?

Ans- Fossey and her men brought back the poacher to the camp. The captured person had killed Digit along with some other poachers.

ii) Who was Digit? Why were they conducting an autopsy on him?

Ans- Digit was a silverback gorilla who was Fossey's favourite. Fossey and her men conducted an autopsy on Digit as the silverback gorilla was heinously murdered by some poachers. To investigate the cause of his death the autopsy was done

iii) Why was the autopsy a gruesome business?

Ans- The autopsy was a gruesome business as Digit's body was pierced by spears at many places. His lungs, heart, spleen, intestine and stomach were badly injured by the weapons.

iv) Why was Digit killed? Who told them about it?

Ans- Digit was killed for his head and hands because a Hutu merchant had offered to pay the equivalent of twenty dollars for the head and hands of a silverback gorilla.

The baby-faced Twa who was captured by Fossey's men informed about this.

v) Why did not Fossey hand over the prisoner to the park guards? What did she do instead?

Ans- Fossey did not handover the prisoner to the park guards because the guards had a way of losing their prisoners.

She handed the prisoner to the Chef des brigades, Paulin Nkubili instead.

## *Chapter - 10 - Elder Brother*

*Q.1 But it's one thing to draw up a schedule, another to follow it.*

i) What kind of schedule had the narrator drawn up and on whose instruction?

Ans. The narrator drew a life destroying schedule. It only had time slots for studies comprising subjects like English, Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar, English composition, translation and Hindi etc.

He had to study from the crack of the dawn to eleven o'clock in the night and the time for play was entirely absent in it.

Nobody had asked him to draw the schedule. He himself had prepared it, after getting a dressing down from his elder brother.

ii) Why was it hard for the narrator to follow the schedule? What were the main distractions for him?

Ans- It was hard for the narrator to follow the schedule because it had no time for play and it was life destroying. The books strained his eyes and he could not



remember anything.

The main distractions were the inviting green expanse of the playground, the balmy winds, the commotion on the football field, the exciting stratagems of the prisoner's base, the speed and flurries of volleyballs which drew him mysteriously and irresistibly.

iii) What thoughts went through the narrator's mind before he decided to draw up the schedule?

Ans- The thoughts that went through the narrator's mind were that why he did not run away from school and went back home and why he would spoil his life fiddling with work that was beyond his capacity.

iv) Was the narrator able to follow the schedule? Why? Why not?

Ans. No, the narrator was not able to follow the schedule because he got over the mysterious and irresistible attractions which made him forget the life destroying schedule and the books that strained his eyes.

v) Why did he get a dressing down from his elder brother?

Ans. The narrator got a dressing down from his elder brother because he left the hostel whenever he got a chance and went to the playground to play marbles or fly kites or just to meet a friend instead of sitting in the hostel room and study.

*Q2. When he heard the results, he broke down and cried. So did I.*

i) Who broke down and why?

Ans-The elder brother broke down because he had failed in the ninth grade examinations despite killing himself with hard labour.

ii) How did the younger brother react to his brother's failure?

Ans. The younger brother also cried as his pleasure in passing was cut by half. The thought also crossed his mind that if his brother failed once more, both of them will be in the same grade.

iii) What change came over the elder brother after he failed? How did the younger brother take advantage of it?

Ans. The elder brother became much gentler and stopped scolding the younger brother.

The younger one grew in independence and stopped studying seriously. He found pleasure in flying kites.

iv) What happened one day when he was running madly to catch a kite?

Ans-While running madly to catch a kite, the narrator suddenly collided with his elder brother. His brother grabbed his hand and scolded him that he had no shame in running with those ragamuffins.

v) What did the elder brother say about his role in the elder brother's life? What was the narrator's reaction to his elder brother's words?

Ans. The elder brother said that he was five years older than his younger brother and even if he came to his grade, he could never equal the experience he had of life and the world even if he got an M. A., a Ph.D and a D.Litt. The younger brother felt thoroughly ashamed and came to realise his own insignificance. A new respect was born in his heart for his elder brother.

Q3. Answer the following questions from the story "Elder Brother".

i) What happened one day when the younger brother was running madly to grab hold of a kite?

Ans. The younger brother collided with his brother. His brother grabbed his hand and scolded him angrily for running with the ragamuffins after a one paisa kite. He reminded him that he was in class 8 and should have self-respect.

ii) What did the elder brother tell the younger one about experience and understanding? Mention with an example.

Ans. The elder brother told that he was five years older than him and even if the younger one came to his grade, he could never equal the experience he had of life and the world, even if he got an M.A. ,a D.Litt or even a Ph.D. He further told that understanding didn't come from reading books.Their parents had little education but they knew a thousand things better than the narrator and his brother.

iii) What effect did the elder brother's words have on the narrator? What did he do after the realisation? In what way were the brothers reconciled?

Ans- The narrator was thoroughly shamed by his brother's new approach. He came to know his own insignificance and a new respect was born in his heart for his brother.

He accepted before his brother tearfully that the latter had every right to reprimand him.

His brother embraced him and told that he liked flying kites too but as an elder brother, he could not go off track because he had to keep an eye on his younger brother.

## SECOND TERM 2020 - 2021

*"Read the following extracts and answers the questions that follow- "*

### *Chapter - 11 - The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

*Q1. "He holds him with his glittering eye,  
The wedding guest stood still..."*

i) How did the mariner detain the guest? Where did he stop him?

Ans- The mariner detained the wedding guest by captivating him with his mesmerising, glittering eyes.  
He stopped the guest outside the wedding hall.

ii) What effect did the mariner's eyes have on the guest?

Ans- The captivating and magical look of the mariner's eye made the wedding guest stand still. He listened to the mariner's story with the fascination of a three year old child.

iii ) How did the wedding guest react to the mariner at first?

Ans- Earlier when the mariner had tried to stop the wedding guest by holding his hand, the latter had got annoyed and had asked him to leave his hand and had called him a grey-beard loon.

iv) Why did the mariner stop the wedding guest?

Ans- The mariner stopped the wedding guest to confess about his unusual crime of killing an albatross without reason. He was cursed for such a crime and had to tell many people his story to save himself from the curse.

v) Describe the mariner's appearance.

Ans- The mariner is described as 'ancient' as he was a very old man with a long grey beard , deeply tanned skin, skinny hands and glittering eyes.

*Q2. "It ate the food it ne'er had eat,  
And round and round it flew..."*

i) What is being referred to as 'it' ? What kind of bond did it develop with the crew of the ship?

Ans-The albatross is being referred to as 'it'  
It developed a special bond. It responded to the mariners' call for food and play and followed the ship wherever it went.

ii) What effect did its arrival seem to have?

Ans- After the arrival of the albatross arrival, the ice split and made way for the ship to move forward. A good south wind began to blow and the weather became clear.

iii) What was it compared to? What did 'it' do?

Ans- The albatross was compared to a Christian soul.  
It flew round and round over the ship and ate the food given by the mariners. It stayed for nine vespers with the crew.

iv) What kind of weather did the ship and the crew face before 'it' arrived?

Ans- Before the albatross arrived, the ship and the crew were chased by a terrible storm at the equator. When the storm drove the ship southwards, it reached a calm patch of sea. The weather grew extremely cold and the ship was surrounded by mist, snow and the glistening green icebergs.

v) What was the wedding guest's response to the speaker's description ?

Ans- The wedding guest said that God must have saved the ancient mariner from the devils who troubled him day and night. He further asked why he looked in such a weird manner with wide-eyes.

## *Chapter - 12 - The Six Napoleons*

*Q3. "Mr Harker, will you please tell us what has occurred."*

i) Who is Mr Harker? Where does he live? Who had gone to meet him?

Ans- Mr. Harker was a journalist.  
He lived at 131 Pitt Street , Kensington  
Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson had gone to meet him.

ii) Which incident had taken place in Mr Harker's house? How was the incident related to the other case earlier?

Ans- A murder had taken place in Mr. Harker's house.  
Along with the murder, a bust of Napoleon had also been stolen and had been destroyed just as in the other cases.

iii) What did Mr Harker say in his account of what had happened?

Ans- Harker narrated that he was writing late in the night and at around three o'clock he suddenly heard a horrible scream. He froze with horror. Seizing his poker, he went down. He entered the room and found that windows were open and the bust of Napoleon was gone from the mantelpiece. He walked to the front doorstep and stumbled over the body of a dead man lying on the ground there.

iv) Describe the victim of the incident? Which things were found from him?

Ans- The victim was a tall, sunburnt, strong man, not more than thirty and poorly dressed.

His pocket contained an apple, a map of London and a photograph.

v) Which was the common element in all the queer cases that Holmes was dealing with? Where did he catch the main culprit and how?

Ans- In every case, the bust of Napoleon belonging to their respective owners had been destroyed by the culprit.

Holmes caught the main culprit at Laburnum Lodge, in Mr Josiah Brown's house. Holmes, Watson and Lestrade kept themselves hidden in the shadow of the fence and when the culprit came out with the bust of Napoleon and started to tap it. Holmes sprang upon him and the other two handcuffed him.

*Q2. Holmes placed a ten pound note on the table and asked him to sign a paper in our presence. It simply said with the return of the money, he transferred every possible right of the bust to Sherlock Homes.*

i) From whom did Holmes buy the bust? Why did he make him sign the agreement?

Ans- Holmes bought the bust from Mr. Sandeford of Reading.

Holmes made him sign an agreement so that Mr Sandeford could not have any claim on the bust of Napoleon later.

ii) What did Holmes do next? What startling discovery was made?

Ans. Holmes spread a white cloth on the table and placed the bust on it. Then he struck the bust a hard blow on the head breaking it into pieces. He bent over the shattered remains and picked up a round dark object giving a shout of triumph.

The startling discovery was that the round dark object was the famous black pearl of Borgias.

iii) Who was the main culprit as it came to light? Why was he breaking all the busts?

Ans- As it came to light, the Italian sculptor, Beppo was the main culprit.

He was breaking the busts because he himself had hidden the famous black pearl of Bourgias which he had stolen. Being uncertain of which particular bust had the pearl, he kept on stealing and breaking the busts.

iv) What previous crime did Holmes recall to solve the case?

Ans- Holmes recalled the stealing of the black pearl from Prince of Colonna's bedroom. Pietro Vennuci's sister had stolen it and had given to Pietro. Later Beppo got it from him.

v) Why had Beppo murdered Pietro Venucci? How did Holmes catch him?

Ans- Pietro followed Beppo closely to Horace Harker's house and blamed him for the loss of the pearl. There, during a scuffle, Beppo stabbed and killed him. Holmes had come to know what Beppo was after. The name of the murdered man linked one thing to another and Holmes caught Beppo.

### *Chapter - 13 -The Commentator*

*Q1. "And the pitch looks in superb condition  
As Danny Markey prepares  
To kick off for England;"*

i. Where is the pitch located? Who are the two teams playing? What are they playing?

Ans- The pitch is located at four Florence Terrace.  
The two teams playing are England and Holland.  
They are playing an international football match.

ii) Who introduces himself as the commentator? What other role does he play? How old is he?

Ans- Danney Markey introduces himself as the commentator.  
He is also the Captain of the England team.  
Danney is nine years old.

iii) How many other people are introduced by name? Who are they?

Ans- Two other people are introduced by name.  
They are Markey's friends, Keegan and Francis.

iv) What happens when the ball goes past the dustbin? Mention two words that are associated with the game in particular?

Ans- When the ball past the dustbin a cat came out of the dustbin.  
The two words associated with the game are jinking and tackled.

v) How does Markey score the goal?

Ans- Markey passes the ball to Keegan, Keegan passes it back to Markey, Markey jinks the ball skilfully past the dustbin and passes it to Francis. Francis passes it back to Markey who is tackled by a drainpipe yet wins the ball back. He advances towards the goal post and the Dutch keeper could not stop him. In this way Markey scores a goal.

*Q2. "What is the referee going to do?  
Markey looks very dejected here,"*

i) Where does the ball go after Markey scores a goal? What does Markey do then?

Ans- The ball goes to Mrs Spence next door.  
Markey goes round to Mrs Spence' s door to ask for the ball back.

ii) Who comes out of the door? Does the person help Markey? What does she do?

Ans- Mrs Spence comes to the door.  
No, she does not help Markey.  
She shakes her head signalling that she will not give the ball back.

iii) Does Markey give up hope? How does he get the ball back?

Ans-No, Markey doesn't give up hope  
He waits for Mrs Spence to close her door. Then he goes back again to search for the ball in her yard. He gets it by the compost heap.

iv) What trouble lies in store for Markey? In what way is it humorous?

Ans- Markey is in trouble when Mrs Spence opens her door once again. She waves her fist and shouts at Markey. She looks displeased.  
It is humorous the way Markey runs away from her yard with Mrs Spence chasing Markey as he runs round in circles through the field.

v) What are the actual and the imagined settings in the poem?

Ans- The imagined setting is an international football pitch, a capacity crowd and England and Holland playing against one another.  
The real setting is four Florence Terrance in which Markey and his few friends play football watched by a few local boys where there is a drainpipe, a cat in the dustbin and Mrs. Spence's house.

## ***Chapter - 14 - THE GIFT OF THE MAGI***

***Q1. "One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all."***

**i) What does the above amount of money refer to? Who had the money? Why was she counting the money?**

**Ans-**The above amount refers to the money saved by Della to buy a Christmas gift. Della Dillingham had the money. She counted the money to know how much money she had to buy a present for her husband for Christmas.

**ii) How was the money saved? Why was Della unable to save more money?**

**Ans-** Della saved the money by bulldozing the grocer, the vegetable man and the butcher until her cheek burned with embarrassment.  
-She was unable to save more money because her husband's income had shrunk to \$20 and the expenses were much more than calculated.

**iii) What did she do after counting the money? Why did she do so?**

**Ans-** After counting the money, she threw herself on the shabby little couch and howled.  
She did so because her savings was not enough to buy a decent Christmas gift for her husband.

**iv) How do we come to know that the financial condition of Della and her husband was not good?**

**Ans-** We come to know that the financial condition of Della and her husband was not good because they lived in a furnished flat at \$8 per week. Della had to bargain hard with the grocers, vegetable men and the butchers while buying the necessities. Her husband needed an overcoat and was without gloves. The furniture in the room was not in proper condition.

**v) Why did Della need more money? What did she do to get it? What does it tell us about her relationship with her husband?**

**Ans.** Della needed more money so that she could buy a nice present for her husband for Christmas.  
She sold off her hair, one of the two prized possessions they had.  
It shows that she loved her husband too much and wanted to do something to make him happy.

***Q2. "Jim stepped inside the door. His eyes were upon Della and there***



*was an expression in them that she could not read."*

i) Why could not Della read the expression in Jim's eyes? What was the expression on Jim's face?

Ans- Della could not read the expression in Jim's face because his face had no expression of anger, surprise, disapproval or horror or any of the sentiments she was prepared for.

He simply stared at Della fixedly with a peculiar expression on his face.

ii) What had Della done which made her quite anxious and nervous? Why did she do such a thing?

Ans. Della had gone and sold her beautiful, long and luxuriant hair which was her only prized possession.

She did so in order to get enough money to buy Jim a nice Christmas gift.

iii. Describe the thing Della bought for Jim. How much did she pay for it?

Ans- Della bought a platinum fob chain which was simple and pure in design with quietness and value.

She paid twenty one dollars.

iv. How did Della react when she saw Jim's gift for her? Why did she react in that way?

Ans- On seeing Jim's gift she gave out a delighted scream of joy, then it changed to hysterical tears and wails.

She reacted in such a manner because she had cut her hair so short that she would not be able to use the tortoiseshell combs on them.

v) Why could not Jim and Della use their gifts immediately? Why are they described as the Magi in the story?

Ans- They could not use their gifts immediately because Jim had sold his gold watch for which Della bought the platinum fob chain and Della had got her long hair cut short and Jim's tortoiseshell combs were of no use on her short hair.

They are described as Magi because just like the Magi, the wisest men, Jim and Della sacrificed their most prized possessions and bought gifts for one another out of pure and unconditional love. They were foolish yet the wisest.

## Chapter - 15 - THE LAST WOLF

*Q1. "Passing the flicking red and green  
of traffic signals  
baying his way eastward  
in the mystery of his wild loping gait..."*

i) Who is referred to in the extract? Where is he going? What do you understand by 'baying'?

Ans- The last wolf is referred to in the extract.  
He is going to meet the unknown narrator.  
The word 'baying' means howling.

ii) Describe the condition of the city 'he' passes through.

Ans- The city is in a state of ruin. The mazes of buildings had been smashed, the lighted elevators lie useless in the high-rises and most of the buildings have been reduced to rubble.

iii) Which street does the wolf pass through? Compare and contrast the 'warrens' and the 'highrises' that the wolf passes.

Ans-The wolf passes through the Montgomery Street.  
The warrens or the maze of buildings have been smashed and reduced to rubble, and the high-rises are deserted and their lighted elevators are rendered useless.

iv) During what time of the day is 'he ' travelling? How do you know it? Explain the figure of speech in the phrase 'ruby-crowned high-rises'.

Ans- The wolf is travelling In the deadly night.  
We know it from the fact that the elevators are lit.  
The high-rises lit by the light of the setting sun are described as the ruby-crowned high-rises. The figure of speech is a metaphor.

v) What do the wolf's movements and his cries indicate about his state of mind?

Ans-The wolf's hurrying towards the poet, its loping gait , his baying, whining and snuffle indicate that he is in despair and suffers from anxiety and unrest. His entire race is annihilated and he is deeply hurt.

*Q2. His eyes burned yellow  
His small dotted eyes quivered  
Yes, I said.  
I know what they have done.*

i) Who do you think the speaker is? What was she waiting for?

Ans- The speaker is the poet Mary Tall mountain herself.  
She was waiting for the wolf to come to her to share its anguish.

ii) Describe the expression in the eyes of the wolf. What did he do on reaching the poet's place?

Ans- His eyes burned yellow. His small dotted eyebrows quivered.  
He lay his long grey muzzle on the white spread on the poet's bed.

iii) Explain the last line of the extract. Why did the speaker say these words?

Ans- The last line means that the poet is aware of the destruction and devastation caused by human beings to nature in general and wild animals in particular.  
The speaker says these words to comfort the wolf and to show that she too is deeply hurt by the wrong deeds of human beings and the suffering caused to nature and the wild animals.

iv) Where was the speaker when the wolf approached her? What was she doing?

Ans- The speaker was in her room in an apartment.  
She was sitting on her narrow bed looking west, waiting for the wolf to arrive.

v) What does the wolf symbolise in the poem? Why did he come to the poet? What message do we get from the poem?

Ans- The wolf symbolises nature.  
It came to the poet to share its anguish and pain of losing all the members of its race and also at the loss of its habitat.

## ***Chapter - 16 - A SHORT WALK IN THE HINDKUSH***

***Q1. 'Where 's he going?***

***'He's going to try it in the river?***

**i) Who are the speakers? Where were they?**

**Ans-** The speakers are the narrator Eric Newby and his friend Hugh Carless. They are in the aylaq of the Nuristanis.

**ii) What is being referred to as 'it'? What was its special quality?**

**Ans-**"it" refers to the narrator's watch. It was indestructible and could withstand any kind of ill-treatment.

**iii) Why had one of the speakers handed it over?**

**Ans-** One of the speakers handed it over to the Nuristhanis because he wanted to give pleasure and happiness to the Nuristanis as he found that they were quite interested in gadgets.

**iv) What unexpected thing had been done to it a while ago.? Why?**

**Ans-** A young Nuristani had dropped the watch into the cauldron of boiling liquid. He did so to test its strength as the narrator had told the Nuristanis that the watch could withstand any kind of ill-treatment.

**v) Why was he going to try it in the river? How did the narrator recover 'it' from the Nuristani before leaving the aylaq?**

**Ans-** He was going to try it in the river to know if it would work under water. The Nuristani was not ready to part with the watch and the narrator caught him moving secretly behind one of the walls of the aylaq. When the narrator asked for it, the man laughed without giving it. His eyes were strange and mad and he had an air of violence about him. The narrator forced open his clenched right palm and took away his watch.

***Q2. "They came pouring out of the bothy and raced over the grass towards us at a tremendous pace, dozens of them."***

**i) Who are being referred to as 'they'? Where did they come out from? What impression did they give as they were pouring out?**

**Ans-** 'They' refers to the Nuristanis. They poured out of the bothy.

They gave the impression of being out of the past.

ii) Describe the physical features of the Nuristanis.

Ans- The Nuristanis were all different, no two were alike. They were tall and short, light-skinned and dark-skinned, brown-eyed and grey-eyed. There were men who looked like gypsies with a lock of hair brought forward in ringlets on either side of the forehead. Some of them had great bushy beards and moustaches that made them look like Arctic explorers.

iii) What were they wearing?

Ans-They were wearing flat, large and floppy Chitrali caps, drab brown collarless shirts and loose waistcoats. Their brown trousers reached to the middle of the calf and flapped loosely as they ran up the meadow.

iv) Which tribe did these people belong to? What language did the writer think they were speaking?

Ans-They belonged to the Ramguli Katirs , a tribe of the black-robed Siah Posh. They spoke Bashguli language as the narrator guessed.

v) Where did they live in the summer months and what did they do there?

Ans-The men of the tribe lived in the pastures without their women and looked after their flocks and cattle. They made curd and butter to store for the winter and for trade with the outside world.

## *Chapter - 18 - A LESSON ON A TORTOISE*

*Q1." The last lesson of the week is weariness to teachers and scholars."*

i) Which day and what time was it? Which class did the scholars belong to?

Ans- It was Friday afternoon. The scholars belonged to class VI .

ii) What was the last lesson of that day and what was the duration of the class? What did the teacher ask the children to do?

Ans- It was Nature Study

The duration was one hour, from half past three to half past four.

The teacher asked the children to take out their nature books and to sketch the tortoise Joe.

iii) What was the general mood of the teacher and the students that Friday afternoon? Why?

Ans –The general mood was that of weariness, relaxation and rest. The teacher as well as the students were tired working the whole week and were looking forward to the weekend.

iv) Describe the various groups of students in the class.

Ans- It was a difficult, mixed class comprising six Gordon Home boys, five boys from a fairly well-to-do Home for the children of actors and a set of commoners varying from poor lads to boys from rich families.

v) How did the Gordon Home boys and the actors' children usually behave?

Ans-The Gordon Home boys were a difficult set ; crop-haired, coarsely dressed, distrustful and always ready to be defensive. They lied till the teacher's heart felt sick, if they were charged with any offense, but they always responded willingly and beautifully to an appeal.

The actors were of a different fibre. They were a pleasure to look at, some gentle and others were polite and obedient , but indifferent and secretly rude. All of them were more or less gentlemanly.

*Q2. "Well,' I answered, justifying myself. 'Isn't it natural? Haven't you boys stolen several times and been caught?"*

i) To whose speech was the teacher responding? What had he said ?

Ans-The teacher was responding to Wood's speech  
He had said that the teacher picked on Marples and Rawson and him. He always started blaming the Gordons first.

ii) What had been stolen? Who had found out about it and when?

Ans- Four rubbers had been stolen.  
The Monitor had found out when he was asked by the teacher to distribute the rubbers among the children. The monitor had kept fifteen rubbers in a blue box in the cupboard but on counting he found only eleven.

iii) How did the teacher find out the thief? Who was the thief?

Ans- The teacher tore up scraps of paper, gave it to all the students and asked them to write the name of the boy whom they suspected to be the thief.  
The assistant monitor, Segar was the thief.

iv) How did the teacher deal with the culprit?

Ans- The teacher detained the assistant monitor after everybody was gone and asked him about the rubbers. When the boy lied on his face, he dismissed him from the position of assistant monitor and instructed him to not to enter the classroom until all others came in.

v) Explain the line- 'the sordid streets near the school felt like disease in the lamp light'. Why do you think the teacher felt that way?

Ans-The dirty and unpleasant streets near the school looked diseased in the faint lamplight.

The teacher felt that way because he had been shocked and hurt by the behaviour of his assistant monitor. Segar had betrayed his trust and had lied on his face. The boy had behaved in a diseased way.

### ***THE GIFT OF THE MAGI***

(Long Type)

Q1-Answer the following questions in relation to the short story "The Gift of the Magi":

i) How do we know that the financial condition of Jim and Della was not good? (4)

Ans- The financial condition of Jim and Della was not good because they lived in a furnished flat at eight dollars per week.

Della had to bargain hard with the grocers, vegetable men and the butchers while buying the necessities.

They had no new clothes or furniture.

Jim's income had been reduced to twenty dollars per week.

ii) .How did Della buy her Christmas gift for Jim? What did she buy? How much did she pay for it? (4)

Ans- Della sold her long, rich and luxuriant hair for twenty dollars and added it to her little saving. Then she went on ransacking the shops searching for a decent gift for Jim.

She finally bought a platinum fob chain for Jim's ancestral gold watch.

She paid twenty one dollars for it.

iii) How did Jim react on seeing Della when he came back home? Why did he react so? Why could not Jim and Della use their presents right away? Who were the Magi? Why are Jim and Della compared to them by the author? (8)

Ans- Jim reacted neither with anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval or horror. He simply stared at her fixedly with a peculiar expression on his face.

He reacted so because he had bought Della's most coveted tortoiseshell combs as her Christmas gift and Della had cut her hair so short that she could not wear them. They could not use their gifts immediately because they both had sold their prized possessions, Jim's ancestral, gold watch and Della's beautiful, long hair for which they had bought their gifts.

The Magi were wonderfully wise men who bought gifts for infant Jesus in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents.

Jim and Della are compared to them because they are selfless and pure in their love and foolishly sacrificed their most prized possessions to give happiness to one another. They were as wise as the Magi.

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