**STEWART SCHOOL**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**QUESTION BANK (2020 - 2021)**

**Class IX**

**Section A**

**Drama**

**The Merchant of Venice**

**The Merchant of Venice - Act 1 Scene (i)**

1. **'Believe me, sir, had I such venture forth,**

**The better part of my affections would**

**Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still**

**Plucking the grass to know where sits the wind,**

**Peering in maps for ports and piers and roads.**

**And every object that might make me fear**

**Misfortune to my ventures out of doubt**

**Would make me sad.'**

i) Where would Salanio’s attention be if he had business ventures abroad? Why would he be plucking the grass ?What else would he be doing in that context?

Answer: If Salanio had business ventures abroad, his thoughts would be fixed on the dangers to his ventures and methods of securing them. He would be plucking the blades of grass andcasting them in the air to know the direction of wind, to see if it was blowing in a direction favourable to the course of his ships or not.

Further, he would look into maps for harbours, channels and openroad-steads near to the shore where his ships could anchor in case of need.

ii) What would make Salanio fear some dangers in his ventures? Give two examples.

Answer

1. Every thought of Salanio would make him fearful of danger to his business ventures. Two examples which reminded Salarino of the danger to his ships were:
2. While cooling his soup by blowing into it, it would remind him of the stormy winds at sea causing terrible damages to his ships.
3. The sandy hour-glass would remind him of the richly laden vessels wrecked on the shallow sandy shore or the quicksand.

iii) Give meaning of :

(a) Plucking the grass to know where sets the wind : Plucking of grass and casting them in the air to see which way the wind blew.

(b) Peering in maps for ports, and piers, and roads: Looking into maps for harbours, channels and even open road- steads near the shore.

iv) In spite of the danger to his ships, why Antonio is not worried about his financial security ?

Answer : Despite the dangers to his ships, Antonio is not worried about his financial security because his business is neither dependent on any one ship nor on any single location or commercial transactions of the current year.

v) What light does the opening scene throw on the danger that sea could pose to ships ?

Answer : The opening scene describes the possible dangers that the sea could pose to ships such as strong winds, dangerous shallow waters, sand banks and dangerous rocks.

**Extra questions**

1. How does Antonio reply to Salarino's remark that Antonio is sad thinking of his merchandise?  What does it reveal of Antonio?

Answer : Antonio rejects Salarino's remark by intimating that his ventures are not in one bottom. All his ships are not bound for one place and his entire fortune is not depended upon the fortune of the current year. Even if he incurs some loss on the present transaction, he would not be entirely ruined. So it's not anxiety about his commercial concerns that is making him melancholic.

Antonio's reply reveals that he is a shrewd and prudent  merchant, as his fortune is not dependent on his investment in one venture alone, nor on the business risk taken in one year.

2. What remark does Gratiano make about Antonio? How does he explain it?

Answer :  Gratiano remarks that Antonio looks ill and that he has marvelously changed .

He explains this by saying that Antonio pays too much heed to worldly affairs and the cares of his business. Such people do not enjoy the pleasures yielded  by their prosperity and lose the good things of the world. He also hints that Antonio is too ambitious for an honorable reputation and this is causing him to be sad.

3. What does Antonio compare the world to?  What role does he play on it?  What effect is created here by Shakespeare?

Answer : Antonio compares the world to a stage where every man must play a part. His is a sad part. He plays the role of a sorrowful man.

Shakespeare creates a sense of foreboding, a premonition of an unfavorable omen that is to befall in the days to come.

4.  Explain  : But fish not with this melancholic bait,  For this fool's gudgeon.....

Answer : Gratiano tells Antonio not to be one of those who try to try to gain a reputation for wisdom by putting up a facade of silence and gravity to show the world that he is worldly wise. He further tells Antonio not to use his melancholic silence as a bait to fish reputation of wisdom and cheap popularity which is like a worthless cheap fish, a gudgeon.

A gudgeon is a greedy fish that swallows any bait and is therefore easy to catch, but when caught, it is worth a little.

5. What comments does Bassanio make about Gratiano after the latter leaves the scene?

Answer : After Gratiano departs, Bassanio tells Antonio that Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of nonsense on the flimsiest subjects better than anyone else in all Venice.  If anyone tries to find a gist of his speeches,  it is like hunting for two grains of good corn in two bushels of chaff.  In other words Gratiano speaks a whole lot of nonsense, though at times a little sense is found in a huge quantity of nonsense.  One will have to spend the whole day to find it,  and when one finds it at last,  one will discover that it is not worth the search.

6. How do we know that Portia's reputation is extensive?

Answer : Portia, a rich heiress of Belmont is endowed with wonderful virtues & mental qualities besides being extremely beautiful. Her reputation is extensive as valiant and famous wooers from every quarter of the globe come, seeking her hand in marriage like the Jason who went to the shores of Colchis in search of the golden fleece.

7. How does Bassanio plan to get money to show Portia that he is worthy of marrying her?

Answer :Bassiano plans to borrow the money to woo Portia from his older friend, Antonio. He knows that Antonio is a wealthy merchant. Bassiano also knows that the older man feels a great deal of affection for him and is not likely to turn down his requests.

Bassanio is right to expect that Antonio will lend him the money. Antonio tells him that he should use Antonio's credit. The lines - 'Try what my credit can in Venice do—That shall be racked even to the uttermost/ To furnish thee to Belmont, to fair Portia.' - provehis assurance.

Antonio has drained all his cash putting three merchant ships out to sea. When at least one of them comes back with cargo, Antonio will be a wealthy man again, but at the moment,he is without cash. This leads Antonio to approach Shylock for a loan, which sets the plot of the play in motion.

8. How is Gratiano different from Antonio in Act 1 scene 1?

Answer : In the opening scene of the play, Antonio is in a melancholic mood and is rather despondent and depressed. Antonio's close friends Salerio and Solanio offer several suggestions to explain why he is so depressed. They initially believe that he is worried about his merchandise and ships at sea. However, Antonio dismisses their suggestions and assures them that his investments and ships are not the cause of his melancholy mood. Antonio also dismisses their suggestion that he is lovesick. When Gratiano enters the scene, he also inquires about Antonio's depressed mood. Antonio responds by comparing the world to a play, which happens to be one where his role is a sad part.

Gratiano then displays his enthusiastic, carefree personality by saying - 'Let me play the fool.

With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come.

And let my liver rather heat with wine

Than my heart cool with mortifying groans.'

Gratiano then questions why men act so serious all the time, during his long-winded response, before encouraging Antonio to cheer up and enjoy life. He also urges Antonio to speak more and express his feelings. Gratiano's personality completely contrasts Antonio's quiet, despondent mood. Gratiano is full of energy and mirth. He enjoys his carefree life, does not seem to take anything seriously, and talks excessively.

 ***The Merchant of Venice - Act 1 Scene (ii)***

1. **Portia: : God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man…….I shall never requite  him.**

1.    What has Portia said earlier about Neapolitan prince and his horse? Which characteristic is common between Monsieur Le Bon and the Count Palatine?

Answer : Earlier Portia described the Neapolitan Prince as wild as a young horse and so attached to his horse that he always spoke about the horse only. The Count Palatine and Monsieur Le Bon share the common characteristic of frowning.

 2.    Give the meaning of:

(i) He is every man in no man: He has every man’s characteristics but no personality of his own

(ii) He falls straight a -capering: He starts to jump about. Monsieur Le Bon is so fickle-minded that if he hears a thrush sing, he starts to jump about.

 3.    How does the French lord react to the singing of a thrush?

Answer : When he hears the singing of a thrush, the French Lord starts jumping and dancing immediately.

 4.    What would happen:

a)    If Portia were to marry the Count?

Answer : It would be as if she were married to twenty husbands as he is never one man but twenty men by turns.

b)    If he were to despise Portia?

Answer : If he were to despise Portia, Portia would not be least angry and would forgive him.

c)    If he were to love Portia passionately?

Answer : Portia could never return his love since she could never possibly love twenty husbands.

 5.    Give any three negative qualities of the French Lord, as described by Portia.

Answer : Portia says that the French Lord is more attached to his horse than the Neapolitan Prince and excels Count Palatine in frowning. If he hears a thrush singing, he starts jumping immediately. Further, if he does not have anybody to fence with, he will take his own shadow as adversary.

**Extra questions**

1. What does Nerissa mean by ' superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer'?

Answer : Nerissa means that a man who has too much of everything cloys (supplies) himself with excess, so he ages faster,  gets white hair and dies sooner. In contrast, those who have just what they require and no more, live a more healthy life therefore live longer.

2. When would chapel become churches and poor man's cottages become princes'palaces ?

Answer :  According to Portia if it were as easy to act upon good advice as it is to know what is good, then chapels would become churches and poor man's cottages would become princes' palaces. Portia means that if people become very religious then places of worship would attract more people and then the churches would take the place of chapels. Secondly, if everyone acted upon his ideals of goodness, there would be no povertyon this earth. So there would be no poor men living in small cottages. All would be rich enough to live in palaces.

3.  How does Portia describe the Neapolitan Prince?  Explain.

Answer :  The Neapolitan prince is from Naples in Italy. Portia describes him as a wild young horse. He is a dashing youngster as wild as an unbroken horse. He does nothing but talk of his horse.  He thinks it is a great addition to his other accomplishments that he can shoe a horse himself. The people of Naples were famous for their horsemanship.

4.  Explain the term County Palatine. What does Portia mean when she uses the expression 'the weeping philosopher' to describe the County Palatine?

Answer :  The term County Palatine  means the count of the palace.  He was the ruler of the Palatinate.  He was a powerful lord and his authority was as that of the king over his district.  The term used in general may mean any nobleman.

The term weeping philosopher refers to the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus who lamented the stupidity and folly of mankind and wept at everything in the world.  He was so distressed that he withdrew from the world and lived alone in the mountains.

Portia describes the County Palatine as a weeping philosopher as he grows up because he is so unusually gloomy in his young age.

5.  Why does Portia dislike the young German? Why does she call him a sponge? What plan does Portia make to prevent the young German from choosing the right casket?

Answer :  Portia dislikes the young German, nephew of the Duke of Saxony in his sober moments, that is in the morning when he is at his best. He is less than a miserable  type of a man. But when he is at his worst, he is no better than a beast.

Portia calls him a sponge as he is a drunkard and absorbs liquor just as a sponge absorbs liquid.

To prevent the young German from choosing the right casket, Portia instructs Nerissa to place a tall goblet of Rhenish wine on the wrong casket. Portia was sure that the German suitor will not be able to resist the temptation of his national drink even if the picture of the devil himself was within.

 6.  How do  Portia as well as Nerissa react to the lottery?

Answer : Initially, Portia appears to be anxious over the prospect of choosing her husband through a lottery devised according to her father’s will. She feels sad as she can neither choose the one she likes nor refuse the one she dislikes as her husband. But later on she accepts her father’s will.

Nerissa’s reaction to the lottery was positive. She calls Portia’s father pious and asserts that good men do have inspirations at the time of death. She consoles Portia by saying that she will be chosen correctly by a person whom she truly loves.

7.  Who are Sibylla and  Diana? Why are they referred to?

Answer : In Ovid’s metamorphoses, Sibylla was prophetess. She was granted a wish by god Appllo that she would live for as many years as the grains of sand she held in her hand. She was the ageless old woman.

Diana was the goddess of moon and hunting. She is known as the virgin goddess.

They are referred to here to explain Portia’s resolve to remain a virgin like Diana even if  she lives to be as old as Sibylla of Cumae unless she is won in marriage by some suitor in the lottery of casket.

1. **Nerissa : Your father was ever virtuous and holymen at their death have good inspiration, therefore, the lottery, that he halt devised in the three chests of gold, silver and lead.**
2. To whom one these lines addressed? Why does Nerissa speak these line:

Answer:

* Portia
* To cheer her up.
1. What does ‘good inspiration’ mean? Why has Portia’s father devised the lottery? What are the chests here?

Answer:

* Divine guidance
* To test who is a true lover
* Gold, Silver, Lead
1. Why does not Portia wish to disapprove of country Palatine?

Answer:

* He always frowns
* Never smiles
* Will grow to be a weeping philosopher
1. Who are Sibylla and Diana? Why has Portia referred to them?

Answer:

* Prophetess in Roman mythology
* If she lives long she will remain unmarried
1. Where does the scene take place? In what mood is Portia in the beginning? What does Nerissa tell here to cheer up Portia?

Answer:

* Room in Portia’s house’
* Upset / Melancholy
* Her father was virtuous/He had divine inspiration

**3. Shylock: When Jacob grazed……….Shylock: Should fall as Jacob’s hire.**

1. What topic is referred to in the extract? Who were Jacob and Abraham?

Answer: The topic referred to in the extract is lending money for interest. Jacob was the second son of Issac who became the third successor to Abraham. Abraham was the founder of the Hebrew nation and Jacob’s grandfather.

 2. Give the story of Jacob who got his share as his payment from Laban.

Answer: Laban was Jacob’s uncle. Jacob and Laban entered into an agreement that Jacob would receive as his wages the lambs which were born with spots or stripes. During the breeding season, Jacob arranged the wooden rods in such a way that the shadows of the rods would fall on the sheep. Consequently, most of the lambs were born spotted or stripped, and thus, they became Jacob’s property.

3. What is the difference between taking interest and receiving payment for one’s labour?.

Answer: Taking interest means to charge specific amounts on the money given as loan for a specified period. Receiving payment for one’s labour means to take remuneration for one’s service rendered. This is legitimate while taking interest is not in order.

 4. What role did Jacob’s wise mother play to make him the third possessor?

Answer: Esau and Jacob were Issac’s sons. Issac wanted to bless his elder son Esau but would do so after he brought him some savoury. Jacob’s mother Rebecca overheard this conversation. She wanted to get this blessing for Jacob. She told Jacob to fetch two goats to make a delicious dish. Rebecca then asked Jacob to go to his blind father with the savoury meat. In this way, Jacob, through the crafty assistance of his mother, got the blessing of his father.

5. How does Antonio interpret Jacob’s success after this extract?

Answer: After this extract, Antonio tells Shylock that it was purely a matter of chance in Jacob’s case. He had no control over it himself, but providence guided and governed the event. It was not a matter in the hands of men, like the taking of interest.

**The Merchant of Venice - Act 2 Scene (i)**

**4.   'Bring me the fairest creature northward bound.... my gentle queen'...**

1. What idea do you get about the character of the Prince of Morocco from the extract?

Answer: We get the impression that the Prince of Morocco is rather vain. 'This aspect of mine/hath feared the valiant’ – here he is saying that his very appearance scares off brave men, and he further boasts that the best girls in Morocco - 'the best-regarded virgins of our clime' - love him. However, we see that there is a particular reason why he shows off in this way. He is actually very self-conscious about the racial difference between him and Portia. He fears his dark colour will lose him favour with her. He opens his speech by referring directly to his complexion, pleading with Portia not to 'mislike’ him on that account. This shows how sensitive he is about it. Clearly he feels he has to talk of his own achievements and qualities to compensate for his dark colour in front of Portia.

He is saying here: ‘Bring the whitest man you can find, born in the northern lands, where it is so cold that the sun barely thaws the ice, and we’ll both cut ourselves and you’ll see that my blood is just as red as his.’ In other words, he is saying that he is as manly and desirable as the whitest man. However, he also claims extravagantly that he would be ready to change his colour, or ‘hue’, just to please Portia.

2.  Do you agree with Portia's statement that the Prince of Morocco stands as fair a chance as the other suitors? Give a reason to justify your answer.

Answer: Portia is being honest but ironic. She has not been interested in any suitor besides  Bassanio . She makes fun of one man for talking about his horse too much, another for being too serious, and yet another for drinking too much. Portia fondly remembers Bassanio, but he has not yet come to woo her. In spite of her displeasure with the suitors, she asserts, “If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana, unless I be obtained by the manner of my father's will.”

Portia projects herself as a racist to be interested in the Prince of Morocco: “if he have the condition of a saint and the complexion of a devil, I had rather he should shrive me than wife me.” Morocco addresses this racism, saying he would only change his skin color to please her. She assures him that she is not only interested in looks but also has no choice in the matter. Portia also says, however, that if she could choose, he stands “as fair / As any comer I have look'd on yet / For my affection.”

We have already seen Portia disdains her suitors. Though it seems that she is complimenting the Prince, she is simply putting him in the same category as her other unimpressive wooers. Morocco has as fair a chance as any—which is to say, not much of a chance.

3. Does Portia like the Prince of Morocco?  Why?

Answer: Portia does not seem to dislike the Prince of Morocco as she does the foolish Arragon. But she certainly did not want to marry him.  Her comment after he chooses the incorrect casket demonstrates this.  She says in an aside: "A gentle riddance!

We also know from Portia's conversation with Nerissa in Act 1 that Portia has a very specific list of qualities that she does not like in men, and Morocco has some of those characteristics (for example, he thinks highly of himself and his culture differs greatly from hers, something that she criticizes in one of her other suitors because she is afraid that they will have nothing to talk about).

Thus, Portia seems to be rather ambiguous about Morocco.  She has already stated her preference for Bassanio  and most likely never thought of Morocco seriously as her future husband.

4.  What does this scene reveal about Morocco's character?

Answer: The Prince of Morocco's grand entrance at the beginning of the Act, is an excellent indication of his flamboyant and seemingly overbearing nature. His opening remark, "Mislike me not for my complexion," is a clear indication of his awareness about racial prejudice. He is most obviously not embarrassed about his dark skin and proudly proclaims his African heritage and peerage. He comes across as self-assured and somewhat boastful when he claims that, despite his skin tone, even the most courageous fear him and that he has impressed many of the most beautiful virgins in his country. His statement that he will never change his color is a further assertion of his pride. He displays artful flattery, though, when he tells Portia that he will only change his skin tone if it would encourage her to think only of him.

The Prince has a conceited opinion of himself. He later brags about his conquests in battle and flatteringly declares that he will undertake the most arduous tasks to win Portia's hand. He alludes to Hercules (and Alcides), the mythological hero, because he evidently deems himself his equal. He also suggests that he is a better man than most; he states that he will "die with grieving" if a man lesser than he should succeed in winning Portia's hand. The Prince is also demanding and impatient; he wishes to try his luck in choosing a casket almost immediately. Portia, however, tells him that he first has to go to the temple to make his vows before making his choice.

He is vigorous, courageous and dignified which Portia realises.  However, at the end of his high-flown speech, he suddenly realises that all his valour may avail him nothing in the lottery of the caskets where everything depends upon chance,  as in a game of dice.

5.  Explain what test Morocco suggests should be done to prove his courage.

Answer: Morocco suggests that he should be matched with any fair-skinned from the North. They should open their veins to prove their love for Portia, so that she can see whose blood is redder and more courageous as red blood was considered as a sign of valour.  Morocco thinks that feats of courage are the best recommendation in order to win the love of Portia.

6.  Which example does Morocco give to show that he is proud of his dark complexion?  On what condition will he change his dark colour?

Answer: Morocco informs that the nobles and the best of the maidens in his own land have looked upon his dark skin with affection.

Morocco states that he has no wish for fairer complexion, except for one reason alone which is to turn Portia's thoughts in his favour.

7.  What might happen if Hercules and Lichas play at dice?  Why is Morocco talking about them?

Answer: If Hercules and Lichas play at dice, the higher throw of the dice might,  by luck,  be made by the weaker hand of Lichas. So strength of Hercules would avail him nothing.

Morocco is complaining of the test imposed upon him to gain Portia.  It is not a test of valour but a matter of blind chance which may favour the unworthy one. He compares it to the throwing of the dice between the mighty Hercules and his servamtLichas. Similarly, his own great renown, his birth, wealth and his achievements are of no use to Morocco. He cannot win Portia by any great feat but is forced to take his chance as against any inferior rival in which he may miss his chance and will die of grief.

8.  How does Portia clearly state the terms of the lottery?  What wish does Morocco utter?

Answer: Portia states the terms of the lottery to Morocco very clearly.  She says that he either leaves the matter alone altogether and not make the attempt to choose or swear before choosing that if he makes the wrong choice, he will never again speak to any lady on the subject of marriage.

Morocco wishes that he may be fortunate when he makes the choice, for when that is decided, he will either be the happiest or the most miserable of men.

9.  What does this scene reveal about Portia's character?

Answer: Portia displays her magnificence and her regal courtesy in this scene.  She shows that she is anoble Venetian lady in the gracious way she welcomes the Prince, though we know that she has already made up her mind that the prince would be unsuitable for her.  Yet she displays admirable self-control and perfect courtesy in extending hospitality fit for the high status of her guest. On the other hand she has contempt for Morocco because he is self-centered and boastful.

 **The Merchant of Venice - Act 2 Scene (ii)**

**5.Launcelot: Well, my conscience says, “ Launcelot, budge not……..is the devil himself.**

i) . Who is Launcelot Gobbo? What inner struggle is going on in his conscience? What does his struggle show about the contemporary Christian practice?

Answer: Launcelot Gobbo is Shylock’s servant. An inner struggle is going on in his mind between his conscience advising him to be a faithful servant and the devil tempting him to leave Shylock’s service and take up service with Bassanio. Launcelot’s inner struggle shows the contemporary Christian practice of struggling with the temptation to yield to it or not.

ii) Why does Launcelot want to run away from the Jew? What does his conscience advise him to do?

Answer: Launcelot wants to run away from the Jew because his master, Shylock is the very devil in human form. According to Launcelot, Shylock is a miserly man under whose service he remains famished. Besides, he fears that he would become a Jew if he served Shylock any longer. Initially, his conscience tells him not to run away from Shylock’s household and to be careful. However, when the devil persuades him to flee, his conscience tells him that as he is the child of a good father or at least a good mother and so, he should stay where he is and not move.

iii) Launcelot’s speech provides some comic relief in the play? Why is such a relief needed in the context of the play?

Answer: In this scene Launcelot provides some comic relief in the play. In the context of the play such a relief is needed because the previous scene related to the bond story, depicted a serious mood where Antonio agrees to sign a treacherous bond that stipulates a pound his flesh in case he forfeits the agreement.

iv) Enumerate the reasons given by Launcelot’s conscience to stay on with the master.

Answer: Launcelot’s conscience advises him not to run away as such an act of fleeing is a matter of contempt. It adds that he is the child of a good father or at least a good mother and hence he should stay on with the master.

v) Finally, whom does Launcelot obey-the devil or his conscience? How is the theme of racial discrimination brought out in Launcelot’s decision to run away?

Answer: Finally, Launcelot obeys the devil. The theme of racial discrimination is brought out in Launcelot’s decision to run away because he runs away from his master, Shylock, who was a Jew and takes up service with Bassanio, a Christian.

vi) How is the theme of conflict between the good and the evil shown in this scene?

 Answer: The theme of conflict between the good and the evil is shown in this scene. Launcelot’s conscience advises him to stay on with his master while the devil advises him to flee. He feels the devil’s advice as good and that of the conscience as rigid. He follows the good advice of the devil.

**6. Launcelot: O heavens, this is my true begotten father!.........turn of no hand but turn down indirectly to the Jew’s house.**

a ) Where are Launcelot and old Gobbo? What is meant by ‘true-begotten father’? Why can’t old Gobbo recognize his son?

Answer: Launcelot and old Gobbo are in a street in Venice. ‘True begotten father’ means my father who begot me. Old Gobbo cannot recognize his son as he is more than half-blind.

ii) Why is old Gobbo looking for the way to Master Jew’s house? How does Launcelot confuse the old man while giving directions to him to reach the Jew’s house?

Answer: Old Gobbo is looking for the way to the Jew’s house to go there to find out if his son Launcelot , who was working as a servant in Shylock’s household is still there. Launcelot confuses Gobbo by giving him wrong directions to Shylock’s house.

iii) What was Gobbo’s reaction to the directions given to him by Launcelot?

Answer: Gobbo says that by the saints, it was a difficult direction to follow.

iv) What present has Gobbo brought to give to the Jew? What does Launcelot say to his father about it?

Answer: Gobbo has brought a dish of cooked doves to give to the Jew. Launcelot tells his father to give Shylock a rope to hang himself with rather than any present because he has half-starved him.

v) Launcelot plays a comic role in this scene. Give two examples of comedy provided by him.

Answer: When Gobbo asks Launcelot the way to Shylock’s house, the wrong directions which Launcelot gives him provide real comedy in the scene. The directions are too confusing for Old Gobbo to follow. The second example is Launcelot’s asking his father’s blessing. He kneels before his father. Being blind, his father touches Launcelot’s face and says that Launcelot has more hair on his face that Dobbin, his cart horse.

**Extra Questions**

**The Merchant of Venice - Act 2 Scene (ii)**

**7. Launcelot: Well, my conscience says, “ Launcelot, budge not……..is the devil himself.**

i) . Who is Launcelot Gobbo? What inner struggle is going on in his conscience? What does his struggle show about the contemporary Christian practice?

Answer: Launcelot Gobbo is Shylock’s servant. An inner struggle is going on in his mind between his conscience advising him to be a faithful servant and the devil tempting him to leave Shylock’s service and take up service with Bassanio. Launcelot’s inner struggle shows the contemporary Christian practice of struggling with the temptation to yield to it or not.

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vi) How is the theme of conflict between the good and the evil shown in this scene?

 Answer: The theme of conflict between the good and the evil is shown in this scene. Launcelot’s conscience advises him to stay on with his master while the devil advises him to flee. He feels the devil’s advice as good and that of the conscience as rigid. He follows the good advice of the devil.

**8. Launcelot: O heavens, this is my true begotten father!.........turn of no hand but turn down indirectly to the Jew’s house.**

a ) Where are Launcelot and old Gobbo? What is meant by ‘true-begotten father’? Why can’t old Gobbo recognize his son?

Answer: Launcelot and old Gobbo are in a street in Venice. ‘True begotten father’ means my father who begot me. Old Gobbo cannot recognize his son as he is more than half-blind.

ii) Why is old Gobbo looking for the way to Master Jew’s house? How does Launcelot confuse the old man while giving directions to him to reach the Jew’s house?

Answer: Old Gobbo is looking for the way to the Jew’s house to go there to find out if his son Launcelot , who was working as a servant in Shylock’s household is still there. Launcelot confuses Gobbo by giving him wrong directions to Shylock’s house.

iii) What was Gobbo’s reaction to the directions given to him by Launcelot?

Answer: Gobbo says that by the saints, it was a difficult direction to follow.

iv) What present has Gobbo brought to give to the Jew? What does Launcelot say to his father about it?

Answer: Gobbo has brought a dish of cooked doves to give to the Jew. Launcelot tells his father to give Shylock a rope to hang himself with rather than any present because he has half-starved him.

v) Launcelot plays a comic role in this scene. Give two examples of comedy provided by him.

Answer: When Gobbo asks Launcelot the way to Shylock’s house, the wrong directions which Launcelot gives him provide real comedy in the scene. The direcitions are too confusing for Old Gobbo to follow. The second example is Launcelot’s asking his father’s blessing. He kneels before his father. Being blind, his father touches Launcelot’s face and says that Launcelot has more hair on his face that Dobbin, his cart horse.

**The Merchant of Venice - Act 2 Scene (iii)**

**9. Jessica: I am sorry thou wilt leave my ………see me in talk with thee.**

a) Give reasons for Launcelot’s leaving Jessica’s house.

Answer: Launcelot left Jessica’s house since her father Shylock was a miserly Jew and his stay as his servant has half-famished him. He felt that any further stay with him would make him like the Jew. Besides, Bassanio has accepted him in his service and Launcelot feels that Bassanio is a better master.

b) Give the meaning of:

Our house is hell, and thou, a merry devil, / Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness.

Answer: In the above lines, Jessica says that her house is hell because of her father’s avarice. Launcelot with his jolly nature and with his antics and nonsensical capering has relieved it of much boredom and dullness.

c) How does Jessica show in words and action that she liked Launcelot’s presence in her house?

Answer: Jessica shows in words and actions that she liked Launcelot’s presence in the house. He calls him a merry devil and thanks him for reducing the boredom and dullness in her house. She offers him a ducat too.

d) What errand does Jessica give to Launcelot? What precautions does she ask him to take while doing the errand?

Answer: Jessica gives to Launcelot the errand of delivering a letter to Lorenzo at supper in Bassanio’s house that night. She advises him to deliver the letter to Lorenzo secretly.

e) How does Jessica show herself as a scheming but prudent young lady? In what way is her character different from that of Portia?

Answer: Jessica shows herself as a scheming lady when she plans to elope with a Christian boy, Lorenzo without the knowledge of her father. She proves herself to be prudent when she instructs Launcelot to deliver her letter to Lorenzo at Bassanio’s party secretly. Her character is entirely different from that of Portia. While Portia obeys her deceased father’s will to marry the one who wins the lottery of caskets, Jessica betrays her father and religion to marry Lorenzo.

**10. Launcelot: But, adieu: these foolish…….become a Christian, and they loving wife!**

a) How does Launcelot bid farewell to Jessica? In this context, what are your feelings for Launcelot, Jessica and Shylock?

Answer: Launcelot bids farewell to Jessica calling her ‘most beautiful pagan’ and later ‘most sweet Jew’. He says that tears prevent his tongue from uttering his feelings.

We feel happy for Launcelot and Jessica. Launcelot is leaving his miserly master and is undertaking Bassanio’s service where he will be happier. Jessica too will soon escape from the ‘hell’ and marry Lorenzo. We feel sorry for Shylock as he is still obstinate, miserly and has evil intentions. Further, he shall lose his daughter as well as money.

b) Why does Jessica regret being the daughter of Shylock? What is the ‘heinous sin’ referred to in the extract? Is it really a sin? Give reasons to justify your answer.

Answer: Jessica regrets being the daughter of Shylock due to his behaviour, his being a bad father to her and for making her home ‘hell’. Jessica describes her feeling of being ashamed for being her father’s daughter as a heinous sin. It is not really a sin because even if she is Shylock’s daughter by birth, she does not actually detest her father but detests his miserliness and tyrannical nature.

c) Give the meaning of :

But though I am a daughter to his blood, / I am not to his manners.

Answer: The above lines mean that although I am his daughter by birth, I don’t have his habits.

d) Which promise has Lorenzo to keep? Describe the strife that Jessica is going to end.

Answer: Lorenzo has to keep the promise of eloping with Jessica that night. Jessica will end the struggle between her desire to marry Lorenzo and her duty to her father, Shylock.

e) Explain Jessica’s relationship with her father which is shown in the scene.

 Answer: Jessica is a lively young girl who rebels against the oppression of her father and the joylessness of her life at home. She calls her home ‘hell’. She cannot get along with her father. She detests her father’s miserliness and tyrannical nature. She affirms that though she is Shylock’s daughter by birth, she does not share his disposition. Besides, she is influenced by the Venetians around her to form a different attitude to life than her father’s. She is ready to leave her father and elope with Lorenzo, a Christian.

**Extra questions**

1. What is meant by ' if a Christian do not play the knave and get thee, I am much deceived.'

Answer: These words uttered by Lorenzo to Jessica mean that if a Christian does not play some trick and take her away, he will be much shocked. Lorenzo is hinting at what is going to happen when he will come to take Jessica away.

2. What does Jessica speak to herself when Launcelot departs?

Answer: After Launcelot departs, Jessica tells herself that it is so wicked of her to feel a disgrace to be her ' father's child', but she cannot help it. Though she is Shylock's daughter by birth, she need not be his reflection in behaviour. She addresses Lorenzo, who is absent that moment, and tells him that if he keeps his word, the struggle between her love for him and her duty to her father will soon be over. She will become a Christian and his beloved wife.

5. What does this scene reveal about Jessica's character?

Answer: Jessica is a clever girl who has been influenced by the Venetians around her to form a different attitude to life than her father. She also shares the prevalent Christian prejudice against the Jews because she cannot get along with her father to begin with. By marrying Lorenzo, whom she truly loves, she will become a Christian and so free herself from the stigma attached to the Jews. She is a lively young girl who rebels against the oppression of her father and the joylessness of her life at home. She is strong-minded anduses strong language to describe her home, ' Our house is hell.'

She has the grace to feel that it is a hateful sin to be ashamed to be her father's child, but, she expresses that she cannot help it. Though she is his daughter by birth, she has not inherited his disposition. Though in a conflict, Jessica knows that she is moving towards a greater good by marrying a Christian.

She is also not stingy as her father. This is revealed through her interaction with Launcelot whom she gives a ducat for being the messenger.

**The Merchant of Venice - Act II Scene iv**

**11. Lorenzo: Nay, we will slink………we have two hours to furnish us.**

a) Why do Lorenzo and his friends plan to disguise themselves at dinners time? How well are they prepared for the disguise?

Answer: Lorenzo and his friends plan to disguise themselves at dinner time since they were organizing a masquerade for Bassanio’s dinner party. During Elizabethan times the masque was an amateur dramatic practice usually performed in private houses. The players wore masks and costumes and took part in a torch procession, playing musical instruments. They were not fully prepared for the disguise.

b) Who is supposed to be the torch-bearer? What is the actual purpose of having a torch-bearer in the scene?

Answer: Jessica, disguised as a page boy, is supposed to be the torch-bearer. The actual purpose of having a torch-bearer in the scene is to facilitate the elopement of Jessica with Lorenzo.

 c) Whose letter does Lancelot bring? Why is it an important confidential letter? How does Lorenzo guess whose letter it is?

Answer: Launcelot brings the letter of Jessica. It is an important confidential letter as it contained Jessica’s plan to elope with Lorenzo. On receiving the letter Lorenzo guesses whose letter it is after looking at the handwriting. He declares that the handwriting is familiar to him and the letter is written by a lovely, fair and beautiful hand.

 d) Who is giving the dinner party? Whom does Launcelot invite for dinner?

Answer: Bassanio is giving the dinner party. Launcelot invites Shylock for the dinner party.

 e) Describe briefly how the dinner party facilitates the elopement of Jessica with Lorenzo.

Answer: The dinner party facilitates the elopement of Jessica with Lorenzo. Jessica is free to leave her house as her father is away at Bassanio’s dinner party. Lorenzo and his friends organize a masquerade for Bassanio’s dinner party. Jessica joins them as a torch-bearer dressed as a boy and elopes with Lorenzo.

**Extra Questions**

**12. Lorenzo: I must needs tell thee all……..shall be my torch-bearer.**

 a) What information has Jessica given to Lorenzo regarding her elopement?

Answer: Jessica informs Lorenzo about the arrangements she had made to elope with him. She will leave her father’s house with money and jewellery, disguised in the uniform of a page-boy.

 b) According to Lorenzo, how could the Jew go to heaven? How can you conclude that Lorenzo has a high opinion of Jessica?

Answer: According to Lorenzo, the Jew, Shylock could go to heaven only because of his sweet and gentle daughter. We can conclude that Lorenzo has a high opinion of Jessica since he feels that if at all Shylock ever goes to heaven it will be because of her. He prays that no misfortune ever comes to her except for being Shylock’s daughter.

c) What does Lorenzo wish for Jessica? According to him, how could misfortune come to Jessica?

Answer: Lorenzo wishes that no misfortune ever happens to Jessica, for being the daughter of a non-believing Jew. She has no stain of sin in her unless her birth is regarded as a sin.

 d) Give an example of racial discrimination hinted at in the extract.

Answer: Reference to Shylock as a ‘faithless Jew’ is an example of racial discrimination hinted at in the extract. Christians believed that faithless Jews won’t go to heaven.

 e) Describe the atmosphere of activity and pre-occupation prevailing in this short scene.

 Answer: An atmosphere of activity and pre-occupation prevails in this scene. Activities include preparations for the masquerade and Jessica’s elopement. Pre-occupation regarding the dinner party dominates the scene. Even Shylock is invited for the party. Launcelot acts as a messenger in this scene. He delivers Jessica’s letter to Lorenzo and Lorenzo’s reply to Jessica. He invites Shylock for Bassanio’s party on Bassanio’s behalf.

f). What is a masque? Why are Lorenzo and his friends preparing for a masque?

Answer: The masque in Elizabethan times was an amateur dramatic performance usually presented in a private place. The players wore masks and costumes and took part in a torchlight procession, playing instruments like the fife and the drum.

Gratiano with his friends has planned to have the masque as a farewell entertainment to Bassanio, before he sails for Belmont. Therefore Lorenzo and his friends are preparing for the masque. There was a fashion at parties for some of the guests to steal away from the party, disguise themselves and come back as new-comers, surprising everyone.

g). Explain :' And never dare misfortune cross her foot.' On what condition may misfortune come to Jessica?

Answer: Lorenzo loves Jessica so much that he says that no harm can ever befall his gentle Jessica.

If ever any misfortune happens to Jessica, it will only be because she happens to be the daughter of an unbelieving Jew. She has no stain of sin in her, unless her birth is regarded as a sin. So, only on this account can misfortune touch her.

**The Merchant of Venice - Act II Scene v**

**13. Shylock: I am bid forth to supper, Jessica…….dream of money-bags tonight.**

 a) Why does Shylock accept the invitation to dinner? On what grounds did Shylock refuse to accept an invitation to dinner earlier in the play?

Answer: Shylock accepts the invitation to dinner out of hatred and to eat the food of the extravagant Christian, Bassanio. In act I, Scene 3 when Bassanio invites him for dinner he refuses to dine with Christians since they were pork-eaters. He asserted then that he would never eat, drink or pray with Christians although he is ready to do business with them.

b) Why is Shylock unhappy to accept the invitation this time too? Who is the prodigal Christian? Give the significance of the word: prodigal.

Answer: Shylock is unhappy to accept the invitation this time too, as he feels premonition of some misfortune was about to take place. The previous night he had a dream about money-bags which was considered as a bad omen.

Bassanio is referred to as the prodigal Christian because he is a wasteful, whospends money extravagantly which he has borrowed from Shylock. Prodigal is a reference to the prodigal son described in the Bible who wasted his share of wealth by lavish and careless living.

c) Give the meaning of:

i) I am not bid for love: I am not invited for our love.

ii) I am right loath to go: I hate to accept the invitation to dinner.

d) How do Jessica and Lorenzo take advantage of Shylock’s absence from home during dinner?

Answer: Jessica and Lorenzo taking advantage of Shylock’s absence from home makes a plan to elope. Jessica uses the occasion to leave home with her father’s money and jewellery. Lorenzo uses the occasion to arrange the masquerade in which Jessica will be the torch-bearer and thus easily elope with him.

e) What sort of a bad omen did Shylock have which made him think that there is some evil being plotted against him?

Answer: Shylock had a dream about money bags on the previous night. To dream about money and all kinds of coins was considered as a bad omen. This made Shylock think that there was some evil being plotted against him.

**Extra Questions**

**14. Shylock - Lock my doors; and when you……feasting forth to-night.**

a) Who is the speaker of the above lines? To whom is he giving his advice? Why should the doors be locked?

Answer: Shylock is the speaker of the above lines. He is giving this advice to his daughter, Jessica. When Launcelot tells him about the masquerade, he is alarmed for fear that such revelry may become unruly. He hates their frivolity. Hence, he asks Jessica to lock the doors of the house so that no sound of foolish displays may enter his serious house.

b) Where is the speaker going? What reason does he give for his going out? Who was Jacob? Why does the speaker swear by Jacob’s staff?

Answer: The speaker is going for Bassanio’s dinner party. He is going out for dinner out of hatred for the Christian and to eat the food of the extravagant, Bassanio.

Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, the founder of the Jewish race. According to the Bible, Jacob, the ancestor of Shylock had a staff that proved a blessing to him. In Genesis 32:12, Jacob boasts that he had crossed river Jordan only with a staff yet returned with companies of men.

c) Give the meaning of:

i) Clamber not you up to the casements - Do not climb up to see from the windows.

ii) Sound of shallow foppery - Shrill notes of the fife

d) Who are the ‘Christian fools with varnished faces’? What were they planning against the speaker? What warning did the speaker have of it earlier?

Answer: Christian fools with varnished faces refer to the Christians taking part in the masquerade at Bassanio’s dinner party. They were planning to make the speaker’s daughter elope with a Christian, Lorenzo with the speaker’s money and jewellery. The speaker had warning of this in the form of a ‘dream where he saw money bags and coins.’

e) Does the person to whom the advice is given, follow the speaker’s advice? Why?

Answer: The advice was given to Jessica by her father, Shylock. She did not follow the advice and used the occasion of masquerade to elope with Lorenzo.

**Merchant of Venice Act 2, Scene 6**

**15. Gratiano:**

**With that keen appetite that he sits down**

**Where is the horse that doth untreadagain**

**His tedious measures with the unabated fire**

**That he did pace them first? All things**

**That are:**

**Read the above passage and answer the following questions**

**Question 1.**
What is the context in which the above speech is made?
**Answer:**
Above quoted speech made by Gratiano is from Act II, Scene 6 of the play. Gratiano just like Salanio is surprised that Lorenzo is staying away beyond the appointed hour for newly-made lovers are usually keen to keep the time. Gratiano feels that Lorenzo has been very quick in making promise of his love to Jessica but is very slow now in making his appearance to keep that promise.

**Question 2.**
What is the main idea expressed in the above quotedpassage?
**Answer:**
The central idea of the above mentioned speech is that all things are pursued with great eagerness but when they have been achieved, there is not the same eagerness in enjoying them. Gratiano amplifies the idea expressed by Salanio in the previous speech. This idea has been elaborately expressed by using many similes. Gratiano says that there is no horse which retraces its steps with the same energy and vigour which it had displayed when it had set out on a journey.

**Question 3.**
What is the meaning of the words ‘prodigal’ and ‘scarfed bark’.
**Answer:**
‘Prodigal’ refers to the parable of the prodigal son in the ‘New Testament’ who left his father’s home after taking his share of his father’s property but squandered it and returned home. However, he was welcomed home by his father even when he had lost everything. The word ‘scarfed bark’ means a decorated ship. The word bark here signifies a ship or a vessel.

**Question 4.**
Explain the phrase ‘strumpet wind’.
**Answer:**
The phrase ‘strumpet wind’ refers to the wind which keeps changing in intensity and direction and is therefore not faithful to the sailors. The word strumpet means a prostitute. The wind is here called a strumpet because wind like a prostitute who is not dependable.

**Question 5.**
Explain the meaning of the last three lines of the above quoted speech.
**Answer:**
Gratiano says that when a ship returns from its voyage it looks worn-out and heavily damaged and its condition at this time is similar to that of the prodigal young man who has been robbed of all his money by the prostitute. Here Shakespeare has referred to the story of the prodigal son in the Bible, who has been beggared by harlots.

**Extra Questions**

**Jessica : Here, catch this casket. It is worth the pains.**

 **I am glad 'this night, you do not look on me,**

 **For I am much ashamed of my exchange.**

 **But love is blind, and lovers cannot see**

 **The pretty follies that themselves commit,**

 **For if they could Cupid himself would blush**

 **To see me thus transformed to a boy.**

**Question 1.**
What is the occasion for the above quoted speech?
**Answer:**
The above given words are spoken by Jessica to her lover Lorenzo. She is planning to elope with her lover in the absence of her father Shylock. Jessica throws a casket containing her father’s Jewels and gold to Lorenzo from a window. Then she apologies for being dressed in the guise of a boy.

**Question 2.**
What light does the above mentioned speech throw on the character of Jessica?
**Answer:**
The above mentioned speech proves that Jessica does not care at all about her father. She is not a devoted daughter. In the absence of her father Jessica plans to elope with her lover Lorenzo without caring for the feelings of her father. She does not think of the pain that her father would feel because of her act. She is also materialistic because she intends to take away with her a casket containing her father’s jewels.

**Question 3.**
From the above quoted speech what information can you gather about relation between Lorenzo and Jessica?
**Answer:**
It is clear from the given passage that Lorenzo and Jessica are deeply in love with each other. They are very intimate with each other. Lorenzo goes to Jessica’s house at night in the absence of her father to help her to escape from her father’s house. Jessica is also keen to run away with Lorenzo without caring for her father.

**Question 4.**
Why is Jessica feeling ashamed?
**Answer:**
Jessica is ashamed of appearing in her uncommonly disguise of a boy. She regrets wearing a boy’s clothes of which she is feeling ashamed.

**Question 5.**
Explain the last four lines of the passage.
**Answer:**
In the above mentioned lines Jessica says that love is blind or uncritical and the lovers cannot realize the folly of some of the foolish things they do. She feels that if lovers could realize the absurdity of their actions even Cupid would blush with shame to see her changed into a boy.

**Extra Questions**

**16. JESSICA**

**I will make fast the doors and gild myself**

**With some more ducats, and be with you straight.**

**GRATIANO**

**Now, by my hood, a gentle and no Jew.**

**Question 1.**
Explain the context in which the first speech of the above mentioned dialogue is made.
**Answer:**
These words spoken by Gratiano in Act II, Scene VI are his comments on Jessica’s nature. Jessica has disappeared from the upper window after telling Lorenzo that she will soon bring some more gold coins with her. Now Gratiano says that though Jessica is the daughter of a Jew yet she has not inherited any bad qualities of a typical Jew.

**Question 2.**
What light does the above quoted dialogue throw on the character of Jessica?
**Answer:**
The above mentioned dialogue reveals Jessica in a positive light. She is praised by both Gratiano and Lorenzo. Gratiano says that though she is a daughter of a Jew yet she has the good qualities associated with non-Jews or Christians. Lorenzo also admires her good qualities by describing, her as beautiful, wise and faithful.

**Question 3.**
Critically analyse Gratiano’s comment in the above quoted dialogue.
**Answer:**
Gratiano’s comment shows his contempt for the Jews. He associates Jews with evil qualities. He says that though Jessica is a Jew yet she does not have the evil qualities of a Jew. These remarks of Gratiano shows his arrogance as he, believes Christians to be associated with the good qualities.

**Question 4.**
What inference can you draw about Lorenzo from his speech?
**Answer:**
Lorenzo’s speech shows that he is deeply in love with Jessica. He says that he will always be loyal to Jessica and she will always live in his heart. He pays compliment to her by describing her as beautiful, wise and faithful. He is a passionate lover who is deeply in love with Jessica.

**Question 5.**
What does the phrase ‘by my hood’ and ‘gentile’ refer to in the first line of the first speech?
**Answer:**
The phrase ‘by my hood’ is an oath which Gratiano swears. ‘Gentile’ means one who is not a Jew, hence here a Christian.

**Merchant of Venice Act 2, Scene 7**

**17. MOROCCO:**

**Some god direct my judgment! Let me see.**

**I will surveyth'inscriptions back again.**

**What says this leaden casket?**

**Read the above passage and answer the following questions**

**Question 1.**
Why does Morocco want some god to direct his judgement?
**Answer:**
Morocco wants his judgement to be directed by the some god so that he may be able to choose the right casket and marry Portia.

**Question 2.**
What is his reaction to the inscription on the lead casket?
**Answer:**
He thinks that the lead casket is threatening him because it requires him to sacrifice all he has for its sake. He feels that a noble mind does not lower itself so much as to be attracted by rubbish.

**Question 3.**
What is his reaction to the inscription on the silvercasket?
**Answer:**
The silver casket offers him as much as he deserves. He assesses his own value in an impartial manner. He feels that he deserves enough but he also feels that it may not include Portia.

**Question 4.**
How does Morocco explain his fear about not deserving Portia?
**Answer:**
Morocco explains his fear by saying that it would mean a weak under-estimation of himself.

**Question 5.**
What is Morocco’s assessment of himself in regard to Portia?
**Answer:**
Morocco thinks that he deserves Portia because of his noble birth, his fortunes, his graces, his fine breeding and because of his love for her

**Extra Questions**

**Question 1.**
What is reasoning which makes Morocco’s say, “What if I strayed no further?”
**Answer:**
Morocco has read the inscription on the silver casket which carries the promise, “who chooses me, shall get as much as he deserves”. The Prince feels confident that he very much deserves the lady. He deserves enough. But then the next moment he falters, though he thinks that he deserves the hand of fair Portia. He deserves her in birth, in fortunes, in graces, in qualities of breeding. So he may stray no further and choose the silver casket.

**Question 2.**
How does he come to the conclusion that it is the lady whom many men desire?
**Answer:**
The Prince was just on the verge of taking the decision to choose the silver casket But then he decided to re-consider others once again. Morocco read the inscription, on the golden casket which said “Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire” He knows that she is the lady what many men desire, and they come from far and near to woo her.

**Question 3.**
How is the journey over the ocean of suitors of Portia described by Morocco?
**Answer:**
He describes the journey of princes coming from four comers of the world in the hope to marry Portia. The deserts of Hyrcania and the vast and desolate territories of far-reaching Arabia are like thorough fares for these suitors.
The ocean, whose waves rising high seem to throw a challenge to the sky, cannot prevent the foreign travelers from coming to Belmont. They cross the seas as if it were merely a stream.

**Question 4.**
Why does Morocco think that Portia’s picture is not in the leaden casket?
**Answer:**
He believes that Portia’s picture is not in the leaden casket. He thinks that this casket is too coarse and unworthy even to enclose her shroud, let alone the idea being a cover for Portia precious portrait.

**Question 5.**
Is there any religious touch in the imagery of these lines?
**Answer:**
Yes, the whole sentiment is expressed in religious imagery Portia is here called a living saint. Her house is a shrine. Her suitors coming from different parts of the world are like pilgrims as the shrine of a holy person has a great sanctity of its own, it attracts pilgrims from far off distances. Similarly, Portia, known for her beauty and wisdom, attracts suitors from all the four corners of the world.

**Merchant of Venice Act 2, Scene 8**

**18. SALANIO:**

**I never heard a passion so confused,**

**So strange, outrageous, and so variable,**

**As the dog Jew did utter in the streets.**

**“My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter,**

**Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats!**

**Question 1.**
What is your reaction to Salanio’s account of Shylock’s lamentations the streets?
**Answer:**
Salanio’s account of Shylock’s lamentations gives us the impression that Shylock has gone almost crazy on account of the losses he has suffered. His daughter has run away with a Christian, and she has also taken away a substantial portion of his money and his jewels. Shylock is feeling deeply grieved by his daughter’s conduct. He is unable to exercise self-control; and he gives way to his grief and bitterness publicly in the city streets. He does win some of our sympathy on this occasion but he also appears to be a comic figure by the way in which he cries: “My daughter! Fled with a Christian! 0 my Christian ducats!”

**Question 2.**
What does Salanio mean by his last speech in this extract from the play?
**Answer:**
Salanio means to say that Antonio should take care to repay the loan in time. If Antonio fails to repay the loan, he would have to pay a heavy penalty which, in terms of the bond, would be a pound of his flesh.

**Question 3.**
Does Antonio really “pay for this”? If so, how ; and if not, why not?
**Answer:**
Antonio comes very near to paying the penalty, but escapes from actually doing so. He comes very close to paying it because the judge has admitted the validity of the bond and has held that Shylock is entitled to cut off a pound of Antonio’s flesh. The judge has even asked Antonio to prepare his bosom for Shylock’s knife. However, Antonio escapes this evil fate because the same judge then declares that Shylock is entitled only to a pound of Antonio’s flesh and is not authorized to shed any blood in the process of cutting the flesh. No blood has been mentioned in the bond, says the judge. And so Antonio escapes an evil fate.

**Question 4.**
What is your opinion of the conduct of Shylock’s daughter as described here by Shylock?
**Answer:**
Shylock’s daughter, whose name is Jessica, has behaved in a most unfilial manner. She has brought disgrace and dishonour to her father by running away from home; and her conduct becomes all the more reprehensible because she has run away with a Christian man while she ” herself is Jewish. However, we have to take a lenient view of Jessica’s conduct because Shylock has been behaving like a very tyrannical father and because Jessica has been feeling a prisoner in her father’s house. Shylock has never shown any tenderness towards her; and she has been feeling miserable with him Thus there is some justification for her running away from home,though we are certainly not inclined to forgive her entirely.

**Question 5.**
Does Justice find the girl, as demanded by Shylock?
**Answer:**
No, justice is unable to find the girl. Actually Jessica and her lover Lorenzo have escaped from Venice into Genoa where the Venetian police could not have chasedthem.

**Extra questions**

**Question 1.**
What Is your reaction to Salanio ’s account of Shylock’s condition?
**Answer:**
From Salanio's description we learn that Shylock is shocked and has become mad on the account of the losses he has suffered. His daughter has run away with a Christian and has taken away a big portion of his money and jewels. Shylock is feeling deeply grieved by his daughter’s conduct. He is unable to exercise self-control and gives way to his grief and bitterness publicly in the streets.

**Question 2.**
What light does Salanio’s first speech throw on the character of Shylock?
**Answer:**
The above mentioned speech of Salanio presents Shylock as a miser and greedy man. In his madness also he harps upon the idea of his lost wealth. He is hurt not so much by the loss of his daughter as by loss of his wealth.

**Question 3.**
What does Salanio’slast speech in the extract mean?
**Answer:**
Salanio means to say that Antonio should pay the loan taken by him in time. If he fails to repay the loan in time he would have to pay a heavy penalty which would be a pound of his flesh.

**Question 4.**
What opinion do you form of Shylock’s daughter as described here by Shylock?
**Answer:**
Shylock’s daughter Jessica has behaved in a most unfilial manner. She has brought disgrace and disrepute to her father by running away from her home. Her conduct becomes more reprehensible because she has run away with a big portion of Shylock’s wealth.

**Question 5.**
Does Justice find the girl as demanded by Shylock?
**Answer:**
No, justice is unable to find the girl. Actually Jessica and her lover Lorenzo have escaped from Venice.

**Question 6.**
Who is the kinder gentleman referred to?
**Answer:**
The kinder gentleman is Antonio.

**Question 7.**
What was the parting advice given to Bassanio?
**Answer:**
Antonio advised Bassanio not to come till the completion of his work. He also asked him not to bother about the bond. He should rather keep cheerful and keep busy in his love affairs.

**Question 8.**
What assurance was given by Bassanio to his friend?
**Answer:**
Bassanio assured Antonio that he would return as soon as possible.

**Question 9.**
How did Bassanio’s friend feel on parting from Bassanio?
**Answer:**
Bassanio’s friend felt very sad on parting from Bassanio. Tears welled (came) up in his eyes.

**Question 10.**
What idea does this passage give you about the friendship between Bassanio and his friend?
**Answer:**
They bosom friends.

**Merchant of Venice Act 2, Scene 9**

**18. ARRAGON:**

**And so have I addressed me. Fortune now**

**To my heart’s hope! Gold, silver, and base lead.**

**“Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath.”**

**You shall look fairer ere I give or hazard.**

**Question 1.**
On what condition is the Arragon willing to give or hazard for the sake of the lead casket?
**Answer:**
Arragon is willing to do so if the lead casket improves its appearance.

**Question 2.**
How does he interpret the word “many”?
**Answer:**
By the word “many” Arragon means the silly, common people who are guided by the outward appearance of things.

**Question 3.**
What is martlet? How does it behave?
**Answer:**
A marlet is a bird like the swallow. It builds its nest on the outward wall of a house. Its nest is exposed to strong winds and storms. Its behaviour is unwise.

**Question 4.**
Why does not Arragon like to choose what many men desire?
**Answer:**
He does not do so because he does not agree with the ordinary people. He would not like to place himself at par with the uncivilised and ill-mannered crowds of people.

**Extra Questions**

**Question 1.**
What in your opinion has been tried seven times in the fire?
**Answer:**
Silver has been tried seven times in the fire.

**Question 2.**
What judgement according to the Arragon has fool-proof correctness?
**Answer:**
A judgement that has been tried seven times.

**Question 3.**
What do those people get who shadows gain?
**Answer:**
Those people gain only unreal happiness.

**Question 4.**
Where were these words written, “Take what wife you will to bed. I will ever by your head?”
**Answer:**
These words were written on the piece of paper that Arragon found in the silver casket.

**Question 5.**
What fate did Arragon meet?
**Answer:**
Arragon failed to choose the right casket. He felt disappointed.

**Question 6.**
What is the occasion for the above quoted dialogue?
**Answer:**
The Prince of Arragon has made a wrong choice by choosing the silver casket. After he leaves with his train Portia comments on him and men like him.

**Question 7.**
How does Portia react to the failure of Prince of Arragon in choosing a right casket?
**Answer:**
Portia is delighted at the defeat of Prince of Arragon. This shows that he is not the man of her choice and she is not keen to marry him.

**Question 8.**
Who are the ‘deliberate fools’ referred to in the first speech of the above quoted dialogue?

**Answer:**
Portia uses the phrase ‘deliberate fools’ for her suitors. She considers her suitors foolish who make wrong choices by resorting to deliberate reasoning.

**Merchant of Venice Act 3, Scene 1**

**19. SALARINO:**

**There is more difference between thy flesh and hers than between jet and ivory, more between your bloods than there is between red wine and rhenish. But tell us, do you hear whether Antonio have had any loss at sea or no?**

**Question 1.**
Where are Salarino and Shylock? Is there anyone else there?
**Answer:**
The scene is set in Venice. Salanio, Salarino and Shylock are engaged in a conversation.

**Question 2.**
Who used this phrase ‘flesh and blood’? Was it misunderstood by anyone?
**Answer:**
Shylock used this phrase to describe his daughter, Jessica. He was sorry to say that his own flesh and blood rebelled. He was thus referring to Jessica’s elopement. It is unbearable for Shylock that his own daughter should run away with a Christian and show her disregard for her father.
This remark was misunderstood or deliberately misinterpreted. Shylock uses the phrase flesh and blood in the usual sense, that Jessica is his natural daughter. He refers to the biological relationship between father and child. But Salanio/Salarino make fun of him, asking him if his physical desires are roused even in his old age.

**Question 3.**
Explain the comparisons made by Salarino between

**(a)** Jet and ivory,
**(b)** Red wine and rhenish

**Answer:**
Salarino is quick to point out that there is hardly any similarity between Shylock and his daughter Jessica.

**(a)** If Jessica is ivory which is white and beautiful, Shylock is jet black and unattractive.
**(b)** Jessica is rhenish (white wine) while Shylock is red wine. There can be no confusion between the two.

**Question 4.**
In what sense is Antonio a prodigal? Is he a bankrupt? Explain Shylock’s views. Give your comments.

**Answer:**
When Salarino talks about Antonio’s losses, Shylock speaks impatiently. He had given a loan of three thousand ducats against this man’s security. Shylock calls Antonio a bankrupt who has no money to spend. All he had has been lost.
Shylock charges Antonio for being a prodigal. He has wasted his money thoughtlessly. According to Shylock, Antonio has ruined himself by taking a loan for his extravagant friend. This is a culpable prodigality. We may not, however, agree with Shylock in blaming a self- sacrificing gentleman like Antonio.

**Question 5.**
Why is Antonio not seen at the Rialto?
**Answer:**
Now that Antonio is a bankrupt, with many debts and loans yet to be cleared, he does not come to Rialto, the stock exchange. This remark of Shylock shows that of late Antonio had stopped visiting Rialto where merchants generally gather to do business.

**Question 6.**
Shylock gives the warning, “let him look to his bond”. What are his reasons?
**Answer:**
Shylock gives the warning to be conveyed to Antonio to take care of his bond. He must repay the money within the prescribed limit of time. Shylock complains that Antonio used to call him a despicable money-lender charging high interest. He also used to lend money to people without interest to show his Christian generosity.

**Extra questions**

**Question 1.**
What substance is meant to bait fish?
**Answer:**
Flesh is meant to bait fish.

**Question 2.**
Who is responsible for harming Shylock?
**Answer:**
Antonio is the man who is responsible for this.

**Question 3.**
Point out in what all ways the Christians and Jews are alike?
**Answer:**
Christians and Jews are alike in wishes, desires, feelings and emotions. The Jews have hands, organs, limbs and senses like the Christians. They eat the same type of food : they are wounded with the same weapons liableto suffer from the same diseases and cured by the same medicines. They feel heat and cold like the Christians.

**Question 4.**
How does a Christian behave when he is insulted by a Jew?
**Answer:**
A Christian takes revenge.

**Question 5.**
How will Shylock match the villainy of the Christians.
**Answer:**
He will also practise villainy. He would try his best to improve upon the lesson he has been taught by the Christians. Shylock believes in a policy of tit-for-tat.

**Question 6.**
About whom are Salarino and Shylock talking?
**Answer:**
Salarinoand Shylock are talking about Antonio.

**Question 7.**
Is Shylock justified in his complaint?
**Answer:**
Shylock certainly seems to be justified in his complaint against Antonio. Judging the case by Shylock’s version of the facts, Antonio has always been most unjust to him. According to Shylock’s account, Antonio has been insulting and humiliating Shylock, and also been ridiculing and mocking him. Antonio has, furthermore, been hindering Shylock’s transactions and been instigating Shylock’s enemies against him.

**Question 8.**
Explain the last sentence in Shylock’s speech.
**Answer:**
Shylock says that the Christians have been treating the Jews in a most wicked and cruel manner, and that now he too would follow the example of the Christians and would treat the Christian Antonio in the same cruel manner. No, Shylock would treat the Christian Antonio in a more cruel manner than the Christians have been treating the Jews.

**Question 9.**
Does Shylock really “better the instruction”?
**Answer:**
Shylock certainly tries to better the instruction. He certainly tries to cause the death of Antonio who is a Christian, while the Christian Antonio had limited his cruelty towards the Jew only to the extent of disgracing him and ridiculing him, thwarting his bargains, and otherwise harassing him. However, Shylock does not succeed in his purpose. He exerts himself to the utmost and comes very close to achieving his object but at the last moment he is deprived of the opportunity which hadcome his way.

**Question 10.**
Why has this speech by Shylock become famous?
**Answer:**
This speech by Shylock has become famous because it contains a factual account of how the Christians of that time were treating the Jews, and because this kind of inter-racial prejudice and hostility exist even today between certain communities and between certain religions, though the antagonism between the Jews and the Christians does not exist any longer. In fact, this speech is a classic account of the persecution which the Jews have been suffering for centuries at the hands of the Christians. We have here a succinct account of the injustice which the followers of one religion have been suffering at the hands of the fanatical followers of another religion. The wording of the account and the logical reasoning behind the account are really superb. And the speech is an excellent example of rhetoric and oratory.

**Question 11.**
What is Shylock’s predicament as reflected in this passage?

**Answer:**
Shylock is in a state of desperation because of the loss of his money and his jewels. Of course, he is feeling grieved also on account of the disgrace which his daughter has brought on him by running away from home, and more particularly by running away with a Christian.

**Question 12.**
In what light do you see Shylock on this occasion?
**Answer:**
Shylock here appears to be a pathetic figure. Any father would experience similar feelings of grief and degradation at the gross misconduct of this kind on the part of his daughter. Shylock’s grief is natural. But he also appears here in a comic light. The manner in which he laments his loss has a touch of absurdity. In fact, he is more grieved by the loss of his ducats and his jewels than by the loss of his daughter and by a sense of disgrace. He appears as a comic figure also because he is magnifying his personal loss by giving it the dimensions of a national loss. “The curse never fell upon our nation till now”, he says.

**Question 13.**
Why does Shylock want his daughter dead at his foot and the jewels in her ear?
**Answer:**
Shylock wants his daughter dead at his foot because his daughter has not only brought him , disgrace and dishonour by running away from home but has also caused him a heavy financial loss by stealing his money and his jewels. He would not mind his daughterhaving the jewels in her ears if he can have the satisfaction of seeing his daughter dead before him. Death would be the only adequate punishment for her misconduct. He would feel tortured if his daughter remains alive and goes about in Genoa, flaunting the jewels which she had stolen from him. If she lies dead before him with the jewels in her ear, he can gloat over the sight. Death is the minimum punishment that he thinks his daughter should receive and he would then not mind the loss of his jewels. Actually these would be the feelings of any father in Shylock’s situation.

**Question 14.**
What consolation does Tubal offer to Shylock?
**Answer:**
Tubal tells Shylock that he (Shylock) is not the only man who has suffered bad luck, and that there are other men also in this world who become victims of bad luck. He then mentions the case of Antonio. It is a well-known fact that we feel our own losses much less when we learn that other people have also suffered losses. And our grief over our losses is further diminished if we are told that our enemies have suffered heavy losses. On being told that Antonio has lost his ships on the seas, Shylock feels greatly consoled in his distress.

**Question 15.**
Does Shylock get any satisfaction or revenge afterwards?
**Answer:**
Shylock does get some satisfaction afterwards though this satisfaction proves to be short-lived. He comes very close to getting his revenge upon Antonio when the judge tells him that he is entitled to a pound of Antonio’s flesh. Shylock feels exultant and jubilant at this time, and he had even begun to sharpen his knife. But then the judge tells him that, in the process of cutting the flesh, he must not shed a jot of Christian blood because it has not been mentioned in the bond. Thus Shylock is unable to get any real satisfaction because he is deprived of the opportunity to take his revenge upon his enemy.

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A Collection of ICSE Poems

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Chapter 1 - The Heart of a Tree**

**What does he plant who plants a tree?**

**He plants a friend of sun and sky;**

**He plants the flag of breezes tree**

**The shaft of beauty, towering high;**

**He plants a home to heaven anigh;**

**For song and mother- croon of bird**

**In hushed and happy twilight heard**

**The treble of heaven’s harmony**

**Question 1.**
Explain with reference to context.
**Answer:**
These lines have been taken from the poem, ‘The Heart of a tree’ by Henry Cuyler Bunner. The poet comments on the advantages of planting a tree. The poem opens with a rhetorical question asking the reader what the planting of a tree signifies. The poet emphasises that when a tree is planted the sun and sky share their bounty like a friend with the earth . The tree which rises high helps in originating cool breezes, a home which is close to heaven for the birds to nest in and nurture their young ones. The music created by the humming of birds and breeze is like a heavenly song and the poet reiterates that these are all the things that are created when a tree is planted.

**Question 2.**
Why does the poet call the tree a friend of sun and sky?
**Answer:**
The poet says that the tree is a friend of the sun and sky because it shares their benefits like a friend and helps to create cool breeze to lessen the heat of the sun and the glare of the sky.

**Question 3.**
What is the shaft of beauty, towering high?
**Answer:**
The small sapling grows into a tall and high arrow like tree which stands stately in beauty.

**Question 4.**
For whom is the home to heaven anigh?
**Answer:**
In the tree that rises towards the sky the birds build their nests on the high branches which seem close to heaven.

**Question 5.**
What is meant by ‘the treble of heaven’s harmony’?
**Answer:**
The sound of the breeze, the rustling of the leaves, the crooning of the birds to their young ones and the sound of the creatures in the twilight all mingle together and create music that seems like a combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes which produce a divine effect.

**Question 6.**
What three things are created when a tree is planted according to the poet?
**Answer:**
When one plants a tree the things created are a friend, beauty, and music.

**Question 7.**
Pick out some figures of speech.
**Answer:**
The poet personifies a tree by calling it a friend, he uses euphemisms like home to heaven anigh, towering high and treble of heaven’s harmony. He uses metaphors like hushed and happy twilight.

**Question 8.**
Who is described as a ‘friend of sun and sky’?
**Answer:**
A tree is described as a ‘friend of sun and sky’.

**Question 9.**
Whom does a tree give shelter? How?
**Answer:**
A tree gives shelter to birds by allowing them to build their nests.

**Question 10.**
Which literary device has been used in the line: ‘In hushed and happy twilight heard’?
**Answer:**
The literary device used here as alliteration.

**Question 11.**
Explain: The treble of heaven’s harmony.’
**Answer:**
The high tone ‘treble’ of the song of the bird is symbolic of heaven’s harmony. It provides an atmosphere of calm and peace.

**Question 12.**
Towards the end of the poem the poet refers to the longing in the heart of the one who plants a tree. What is this longing?
**Answer:**
This longing is for the growth of his country.

**Extra Questions**

**Question 13**
What motivates the man to plant a tree according to the poet?
**Answer:**
The poet believes that when a man plants a sapling he does so because he sees it as symbol of growth and future life.

**Question 14**
Does the man plant a tree because of his love of society and his nation?
**Answer:**
Yes, the man believes that if he plants a tree he will be planting a new nation.

**Question 15**
How is the man holding the blessing on his neighbourhood in his hand?
**Answer:**
The poet believes that the man who holds the sapling in his hand is actually holding the growth of humanity in his hand because the tree is like a heart and will create new life on earth. The trunk is like a bridge; and the branches are a link to the cosmos. He will bring transformation and aid in the growth and prosperity of life on earth.

**Question 16**
What is meant by a nation’s growth from sea to sea?
**Answer:**
The poet believes that the tree is symbolic and will lead to prosperity and peace throughout the length and breadth of the nation. It will be a transition to peace and growth.

**Question 17**
What is the reference to in the phrase ‘stirs in his heart’?
**Answer:**
The poet says that the feelings that are awakened in the heart of the man who plants a tree are feelings that hope for growth and transformation.

**Question 18**

What does the tree symbolise in the poem?
**Answer:**
The tree is used as a symbol of all the good in our lives. It symbolises peace and prosperity in our country and in the world. It teaches the values of love and loyalty. It symbolises rich rewards for our future generations and represents a link of our present with the future. It stands a s a symbol of growth, prosperity and harmony.

**Question 19**
Do you consider the title apt?
**Answer:**
The title of the poem is very apt and suggestive. The tree is the main focus in the poem and the poet refers to the heart of the tree. The heart of the tree is generous, loving and magnanimous. It shows no discrimination based on colour or creed. It blesses all alike- all who take care of it and even those who neglect it. Whenever a tree is planted it turns the earth into a heaven and the poet rightly says:
The shaft of beauty, towering high:
He plants a home to heaven anigh.

**Question 20**
Does the poet use the literary devices in the poem?
**Answer:**
Yes, the poet uses metaphors, alliteration and imagery in the poem. The poet describes the tree metaphorically:’ **a friend of sun and sky,’ ‘the flag of breezes free. ’**

He uses alliteration when he says: He plants a friend of sun and sky.
In hushed and happy twilight heard’
Visual Imagery is used in the poem: **The shaft of beauty, towering high:, ‘the flag of breezes free**. ’And auditory imagery is also used: **‘For song and mother-croon of bird.’**

**Question 21**
Why does the poet use repetition in the poem?
**Answer:**
Repetition is used to show how a person should feel after he/she plants a tree. The first line of the poem, “What does he plant who plants a tree?” is repeated three times, and is followed by, “These things he plants who plants a tree,” which is repeated twice, and on the last line it says, “A nation’s growth from sea to sea (new line) Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.” All put together it tells you that this man thinks that planting a tree is like planting a new nation and it will bring peace and harmony to the Earth!

**Chapter 2 -The Cold Within**

**Read the lines given above and answer the questions that follow**.

**Six humans trapped by happenstance**

**In bleak and bitter cold**

**Each one possessed a stick of wood**

**Or so the story’s told**

**Question 1.**
Explain with reference to context
**Answer:**
These lines are from the poem, ‘The Cold Within’ written by James Kinney. The poem touches on how each of the people around the fire died because of the “Cold Within,” and because of their inability to accept each other. It so happened that due to an accidental or arranged event they were together on that bitterly cold night. However, they were not together willingly. Each had a stick and even if one would give his stick to keep the dying fire going they would have survived. But the first man did not give his stick due to racial prejudice as he notice that one amongst them was black. It was not the cold weather that killed them but the frigidity of their hearts that led to their deaths.

**Question 2**

What is suggested by the use of the word trapped?
**Answer:**
The word trapped suggests that the six people do not want to be in the situation, but they cannot escape.

**Question3**
Explain the symbolism used by the poet.
**Answer:**
The poet uses symbolism to show that it was the coldness of their hearts which extinguished the fire of life. Fire, which symbolized hope and acceptance, might have saved the characters but they refused to shun their prejudices and let it die thus sealing their own doom.

**Question 4**
What do the logs denote?
**Answer:**
The logs symbolize each character and how they “couldn’t bring [themselves] to give the fire” their wood in order to save all of them.

**Question 5**
Which sin is hinted at in these lines?
**Answer:**
The sin of racial discrimination is hinted at. The first person does not give her stick because she does not want to save a black man.

**Question 6**
What does the phrase ‘six humans’ signify?
**Answer:**
By saying “six humans”, it is as if he is talking about all humans. If he would have said “people” then we might have different associations with the words.

**Extra Questions**

**Question 7**
In stanza 3, why did the man refuse to use his stick of wood?
**Answer:**
The man refuses to give up his stick because of religious intolerance as he sees a man not belonging to his church.

**Question 8**
Why did “the third one” refuse to use his stick of wood?
**Answer:**
The third one was a poor man in tattered clothes and he did not want to give his stick as he envied the rich man and his wealth and did not want to save the idle rich.

**Question 9**
Why did the rich man refuse to use his stick of wood?
**Answer:**
The rich man thought of hoarding his wealth and wanted to keep his great amount of money away from the undeserving, lazy , shiftless , poor people.

**Question 10**
What happened to the six humans? Why?
**Answer:**
The six humans died due to the cold. Their hatred for each other prevented them from giving up their sticks to keep the fire going and so they all died due to the cold. But actually it was the cold in their hearts which killed them.

**Question 11**
What does this say about what prejudice can do to people and the importance of working together?
**Answer:**
Prejudice destroys not only our enemies but also us. The frigidness of people is what ends up in killing them. This is important because this indirectly shows how fast arrogance, greed, and sin can “kill” us.

**Question 12**
Analyse the title and whether it is appropriate.
**Answer:**
The Cold Within- is a good and appropriate expression. Cold-heartedness really is what killed the characters. This symbolizes their “coldness” and prejudices against each other. Eventually, this is what killed them.

**Chapter 3 - The Bangle Sellers**

**Bangle sellers are we who bear**

**Our shining loads to the temple fair**

**Who will buy there delicate bright**

**Rainbow tinted circles of light**

**Question 2.**
Who is the speaker in the poem?
**Answer:**
The Bangle Seller is the speaker in the poem. In the opening lines of the poem we see that it is Bangle Seller who says, “Bangle sellers are we who bear….. Our shining loads to the temple fair”. He describes himself and his bangles throughout the whole poem.

**Question 3.**
How are the bangles described in the first stanza of the poem?
**Answer:**
In the first stanza the bangles are described as lustrous, shining loads, rainbow-coloured, delicate and bright for happy daughters and happy wives.

**Question 4.**
What is referred to Rainbow-tinted circles of light ?
**Answer:**
The bangles are referred to as ‘Rainbow-tinted circles of light. ’

**Question 5.**
Explain the line’ lustrous tokens of radiant lives’.
**Answer:**
The bangle sellers invite people to buy their bangles by praising the qualities of the bangles. They say they are the shining gifts that promise happy lives in the future to the wearer of the bangles. He thinks these bangles are the tokens of happy lives and happy marriages.

**Question 6.**
What is the tone in this stanza? Quote.
**Answer:**
The tone is happy and joyful as evident by the line, ‘For happy daughters and happy wives

**Question 7**
Explain ‘silver and blue as the mountain mist’
**Answer:**
This is an example of a simile. Here, the color of the bangle is compared to the mist of the mountains. The bangle seller says that the blue and silver bangles are fit for the unmarried girls as they too are as pure and lovely as the mountain mist.

**Question 8**
Mention the colours that are given or hinted at to describe the bangles.
**Answer:**
The colours are blue, silver, red and fresh green.

**Question 9**

To what are the bangles compared?
**Answer:**
The bangles are compared to morning mist, flowering buds and new born leaves.

**Question 10**
What stage of women’s life is referred to in this stanza?
**Answer:**
The stanza refers to the life of a young , unmarried girl.

**Question 11**
Explain :

Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves
To the limpid glory of new born leaves.

**Answer:**
Sarojini Naidu here compares the colours of the bangles to the transparent glory ofthe new born leaves and flowers. The colours of the bangles are suitable for unmarried girls as they are pure and fresh as new leaves.

**Question 12.**

What message does the poem portray?

**Answer:**

This poem stands out as a social message that not only discusses the lives of Indian women but also the lives of bangle sellers. Although the poem focuses extensively on the stages in the life of women, it portrays the lives of the bangle sellers as well.

Some bangles are of the colour yellow like sunlit com fields. They represent the happiness of a bride-to-be on the morn of her wedding. Then there are bangles which are flame coloured- red, orange, symbolic of a bride’s passion and desire, especially on her wedding night. These bangles are luminous and transparent, but also tender. The tinkling sound they make reminds one of the sound of a new bride’s laughter and the clear, tender finish of the bangles bespeak her tears as she leaves her childhood home for her husband’s.

**Chapter 4 - After Blenheim**

1. **It was a summer evening,**

 **Old Kaspar’s work was done,**

 **Who was he?**

**Q –** Old Kaspar’s work was done. What work do you think he had been doing?

**Ans.** Old Kaspar was a farmer. Perhaps he had been working in his fields, ploughing the land, preparing it for sowing seeds.

**Q –** What did Wilhelmine see? Where was she then?

**Ans.** Wilhelmine who was sitting close-by, saw her brother Peterkin roll something large and round like a ball. She was then infront of her hut, with her grand-father.

**Q –** What is the dramatic significance of these lines?

**Ans.** The description of the scene and setting is important. The large round thing proves to be the starting point of conversation between Old Kaspar and his grandchildren. This logically leads to the explanation about the battle of Blenheim.

**Q –** What was the subject of his enquiry? How did he feel curious?

**Ans.** The subject of his enquiry was a large round thing he had found while playing near the rivulet. He couldn’t make out what that object was. He was curious to know what actually it was.

**Q –** Why did he heave a sigh? In what sense was it a natural sigh?

**Ans.** Kaspar heaved a sigh because he felt sad at the sight of the human skull. It reminded him of the death of many thousand soldiers who were killed in the battle of Blenheim. It was a natural sigh expressing spontaneous human sympathy for the person who might have died an avoidable death.

1. **‘Why that I cannot tell,’ said he,**

**But it was a famous victory.’**

**Q –** What doeshe fail to explain? Why?

**Ans.** The old man talks about the war and speaks proudly about the so-called victory. But he fails to explain the reason why this war was fought. He frankly admits that he himself could never understand what the two sides fought each other for. But he had heard everybody say that it was a famous victory.

**Q –** What is your opinion about the validity of war? Can you think of any justification for bloody conflicts in the world?

**Ans.** We feel that there is no valid reason to push countries into war. War has no justification. All conflicts ought to be resolved through dialogue in a spirit of accommodation and adjustment. World peace is necessary for progress and prosperity.

**Q –** What was the sight? Why was it shocking?

**Ans.** Many thousand soldiers died in the battle. Their bodies could not be buried. These bodies lay in the open rotting in the sun. This was the shocking sight around after the conclusion of the war.

**Q –** The field was won. Who won the field? Who lost it? Who was held responsible for the victory.

**Ans.** The Battle of Blenheim was won by the combined forces of England and Austria. The French forces were completely defeated. Duke of Marlborough.

**Q –** Why was that called a famous victory in spite of what it resulted in?

**Ans.** The war proved to be devastating. Many thousand soldiers lost their lives. The civilians, too, suffered casualties. There was destruction of property. Many people became homeless and they ran for refuge. Still it came to be called a famous victory. This was because people glorify war.

**Chapter 5 - Television**

1. **The most important thing we’ve learned,**

**So far as children are concerned,**

**Q –** The poet has something most important to tell us. What is it?

**Ans.** The poet draws the reader’s attention by stating that he has something most important to tell them. It relates to children and their welfare. He has an advice for the parents not to allow their children near the television set.

**Q –** What doesthe phrase **‘gaping at the screen’** indicate?

**Ans.** The children were watching the television staring at the screen with open mouth. They have their eyes wide open, showing their curiosity and excited interest in what they see before them.

**Q –** Who according to the poet can reverse the wrong situation?

**Ans.** According to the poet, the situation can be reversed. Parents can certainly take steps to protect their children from the ill effects of watching television. One of these steps can be that heir time should be strictly regulated and they may be permitted to watch television for a short time after they have finished their home work etc. The best course is that the television set may not be installed in the house at all.

**Q –** How do their eyes pop out? Do they really pop out?

**Ans.**  Children who watch the television for long hours strain their eyes too much. Still, they are unmindful of the great harm they are inflicting upon themselves. They continue to stare at the television screen until their eyes pop out. The poet uses the poetic device of exaggeration to emphasise the point that this reckless activity of children has grave consequences. The expression, however, cannot be literally interpreted to mean that the eyes actually pop out of the sockets.

**Q –** What happens when they sit and stare?

**Ans.** The children sit and stare, and stare and sit. Their eyes are fixed at the television screen. They are completely absorbed in what they see. Sadly, what they see is ghastly junk. But these unsuspecting children are unconsciously hypnotized by what they see on the screen. They behave as if they were under the influence of a charm.

**CHAPTER 6 - Daffodils**

1. **I wandered lonely as a cloud**

**That floats on high o’er vales and hills**,

**Q –** What is the point of comparison between the wanderer and a cloud?

**Ans.** The point of comparison between the wanderer and the cloud is that both are free and aimless in their wandering. The cloud floats over valleys and hills. Similarly, the poet roams in valleys and hills in his solitude.

**Q –** Why does the poet repeat the words like **‘crowd’** and **‘host’** when their meaning is the same?

**Ans.** The poet repeats the words with the same meaning for two reasons. First, he achieves an effect by repeating the idea of the largeness of numbers. He says it twice, using synonyms, to emphasize this point.

**Q –** What is the effect of the descriptive phrase **‘never-ending line’**? Wherein lay the beauty in such a continuity?

**Ans.** The phrase **‘never-ending line’** refers to the numberlessness of the flowers seen by the poet. These are growing in a line and not in a broad patch. The never-ending line is more attractive than a haphazard growth of flowers.

**Q –** The comparison between the never-ending line of daffodils and the stars in the milky way is understandable. Can you identify the twinkling quality in the flowers?

**Ans.** In the opening stanza of the poem, the poet describes the daffodils fluttering in the breeze. **‘Twinkling’** stands for quivering or dancing light. The flowers are fluttering and dancing. These are then the comparable qualities between the stars and the flowers.

**Q – “The waves beside them danced….”** Where were the waves dancing? What is meant by dancing of waves? Explain **‘beside them’**.

**Ans.** The waves were dancing in the lake. The dancing of the waves stands for the rhythmic rise and fall of waves which is comparable to dancing movements. These waves were dancing beside a crowd of daffodils that grew on the bank of the lake under the trees.

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ACollectionofICSEShort Stories

**CHAPTER – 1: - Chief Seattle's Speech**

1. **Yonder sky that has wept tears of compassion upon my people for centuries untold, and which to us appears Changeless.**

**Q -** How do you explain, **“wept tears of compassion”**?

**Ans.** Chief Seattle speaks in a poetic language describing nature as a blessing for the natives of his land. He says that nature has sympathised with his people by shedding tears of compassion on them.

**Q -** What is the contextual background of the speech?

**Ans.** Hostilities were going on between the White Settlers and the native Americans. Then came an offer of friendship and co-operation from Governor Issac Stevens. Chief Seattle’s speech is in response to that positive move.

**Q - “Today is fair. Tomorrow it maybe overcast with clouds.”** What is being referred to in this line?

**Ans.** Chief Seattle comments on the existing situation as it prevails in his country. The Whites have already taken dominant position in comparison to the natives. They have done so with their money and muscle power. Still, the worst has not happened. It is fair for the present. It is sunny. But nothing can be said tomorrow. Then the sky may be overcast with clouds I.e. more danger can befall them.

**Q - “My people are few.”** The speaker illustrates the point through a comparison. How does he do it?

**Ans.** Chief Seattle admits that the tribals have been overwhelmed by the White settlers. The Whites have numbers on their side. The natives are few. Chief Seattle illustrates his point through a comparison. The Whites are like grass that grows everywhere on the vast prairies. The natives now resemble the scattering trees of a storm-swept plain.

**Q -** What is White Chief’s message to the native people?

**Ans.** The White Chief has made an offer to the native people as a basis for compromise between the two warring sides. They want to buy the land that now belongs to the natives. However, they are willing to allow the natives enough to live comfortably.

**2. Youth is impulsive. When our young men grow angry at some real or imaginary wrong………….**

**Q -** What happens when young men grow angry? Why do they grow angry?

**Ans.** The young men grow angry when some wrong is done to them. It may be a real harm done to them, or it may be just their perception.

**Q -** What really angered the tribal young men? Couldn’t they be softened by

old men and women?

**Ans.** The provocation came when the Whiteman pushed their forefathers to the west, thus usurping the land that belonged to them. The young men could not take it lying down. They reacted angrily.

Once the young men are roused, it is difficult to restrain them. The old men and women failed to soften them when they were enraged.

**Q -** How do you explain, **“ Your God is not our God.”**

**Ans.** The speaker is sad to say that the God of the Whites protects only the paleface children, for he loves them. But he has forsaken His Red Children.

**Q -** The tribals are in the process of diminishing numbers.How does Chief

Seattle describe this process?

**Ans.** While the White Settlers are growing in strength andnumbers, the natives are becoming scarce. They are like the waves of the receding tide, which will never return.

**Q - “Day and night cannot dwell together.”** Day and night are used as symbols. How do you explain them?

**Ans.** Day and night cannot dwell together. One has to make an exit to make room for the other to come in. In this context, these two are symbols of the native Americans on one hand and the new settlers on the other.

**CHAPTER - 2 - Old Man on the Bridge**

1. **There was a pontoon bridge across the river and carts, trucks, and men , women and children were crossing it.**

**Q -** Why were people crossing the bridge? Why was the old man sitting?

**Ans.** People were crossing the bridge to move on to safe destinations across the bridge. They had shifted from places that had come within the range of artillery fire. There was a movement of people and vehicles eager to cross the bridge. The old man only sat by the side of the road, because he was too tired to walk any further.

**Q -** What kind of bridge was it? Why such a bridge?

**Ans.** It was a pontoon bridge temporarily built during war. It was a bridge made of large hollow containers filled with air. This kind of bridges could be built at a short notice, particularly for the movement of troops.

**Q -** Where were they? Why were they there?

**Ans.** They were near a pontoon bridge across the river and carts, trucks, men, women and children were crossing the bridge. The old man had walked twelve kilometers from his hometown to this bridge because there was a threat of the enemy artillery. The young soldier was on a duty as a scout to see how far the enemy had advanced.

**Q -** Why had he to leave his animals?

**Ans. The old man** had to leave them when he was told by the captain to go because the town was likely to come under artillery fire. He had to leave his animals at home when he himself ran for some safe destination. Now he was worried about his animals whom he loved very much.

**Q -** What does the old man mean when he says, **“I am without politics”**?

**Ans.** The young soldier asks the old man what politics he has. The old man answers that he has no politics. He is neutral. The Spanish civil war forms the background to the story. The idea is that the war is pointless and it has its physical, mental and psychological effects on countless civilians who are without any political leanings.

**2. “But what will they do under the artillery when I was told to leave because of The artillery?”**

**Q -** What was the old man’s worry? Did he feel guilty about anything?

**Ans.** The old man had to flee from his home, leaving his pets at home. They were two goats, a cat and four pairs of pigeons. He was feeling worried about their safety. He was feeling guilty of leaving them to their fate.

**Q -** Do you think the old man was responsible for anything he was feeling

guilty about? Give reasons.

**Ans.** The old man felt that he had been unfair towards his animals. He should have remained with them in the house inspite of the danger posed by the enemy guns. This is a very disturbing thought. He is lamenting again and again that the cat will take care of itself, but the others could not fend for themselves. The sensitive old man is troubled by this thought. But he was not really responsible for the painful situation when he was told to leave. He was helpless. He had no other option but to flee from there, though he couldn’t forget his animals he loved so much.

**Q -** The narrator concludes that nothing could be done about that man in

distress. Why does he say so?

**Ans.** The narrator said that nothing could be done about the old man. When all other people were crossing the bridge to go to a safe destination, the old man could not walk any further. He had exhausted himself by walking twelve kilometers from his home. He tried to walk onwards, but he could not stand stably. He swayed from side to side and then sank to the ground. He was in a hopeless condition. The narrator who tried to help the old man sadly remarked that nothing could be done about the old man.

**Q -** The old man had two reasons to console himself. What were they?

**Ans.** The old man found himself trapped in a hopeless situation. He was left with only two reasons to console himself. It was an overcast day with a low ceiling. The enemy planes could not fly. There was no risk of bombing. Secondly, the old man had the consolation that the cat among his animals could look after itself.

**CHAPTER - 3 - Horse And Two Goats**

1. **“You have only four teeth in your jaw, but your craving is for big things.**

 **i) Q – “After all, next year you may not be alive to ask for anything.”**

Isn’t it a cruel comment?

**Ans.** It sounds like a cruel comment that the old manmay not live beyond a year. So hemay satisfy his desires. But there were no means to satisfy his cravings. The woman felt hopeless and desperate when she found that she had nothing to offer her husband as breakfast. The remark seems to be the result of such a mood.

**ii) Q –** What message did Muni bring back home? What did he tell his wife?

**Ans.** Muni’s mission to the shop had failed. He couldn’t get ingredientsfor the sauce because he had failed to pay his earlier debt. The shop man rebuked him for that. He also discouraged him by telling him that he was seventy years old. He returned home and told his wife to go out and sell the drumsticks for what they are worth.

**iii) Q –** What were his thoughts at being told that he was seventy years old?

**Ans.** Muni thought that he was fifty years old. But he was told by the shop man that he was seventy. This meant that he was twenty years older than what he had thought. He thought that this was the age when one waited for his death. Muni thought of his marriage when he was ten years old and his wife was eight. They had thus been together since their childhood. They were childless. If they had children, they would have broughtthem blessings of the gods.

**iv) Q –** Why did Muni feel that he should run away? Why couldn’t he do so?

**Ans.** Muni was a shy type of villager. He felt uncomfortable when confronted with a stranger who spoke a language he did not understand. He wanted to run away. He felt he was too old to make any quick movement. He was unable to run away.

**v) Q –** What was Muni emphasising about his goats? Why was he doing so?

**Ans.** Muni was referring to his goats, emphasising the point that they belonged to him though therepeople in the village who would deny him his claim to their ownership. In fact, Muni was feeling insecure. He feared that the man in khaki might take away his goats.

**vi) Q –** How did Muni try to ward off the supposed trouble?

**Ans.** He tried to ward off the trouble in his own way.

**vii) Q –** Did the red man guess that he was not being understood? How do we

know it?

**Ans.** The man guessed that he was not being understood. He received all the answers in Tamil, which he could not understand. He began to feel impatient. He earnestly requested Muni to try to understand him. He was speaking simple words. He thought that the whole country seemed to know English language. He wondered if Muni had any religious or spiritual consideration against English language.

**viii) Q –** What was the final result of this meaningless ‘conversation’?

**Ans.** The so-called conversation was meaningless in the sense that neither understood what the other said. The exchange of words went on, based on guess work. Finally, the red man took away the horse, assuming that he had paid his price to the owner. Muni happily took the money home to break the news to his wife that the two goats have been disposed of.

**ix) Q –** What was Muni doing when the others went to school? Why was he kept

from the school?

**Ans.** When others went to school, Muni went out and worked in the fields from morning till evening. He was kept from school by his poverty. He was also discriminated against on the basis of his class which determined his status in society.

**x) Q –** What showed that the visitor liked the horse very much?

**Ans.** The visitor liked the horse very much. He was sure to take it with him. He began to imagine how he would be sailing across the seas hugging the horse. He would take every precaution to keep the statue safe. He would pack it properly, padding it with straw, so that it wouldn’t break.

**Chapter 4 - Hearts and Hands**

1. **At Denver there was an influx of passengers into the coaches on the eastbound B. & M. express. In one coach there sat a very pretty young woman dressed in elegant taste and surrounded by all the luxurious comforts of an experienced traveler. Among the newcomers were two young men, one of handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. The two were handcuffed together.**

**Question 1.**
Describe the young woman in the coach.
**Answer:**
In one of the coaches there sat a young woman who was very pretty and dressed in elegant taste and surrounded by all the luxurious comforts of an experienced traveller. When she spoke her voice was full, sweet, and deliberate, proclaiming by its tone that its owner was accustomed to speak and be heard.

**Question 2.**
What is strange about the way the two men are travelling? Why do you suppose they are like this?
**Answer:**
The two men who entered from Denver were an odd pair. One had a handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other was a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. And what was really strange about them was that they were handcuffed together.

**Question 3.**
Why does the author call the two men as the ‘linked couple?’
**Answer:**
The author addresses the two men as the linked coupe because they are handcuffed to each other and so linked like a couple.

**Question 4.**
What was the reaction of the young women to them initially? Why did her manner change?
**Answer:**
Initially the young woman glanced at them with a distant and swift disinterest, but then her manner changed when she recognised one of them as an old friend, Mr Easton.

**Question 5.**
Why was Mr Easton embarrassed when the young woman recognised him?
**Answer:**
Mr Easton was embarrassed because he was handcuffed and he felt she would not appreciate seeing that he was in that condition.

**Question 6.**
How did the young woman react when she saw the handcuffs on her friend’s wrist?
**Answer:**
When the young woman saw the handcuffs on her friend’s wrist, the glad look in her girl’s eyes slowly changed to a bewildered horror. The glow faded from her cheeks. Her lips parted in a vague look of relaxing distress and she was evidently mortified.

**Question 7.**
What is the relationship between Mr. Easton and Ms. Fairchild?
**Answer:**
They seem to be old friends and are even slightly flirtatious.                                        .

**Question 8.**
What was the crime of the prisoner? And what is the punishment.
**Answer:**
The crime of the prisoner was counterfeiting. And the punishment was imprisonment for seven years.

**Question 9.**
Where was the prisoner being taken.
**Answer:**
The prisoner was being taken to Leavenworth prison.

**Question 10.**
What did the glum faced man tell the young woman? What effect did it have on her?
**Answer:**
The glum faced man told the young woman that Mr Easton was a marshal and he was taking him to the prison that is why they were handcuffed. When the girl heard the man she was relieved. She took a deep breath and colour returned to her cheeks.

**Question 11.**
Easton states that, “Money has a way of taking wings unto itself, and you know it takes money to keep step with our crowd in Washington”. What does Mr. Easton mean by the idiom, “taking wings unto itself,” and what does this tell us about both Mr. Easton and Miss Fairchild’s former lives in Washington?
**Answer:**
Mr. Easton is referring to the idea that money goes too quickly and their lives in Washington were expensive. This can also be connected to the other man’s comment that, “It’s seven years for counterfeiting” because the life in Washington could have led someone to counterfeit to have enough money to fit in.

**Extra Questions**

**Question 1.**
What reason does Easton give for not keeping up with their crowd in Washington?
**Answer:**
Easton tells Miss Fairchild that he had shifted to the west and had lost touch with his rich friends in Washington because he did not have enough money.

**Question 2.**
Easton says, “it takes money to keep step with our crowd in Washington.” What do you suppose he means by this?
**Answer:**
These words by Mr Easton means that their friends in Washington were very rich and as he did not have that much money he was not fit to be in their crowd.

**Question 3.**
What does Mr Easton say to Miss Fairchild to confirm that he is a marshal?
**Answer:**
Mr Easton in an attempt to remove all doubts about himself tells Miss Fairchild that he saw an opportunity to occupy a position of respect so he took the job of a marshal. He says, ‘—well, marshalship isn’t quite as high a position as that of ambassador, but..’

**Question 4.**
Why do marshals handcuff themselves to their prisoners?
**Answer:**
All marshals handcuff themselves to their prisoners to keep them from escaping.

**Question 5.**
What does Mr Easton mean by the phrase, “My butterfly days are over, I fear.”
**Answer:**
When Mr Easton says “ My butterfly days are over,” he is hinting at his future imprisonment. Miss Fairchild, however, thought he was referring to his social days.

**Question 6**
Discuss the theme of the story ‘ Hearts and Hands.’
**Answer:**
“Hearts and Hands” is a wonderfully ironic story by O. Henry. In the story, a passenger on a train in Denver named Miss Fairchild is seated across an old acquaintance named Mr. Easton. She notes that Mr. Easton is handcuffed to an older, less attractive man, and the less attractive man asks her to intervene with the marshal, indicating Mr.Easton. Miss Fairchild believes that Mr. Easton is a marshal, a man of the law, and they have a conversation about old times. In the end, strangers on the train note that a marshal would never handcuff a man to his right hand. In other words, Mr. Easton is the prisoner, and the other man, older and heavier, is the marshal.

In many of his stories, O. Henry holds the universal romanticized wish that people are intrinsically good and unselfish. This wish is exploited in the short story “Hearts and Hands.” In fact, the title of this story suggests the theme that people will display “heart,”or kindness, for others with no self-interest.

After they are seated across from the pretty young woman, the glum-faced man identifies the younger man handcuffed to him as the marshal. Miss Fairfield, who has recognized this younger one as one of her society, is relieved to know that he is no prisoner.

This glum-faced man asks Miss Fairfield to entreat the marshal to speak on his behalf when they reach Leavenworth prison. But, that it is he who possesses an unexpected kindness becomes known only in O. Henry’s ironic reversal. For, two other passengers remark upon what has occurred in an interchange about the the two men who are handcuffed together. The one, who has overheard the glum-faced man identify the younger man as the marshal, remarks to the other about the kindness of this man:

“That marshal’s a good sort of chap. Some of these Western fellows are all right.”
“Pretty young to hold an office like that, isn’t he?” asks the other man.

The first one exclaims with disbelief,“Young!…didn’t you catch on? Say—did you ever know an officer to handcuff a prisoner to his right hand?”

Ironically, it has been the glum-faced man who is the marshal. But, he has extended kindness and “heart” to his prisoner by pretending to be the convict who is going to prison.

The other theme of the story is that appearances can be deceptive. Miss Fairchild believes that her old friend must be a marshal because she knows him and because he is young and attractive. However, the reality is quite different, as he is a prisoner. O. Henry suggests that people often jump into conclusions that aren’t true.

When they leave, the point of view shifts to two different passengers who had been listening to the conversation between Miss Fairchild, Mr. Easton, and the glum faced man. One of them remarks on how young the marshal is, and the other corrects the mistake. It was actually the glum faced man who was the marshal, and Mr. Easton who was going to prison for seven years for counterfeiting money. The detail was that Mr. Easton’s right hand was cuffed to the marshal’s left hand, when both men were right handed. Clearly, the marshal would choose to cuff his non-dominant hand to the prisoner’s dominant one.The twist comes at the end when we learn that the unnamed man is, in fact, the true marshal, and that Easton is the one heading to prison. The marshal does not want to humiliate Easton in front of an old friend by showing Miss Fairchild that Easton is the true convict.

A second twist comes at the very end when passengers who overheard the conversation reveal that a marshal would never handcuff a man to his right hand. O’Henry shows us how we often ignore seemingly obvious details when the information is not appealing to us — two complete strangers picked up on Easton’s character much quicker than an old friend.

**Chapter 5 - A Face in the Dark**

1. **Mr. Oliver, an Anglo-Indian teacher, was returning to his school late one night on the outskirts of the hill station of Shimla. The school was conducted on English public school lines and the boys – most of them from well-to-do Indian families – wore blazers, caps and ties. “Life”**

**magazine, in a feature on India, had once called this school the Eton of**

**the East.**

**Question 1.**
Who was Mr Oliver? Where was he working?
**Answer:**
Mr Oliver was an Anglo Indian teacher. He was a bachelor and worked in a

 English medium school located on the outskirts of Shimla.

**Question 2.**
Why was the school where Mr Oliver worked called the Eton of the East?
**Answer:**
The school where Mr Oliver worked was run on the lines of an English public school. The students belonged mostly to elite families and were supposed to wear blazers, caps and ties. Eton is also a school meant for children of the British royalty and elite class. Hence the comparison.

**Question 3.**
What did Mr Oliver generally do in the evening?
**Answer:**
In the evening,Mr Oliver usually strolled into the town to visit the ShimlaBazaar with its restaurants and cinemas. The Bazaar was only about three miles from the school.

**Question 4.**
When did Mr Oliver return from the town?
**Answer:**
Mr Oliver usually returned after dark.

**Question 5.**
Which route did Mr Oliver take on his way back?
**Answer:**
Mr Oliver took the shortcut through the pine forest.

**Extra Questions**

**Question 1.**
Why did the people keep to the main road instead of taking the shortcut?
**Answer:**
The shortcut passed through the pine forest and at night the strong wind seemed to howl and the leaves rustled. All this created an eerie and frightening atmosphere so the people avoided taking the lonely shortcut and followed the main road.

**Question 2.**
Why did Mr Oliver take the shortcut? What did he carry with him?
**Answer:**
Mr Oliver took the shortcut because he was not a nervous or imaginative man who would think that the forest hid unnatural things. He was not frightened. He carried a torch with him.

**Question 3.**
Whom did Mr Oliver meet in the forest?
**Answer:**
MrOiver while walking along the shortcut in the forest saw in the flickering light of his torch a boy, crouched down sitting on a rock and weeping.

**Question 4.**
What thought ran through Mr Oliver’s mind when he saw the boy?
**Answer:**
When Mr Oliver saw the boy he immediately thought the boy was a miscreant from his school. He was sure the boy was absconding from school as boys were not allowed to leave the premises after dark.

**Question 5.**
What was Mr Oliver’s reaction?
**Answer:**
Mr Oliver questioned the boy as to what he was doing out so late and then he approached closer to the boy in order to recognise the miscreant.

**Question 6.**
When did Mr Oliver sense that there was something wrong?
**Answer:**
As soon as Mr Oliver walked closer to the boy he sensed that there was something wrong.

**Question 7.**
What did the boy appear to be doing?
**Answer:**
The boy appeared to be crying.

**Question 8.**
Describe the posture of the boy.
**Answer:**
The boy was sitting with his head hung down, he was holding his face in his hands, and his body shook convulsively.

**Question 9.**
Why did Mr Oliver feel uneasy? What was strange?
**Answer:**
Mr Oliver felt uneasy because the boy was weeping strangely. He was crying silently without sound but his body was racked with silent sobbing.

**Question 10.**
Why did Mr Oliver’s anger change to concern?
**Answer:**
Seeing the boy crying so strangely in the dark all alone in the forest made Mr Oliver concerned and he asked him to tell him what was troubling him and to look up.

**Chapter 6 - An Angel in Disguise**

1. **“Jane,” said the wheelwright, with an impressiveness of tone that greatly subdued his wife, “I read in the Bible sometimes, and find much said about little children. How the Savior rebuked the disciples who would not receive them; how he took them up in his arms, and blessed them; and how he said that ‘whosoever gave them even a cup of cold water should not go unrewarded.’ Now, it is a small thing for us to keep this poor motherless little one for a single night; to be kind to her for a single night; to make her life comfortable for a single night.”**

**Question 1.**
What did Joe want to convey to his wife from his quotes from the Bible?
**Answer:**
By quoting from the Bible Joe wanted to tell his wife that even their religion advocated love for children. He wanted her to feel sympathy and love for the disabled, lonely and abandoned Maggie.

**Question 2.**
Why does the author make the character repeat the phrase, ‘a single night’?
**Answer:**
The author uses repetition to lay emphasis on the last words of the sentence and to convey his point and to make the story interesting.

**Question 3.**
What impact does Joe’s words have on Mr Thompson?
**Answer:**
Joe’s words were so emotional and heart felt that Mrs Thompson melted and a softness crept in her heart.

**Question 4.**
What did Joe say to his wife?
**Answer:**
Joe quoted from the Bible and told his wife how Christ had also said that kindness to children would not go unrewarded. He invoked her emotions and her feelings of pity and sympathy by asking her to imagine the plight of Maggie who had lost her mother and the loneliness, pain and suffering which was her fate.

**Question 5.**
What brought eloquence to Joe’s lips when he spoke to his wife?
**Answer:**
The kindness and love that Joe felt for the abandoned Maggie, alone in the world and helpless, made Joe emotional and eloquent.

**Question 6.**
Why did Joe not follow Mrs Thompson? What had changed her?
**Answer:**
Joe did not follow Mrs Thompson because he realised that his eloquent words and quotes from the Bible had affected her and her mindset had changed.

**Question 7.**
What attracted Joe’s attention after he returned from the day’s work?
**Answer:**
A light shining through the little chamber windows was the first object that attracted Joe’s attention on turning towards the house. He considered it a good sign.

**Question 8.**
What did Joe see from the window?
**Answer:**
Joe saw a pleasant scene from the window. He saw Maggie lying a little raised on the pillow, with the lamp shining on her face which was devoid of any bitterness or pain although it was sad. She seemed to be in conversation with his wife who had her back to the window and it was obvious to him that they were developing a bond.

**Question 9.**
Why was Joe relieved?
**Answer:**
Joe felt relieved to see that his wife was no longer resentful of Maggie being in their house and was infact talking tenderly with the child.

**Extra Questions**

**Question 1.**
How did Maggie look at Joe when he entered her room?
**Answer:**
Maggie looked at Joe tenderly, gratefully, pleadingly with her large bright eyes.

**Question 2.**
What was Joe’s reaction to the look Maggie gave him?
**Answer:**
Joe experienced a surge of tender emotions. His heart swelled in his bosom and his heartbeats quickened because he was overcome with love and pity for Maggie.

**Question 3.**
What did Joe notice about Maggie in the light of the lamp?
**Answer:**
Joe saw Maggie’s thin face under the lamp light. He observed that it was an attractive face, and full of a childish sweetness which suffering had not been able to obliterate.

**Question 4.**
What did Maggie tell Joe?
**Answer:**
Maggie told Joe that she had been sick for a long time and initially the doctorcame but not lately. Her back had pained on her hard bed but there was less pain now as the bed in Joe’s house was soft.

**Question 5.**
Why did Joe not see the Guardians of the poor on that day or ever again?
**Answer:**
Joe did not see the Guardians of the Poor on that day, or the next, nor on the day following. In fact, he never saw them at all on Maggie’s account because Mrs Thompson had changed and had started loving Maggie. They decided to adopt her as their own child.

**Question 6.**
What had changed Mrs Thompson?
**Answer:**
The love and tenderness that Maggie gave to Mrs Thompson changed her and she wanted Maggie to stay with them forever.

**Question 7.**
What kind of person was Mrs Thompson before Maggie came into her life?
**Answer:**
Mrs Thompson was a bitter and angry person before Maggie came into her life.She had nothing to love and care for out of herself, and so became sore, irritable, ill-tempered, and self-afflicting in the desolation of her woman’s nature.

**Question 8.**
What changed her ? Describe the change in her.
**Answer:**
Maggie and her love changed Mrs Thompson. The sweetness of that sick child, looking ever to her in love, patience, and gratitude, was as honey to her soul, and she carried her in her heart as well as in her arms like a precious burden.

**Question 9.**
Who was the angel? Why does the author say she was disguised?
**Answer:**
Maggie was the angel who came into their house. She came disguised as a sick, helpless, and miserable child, and filled all its dreary chambers with the sunshine of love.

The author says she is disguised because her true self of love and beauty was hidden from the eyes of everyone and only when the Thompsons selflessly cared and loved her did the angel shower them with happiness in their lives.

**Question 10.**
Show with references from the story how T.S Arthur uses direct and indirect characterisation to highlight the traits of the characters.
**Answer:**
The writer reveals all the characters by means of both direct and indirect characterization. For example, at the very beginning of the story the author introduces us some characters by direct characterization: This woman had been despised, scoffed at, and angrily denounced by nearly every man, woman, and child in the village’; judging by these words, we may assume that the woman’s life was very hard, there was nobody to support her, to help her. About her children the author says: ‘John, the oldest, a boy of twelve, was a stout lad, able to earn his living with any farmer. Kate, between ten and eleven, was bright, active girl, out of whom something clever might be made, if in good hands; but poor little Maggie, the youngest, was hopelessly diseased’.

Mr. Thompson’s personality is vividly revealed: ‘Though rough in exterior, Joe Thompson, the wheelwright, had a heart, and it was very tender in some places. He liked children, and was pleased to have them come to his shop…’ judging by this phrase we get to know that Mr. Thompson is really a kind- hearted sort of person, who loves to spend his time with children. Then In a nutshell, using direct characterization, the author’s point of view is expressed in black and white.

Using indirect characterization, the author doesn’t give his direct appreciation of what the character does but leaves us to draw conclusions as to the person’s actions. For example: ‘The voice of the strong, rough man shook, and he turned his head away, so that the moisture in his eyes might not be seen. Mrs. Thompson did not answer, but a soft feeling crept into her heart’. The first sentence of this example proves that a man’s strength is not in ‘the voice’, but in the actions. Mr. Thompson is a strong man, but the experience with Maggie touched him greatly, that’s why he cried a little bit. And what is more, those tears proved that he was happy that his wife had changed. This example shows changes in Mrs. Thompson’s personality also. At first, she was absolutely against taking care of Maggie, T.S.Arthur renders her mood by speech characterisation: ‘Why didn’t you let her go, then. What did you bring her here for?’, ‘Then why didn’t you keep on? Why did you stop here?’, but suddenly her heart opened and she loved that small child: ‘What are you going to do with that child? … Mrs. Thompson looked rather strangely at her husband for sonic moments, and then dropped her eyes’. We may just imagine how sad were the Thompsons because they didn’t have children and one day ‘An angel had come into his house, disguised as a sick, helpless, and miserable child, and filled all its dreary chambers with the sunshine of love’.

Farmer Jones and Mrs. Ellis, are minor characters and are presented in the story, so to say, just directly: ‘Farmer Jones, after the coffin was taken out, placed John in his wagon and drove away, satisfied that he had done his part. Mrs. Ellis spoke to Kate with a hurried air, ‘Bid your sister goodbye,’ and drew the tearful children apart ere scarcely their lips had touched in a sobbing farewell’.

However, we may imagine what kind of people they are. They weren’t interested in Maggie’s life, they took children as things. They left Maggie alone and no one cared about her future life, to send Maggie to the poorhouse was the easiest way out. There is one more example of indirect characterisation: ‘For a little while the man stood with a puzzled air; then he turned back, and went into the hovel again’. While reading this sentence we imagine Joe Thompson hesitating about his actions, he is not sure what to do: whether to take Maggie or not. Such dreadful situation festers his soul and he can’t stay away from it. The next example is a direct proof to show how Mrs. Thompson was shocked: ‘Anger and astonishment were in the tones of Mrs. Joe Thompson; her face was in a flame’. Actually, she was seething with anger, she couldn’t utter a word.

Maggie, is described as a weak person, but quite experienced. She didn’t talk a lot, the author pays special attention to her personality indirectly, but very masterfully. From the very beginning of the story one can feel how much Maggie was afraid to stay alone: ‘But no one said ‘I’ll take Maggie’. Pitying glances were cast on her wan and wasted form and thoughts were troubled on her account. Mothers brought cast-off garments and, removing her soiled and ragged clothes, dressed her in clean attire. The sad eyes and patient face of the little one touched many hearts, and even knocked at them for entrance’. She kept silent, her eyes told more. By all means, she understood that ‘But none opened to take her in. Who wanted a bed-ridden child?’, thus the author shows us a remarkable piece of realistic character been drawn. The author renders the atmosphere of her loneliness very artfully.Usage of such words as ‘tearful’, ‘scarcely’, ‘a sobbing farewell’, ‘refraining from a look’, ‘alone’ evoke an emotional response and the reader gets the vivid notion of the situation described. ‘O, Mr. Thompson!’ she cried out, catching her suspended breath, ‘don’t leave me here all alone!’, it has a very specific emotional colouring and the author conveys much while saying little. The author gives a very bright indirect characterization of Maggie’s personality: ‘…somebody’s arms must carry her, and mine are strong enough for that task’. On one hand, this example shows how weak and helpless Maggie is and, on the other hand, the example demonstrates Mr. Thompson’s responsibility and his strong character. Besides, the author uses speech characterization to reveal Maggie’s personality. There is a dialogue which shows the personality of a small child, who is in despair, who has just lost her family but now has other parents, who is happy and sad at the same time, who doesn’t know what to expect next. In the dialogue Maggie gives very short replies. For example: ‘Yes, sir’, ‘He used to come’, ‘No, sir’. She is very polite, always said ‘sir’. Thus the author masterfully describes the characters, they are life-like and T. S. Arthur uses indirect and speech characterization to make his characters alive.

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