

ENGLISH

MADE

EASY-II

18K2E2

UNIT-I SHORT FICTION

A VISIT OF CHARITY

- Eudora Welty

Theme :

“A visit of Charity” is a short story by American author Eudora Welty. It centers on a fourteen - year old Campfire Girl named Marian, who has to perform social service to earn points towards her badges. She plan pay a short visit to local Nursing Home, not much about the people who leave there, she intend leave quickly.

However, she soon gets pullet into a conversation with to embittered, Sarcastic old women residents. Exploring the themes of aging, bitterness, the treatment of elderly, and the true meaning of charity.

As Marian enters the home the smell in building is like the interior of a clock. When the nurse tells Marian, that there are two in each room, Mariyan asks, "Two what? " The garrulau old woman is described here birdlike creature who plucks Marian's hat off with like a claw, while old Addie has a " bunchy white forehead and red eyes like a Sheep", She even "bleats " when she says, "Who -are -you? Marian feels as if she has been caught in a roffer's Cave, she cannot even remember he own name.

The climax of the story occurs when it is discovered that it is old Addie's birthday. When the roommate tells Marian that when she was a child she went to school. Addie lashes out in the single long speech in the story.

When Marian gives over to Addie, she looks at her very closely from all sides. "as in dreams", and she wonders about her as if "there was nothing else in the world to wonder about. It was the first time that a thing had happened to Marian. When she has close the old woman how old she is, Addie says "I won't tell and Whimpers like a sheep, like a little lamb.

In the last paragraph of the story, Marian has escaped a terrifying experience; when she jumps on the bus, she takes a big bite out of the apple that she did, seemingly unaffected by her nightmarish experience with the old woman.

Paragraph Question and Answers

1. Why does Marian hide the Apple?

Marian hides the apple because she wants to give the bare minimum in order to fulfill her group’s charity requirement. She only brings a potted plant in order to increase her charity points, and even thin, she seems to regret giving the flowers away.

2. What is the theme of a “A Visit of Charity”?

The theme of this story is that people’s selfishness can blind them to the needs of others. Within the short story of “ A Visit of Charity”, Marian, a young Campfire girl, chooses to go visit and old women at an elderly home.

3. What is the setting of “ A Visit of Charity”?

“ A Visit of Charity” takes place at an elderly home on the outskirts of town. The setting in this short story is essential is the portrayal of the theme, for without a dark and cold setting, the neglect of the elderly would be much less prominent throughout the story.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

Passage 1:

It was mid-morning-a very cold, bright day. Holding a potted plant before her, a girl of fourteen jumped off the bus in front of the Old Ladies' Home, on the outskirts of town. She wore a red coat, and her straight yellow hair was hanging down loose from the pointed white cap all the little girls were wearing that year. She stopped for a moment beside one of the prickly dark shrubs with which the city had beautified the Home, and then proceeded slowly toward the building, which was of whitewashed brick and reflected the winter sunlight like a block of ice. As she walked vaguely up the steps she shifted the small pot from hand to hand; then she had to set it down and remove her mittens before she could open the heavy door.

Questions:

1. Where was ‘old Ladies home’ situated?
2. How old was the girl who jumped off the bus?
3. What did the girl do as she walked up the steps?
4. How was the morning?
5. How did the building of the home look?

Answers

1. The old Ladies home was situated on the outskirts the town.
2. The girl was fourteen years old.
3. As she walked up the steps, the girl shifted the small pot from hand to hand.
4. The morning was very cold and bright.

5. The building was of white washed brick and reflected the winter sunlight like a block of ice.

Passage 2:

I'm a Campfire Girl ... I have to pay a visit to some old lady', she told the nurse at the desk. This was a woman in a white uniform who looked as if she were cold; she had close-cut hair which stood up on the very top of her head exactly like a sea wave. Marian, the little girl, did not tell her that this visit would give her a minimum of only three points in her score.

Acquainted with any of our residents?' asked the nurse. She lifted one eyebrow and Spoke like a man with any old ladies? No-but-that is, any of them will do'. Marian stammered.

Questions:

1. What is the name of the campfire girl?
2. Whom did the girl meet first at the home!
3. How did the nurse look?
4. What benefit would the girl get if she visited the home?
5. Did the girl have any acquaintance with any resident of the home?

Answers :

1. The campfire girl's name is Marian.
2. At first the girl met the nurse.
3. The nurse looked as if she were cold. She had close-cut hair which stood up on the top of her head like a Sea wave.
4. The girl's visit to the home would give her a minimum of three points in her score.
5. No. The girl did not have any acquaintance with any resident of the home

Passage 3:

'If we bring flowers-' Marian began, and then fell silent. She had almost said that if Campfire Girls brought flowers to the Old Ladies' Home, the visit would count one extra point, and if they took a Bible with them on the bus and read it to the old ladies, it counted double. But the old woman had not listened, anyway; she was rocking and watching the other one, who watched back from the bed.

Questions:

1. Who lived in the home referred to here?
2. What would be the benefit for the girls if they brought flowers?
3. When would the points be doubled?
4. What was the reaction of the old women?
5. Who is Marian?

Answers :

1. Old ladies lived in the home.
2. If the girls bought flowers; their visit would count one extra point.
3. If the girls took Bible with them on the bus and read to the old ladies, the points would be doubled.
4. The old woman had not listened. She was rocking and watching the other one who watched back from the bed.
5. The Marian was a campfire girl.

Passage 4:

Marian pulled violently against the old hands for a moment before she was free. Then she ran down the hall, without looking behind her and without looking at the nurse, who was reading Field & Stream at her desk. The nurse, after another triple motion to consult her wrist watch, asked automatically the question put to visitors in all institutions:

Won't you stay and have dinner with us?'

Marian never replied. She pushed the heavy door open into the cold air and ran down the steps:

Under the prickly shrub she stooped and quickly, without being seen, retrieved a red apple she had hidden there. Her yellow hair under the white cap, her scarlet coat, her bare knees flashed in the sunlight as she ran to meet the big bus rocketing through the street.

Wait for me!' she shouted. As though at an imperial command, the bus ground to a stop. She jumped on and took a big bite out of the apple.

Questions:

1. Who was reading field and stream?
2. Where was the apple?

3. What are the things flashed in sunlight?
4. Did Marian reply to the questions of the nurse?
5. What did Marian do finally?

Answers:

1. The nurse was reading "Field and stream".
2. The apple was under the prickly shrub.
3. Marian's yellow hair under the white cap, her scarlet Coat, her bare knees flashed in the sun light.
4. No, Marian did not reply to the nurse's questions.
5. She jumped into the bus.

Choose the best answer

1. ----- was a American short story writer.
a) Eudora Welty b) Aldous Huxley c) Tennyson
2. A Visit of Charity tells the story of ----- year old Marian
a) 14 b) 20 c) 16
3. Campfire girls brought ----- to the old ladies
a) Flowers b) books c) clothes
4. Who explains about the home to the Campfire girl ----
a) Doctor b) nurse c) old lady
5. Who is Addie -----
a) Young lady b) nurse c) bed ridden lady
6. Marian is put into a room with one aged woman in a bed who "bleats like a -----
a) Sheep b) goat c) cattle
7. Eudora Welty was an ----- short story writer
a) American b) British c) Scottish
8. Marian had hidden a -----
a) Orange b) red apple c) green apple
9. Marian visits to an -----
a) Orphanage b) nursing home c) old ladies home
10. The story "a visit of Charity" portrays story of ----
a) Charity b) socialistic theme c) religious theme

Answer (1-a, 2-a, 3-a, 4-b, 5-c, 6-a, 7-a, 8-b, 9-c, 10-a)

Match the following

1. Addie - (a) Campfire girl
2. Marian - (b) Caretaker of home
3. Nurse - (c) old lady
4. Room - (d) old ladies home
5. Visit of charity - (e) sheep's bleating

Answers: (1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-e, 5-d)

1. Campfire girl - (a) Eudora Welty
2. Visit of Charity- (b) Marian
3. Awry - (c) to hold something tightly
4. Clutch - (d) abnormal
5. Dump - (e) slightly wet

Answers: (1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c, 5-e)

1. Counterpane - (a) slightly wet
2. Damp - (b) bedspread
3. Fogginess - (c) grown in a flower pot
4. Petunia - (d) unclear, confused
5. Potted - (e) a flower with white, purple or red leaves

Answers: (1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-e, 5-c)

1. Whimper - (a) unclear, uncertain
2. Vague - (b) to weakly or softly cry
3. Rigmarole - (c) to act or speak in a manner cruel to other
4. Propel - (d) a long, rambling story
5. Spiritually - (e) to push someone or something forwards

Answers: (1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-e, 5-c)

Fill in the blanks

1. Marian is the main character in the story "A Visit of Charity"
2. Marian was 14 age girl
3. Marian was a campfire girl
4. How many members in each room in the old age home two old ladies
5. Old women was looking at despair and calculation in her face
6. Marian was trembling and her heart nearly stopped beating altogether for a moment

7. The nurse shrugged and rose
8. There was loose bulging linoleum of the floor
9. Marian jumped up and moved toward the door
10. Marian pulled violently against the old hands for a moment before she was free

THE HOME COMING

-Rabindranath Tagore

In the Home-Coming by Tagore we have the theme of conflicts control, responsibility, love and isolation. The "The Home Coming " is appropriate because Phatik delays several different crossroads in the story that involve coming home.

The first coming Phatik experiences is at the beginning of the story his younger favoured brother was injured in a scuffle under ran home to tattle to their mother Phatik delays retiring home because he knows that he'll face unjust punishment when he finally goes home however he has the opportunity to go to another home his uncle Bhisamter offers to take him Calcutta, where he'll be educated and live with his cousins.

That home coming was another disappointment. Though Phatik was excited to go Calcutta, he quickly learns that his aunt resents him and he's out of place there. He dislikes the city of Culcutta itself and misses his life in the country when he asks whether he can go home, his uncle says, "Wait till the Holidays come".

When two police officers return him to his uncle's home after he runs away. It's his third home coming. This one is even worse, as he's ill from his escape. It's implied that Phatik is dying. The final potential home coming is phatik's impending death. He waits for his mother, looking disappointed when she is not there See finally comes by the doctor says his condition is critical Tagore writers 'Phatik very slowly Turned his head and without seeing anybody said mother the holidays have come it is the first time his mother has shown him affection in your long time calling him darling and throwing herself on to his bed.

Phatic was a lover of nature. But he ended his life surrounded by the walls of Calcutta. Neither his mother nor his aunt has song phatic the love he deserved and needed.

Paragraph questions:

1. Who was the stranger that came to Phatik's house?

The stranger was Bhisamber, the long lost brother of Phatik's mother. He had gone away soon after she had married, and he had started business in Bombay. When Phatik's father died, Bhisamber was in Bombay. When he returned to Calcutta after a long time, he at once made inquires about his sister. He had then hastened to see her as soon as he found out where she was.

2. Why did Phatik feel like an unwelcome guest at his uncle's home?

When he reached Calcutta, Phatik made the acquaintance of his aunt for the first time. She was by no means pleased with this unnecessary addition to her family. She found her own three boys quite enough to manage without taking any one else. And to bring a village lad of fourteen into their midst was terribly upsetting. She blamed Bishamber for taking such a thoughtless decision.

3. How does the author understand a boy of fourteen from his side?

At the very age of fourteen, a young boy's heart most craves for recognition and love. He becomes the devoted slave of any one who shows him consideration. Unfortunately none dare openly love him, for that would be regarded as undue indulgence, and therefore bad for the boy. Instead of love and recognition, the boy ends up getting scolding and chiding. He becomes very much like a stray dog that has lost his master.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

Passage 1:

But just as the fun was about to begin, Makhan, Phatik's younger brother, sauntered up. and sat down on the log in front of them all without a word. The boys were puzzled for a moment. He was pushed, rather timidly. by one of the boys and told to get up but he remained quite unconcerned. He appeared like a young philosopher meditating on the futility of games. Phatik was furious, "Makhan," he cried, "if you don't get down this minute I'll thrash you!"

Questions:

1. Who was Makhan?
2. What did Makhan do?
3. How did Makhan appear?
4. Who threatenad Makhan?
5. What did one of the boys do?

Answers:

1. Makhan was Phatik's younger brother.
2. Makhan sauntered up and Sat on The log.
3. Makhan appeared like young philosopher meditating on a futility of games.
4. Phatik threatened Makhan.

5. One of the boys pushed the log rather timidly.

Passage 2:

Phatik wiped his face, and sat down on the edge of a sunken barge on the river bank, and began to chew a piece of grass. A boat came up to the landing, and a middle-aged man, with grey hair and dark moustache, stepped on shore. He saw the boy sitting there doing nothing, and asked him where the Chakravortis lived. Phatik went on chewing the grass, and said: "Over there, but it was quite impossible to tell where he pointed. The stranger asked him again. He swung his legs to and fro on the side of the barge, and said: "Go and find out," and continued to chew the grass as before.

Questions:

1. Where did Phatik sit?
2. How old was the man who landed from the boat?
3. What did the man see on landing?
4. Why did the man ask Phatik again?
5. What did Phatik do while answering the man?

Answers:

1. Phatik sat down on the edge of a sunken barge on the river bank.
2. He was middle - aged man.
3. He saw the boy sitting there doing nothing.
4. It was impossible to tell where Phatik pointed. So the man asked him again.
5. He swung his legs to and from on the side of the barge.

Passage 3:

Yet it is at this very age when in his heart of hearts a young lad most craves for recognition and love: and he becomes the devoted slave of anyone who shows him consideration. But none dare openly love him, for that would be regarded as undue indulgence and therefore bad for the boy. So, what with scolding and chiding, he becomes very much like a stray dog that has lost his master.

For a boy of fourteen his own home is the only Paradise. To live in a strange house with strange people is little short of torture, while the height of bliss is to receive the kind looks of women, and never to be slighted by them.

Questions:

1. What does “this very age” refer to ?
2. What does the boy crave for at this age?
3. Do the people love the boy at this age?
4. How does the boy's own home look him at this age
5. How does the boy look with scolding and chiding?

Answers:

1. It refers to the age of fourteen.
2. At this age, the boy craves for recognition and love.
3. No., None dare openly love the boy.
4. For him his own home is the only Paradise
5. With scolding and chiding, he becomes very much like a stray dog that has lost his mother.

Passage 4:

At the end of the day a police van stopped at the door before the house. It was still raining and the streets were all flooded. Two constables brought out Phatik in their arms and placed him before Bishamber. He was wet through from head to foot, muddy all over, his face and eyes flushed red with fever, and his limbs all trembling. Bishamber carried him in his arms, and took him into the inner apartments. When his wife saw him, she exclaimed; "What a heap of trouble this boy has given us. Hadn't you better send him home ?"

Questions :

1. How many police Constables came to Bishamber's house?
2. Did the police van arrive in the morning ?
3. What was the condition of Phatik then ?
- 4 Who took Phatik into the inner room?
5. What was the remark of Phatik's aunt?

Answers :

1. Two police constables came to Bishamber's house.
2. The police van arrived at the end of the day.
3. Phatik was wet through head to foot, muddy all over his face and eyes flashed red with fever and his limbs all trembling.
4. Bishamber took him into the inner room.
5. His aunt remarked that the boy had given much trouble and so it was better to send him home.

Choose the correct answer:

1. Phatik Chakrabakthi is the leader of the gang.
a) Phatik Chakrabarti b) Makhanlal c) uncle
2. Makhanlal is phatik's younger brother.
a) Makhanlal b) uncle c) Patik
3. Sal-tree was a huge log.
a) sal-tree b) neem tree c) banyan tree
4. Black-grey gentleman entered the house.
a) black-grey b) red –grey c) green-grey
5. Phatik bestowed on Makhan
a) Phatik b) Tagore c) mother
6. Bagha Bagdi is a servant.
a) Bagha Bagdi b) Phatik c) Makaanlal
7. Bishambar Babu returned to his sister's home.
a) Bishambar Babu b) Phatik c) Tagore
8. Phatik went to Calcutta.
a) Calcutta b) Delhi c) Bombay
9. Phatik bestowed fishing rod.
a) fishing rod b) kite and rea c) iron rod

10. Two policeman bundled Phatik.
a) two policeman b) station master c) postmaster
11. Bishvambhar took phatik with him.
a) Makhan b)mother c)Bagha d)Bishvambhar
12. Makhan might be pushed into the river.
a) Makhan b) Phatik c) Baghand
13. Phatik was first introduced to aunt.
a) uncle b) aunt c) mother
14. He behaves like a stray street-dog.
a) doNkey b) stay street-dog c) buffalo
15. Two live home is hell for a boy.
a) hell b)house c)heaven
16. Phatik lost his school-books.
a) school-bag b)school-books c) pen
- 17.The street was flooded to a knee's depth.
a) knee's depth b)neck level c) fullevel
- 18.Phatik started to shout like a boat man .
a) boat man b)rider c)driver
- 19.He was soaked from head to foot.
a) head to foot b)top to bottom c)right

Match the following:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1.Phathik | - a. Home coming |
| 2.Makanlal | - b. Bishambar |
| 3. Tagore | - c. Pathik's brother |
| 4. Uncle | - d. Uncle's home |
| 5. Calcutta | - e. Gang leader |

[1-(e), 2-(c), 3(a), 4-(d), 5-(e).

1. Phatik needs - a. happy
2. No substitute - b. Phatik
3. Village life - c. love
4. Ring leader - d. furious
5. Phatik - e. mother's love

[1-c, 2-e, 3-a, 4-b, 5-d]

1. Makan - a. widow
2. Phatik hits - b. cried
3. Grey-haired - c. Makhan
4. Phatik - d. stranger
5. Mother - e. nuisance

[1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-e, 5-a]

1. Stranger - a. unbounded
2. Makhan - b. uncle
3. Lazy - c. gold
4. Lamb - d. Makhan
5. Generosity - e. Phatik

[1-b, 2-c, 3-e, 4-d, 5-a]

1. Phatik's age - a. paradise
2. Home - b. November
3. Strange house - c. 14
4. Phatik - d. torture
5. Holiday - e. unwelcome guest

[1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-e, 5-b]

Fill in the blanks

1. Home Coming is a storey written by Rabindranath Tagore.
2. Phathik was a mischievous boy.
3. Phathik brother name Maknamal.
4. Phathik was the gang leader of his age group.
5. He was always fighting with his brother Maknanal.
6. The middle aged man who visited Phathik's house was his uncle.
7. Phathik did not study well.
8. Phathik spends his leisure time by flying kites.
9. Phathik was uncontrollable.
10. Bishvambhar was Phathik's uncle.
11. Phathik felt unhappy in Calcutta.
12. His classmates and cousins teased him.
13. Phathik run away from his uncle's house.
14. Phathik's mother came to Calcutta .

15. There is no substitute for mother's love.
16. Phathik's life in village was happy.
17. The teacher's ridiculed him when he fail to answer.
18. Phathik's wanted for mother' love.
19. When he arrived Calcutta he was not received well by his Phathik's aunt.
20. Phathik needed the love.

UNIT-II

PROSE

BENARES

-Aldous Huxley

Aldous Huxley was a modern writer and a nationalist. He has how cerncern for the moral values and the dread of the top sided development of science. The present essay 'Benaras' shows his rationalist approach in life.

The sun eclipse was about to take place on 14th of Jan 1926. It was not to be seen by naked eyes it was visible from Benaras so he came to observe it

On that particular day the city of Benaras, a pilgrim place, was crowded with a big populatate men women and children from all all walks of life with utensils and new clothes to be touched after the holy dip ware carried in on head loads. Huxley observed the ocean of ignorant mankind on the banks of the Ganges the mother of Civilization.

In the noon six persons carried the princes in palangiun. A carpet was spread to the barge. The princess in musk want the river and got into a boat, which was decorated like Noah's ark. The boat went into the middle of the stream .The Curtains were opened and the princess was to bath away from her poor sisters clamouring on the banks in the crowd.

Late the author came to the ghats on which he observed three dead bodies were cremating on the pyres of wood. The body was seen like in the torn out blanket.

The time of climax came in at last. Brahims started sitting in a line chenting and singing. He who was an unorthodox and a non- conformist western man clicked his camera.

Later the author felt extremely sorry for poor India when he came into the city of Benaras packed with beggars. He saw a sacred bull eating away the rice from one of the sleepy beggar. He was of the opinion that animal are intelligent and have no imagination but they are very happy.

Aldous Huxley regrets the religious ignorance of the Indians. He asks the Indians who were trying to save the sun. Who will save India? Much of their energy is wasted in imbecile

superstitions. He says India will not be free unless they give up all their superstitions and try to realize their own state of life.

PARAGRAPH

1. What according to Aldous Huxley is the Hindu explanation for a solar eclipse?

Aldous Huxley was a modern writer. He was born in the year 1894 and died in the year 1963. He is a well known thinker and writer of modern times. He was a rationalist. He has how concern for the moral values and the dread of the top sided development of science.

The present essay 'Benares' shows his rationalistic approach in life. The Sun eclipse was about to take place on 14th of January 1926. It was not to be seen by naked eyes. It was visible from 'Benares'. So Aldous Huxley came to observe it. On that particular day the city of Benares, a pilgrim place was crowded with a big populace. Millions of people from all over the country come there to save the Sun from being eaten up by a serpent.

Huxley observed the orthodox Brahmins with their chants and deeds on the crowded banks of the Ganges, the sacred river of the dirty water. Men, women and children from all walks of life with utensils and new clothes to be touched after the holy dip were carried in on head loads. Huxley observed the ocean of ignorant mankind on the banks of the Ganga the mother of civilization.

The serpent went on nibbling imperceptibly at the Sun. The Hindus counted their beads and prayed made ritual gestures. No animal, for example, is clever and imaginative enough to suppose that an eclipse is the work of a serpent devouring the sun. That is the sort of explanation that could occur only to the human mind. And only the human mind would dream of making ritual gestures in the hope of influencing for his own benefit, the outside world.

According to Aldous Huxley, an immense energy, which if it could be turned into political channels, might liberate and transform the country is wasted in the name of imbecile superstitions. Religion is a luxury, which India in its present condition, cannot possibly afford. India will never be free until the Hindus and Moslems are as rabidly enthusiastic about their religion as we are about the church of England. Thus he criticizes the superstitious belief of our people.

2. What are the superstitions prevalent in India regarding a solar eclipse?

Aldous Huxley was a modern writer. He was born in the year 1894 and died in the year 1963. He is a well-known thinker and writer of modern times. He was a rationalist. He has how concern for the moral values and the dread of the top sided development of science. Huxley was an unorthodox and a non-conformist western man.

To save the Sun a million of Hindus will assemble on the banks of the Ganges. He wonders that how many would assemble to save India? An immense energy which if it could be turned into political channels might liberate and transform the country is wasted in the name of imbecile superstitions. Religion is a luxury, which Indian its present condition, cannot possibly afford.

The author felt extremely sorry for poor India when he came into the city of Benares packed with beggars. He saw a sacred bull eating away the rice from one of the sleepy beggar. He was of the opinion that animals are not intelligent and have no imagination but they are very happy. When the whole mankind was engaged to influence gods for their benefit the bull came with timely care and ate away the rice given to a beggar in charity.

Aldous Huxley regrets the religious ignorance of the Indians. He asks the Indians who were trying to save the Sun. He feels sorry to say that Indians wasted much of their energy in imbecile superstitions. He says India will not be free unless they give up all their superstitions and try to realize their own state of life.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

PASSAGE:1

It was time of eclipse. So, as per Hindu faith so many people had gathered in the city. As per Hindu mythology when a big serpent swallows the sun, eclipse happens. Huxley finds it laughable as he knows the scientific truth behind the phenomenon. He, being a reporter, is in a small boat with a cameraman to report on the happenings.

Questions:

1. Name the occasion?
2. What happened in the city?
3. When will eclipse happens?
4. What is the work of an author?
5. Who is accompanying him?

Answers:

1. Eclipse.
2. As per Hindu faith, many people had gathered there.
3. When a big serpent swallows the sun.
4. Reporter.
5. A cameraman.

PASSAGE:2

He describes the ghats full of religious crowd which he estimate consists millions of people. He describes how people have come without any facility of staying or meals. People are coming in herds and staying at sides of road wherever they find some place. As eclipse was about to happen people were ready for holy bath and prayer which can save the sun.

Questions:

1. What for the crowd about?
2. What is author's estimation?
3. What is author's description about people?
4. Where are the people staying?
5. What happens at the sight of an eclipse ?

Answers:

1. Religious crowd.
2. Millions of people.
3. They have come without any facility of staying or meals.
4. At sides of road.
5. People are ready for holy bath and prayer.

PASSAGES :3

On some ghats a princess embarks for the bath. There is special provision for her as she is a princess from some state. Decorations have been made for her and she has an army of servants, ready for arrangements at her command. On other ghats some dead-bodies are being burnt and ashes are mixing with water of river. Some holy men are sitting on the ghats.

Questions:

1. Who has come for the bath?
2. Is there special provision for the princess?
3. Who are waiting for her command?
4. What are being burnt?
5. Who are sitting on the ghats?

Answers:

1. Princess
2. Yes.
3. An army of servants.
4. Dead bodies.
5. Holy -men

PASSAGES :4

As eclipse happened, people threw themselves into the water and started praying. There were so many people that police had to control them and drive them out so more people waiting for their turn can pray. Then Huxley and his companion comes to shore. They walks towards center of the town and notices line of beggars as long as the walk. He describes an incident where a bull eat from the bowl of a dozing beggar. Huxley speculates that animals do not have intelligence like humans. So they act according to instinct. We, humans, on the other hand try to find reason and explanation in everything. Huxley here attacks on the religious superstition of the people.

Questions:

1. What is the impact of eclipse?
2. Where could Huxley come across beggars?
3. Why the author describes animal instinct?
4. What is the description about humans?
5. What is Huxley's attack?

Answers:

1. people threw themselves into the water and started praying.
2. While walking towards the center of the town.
3. A bull eats from the bowl of a dozing beggar.
4. We, humans, on the other hand try to find reason and explanation in everything.
5. on the religious superstition of the people.

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

1. It was said that the eclipse of the _____ would be visible from Banares.
a) star b) Moon c)Sun d)none
2. The river mentioned in Benares is _____
a)Cauveri b) Yamuna c)Ganges d) none
3. The people carried _____
a) dried dung b) new clothes c) provisions and cooking utensils d) none
4. The old men leaned wearily on their _____
a) sticks b)fuel c) bamboo staves d) none
5. A great barge, like a _____, its windows hung with scarlet curtains floated.
a) Bishop's ark b) Noah's ark c) orchard d)none
- 6.It was the Lord Krishna himself who in the _____ prescribed the art of self-hypnotism.
a) Koran b) Bible c) Bhagavad Gita d) none
- 7.The noise of an assembled million filled the air, but no sound could break the _____ of the nose-gazers.
a) sleep b) meditative sleep c) sound sleep d) none
8. A numerous band of police abbreviated their _____ and their bath in the interest of the crowds behind.
a) holy b) pious c) sacrifice d) devotions
9. The serpent went on _____ imperceptibly at the Sun.
a) suckling b) smiling c) laughing d) nibbling
- 10.The _____ counted their beads and prayed made ritual gestures.

a) Christians b) Hindus c) Muslims d)none

(Sun,Ganges,all the above,bamboo staves,Noah's ark,Bhavad Gita,meditative sleep,devotions,nibbling,Hindus)

MATCH THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.abbreviated | a)carried by overwhelming emotion |
| 2.antic | b)shortened |
| 3.canopied | c)large long-necked sea birds |
| 4.cormorant | d)covered with a cloth roof |
| 5.ecstasy | e)a silly act |

Answers:

1-b 2-e 3-d 4-c 5-a

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1.endowed | a)scanty, insufficient |
| 2.estimate | b)provided with |
| 3.exiguous | c)an approximate calculation |
| 4.faggot | d)a unit of length equal to 660 feet |
| 5.furlong | e)a bundle of sticks bound together as fuel |

Answers:

1- b 2-c 3-a 4-e 5-d

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1.fatigue | a)inspiring horror |
| 2.ghat | b) a stupid person |
| 3.grotesque | c)extreme tiredness resultingfrommental illness |
| 4.gruesome | d)abnormal and ugly |
| 5.imbecile | e)stairway leading downto a landing |

Answers:

1-c 2-e 3-d 4-a 5-b

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1.indispensable | a)curious |
| 2.inquisitive | b) essential |
| 3.in the twinkling of an eye | c) wearing a livery |
| 4.ledge | d) very quickly |
| 5.liveried | e) narrow horizontal shelf affixed a wall. |

Answers:

1 -b 2-a 3-d 4-e 5-c

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1.lurching | a)structure built of stone or brick |
| 2.masonry | b)associated with ordinary, common people |
| 3.plebian | c)move abruptly and unsteadily |
| 4.provisions | d) any thick viscous matter |
| 5.slime | e) a stock or supply of food |

Answers:

1- c 2-a 3-b 4-e 5-d

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1.slaves | a) not embarrassed |
| 2.sumatra | b)a strong red or stick |
| 3.unabashed | c) exist or happen |
| 4.pyre | d) a mountainous island in Western Indonesia |
| 5.phenomena | e) wood heaped for burning a dead body as a funeral rite |

Answers:

1-b

2-d

3-a

4-e

5-c

Fill in the Blanks

1. An eclipse is _____.
2. The spectacle was vastly more _____.
3. Benares is _____
4. The crowd rowed out in the morning on the _____.
5. The serpent was about to swallow the _____.
6. A million men and women had come at _____ to assist the Light of Heaven.
7. Aldous Huxley was an _____ writer.
8. Aldous Huxley was nominated for the _____ in Literature 7 times.
9. _____ fascination for the place and rituals is very apparent.
10. If I were an _____ millionaire, I would leave all my money for the endowment of an Atheist Mission.

Answers: (naked, extraordinary, Varanasi, Ganges, Sun, Benares, English , Nobel Prize, Huxley's, Indian)

SPOKEN ENGLISH AND BROKEN ENGLISH

G.B.SHAW

Introduction:

George Bernard Shaw is a well known writer. He prepared and spoken on the institute. In his speech provocative ideas are couched in a simple but sparkling rhetorical style.

Advantages in learning to speak well:

Bernard Shaw says that when we travel in the British common wealth or in America or when we meet a native of these countries, we have to speak English well for enough understanding. If we speak in a provincial or Cockney dialect it may prevents us from obtaining some employment which is open to those only speak what is ' Correct English'

No such thing ideally correct English :

Bernard Shaw says that when we travel in the British common wealth or in America or when we meet a native of these countries, we have to speak English well for enough understanding. If we speak in a provincial or Cockney dialect in a simple but sparkling rhetorical style.

Confession of Bernard Shaw :

Bernard Shaw confesses that he himself does not speak English in the same way. When he speaks to audience. He speaks carefully. if he were to speak carefully to his wife at home, she would think he was going mad. As a public speaker he has to take care that early word he says is heard distinctly at far end of large halls containing thousands of people. At home he speaks to his wife like mumbling. His wife also a little careless and so he sometimes has to say "What?"

Advice to foreign students of English :

Do not try to speak English perfectly because native speakers of English won't understand. In London nine hundred and ninety -nine out of thousand people not only speak bad English but speak even that very badly. No foreigner can ever stress the syllables and make the voice Rise and fall in question and answer, assertion and denial, in refusal and consent. in enquiry or information, exactly as a native does. Therefore, the first think they have to do is to speak with a strong foreign accent and speak broken English.

Conclusion :

Bernard Shaw criticizes that it is an insult to the native speaker of English who cannot understand his own language when it is too spoken.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

PASSAGE 1:

George Bernard Shaw is a well known writer. He prepared and spoke on the topic 'Spoken English and Broken English' on a gramophone recording for the Linguaphone institute. In his speech the provocative ideas are couched in a simple but sparkling rhetorical style.

1. Who is the writer?
2. Name the topic.
3. What is the name of the gadget used for recording?
4. Where was it played?
5. What is the style sensed by the listeners?

Answers

1. G.B. Shaw
2. Spoken English and Broken English.
3. Gramophone.
4. Linguaphone Institute.
5. Simple but sparkling rhetoric style.

PASSAGE:2.

There are some advantages in learning to speak English well. Bernard Shaw says that when we travel in the British Commonwealth or in America or when we meet a native of these countries, we have to speak English well for enough understanding. If we speak in a provincial or cockney dialect it may prevent us from obtaining some employment which is open to those only speak what is 'correct English'.

Questions:

- 1.Name two countries as mentioned in the passage.
- 2.How do people make others to understand the language?
- 3.What obstructs the way of obtaining employment?
- 4.Are there any advantages in learning to speak English well?

Answers:

- 1.Britain and America.
- 2.By speaking English well.
- 3.Speaking in a provincial or cockney dialect.
4. Yes.

PASSAGE:3

No such thing ideally correct English. No two British subjects speak exactly alike. Even educated persons, the Poet Laureate and trained speakers do not pronounce of some of the simplest commonest words in the English language exactly alike. Members of the committee who are selected as models of correct speech speak differently. They differ according to the country in which they were born.

Questions:

1. Are there two British subjects speak exactly alike?
2. What is Shaw's complaint commonly found in the english society ?
3. What is author's comment about models of correct speech?
4. How will they differ?

Answers:

1. No.
2. Educated persons, the poet laureate and trained speakers do not pronounce of some of the simplest commonest words in the English language exactly alike.
3. They too speak differently.
4. They differ as per their birth place.

PASSAGE:4

Bernard Shaw confesses that he himself does not speak English in the same way. When he speaks to audience, he speaks carefully. If he were to speak carefully to his wife at home, she would think he was going mad. As a public speaker he has to take care that every word he says is heard distinctly at far end of large halls containing thousands of people. At home he speaks to his wife like mumbling. His wife also a little careless and so he sometimes has to say "What?" Do not try to speak English perfectly because native speakers of English won't understand. In London nine hundred and ninety nine out of thousand people not only speak bad English but speak even that very badly. No foreigner can ever stress the syllables and make the voice rise and fall in questions and answer, assertion and denial, in refusal and consent, in enquiry or information, exactly as a native does. Therefore the first thing they have to do is to speak with a strong foreign accent, and speak broken English.

Questions:

1. What is Shaw's confession?
2. How would be his speech before a huge audience?
3. What is the impact of careful speech at home?
4. What is his suggestion for the commoners?
5. Compare the mannerisms between foreigner and a native speaker?

Answers:

1. He himself does not speak exact English.
2. Speak very carefully.
3. Even his wife would think that he was going mad.
4. Not to speak perfect English.
5. No foreigner can ever stress the syllables and make the voice rise and fall in questions and answer, assertion and denial in refusal and consent in enquiring or information exactly as a native does.

Choose the best answer

1. Bernard Shaw was an
 - a) Irish Playwright
 - b) British Playwright
 - c) American Playwright
2. Bernard Shaw's main talent
 - a) Poetry
 - b) Drama
 - c) Journalism
3. Shaw's writings address
 - a) Social problems
 - b) Community problems
 - c) Family problems
4. Spoken and Broken English is a transcript of a
 - a) Tv talk
 - b) public talk
 - c) radio talk
5. Spoken and Broken English was recorded in
 - a) 1927
 - b) 1937
 - c) 1947
6. ----- in learning to speak well
 - a) Disadvantages
 - b) advantages
 - c) importance
7. No such thing ideally ----- English
 - a) Incorrect
 - b) false
 - c) correct
8. ----- of Bernard Shaw
 - a) Confession
 - b) challenge
 - c) promise
9. Advice to ----- students of English
 - a) State
 - b) country
 - c) foreign
10. Cockney English refers to the ----- spoken by working class landowners
 - a) Accent
 - b) tone
 - c) article

11. No two British subjects ----- exactly alike
 - a) Write b) think c) speak
12. Shaw explains the differences between ----- and understandable
 - a) Correct b) incorrect c) mistake
13. Shaw speaks to audience
 - a) Carefully b) casually c) accordingly
14. Shaw advises the foreigners not to speak English
 - a) Naturally b) perfectly c) neatly
15. ----- English is more important than correct English
 - a) Bad b) worst c) good

Answer (1-a, 2-b, 3-a, 4-c, 5-a, 6-b, 7-c, 8-a, 9-c, 10-a, 11-a, 12-c,13-a, 14-b,15-c)

Match the following

1. Bernard Shaw - (a) Social problem
2. Cockney - (b) Broken English
3. Shaw's writings - (c) Drama
4. Spoken English - (d) Londoners
5. Shaw's talent - (e) Irish playwright

1-(e), 2(d), 3(a), 4(b), 5(c)

1. Confession - (a) Cautiously
2. Carefully - (b) superbly
3. Perfectly - (c) admit
4. Advantages - (d) precisely
5. Exactly - (e) dominant

1(c), 2(a), 3(b), 4(e), 5(d)

1. Gramophone - (a) preferably
2. Obtaining - (b) part of a word
3. Ideally - (c) inarticulate
4. Mumbling - (d) record player
5. Syllables - (e) acquire

1(d), 2(e), 3(a), 4(c), 5(b)

1. Insult - (a) usual
2. Committee - (b) language teaching system
3. Commonest - (c) disrespect
4. Prevent - (d) group of people
5. Linguaphone - (e) stop

1(c), 2(d), 3(a), 4(e), 5(b)

Fill in the blanks

1. G.B.Shaw in his essay a transcript of a radio talk was recorded in 1927.
2. Spoken English Broken English is divided into three sections.
3. Shaw discusses notions of "correct English" the proper way in which English should be spoken.
4. Shaw demonstrates that even among the educated and the specialists on language the manner of speaking is determined by one's origin.
5. Shaw says that as a public speaker he has to take care that every word he says is understood by his hearers.
6. Shaw advises foreigners on how to communicate in English while travelling in English speaking countries.
7. Shaw in his works expresses the theme of Social problems.
8. Bernard Shaw confesses that he himself does not speak English in the same way.
9. Shaw speaks to his wife like mumbling.
10. Shaw criticizes that it is an insult to the native speaker of English who cannot understand his own languages when it is too spoken.

UNIT-III

POETRY

Stanza's Written in Dejection, Near Naples.

- Percy Bysshe Shelley .

The title of this poem really tells you everything you need to know about the subject. Revealing his status as the best story teller poets of the best storytelling poets of the romantic era, Here is Shelley whom we already know is dejected describing his surrounding warm sun, clear sky, beautiful waves on the water , low humanity ,flowers starting to bud and the sound of nature noticeable but not intrusive. The voice of the city is as velvety soft as solitude itself.

In the second Stanza ,the seeds of dejection begin to sprout. Shelley describes seeing down to the very flour of the water beneath those waves to a place where the seaweed is a mix of green and purple . While looking at those waves crasing upon the shore is alone the sands lightning begins to flash all around him and this serves to create tone that is the measurement of his unhappiness and solitude. He wondrous if there is anybody else .sharing the dark tone of his heart at this moment.

And now the depth of the poet's state of dejection becomes clear Shelley complains of an absence of hope and health and peace and calm, why so down?. Because he looks around him and sees others blessed with fame and power and love and the smiling happy faces of those enjoying their leisure. These are people gulping from the cu of pleasure. but his cup was measured unfairly. The poet stands dejected in Naples because others have cups that runneth over while his was barely half filled.

Dejected is proven not to be synonymous with despair as Shelley asserts that though clearly quite dejected, he is suffering only mildly despair. the despair is mirrored by the winds and water which have quited down tired he feel prepared to simply lie down and weep for the life of care caring which he has Taken upon himself yet shall he continue to you like that life of caring about others until at death finally overcomes him.

The final stanza takes him beyond that death where he ruminates about his legacy. Making that he is not one whom men love and likely will remain so, Nevertheless, he has no intension to change his ways, though on occasions such as this day, he may allow for a tinge of regret.

PARAGRAPH:

1. How does Shelley strategically use nature to help us understand the speaker's dejection?

Because Shelley devotes the first stanzas to a meticulous description of Naples' coast, we know immediately that setting plays a crucial role in the poem. Shelley uses these elements of nature to both mirror and express the speaker's interior state. First, standing between a mountain range, a vast ocean, and a bustling city, the speaker is dwarfed by the wonders around him. Likewise, the speaker feels small and helpless at the center of his despair. The motion of the waves echoes the turbulent, ceaseless pain of his depression. The image of the speaker's body lying like a sleepless child on the shore is terribly lonely, corresponding to the speaker's lack of love, hope, and health. Shelley's analogies and connection between the speaker's emotions and features of the natural world give his intangible feelings a concrete, visual counterpart, allowing readers to grasp the often inexpressible character of intense pain.

2. Briefly explain the theme of nature in the poem?

Alongside the speaker's despondency, the theme of nature drives the poem. The coast of Naples provides the poem's setting and functions as a backdrop to the speaker's emotional state. As the speaker looks on in wonder at the coast's beauty, he can recognize joy, even if he can't feel it himself. Instead of precisely reflecting his interior state, nature acts like a broken mirror, revealing the cracks between the speaker and the world around him. By the end of the poem, Nature presents the possibility of hope. In spite of his depression, the speaker will have this beautiful day to remember.

3. Analyse the speaker's depression depicted in the poem .

Shelley's poem "Stanzas Written in Dejection , Near Naples " is about depression . The speaker , whom we can assume to be the poet himself , is sitting at the shore watching the light on the water and thinking about his life , actually , feeling a little sorry for himself . He sees the beauty around him and knows he should be able to appreciate it , but he cannot . He sees people going about their daily business and he moans that life has dealt him another measure , so that he cannot take joy in his surroundings . Yet he admits that his despair is " mild , even as the winds and waters are" , and not so consuming that he cannot live . He even thinks he might "lie down like a tired child" and passively wait for death rather than do anything to hasten it . It seems at first as if he may be suffering over a lover , but in the last stanza he appears to be lamenting that he is not well – known and appreciated when he says " I am one whom loved not " , and he hopes that someone might lament for and regret his passing .

Choose the correct answers:

1. The sun is _____

(a). Hot (b). Cool (c). Warm

2. The waves are dancing _____

(a). Slow&Steady (b). Fast & Bright (c). Cool&Warm

3. Shelley is a master of _____

(a). Lyric Poetry (b). Ballad (c). Epic Poetry

4. Shelley was an_____

(a). French Poet (b). American Poet (c). English Poet

5. Shelley describes the nature with _____
(a). Hate (b). Love (c). Eager
6. _____ visited Naples during winter
(a). Mary (b). Sheela (c). Nancy
7. _____ was suffering from depression
(a). Keats (b). Shelley (c). Byron
8. Shelley feel the warm of _____
(a). Fire (b). Air (c). Sea
9. Shelley has no _____ of life
(a). Hope (b). Maturity (c). Divine
10. Shelley weep away the life of _____
(a). Strength (b). Love (c). Care
11. Shelley's sweet days _____
(a). Come (b). Gone (c). Little
12. Shelley's joy is only in his _____
(a).Memory (b). Diary (c). Mind
13. Life is a _____
(a). Pleasure (b). Sad (c). Bore
14. Shelley mourns the loss of this _____
(a). Sweet day (b). Sad day (c). Memorable day
15. _____ day live on his memory
(a). Beautiful (b). Sad (c). Happy
16. This poem is about _____
(a). Depression (b). Happy (c). Memory
17. Shelley was born on _____
(a). 4 August 1792 (b). 5 June 1771 (c). 8 July 1791

18. The poet state of dejection becomes _____

- (a). Clear (b). Rare (c). Waste

19. Shelley was _____ by financial problems

- (a). Plague (b). Cancer (c). Ulcer

20. _____ was suffering from depression due to number of reasons

- (a). Keats (b). Shelley (c). Byron

ANSWERS:

1. Warm
2. Fast & Bright
3. Lyric Poetry
4. English Poet
5. Love
6. Mary
7. Shelley
8. Air
9. Hope
10. Care
11. Gone
12. Memory
13. Pleasure
14. Sweet day
15. Beautiful
16. Depression
17. 4 August 1792
18. Clear
19. Plague
20. Shelley

MATCH THE FOLLOWING:

- I.
- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. P.B.Shelley | - | a) Snowy |
| 2. Mountains | - | b) Clear |
| 3. Waves | - | c) Solitude |
| 4. Sky | - | d) English Poet |
| 5. City | - | e) Dancing |

ANSWER:1.d , 2.a , 3.e , 4.b , 5.c

- II. 1. Dissolved - a) Get Up
 2. Arises - b) Disappear
 3. Strown - c) A Wise Person
 4. Star- Showers - d) To Spread
 5. Sage - e) Meteor Showers

ANSWER : 1.b , 2. a , 3. d , 4. e , 5. C

- III. 1. Deep - a) Depression
 2. Lament - b) To Express Sorrow
 3. Moan - c) Sea
 4. Despair - d) Disapproval
 5. Dejection - e) Lose hope

ANSWER : 1.c , 2.b , 3.d , 4.e , 5.a

- IV. 1. Surpass - a) to put
 2. Inward - b) Better
 3. Borne - c) Boring and repetitive
 4. Monotony - d) Interior
 5. Lie down - e) Carried

ANSWERS: 1.b , 2. d , 3. e , 4. c , 5. a

- V. 1. Cold - a) Sorrow
 2. Lost heart - b) Die
 3. Regret - c) Dead
 4. Glory - d) Shelley
 5. Linger - e) Praise

ANSWERS : 1. c , 2. d , 3. a , 4. e , 5. b

FILL IN THE BLANKS:-

1. The waves are dancing _____
2. Stanza written in Dejection Near Naples by _____
3. The voice of the city is soft like _____
4. Shelley sees the Deep's _____ floor
5. The seaweed is a mix of _____
6. Shelley complains of an absence of _____
7. Shelley brain its last _____
8. _____ last heart
9. The poem does not state the reason for his _____ mood
10. When Shelley and his wife Mary visited Naples during winter from _____
11. Shelley was an English _____

12. Shelley and his wife Mary visited _____
13. The climate was _____
14. Shelley wrote the stanza in a state of _____
15. This poem begins with _____ descriptions of nature
16. Shelley is able to see the beauty of _____
17. Shelley wife had committed _____
18. Shelley describes the nature with _____
19. Shelley was suffering from _____
20. Shelley died in _____

ANSWERS:

1. Fast and Bright
2. Percy Bysshe Shelley
3. Solitude
4. Untrampled
5. Green and Purple
6. Hope
7. Monotony
8. Shelley
9. Melancholy
10. November 1818 to February 1819
11. Poet
12. Naples
13. Warm
14. Dejection
15. Beautiful
16. Nature
17. Suicide
18. Love and Vigour
19. Depression
20. 182

ULYSSES

LORD TENNYSON

Tennyson's Poems summary an analysis

By Alfred Tennyson summary

Ulysses speaks saying it is laborious that he has an elderly wife and has to pass out laws to a savage nice that sleeps and eats his food but does not know him he does not want to cease his travels cease. He has suffered and experienced pleasure both with others and alone and both at sea and on the shore. He is a famous name now, having roamed the places of the earth, seeing cities with all manner of men and mores and governments. He is honored above all other men, especially as he and his men were valiant in battle at Troy.

He says he is "a part of all that I have met" but sees experience as through an archway, with its margins line fading as he tires to draw closer to it. it is boring to stop and meet One's end; it is boring to useless. Simply breathing is not life. little of his life remains, but he does not want to store himself away. His "gray spirit" yearns to attain knowledge and follow it" Like a sinking star, Beyond the utmost bound of human thought"

His son telemachus takes over the sceptor and this isle. Ulysses loves him and knows that he will use his prudence to govern wisely and turn rugged people mild. He is blameless and tender and he will offer the right odoration to my household gods" when he is gone.

Ulysses looks at the port and the sae beyond. He speaks to his mariners who have toilet with him for so long in both good weather and bad, telling them that he and they are old now. Yet old age still has a capacity for honor even if Death is near. There is still time to do something of "noble note", especially as they are men that once fought with Gods.

Light fades and the day wanes. Ulysses tells his men to come with him because it is not too late to discover a "newer world" They can leave his shore and sail beyond the sunset until he dies. Perhaps there they will reach the Happy Isles and meet Achilles. Although things have been taken away from there is still much that remains. Even though they may not posses.

the strength they once had, they still have "heroic hearts" which are "strong and will" and want to persevere, explore and discover, and never give up.

Analysis :

"Ulysses" was published in 1842 in the collection of poetry that secured Tennyson's literary fame. However, it was actually written nine years earlier when he was 24 years old after the death of his closest friend, Arthur Henry Hallam. Tennyson commented that it was more written with the feeling of [Hallam's] loss upon me than many poems in *Memoriam*. It is seventy lines of blank verse that is in the style of a dramatic monologue with three separate audiences- himself, the audience, and his mariners. The poem garnered praise from Tennyson's contemporaries as well as successive literary figures like T.S. Eliot, who called it a "perfect" poem. It is generally considered one of his finest works and is a mainstay of Victorian poetry anthologies as well as selections of Tennyson's oeuvre.

The poem is based off of the character Odysseus from Homer's *Odyssey* ("Ulysses" is the Latin spelling of the name), but Tennyson also turned to Dante's *Inferno*, Canto XXVI, in which Dante is led by Virgil to meet Ulysses and hear his tale. In a way of honor, Odysseus is told by the blind prophet Tiresias that he will return home to Ithaca but will then make one more journey in a land far away from home. In Dante, this part of the story is fleshed out- Ulysses gathers his men together to prepare for the journey and exhorts them not to waste their time left on earth. He dies on this journey, which is why he is in hell. Tennyson's character is somewhere in between these literary predecessors, as he knows he will set off on a last journey but not done so yet. Critics also note a debt to Shakespeare, particularly his *Troilus and Cressida*, which also includes Ulysses.

Tennyson's Ulysses is done with his life as a ruler of men: he only desires to embark upon his last journey. In the first part of the poem he speaks to himself, lamenting his uselessness as a ruler given the idleness of his life as a part of all his earthly experiences, but is striving for something else - the experience that can be found beyond the horizon line, the experience that is as if beyond a great arch. He feels bored and impotent, yearning to truly understand and engage with what is left of his life, his ultimate quest, like that of Goethe's *Faust* is the pursuit of knowledge. In the second part of the poem, spoken to the audience, he explains why his son Telemachus will be a fair and "tender" ruler to his people. Ulysses' work is done; now he passes the mantle on to his son, who is very much rooted in life on earth. In the third part Ulysses addresses his hearty mariners who want to undertake this journey with him. They want to seek "a newer world" and perhaps find the famed warrior Achilles in the Happy Isles. Even though their bodies are old and time and fate have weakened their "heroic hearts", their will is indomitable.

“Ulysses” is read as a “crisis lyric”, a Romantic genre that presents a crisis and the attempt to resolve that crisis (see William Wordsworth “Intimations Ode”). For Ulysses, the crisis is that he wants to understand the nature of life after death –to figure out if the soul survives after the annihilation of the body. He knows death is unavoidable but he also knows that death-in-life-the impotency, the obsolescence - is worse.

It is not accurate to claim that Ulysses seeks just death to alleviate his frustrations – he seeks passage to the world where the dead reside (like Achilles), expressed in the lines “for my purpose holds / To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths / Of all the western stars, until I die”, but, as crisis Charles Mitchell , points out” one needs to emphasize that Ulysses’ goal is not death, but is in death; that is, Ulysses seeks not death, but life in death, but life in death. Other details in the poem support this, such as the sea voyage, which is often a symbol for the voyage of the death; his old age; his referring to himself and shipmates as sprits; and the “dark, broad, sea voyage, which are unfathomable. Ulysses does want to know if there is evidence for spiritual reality after death, the evidence seeming to disprove it being, as Mitchel identifies, “time, fate, and the weakness of human nature”. The evidence to the country is Ulysses himself: “His unexpressed argument seems to be that if one can prove in life that man is sprit, one has a right to hope that man remains spirit in death”. While Ulysses’ subjects are mere bodies, idle and useless, he is “awake both figuratively and imaginatively”. Mitchel concludes that “experience proves the spirit in the man, and man thereby proves the spiritual world outside himself”.

Paragraph Question and Answer:

1. What is the main idea of the poem Ulysses?

The central theme of “Ulysses” is that there is a search for adventure, experience and meaning which makes life worth living. Tennyson used “Ulysses as the old adventurer, unwilling to accept the settling of old age, longing for one more quests. The hero has reached his twilight years, yet he is still filled with the wanderlust of his younger days, when he traveled throughout the known world on numerous adventures. As a result of his experiences, he has come to appreciate the value of a life filled with adventure. Tennyson’s brings together several themes. One is old age and restlessness in retirement. Ulysses has been a great hero, accustomed to being at the center of the world’s most important events. Another theme is adventure; Ulysses and his comrades have accomplished many great deeds together. Yet another theme is meaning what is that makes life worth living? Ulysses has been an adventurer all his life, and that life is meaningless without adventure.

2. How does Ulysses share his thoughts on life with his mariners?

“Ulysses” is a dramatic monologue in which the single speaker Ulysses shares his thoughts with his mariners before setting out for new journey. The mariners, with whom he shares his thoughts, are those people who spent a risky adventurous life with Ulysses for long twenty years. Ulysses feels that he along with his mariners has become old and weak and so he tries to motivate them through his utterance. He argues that the home life is dull and profitless and there is no enjoyment spending a life of inaction. He also tells his mariners that he does not believe in spending a life only through living and breathing. He motivates his mariners by expressing his desire of drinking life to the lees. Ulysses declares that he will seek new knowledge till his death. His mind will never be manacled and he will try to explore new world. He does not deny that death is the end of everything but before death, he will perform many heroic deeds for new achievement. He does not like to spend life passively like a sword getting rusty not used for its original purpose. Ulysses likes to explore knowledge and novelty.

Choose the best answer

1. The poem is written by
 - a) Lord Alfred Tennyson
 - b) Shakespeare
 - c) John Keats
2. The old ----- is the hero of this poem
 - a) Sapt
 - b) Ulysses
 - c) Amiens
3. He is seeking another great adventure of exploration before his
 - a) Birth
 - b) Failure
 - c) Death
4. Ulysses tries to motivate his
 - a) Friends
 - b) Relatives
 - c) Companions
5. He boasts up their confidence in order to take them on a great
 - a) Voyage
 - b) journey
 - c) Adventure
6. He reminds them their golden
 - a) Present
 - b) Past
 - c) Future
7. He talks that their bodies have been weakened by
 - a) Illness
 - b) Age
 - c) Circumstances
8. They are tired of life-longed
 - a) Struggle
 - b) Fate
 - c) Circumstances
9. It may be that the gulfs will wash us down; it may be we shall touch the happy
 - a) Oceans
 - b) isles
 - c) Seas

10. To Strive, to seek, to find, and not to
 - a) Surrender b) give in c) Yield
11. Free hearts, free foreheads, you and are:
 - a) Old b) tired c) retired
12. Come, my friends it is not too late to seek a newer
 - a) Universe b) World c) Planet
13. Ulysses makes his companions
 - a) Emotional b) intellectual c) intelligent
14. He prepares for unexpected
 - a) Ease b) Problems c) Troubles
15. He tells them that anything might happen to them during this
 - a) Journey b) Voyage c) Adventure
16. It might be possible that they would become the undetectable part of
 - a) Past b) History c) Geography
17. Old age hath yet his honour and his
 - a) Mission b) Goals c) Toil
18. We have imagined for the mighty
 - a) Dead b) Born c) Workers
19. Ulysses told that not unbecoming men that strove with
 - a) Idols b) Spirit c) Gods
20. Made weak by time and fate, but strong in
 - a) Aim b) Faith c) Will

Answer (1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-c, 5-a, 6-b, 7-b, 8-a, 9-b, 10-c, 11-a, 12-b,13-a, 14-c,15-a, 16-b, 17-c, 18-a, 19-c, 20-c)

Match the following

1. Ulysses - Family love (2)
2. Hearth - Turbulent (5)
3. Mete - King of Ithaca (1)
4. Peers - Portion (3)
5. Vext - Person equal in rank (4)

1. Savage race - Broken clouds (5)
2. Dole - Son of Ulysses (3)
3. Telemachus - Distribute (2)
4. Hoard - People of Ithaca (1)
5. Drifts - Store (4)

1. Ulysses - Royal Power (2)
2. Spectre - Lord Tennyson (1)
3. Penelope - Sea God (5)
4. Odysseus - Wife of Ulysses (3)
5. Poseidon - another name of Ulysses (4)

Fill in the blanks

1. The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks.
2. My mariners souls that have toiled, and wrought, and thought with me.
3. Ulysses is not afraid of the hurdles and dangers of old age.
4. He tells his friends that there is still sufficient times to do something.
5. They might be flooded in the sea.
6. Their names might be excluded from the list of living people.
7. They might reach the isles of the blast.
8. He symbolizes the human spirit at its bravest and strong.
9. Ulysses hopes to see the great Achilles.
10. Ulysses's son was Telemachus.
11. "To sail beyond the sunset and the baths"
12. "On equal temper of heroic hearts".
13. The slow moon climbs up.
14. Ulysses enjoyed making war in the plains of Troy.
15. Death puts an end to all human efforts.
16. Ulysses is a hero of Greek mythology.
17. Old age hath his honor and its toil.
18. Their will power is still as strong as it was before.
19. The sails of the ship are bulging with wind.
20. Ithaca is Ulysses's home island.