



ÉCOLE GLOBALE

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' SCHOOL
Dehradun

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK - CLASS IX B ENGLISH

POETRY

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR NOTE-BOOK

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Read the following extract and answer the questions given below.

1. And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

(a) What decision does the speaker take of the 'first' road ?

(b) Explain : "In leaves no step had trodden black."

(c) What doubt crops up in the speaker's mind ?

2. Two roads diverged in yellow wood
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth

(a) Why did the poet feel like travelling both the roads ?

(b) Why did the poet choose the other road ?

(c) What was the doubt in poet's mind ?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the significance of the title 'The Road Not Taken'.
2. Describe the two roads that the author finds. Which road does he choose ?
3. What was the poet's dilemma in the poem 'The Road Not Taken' ?
4. Why did the poet keep the first road for another day ?
5. "I took the one less travelled by." What do we come to know about the poet from this line ?
OR
What does the choice made by the poet indicates about his personality in the poem 'The Road Not Taken'?
6. Write a brief note on the theme of Robert Frost's poem 'The Road Not Taken.'
7. Why did the poet doubt his coming back on the same intersection in life?

THE SOLITARY REAPER

Read the following extracts and answer the questions given below :

1. Will none tell me what she sings?
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far off things,
And battles long ago.

(a) Explain the use of 'perhaps' in the second line.

(b) 'Flow', – what quality of the solitary reaper song is expressed here?

(c) What is the poet's guess?

2. Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of today?

**Some natural sorrow, loss or pain,
That has been, may be again.**

- (a) 'It' in the first line refers to :**
- (b) Explain 'humble lay'.**
- (c) What does the poet wish to convey by saying 'that has been and may be again' ?**

**3. Whatever the theme, the maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work
And o'er the sickle bending**

- (a) What other activities is the maiden doing besides singing ?**
- (b) What makes the maiden's song extraordinary?**
- (c) What effect does the song have over the poet ?**

**4. I listen'd, motionless and still
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.**

- (a) Where does the poet go?**
- (b) How did the song affect the poet?**
- (c) What does the poet want to convey by "long after it was heard no more"?**

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 1. Discuss the significance of the title of the poem.**
- 2. 'Solitary Reaper' is a poem that depicts a simple peasant girl gifted with an extraordinary voice. What qualities make the girl unforgettable?**
- 3. Give two examples of hyperbole and alliteration from the poem.**
- 4. Why is the song of the solitary reaper compared to the nightingale's song?**

- 5. What arrested the attention of the poet out for a walk in the countryside ?**
- 6. How could the poet hear the song of the Solitary Reaper, when it could be heard no more?**
- 7. How do we know that the highland girl was engrossed in her work?**
- 8. What guesses does the poet make about the theme of the Solitary Reaper's song?**

SEVEN AGES OF MAN

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Describe the seven stages in a man's life. What are the attributes of each stage according to Shakespeare?

Or

According to Shakespeare, there are seven stages in a man's life and these stages are universal. Justify this statement in the light of poem 'The Seven Ages'.

2. What message does Shakespeare's 'The Seven Ages' convey?

3. "Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad made to his mistress' eyebrow." Why does a lover behave thus?

4. With eyes severe and beard of formal cut, full of wise saws and modern instances." Which stage is this? State the reason for this kind of behaviour.

5. Why is the world compared to a stage by Shakespeare?

6. Describe the fourth and fifth stages of man's life.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

**1. All the world's a stage
and all the men and women merely players:
They have exits and entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,**

(a) What does the poet mean by the terms ‘exits and entrances’?

(b) What parallelism has the poet drawn between the stage and the world?

(c) Which figure of speech has been used in the second line?

**2. Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon’s mouth :**

(a) Who is the person being described in the above lines?

(b) What traits characterise this stage?

(c) Explain : ‘the bubble reputation’.

**3. At first the infant
Mewling and puking in the nurse’s arms
Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail.**

(a) How is the life of a person like an infant ?

(b) How does a schoolboy appear ?

(c) The schoolboy is depicted as ‘shining’ and ‘whining’? Why ?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of the poem ‘The Seven Ages’?

2. Why does the poet say that the school boy creeps like a snail to school?

3. Describe the fourth and fifth stages of man.

OR

What characteristics does the poet associate with fourth and fifth stages of man.

4. Explain ‘All the world’s a stage’ with reference to the poem.

5. What is the theme of the poem 'The Seven Ages'.

Or

What do you think has the poet referred to as 'an eventful history' in the poem, The Seven Ages and why ?

6. Write two characteristics of infant state mentioned in the poem 'The Seven Ages'.

Or

How does Shakespeare describe man in the first stage of life?

7. Why has been the last stage of a man's life referred to as second childishness'?

8. What are the problems faced by a person in 'Soldier' stage?

Or

How does man as a soldier behave? (The Seven Ages)

SHORT STORIES

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR NOTE-BOOK

THE DOG NAMED DUKE

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. "It was like lighting a fuse."
Explain the context of the above statement.
2. Why did Chuck feel more lonely at home?
3. How did Chuck Hooper happen to take his first step?
4. What was the reaction of the neighbours as they watched Chuck's progress everyday?
5. What objectives were set up by Chuck Hooper in his pattern of progress?
6. What was the problem presented by Chuck in his company?
7. What did the people wonder about Charles Hooper after the death of Duke?

8. Discuss the significance of the promotion given by the company headquarters to honour Duke?
9. How did January 4, the day, become significant in the life of Hooper?
10. Which incident transformed Chuck Hooper from a favoured young man to an unfortunate young man?
11. Who do you think was responsible for Chuck's progress in getting back on his feet ?
12. What was the reaction of the staff when Chuck visited his district office? What did he say to the manager Gorden Doule ?

HOW I TAUGHT MY GRANDMOTHER HOW TO READ

Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. "I was surprised, for I had never seen her cry even in the most difficult situations."

- (a) Who is 'Her' referred to here ?
- (b) Which quality of 'her' was revealed to the narrator at this moment ?
- (c) What was the reason which made 'her' cry ?

2. "We would eat and play endlessly, savouring the freedom."

- (a) 'We' here refers to whom ?
- (b) Which occasion is being talked about here ?
- (c) What led to 'savouring the freedom' ?

3. "She bent down and touched my feet. I was surprised and taken aback."

- (a) Who bent down to touch narrator's feet ?
- (b) What was the 'feeling within' when 'she'

touched the girl's feet ?

(c) What had the speaker done ?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why could the grandmother not be educated?

Give reasons.

2. For what did the grandmother set Dassara festival as a deadline?

3. Explain the statement, "I knew then that my student had passed with flying colours" in the context of the lesson.

4. The grandmother remained steadfast in her decision despite her granddaughter's mockery? Why?

5. Describe the grandmother's desperation when she was not able to read 'Kashi Yatre'.

6. But I know it was not possible. If only I was educated enough..... Describe the circumstances that made the grandmother realise the importance of education.

7. What major Hindu belief did Triveni revolve her story around ?

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THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

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

- (a) About muzzle velocity : _____
- (b) After a thirty mile walk : _____
- (c) His salute on payday : _____
- (d) The loud sound of a high flying invisible aeroplane : _____
- (e) About-hand grenades :
- (f) During cook house duties : _____

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

(a) Private Quelch was nicknamed 'Professor' because of _____ .

- (i) his appearance
- (ii) his knowledge
- (iii) his habit of reading
- (iv) his habit of sermonising

(b) One could hammer nails into Corporal Turnbull without his noticing it because _____ .

- (i) he was a strong and sturdy man

- (ii) he was oblivious to his surroundings
- (iii) he was a brave corporal
- (iv) he was used to it

(c) The author and his friend Trower fled from the scene as _____ .

- (i) they had to catch a train
- (ii) they could not stand Private Quelch exhibiting his knowledge
- (iii) they felt they would have to lend a helping hand.
- (iv) they did not want to meet the cooks.

3. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What is 'nickname'? Can you suggest one for Private Quelch?

(b) Private Quelch looked like a 'Professor' when the author first met him at the training depot. Why?

(c) What does the dark, sun-dried appearance of the sergeant suggest about him?

(d) How does Private Quelch expose his knowledge even further as the sergeant's classes went on?

(e) What did the Professor mean by "intelligent reading"?

(f) What were the Professor's ambitions in the army?

(g) Did Private Quelch's day to day practices take him closer towards his goal? How can you make out?

(h) Describe Turnbull.

(i) How did Private Quelch manage to anger the corporal?

(j) Do you think Private Quelch learnt a lesson when he was chosen for cookhouse duties? Give reasons for your answer.

4. Write down the positive and negative traits of Private Quelch's character and instances from the story.