SEMESTER I: IDC

ENGIDC101

An Introduction to Literary Appreciation

UNIT I: Introduction to literary terms

Lyric, Ode, Sonnet, Novella, Short Story, Plot, Setting, Character, Stream of Consciousness, Allegory, Personification, Irony, Simile, Metaphor, Poetic Voice, Alliteration, Assonance, Satire. Dramatic Monologue, Aphorism, Anecdote, Hyperbole, Onomatopoeia, Elegy, Protagonist, Antithesis, Parody, Soliloquy, Stanza, Catharsis, Synecdoche.

UNIT II: Poetry

1. William Wordsworth: "The Solitary Reaper"
2. John Keats: "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
3. Robert Browning: "The Last Ride Together"

UNIT III: Short Stories

1. Saki: "The Open Window"
2. O' Henry: "The Gift of the Magi"

UNIT IV: Essays

1. Francis Bacon: "Of Studies"
2. Charles Lamb: "Dream Children"

UNIT V: Fiction

1. Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*
2. R. K. Narayan: *The Guide*

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Q. What is a lyric poem?

Ans: - A lyric poem is a short poem that expresses the poet's intense personal feelings.

Q.What are some types of lyric poems?

Ans: Some types of lyric poems include tanka, villanelle, ode, and free verse.

Q.What is the point of view of lyric poems?

Ans: Lyric poems are written in first, second, or third person.

Q.What is the rhyme scheme of a villanelle?

Ans: The rhyme scheme of a villanelle is aba aba aba aba aba abab. The first line is repeated at the end of stanzas 2 and 4, the third line is repeated at the end of stanzas 3 and 5, and the fourth stanza ends with a repetition of the first and second lines.

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Q.What is the number of lines in a tanka?

Ans: - A tanka has five lines and no required rhyme scheme.

Q. What is the number of lines in an ode?

Ans: The number of lines in an ode varies, and so does its rhyme scheme.

Q.What is the number of lines in free verse?

Ans: The number of lines in free verse varies, and so does its rhyme scheme.

Q.What is an ode short answer?

Ans: An ode is a short lyric poem that praises an individual, an idea, or an event.

Q.Who is the father of ode?

Ans: This style was named after ancient Greek poet Pindar, who is often credited as the creator of the ode.

Q.What is a sonnet?

Ans: A fourteen-line rhyming poem

Q.What is a characteristic of the sonnet?

Ans: It is in iambic pentameter

It rhymes

It has an octave and sestet

Q.Who is the father of sonnet?

Petrarch

Q.Who is the master of sonnet?

Shakespeare

Q.What are the two types of sonnets?

The first of the two major types of sonnets is the Petrarchan sonnet, or the Italian sonnet,

Q.What is the origin of sonnet?

Standard literary history says sonnets were introduced to English by Sir Thomas Wyatt in the 1520s and 30s,

Q.What is Shakespeare's most famous sonnet?

Sonnet 18

Sonnet 18, 'Shall I compare thee to a Summer's Day?

Q.What is Shakespeare's sonnet called?

Elizabethan sonnets or English sonnets.

Q.How many stanzas does a sonnet have?

Shakespearean sonnets have 14 lines, and they are divided into three 'stanzas' of four lines each, then a 'couplet' - two lines which bring the poem to a close.

Q.What is a novella?

A novella is a work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel. It is usually around 100 pages long, or 17,500 to 40,000 words.

Q.What is the purpose of a novella

purpose of a novella is to tell a story that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.

Q.What are the characteristics of a novella?

A novella's plot is usually more concise than a novel, and it focuses on a main character and their antagonist. The tone of a novella is often satirical or realistic.

Q.Where does the word "novella" come from?

The word "novella" comes from the Italian word novelle, which means "new".

Q.What is an allegory

allegory is a form of writing that delivers a moral, lesson, or commentary. It can be thought of as an extended metaphor.

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Q.What are some examples of allegories?

Animal Farm by George Orwell is a famous example of an allegory. The story is about farm animals rebelling against their farmer, but the underlying story is about Orwell's disillusionment with the Bolshevik Revolution. Another example is Aesop's Fables, a collection of short stories that use animals to teach children lessons.

Q.What are the two main types of allegory?

Fables and parables are the two main types of allegory. Fables use animals and non-human objects to present abstract ideas. Parables use human characters to present day-to-day situations.

Q.What is the origin of allegory?

The origins of allegory can be traced back to Homer, who used personifications of Terror (Deimos) and Fear (Phobos).

Q.How did female allegories come about

the nineteenth century, artists invented female allegories to represent a nation. For example, Marianne, a popular Christian name, was chosen as the allegory of the French nation.

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Q.What is a metaphor?

A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two things that are not usually related or similar, but share a specific quality or characteristic. For example, "You are a clown" is a metaphor that emphasizes the implied quality of "foolishness".

Q.What is the difference between a metaphor and a simile?

A simile uses words like "like" or "as" to make a comparison, while a metaphor does not. A metaphor is an implied comparison, while a simile is a direct comparison.

Q.What are some examples of metaphors?

Here are some examples of metaphors:

"He is a lion when he comes to the field"

"Phoebe is a nightingale"

"My mom has a heart of gold"

"My hands were icicles because of the cold weather"

Q.What are some examples of metaphors in literature?

Here are some examples of metaphors in literature:

"The world is a stage"

"Her voice is music to my ears"

"Time is a thief"

"His mind is a fortress"

"The classroom was a zoo"

Q.What is a dramatic monologue?

A dramatic monologue is a poem or speech written in the form of a single character's delivery to a silent audience. It's also known as a persona poem, and the character is referred to as the persona.

Q.What are some characteristics of a dramatic monologue?

A dramatic monologue:

Reveals the speaker's thoughts, feelings, or motivation

Focuses on the character and their motives

Is for the audience

Is delivered by a single character with few or no interruptions

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Q.Who is associated with dramatic monologues?

Robert Browning is known for his use of dramatic monologues in the 19th century. Some of his dramatic monologues include My Last Duchess, The Bishop Orders His Tomb at St. Praxed's Church, Fra Lippo Lippi, and Andrea del Sarto.

Q.What other examples of dramatic monologues are there?

Other examples of dramatic monologues include:

Ulysses by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Medusa

Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold

The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock by T. S. Eliot

Crusoe in England by Elizabeth Bishop

Q. what are literary devices

literary devices refer to the typical structures used by writers in their works to convey his or her messages in a simple manner to the readers

UNIT III: Short Stories

1. Saki: “The Open Window”

2. O’ Henry: “The Gift of the Magi”

The open window

##The Open Window" was published in 1914 in the short story collection Beasts and Superbeasts by British writer Saki, whose real name was Hector Hugh Monroe.

Question 1. What was Framton Nuttel suffering from?

Framton Nuttel was suffering from nervous disorder and excitement. The doctor advised him complete rest and relaxation in the countryside.

Question 2. What did the girl do to break the silence between the two?

Framton and the girl were quietly sitting for some time. Then the girl asked if he was familiar with more people.

Question 3. What did Framton notice about host’s chief concern?

Framton noticed that the host was turning her eyes constantly towards the open window. She was giving very little attention to his story of sickness. Her chief concern was to notice her husband’s returning home.

Question 4. What did Framton inform about his familiarity with the place?

Framton informed her that he hardly knew anyone in the neighbourhood. He added that his sister stayed there about four years ago.

Question 5. What tragedy had happened with Mrs. Sappleton as told by the niece?

Mr. Sappleton and two brothers had gone for shooting one October afternoon three years ago and had not returned as they were engulfed in the bog, was told by her niece.

Question 6. What was the name of Mrs. Sappleton’s niece?

Mrs. Sappleton’s niece’s name was Vera.

Question 7. Why was Mrs. Sappleton’s attention divided?

Mrs. Sappleton welcomed guest with warmth. Yet she kept on talking about her husband and her brothers who went for hunting. Her eyes were praying for them and focused on window and lawn ahead of it.

Question 8. What illness did Framton talk about?

Framton was talking about his nervous illness and what the doctors had advised him.

Question 9. Who attended the visitor at his arrival and why?

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The niece of the lady attended the visitor at his arrival because it would take fifteen minutes for her aunt to reach.

Question 10. Whom does Framton contact in the rural resort?

Framton goes to Mrs Sappleton's house in the countryside. He carries an introduction letter from his sister. But he first meets Mrs Sappleton's niece, Vera.

Question 11. How did Framton leave Mrs. Sappleton's house?

Framton was scared when he saw the three figures walking towards the window. Then he hurriedly picked up his stick and hat and went out running to the road. A cyclist had to run into the hedge to avoid collision with him.

Question 12. What happened when Mr. Nuttel ran out?

When Mr. Nuttel ran outside he was so wild that a cyclist had to run into the hedge to avoid imminent collision with him.

Question 13. What was the apprehension that Framton had when he visited Sappleton's?

Framton was apprehensive about his formal visit to the total strangers. He was in doubts if the visit could help him with his nerve issues.

Question 14. Why did Framton rush out wildly?

Mr. Framton rushed out wildly because he was extremely scared of the uncanny scene he had viewed. (perhaps of the ghost).

Question 15. What did his sister suggest about nerve cure?

His sister advised him to migrate to the countryside. She offered him to give take a letter of introduction to people she knew. As those people were good, they might help him in curing the disease.

Question 16. What did Framton admit as well as notice in Mrs Sappleton's room?

Mr Framton tells Vera that he doesn't know anybody in that village. He wondered whether the lady was married or a widow. But he did notice that some male member has been living in the room.

Question 17. Why was Aunt not paying much attention to Framton?

Aunt was not paying much attention to Framton because she was waiting for her husband and brothers to return from shooting.

Question 18. What was the doctors advising to Framton?

Framton told Mrs. Sappleton that the doctors advised him to take complete rest an absence of mental exercise and avoidance of anything in the nature of violent physical exercise. He further added that diet was not specified as they were in dilemma to come to an agreement.

Question 19. Why does Framton retire to the countryside?

Framton retires to the rural retreat on the doctor's advice. He needed rest and relief from mental excitement.

Question 20. Why was Mrs. Sappleton apologetic when she met Framton?

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Mrs. Sappleton was apologetic for being late in making her appearance. As the visitor was new to the place, she realized her delay might offend her guest.

Question 21. The horror on the girl's face made Framton swing around in his seat. What did he see?

When Framton turned around, he saw in the deepening twilight three figures walking across the lawn toward the window. They all carried guns under their arms and one of them also had a white coat hung over his shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels. They neared the house noiselessly and then a hoarse young voice said. "I say. Bertie, why do you bound?"

Question 22. What did the aunt and her niece say about Framton's sudden exit?

Mrs Sappleton and her niece told different stories why Framton had run out of the house in such a hurry. The lady called him an extraordinary man who talked only about his illness. Perhaps he had seen a ghost, so he had dashed off. But Vera said that the caller had a horror of dogs. So, the sight of spaniel made him push out.

Question 23. Is this a mystery story? Give a reason for your answer.

While explaining the mystery behind the open French window, the events narrated by Mrs. Sappleton's niece manage to create a sense of foreboding. Later, when the three men approached the open window, the reader (like Framton) can only logically conclude that they were ghosts. Hence, One can say that this story does contain elements of the mysteriousness.

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Question 24. What was the girl's explanation for his lightning exit?

The girl explained that perhaps Mr. Nuttel got scared by the spaniel dog because he had a horror of dogs. He was once haunted into a cemetery somewhere on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of dogs, and had to spend the night in newly dug grave with the creatures snarling, graining and foaming above him. So, he lost control of his nerves.

Question 25. Imagination is a catalyst for doing common good. Do you agree or disagree.

Dreams and imagination stimulate the creativity of a person. Successful people have dreams and visionaries. They look like common people but their attributes and approach make them distinct. Vera also has strong imagination but instead of doing any good, she had imprinted the mind of Framton, with her highly imaginative haunted story. She was so convincing in her ghost and dog story that both the listeners had believed her. Vera did no good by her imagination, however, it only adds creativity and responsibility to her talent.

Question 26. What is the significance of the window in the story'?

The window in the story, reveals niece's habit of playing jokes and pranks. The window is central to the story. Through it the aunt's husband along with his two brothers-in-law had gone out hunting. Framton is frightened to see them coming towards the window. Taking them for ghosts, he rushes out of the gate.

Question 27. Who was Vera? What joke did she play? What was its outcome?

Vera was the niece of Mrs. Sappleton. She was a young girl of fifteen. She was fun loving and mischievous. She knew how to oust a stranger from the house. She played a joke on him (Framton) and made him run out. She narrated a cooked-up story about her aunt's husband, her two brothers and the open window. She told him that three years ago her aunt's husband along with her two brothers had gone for shooting. They were caught in a wet marshy land. They never returned. But the aunt, Mrs. Sappleton, was still hoping that they would return home and enter through the open window. When Mrs. Sappleton came to Framton, she also confirmed the story of the hunting party. This story had a deep effect on Framton. He was frightened to see them coming towards the window. Taking them for ghosts, he rushed out of the gate in great hurry.

Question 28. What had happened in the Sappleton family as narrated by the niece?

The niece told Nuttel that about three years ago Mrs. Sappleton's husband and her two younger brothers had gone for their day's shooting through the open French window. They never came back. In crossing the moor to their favourite shooting spot, they were all engulfed. It was a wet summer and places that were safe in other years gave way suddenly without warning. Their bodies were never recovered.

Question 29. The horror on the girl's face made Framton swing around his seat. What did he see?

Framton swing around his seat and saw in the deepening twilight three figures walking across the lawn towards the window. They all carried guns under their arms, and one of them was additionally burdened with a white coat hung over his shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels. Quietly they came near the house, and then a hoarse voice called out of the dusk to Mrs. Sappleton. "I say, Bertie, why do you bound"?

Question 30. What did the girl say about hasty move of Framton?

The girl framed a story that Framton had a horror of dogs because he was once hunted into a cemetery somewhere on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of dogs and had to spend the night in a newly dug grave with the creature, snarling and grinning and foaming just above him.

Question 31. What was the tragedy that the girl was narrating about to the stranger?

The girl spoke about a tragedy that happened three years ago when Mr. Sappleton and his two brothers in laws went for hunting never to return. But Mrs. Sappleton was still waiting for them. She also added that her poor aunt couldn't bear the loss and was badly affected because of it.

Question 32. What did Mrs. Sappleton say about the open window?

Mrs. Sappleton inquired Mr. Nuttle if he didn't mind the open window as she was waiting for her husband and brothers to come directly from shooting as they used to come from the same way. They had gone out for snipe in the marshes that day, so they made a fine mess over the poor carpets, stated Mrs. Sappleton about the open window, which looked very ghastly to Mr. Nuttle.

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Question 33. Why did the girl weave the story around the French window?

The girl was aware of the fact that he knew nothing about the place and people of the village. It was also unusual to open up a window in the month of October. She also knew that her false story won't be falsified because it was certain that aunt might talk about it.

Question 34. What sort of tragedy had happened in Mrs Sappleton's life, as narrated by the niece?

Vera told Framton about a family mishap three years ago. Mrs Sappleton's husband, along with her two brothers had gone for shooting. They were caught in a wet marshy land. They never returned. But the aunt was still hoping that they would return home and enter through the open window.

Q. Briefly explain the title of the story the open window

Or

Write the summary of this story

Or

Describe the main idea of this story

The open window summary takes us through Framton Nuttel's arrival at a new town. The story is written by Saki. Framton is not a social man so his sister has set up him to know her acquaintances.

He arrives at her acquaintance's house, Mrs Sappleton. Her niece, Vera, greets him. She entertains him till the aunt arrives to greet him. During this encounter, we learn a few things about the Sappleton's.

When talking to Vera, Framton reveals to her about his lack of social skills. Thus, she starts telling him about the story of the open window. She says it was a great tragedy which took place in her aunt's life.

The open window summary explains the great tragedy that took place three years ago. Vera points at the large French window which was open even in the chilly weather. Thus, she begins to tell all about it.

Mrs Sappleton's husband and her two brothers left through the same window for hunting. However, she says the earth swallowed them up as they never returned. Thus, her aunt still in grief keeps the window open waiting for them to return.

She describes the same exact way in which they left. Her husband was carrying a white coat. At this point, her aunt comes in to greet Framton. She apologizes for being late and hopes Vera amused him meanwhile.

After that, to Framton's shock, Mrs Sappleton makes a remark on the open window. She tells him it is open as she is waiting for her husband and brothers to return from a hunting trip.

This convinces Framton even more of Vera's story. He is shocked to see her still fixated on their death. Moreover, Mrs Sappleton continues looking at the open window anticipating their return.

But, what shocks Framton the most is the arrival of three men in hunting attire. They approach the house and Framton is convinced they are ghosts. Thus, he runs away frantically.

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Finally, we see Vera has a story for this as well. Framton's reaction confuses Mrs Sappleton. But she assures her that Framton got scared of the hunting dog because he has a phobia of dogs.

Thus, we look at how Vera is so good at spinning tales. She utilizes the situation at hand and is quick to whip tales back-to-back without any hesitation.

Q. Write the character scatch of Framton.

Framton Nuttel in Saki's "The Open Window" is characterized as shy, nervous, gullible, and self-centred. His painful shyness and neurotic disposition make him susceptible to Vera's prank, as he lacks social experience and is unable to discern her deceit. His self-absorption is evident in his expectation that others are interested in his health issues. Nuttel's gullibility and fearfulness lead to his panicked reaction upon believing Vera's ghost story, resulting in a dramatic exit when he mistakes returning hunters for apparitions.

Q. Write the character scatch of Mrs. Sappleton.

In "The Open Window", Mrs. Sappleton is polite and self-absorbed. She prattles on about the hunt that year and the hunters returning but does not ever check to see if Mr. Nuttel is interested in her topic of discussion. When Mr. Nuttel introduces his own topic of discussion, she barely entertains it before returning to her chosen topic. Mrs. Sappleton is civil at all times but most likely is unaware of Vera's malice, cruelty, and propensity to play practical jokes.

Q.Write the character scatch of Vera.

Vera, the central character in Saki's "The Open Window," is a fifteen-year-old girl known for her self-possession, intelligence, and mischievous nature. She exhibits a penchant for crafting elaborate and imaginative stories that often deceive and unsettle others, particularly the nervous Framton Nuttel. Her storytelling skills reflect a desire for amusement in her mundane life, and her ability to manipulate situations suggests a complex character capable of both charm and malice. Vera's behaviour reveals her as a masterful liar and a shrewd judge of character.

The gift of magi

Q.Briefly explain the title of the story the gift of magi

Or

Write the sumury of this story

Or

Describe the main idea of this story

Or

write the central theme of this story

This is a story about a rather poor young married couple Della and Mr. James Dillingham Young. Della counted the money she had saved. It was a total of one dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day was Christmas. She wanted to buy her husband Jim (i.e. Mr. James Dillingham Young) a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months. She could manage to save only $1.87. She had spent many hours planning something nice for him.

There were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took much pride. One was Jim's gold watch and the other was Della's hair. Della decided to sell off her beautiful long hair for Jim's present. And, she sold it for twenty dollars with that money she bought a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design. It was perfect for Jim's gold watch.

At 7 o'clock, Della was waiting for Jim to come home. When Jim came and saw Della's short hair, he was quite shocked. Della admitted to Jim that she sold her hair to buy him his present. Jim gave Della her present, The Combs- the set of combs, side, and back, that Della had always longed for. She looked at Jim with dim eyes and a smile, and said-"My hair grows so fast, Jim!" And then Della showed Jim the chain for his watch. Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his hands and smiled. He told Della that he had sold his watch to get the money to buy her combs.

Q. What is Jim's full name?

Ans: Jim's full name is James Dillingham Young.

Q. How much money had Della managed to save for Jim's present?

Ans: Della had managed to save one dollar and eighty-seven cents for Jim's present.

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Q. Who did she go to, to get money for Jim's present?

Ans: Della went to Madame Safronie to get money for Jim's present.

Q. What was Jim's gift for Della?

Ans: Jim's gift for Della was a set of beautiful tortoiseshell combs, side and back that she always longed for.

Q. What was Della's treasured possession?

Ans: Della's treasured possession was her long and beautiful hair, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters.

Q. Who was the Magi?

Ans: The Magi were the three Wisemen - Gasper, Melchoir, and Balthazar who traveled from the East to Jerusalem to see the infant Jesus born in a stable. They were guided by a star and they carried precious gifts for Jesus.

Q. Why was Della worried?

Ans: Initially Della was worried about arranging the required money to buy a nice gift for Jim at Christmas since she had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. Hence, she sold her beautiful hair and brought a gift for James. Now her new look troubled her as she looked more like a truant schoolboy. Della was really worried thinking that Jim might be critical of her appearance.

Q. What did Jim do to get a gift for Della?

Ans: Jim sold his precious golden watch, a family heirloom, in order to get a gift for Della.

Q. What did Della do after reaching home?

Ans: On reaching home Della got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the damaged hair. After forty minutes of hard work, she looked wonderfully like a truant schoolboy with tiny, close-lying curls on her head. At 7 o'clock, she made coffee and got the frying pan ready to cook the chops.

Q.What was Jim's reaction when he returned home?

Ans: Jim was foxed for a moment to find Della without her long beautiful hair. His eyes were fixed upon Della but the expression of his eyes was unintelligible to her, rather it terrified her. It was not anger, surprise, disapproval, horror, nor any of the sentiments that Della had been prepared for James simply stared at her fixedly with a peculiar expression on his face.

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Q. Bring out the relation between Della and the Queen of Sheba.

Ans: Queen of Sheba, a biblical character, was a rich and powerful queen who came to king Solomon with a wealth of spices, gold, and jewels to test for herself whether king Solomon was truly wise. In the story 'The Gift of the Magi' the author O' Henry draws the relation between Della and the Queen of Sheba to reflect on Della's beautiful hair. Della, a key character of the story, had a prized possession of long beautiful hair, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee. In a light-hearted comparison it was stated that if the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, she would have been jealous of Della's locks of hair, out of the window in order to dry. Her wealth would have paled/devalued in comparison to Della's beautiful hair.

Q. Bring out the relation between Jim and King Solomon.

Ans: King Solomon was a rich and powerful king of Israel and the son of David. His name is synonymous with wisdom. In the story 'The Gift of the Magi' the author O' Henry draws the relation between Jim and King Solomon to glorify the ancestral gold watch of Jim. Jim, a key character of the story, possessed a precious gold watch, a family heirloom, in which he could take a might pride, and even king Solomon might have been envious. In a light-hearted comparison it was stated that if king Solomon had been the Janitor with all his treasures piled up in the basement, he would have enviously plucked at his beard to find Jim pulling out his gold watch, every time he passed by.

Q.How much money had Della managed to save for Jim's present?

Ans: Della had managed to save one dollar and eighty-seven cents for Jim's present.

Q. What was the full name of Jim?

Ans: Jim's full name is James Dillingham Young.

Q. What were the prized possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs?

Ans: There was two prized possession of the James Dillingham Youngs- one was Jim's gold watch which had been handed down to him from his grandfather and father and the other was Della's hair.

Q. What does Della expect Jim to say when he returns and sees her?

Ans: When Jim would return and see Della, he would perhaps say that Della resembled a Coney Island chorus girl.

Q. Why did Jim say their presents were "too nice to use just at present"?

Ans: In spite of not being wiser Robert Lynd never lost his faith in books. He had faith that wisdom could be found somewhere in the books and he wanted to get it at the cost of a few shillings. He read Everson and Marcus Aurelius but did not get the desired result of becoming wise. But Lynd never lost his faith as he had a firm belief that somewhere a philosopher exists from which he could absorb philosophy and strength of character

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Q. How much used Jim to earn earlier?

Ans: Jim used to earn thirty dollars per week earlier.

Q. What did Jim do to get a gift for Della?

Ans: Jim sold his precious golden watch, a family heirloom, in order to get a gift for Della

Q. Who did Della go to to get money for Jims' present

Ans: Della went to Madame Safronie to get money for Jim's present.

Q. What was Jim's gift for Della?

Ans: Jim's gift for Della was a set of beautiful tortoiseshell combs, side and back that she always longed for.

Q. Describe what Della does from the moment she decides to earn money for Jim's gift till the moment she earns it.

Ans: Della is very upset when it is the day before Christmas and she has only $1.87 to get her beloved Jim a Christmas gift. She decided the only way to get more money is to sell the most important thing to her, her very long hair. She goes to Madame Sofronie’s hair shop and is offered $20 for her hair. She sells her hair to Madame Saffronic and goes to get Jim a gold chain for his most important possession his watch. He currently kept it on a leather strap, and she

knew he would be ecstatic to open his gift. She starts to get very nervous and afraid that Jim will not think she is pretty with her new hair.

Q. For what occasion did Della save money to buy a gift?

Ans: Della Saves money to buy a gift for Christmas.

Q. What did Della ask Madame Sofronie and what was her answer?

Ans: Della asked Madame Sofronie if she would buy her hair. Madame Sofronie answered that she would buy hair and then asked her to take her hat off in order to have a sight at the looks of it.

Q. What moral lessons are stressed in " The Gift of the Magi"?

Ans: The story ' The Gift of The Magi' deals with the moral lesson of what constitutes the true spirit of gift-giving on Christmas. Both Jim and Della were poor, so they had to sell off their most prized possession to buy Christmas gifts for each other. Della sacrificed her long lustrous hair beautiful enough to make the queen of Sheba envy her while Jim sacrificed his golden watch, a family heirloom. Jim brought a set of tortoiseshell combs for Della, which she had ever longed for, but it was too nice for her to use. She told her long hair to buy a platinum fob chain for Jim's watch. Even Della's gift for Jim was too nice to be used. Both Jim and Della sacrificed their most cherished possession to buy something for the use of the other's most cherished possession. Here lies the true spirit of gift-giving on Christmas.

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Q. How much money Della did earn selling her hair?

Ans: Della earns $20 selling her hair.

Q. What did Della buy for her husband as the gift of the Magi?

Ans: Della brought a platinum pocket watch chain for her husband as the gift of the Magi.

Q. Where did Della sell her long hair?

Ans: Della sells her her long hair in the nearby shop of a hairdresser, Madame Sofronie.

Q. Why was Della sobbing and sniffling?

Ans: Della was sobbing and sniffling because she sold her beautiful hair and brought a gift for Jim. Now her new look troubled her as she looked more like a truant schoolboy. She was in fear of Jim's reaction that Jim might be critical of her appearance.

Q.Where was The Gift of the Magi published?

The New York Sunday World

The story was initially published in The New York Sunday World under the title "Gifts of the Magi" on December 10, 1905. It was first published in book form in the O. Henry collection The Four Million in April 1906.

UNIT II: Poetry

1. William Wordsworth: “The Solitary Reaper”
2. John Keats: “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
3. Robert Browning: “The Last Ride Together”

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The solitary reaper

Q. Why is the song of the solitary reaper

compared to the nightingale’s song?

Ans. The nightingale is acclaimed as a song bird

endowed with a sweet voice who is supposed to sing in a melodious and soothing way. The solitary reaper's voice is also sweet and melodious. Her song is so sweetly melancholy that it leaves an indelible mark in the poet’s mind. Shady haunt is a cool resting place in an oasis in the Arabian desert where weary travellers are resting.

Q. How could the poet hear the song of the Solitary

Reaper, when it could be heard no more?

Ans. One day, while climbing up a hill, the poet hears

solitary reaper's song. The song reminds him of a

nightingale and a cuckoo. He finds the song so enchanting that it leaves an indelible mark on the poet's mind and he believes that the memory of the song will remain with him forever. This also shows that music has a universal appeal.

Q. How do we know that the highland girl was

engrossed in her work?

Ans. Once the poet comes across a highland girl while

climbing up a hill. The young girl was reaping and binding the corn as it was the harvest time. As she was working peacefully all by herself, she was singing. The whole valley resounds with her melodious voice but she is ignorant of all this and is totally engrossed in her work.

Q. What guesses does the poet make about the

theme of the Solitary Reaper's song?

Ans. The solitary reaper was singing the song in a

dialect. The poet was unable to comprehend its meaning but was able to gauge from its sad note that it probably relates to some unhappy memories, some battles fought long ago. The poet also guesses that the song may be about the commonplace things like joys and sorrows.

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Q. Discuss the effect of the Solitary Reaper's song

on the listeners. Why is it compared to the nightingale

and the cuckoo?

Ans. The poet describes the solitary reaper's song,

filling the deep valleys, sweeter than the voice of a

nightingale. It is more welcome than a nightingale's chant heard by weary travellers in the shady haunts of the Arabian desert. It is more thrilling than a cuckoo bird's song which in spring time can break the silence of theses. It made the poet stand motionless and still to listen and carry it with him in his heart as he mounted up the hill never to forget it evermore. References to the Arabian sands and Scotland's Hebrides (far-off Islands) impart an exotic feeling.

Q. What arrested the attention of the poet out for

a walk in the countryside?

Ans. While walking in the countryside, the poet heard

the solitary reaper's song. He was struck by the fact thatthe girl was cutting the harvest alone and on a happy occassion singing a melancholy song. It was so melodious that it once caught poet's attention. He finds her song sweeter than a nightingale and more thrilling than a cuckoo bird.

Q. Discuss the scenic beauty of the background. How does it highlight the musicality of the song of the

solitary reaper?

Ans. The scenic beauty is captured and displayed by

the poet in vale profound, overflowing with the sound (the solitary reaper's song), "Weary bands of travellers in some shady haunts among the Arabian sands". Breaking the silence of the seas among the farthest Hebrides.

Q. What message does the poet wish to convey in the poem?

Ans. What impresses the poet in the song is not its

content but its emotionally expressive music. This feeling could have no ending and it communicates wordlessly something universal about human condition. Despite the 'melancholy strain', the poet proceeds on his way, his 'heart' carrying her music. For that reason, the poem relates to an 'ecstatic moment' in which a passer-by transcends the limitations of mortality. Both the song and the poet can go on together. It also expresses the thought that the appeal and music is universal, language is not important.

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Q. Do you think that the poet feels overwhelmed by the song of the Solitary Reaper? Why/Why not?

Ans. Yes, the poet feels overwhelmed by the song of the Solitary Reaper. He was captivated by the melodious voice and the melancholy tune. He was so spellbound that he became completely still and silent. He did not move at all while he listened to the song. While he was ascending the hill, he replayed the music in his head and also wanted to hear more when he came back.

Q.Discuss the girl's song in the poem "The Solitary Reaper".

Ans. The girl's melancholy song fills the valley, captivating the poet. He compares her voice to the song of a nightingale and the cuckoo-bird, highlighting its sweetness and emotional depth. This emphasizes the power of music to evoke emotions and transcend language and understanding.

Q. Describe the setting of the poem.

Ans. The poem "The Solitary Reaper" opens with a solitary Highland girl working in a vast valley. The poet is initially captivated by her grace and beauty as she harvests the grain.

Q. How does the speaker describe the girl's song? What emotions does it evoke in him?

Ans. The speaker describes the girl's song as melancholic and hauntingly beautiful, surpassing anything he has ever heard. It evokes a range of emotions in him, including longing, joy, and wonder.

Q.Who is the solitary reaper? Where does the poet encounter the solitary reaper?

Ans. The Highland girl is the solitary reaper. The poet encounters the solitary reaper in a field, nestled within a serene valley. This setting is further described as sunlit and golden, suggesting a sense of rural beauty and peace.

Q. Briefly describe the imagery used to depict the girl and her surroundings.

Ans. The girl is depicted as single and graceful as she reaps the grain. The poet compares her movements to a dancer, highlighting her rhythmic and elegant work. The imagery also emphasizes her solitude in the vast landscape.

Q.How does the speaker compare the girl's voice to other natural sounds?

Ans. The poet compares the girl's voice to various natural sounds:

Nightingale: The speaker says "No Nightingale did ever chaunt / More welcome notes…" This comparison emphasizes the sweetness and melodious nature of the girl's voice.

Cuckoo-bird: The line "A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard / In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird…" highlights the beauty and emotional depth of the girl's song, suggesting it surpasses the joyful song of the cuckoo.

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Explain the meaning of the following phrases:

(a) melancholy strain

(b) shady haunt

(c) plaintive numbers

(d) humble lay

(e) welcome notes

Ans.

(a) melancholy strain: The word "melancholy" emphasizes the sadness and longing associated with the reaper's song, while "strain" refers to the melody itself. This phrase sets the tone for the poem, suggesting a sense of sorrow and longing in the air.

(b) shady haunt: This phrase describes the solitary reaper's location, suggesting a hidden or peaceful spot away from the harshness of the open fields. It creates a contrast between the bustling world and the tranquillity of the reaper's work.

(c) plaintive numbers: The word "plaintive" emphasizes the sorrowful nature of the song, while "numbers" refers to its rhythm and melody. This phrase suggests a simple yet emotional t song, adding depth and complexity to the reaper's music.

(d) humble lay: This phrase contrasts with "plaintive numbers," suggesting a less complex and more ordinary song. It might be about personal sorrows, common experiences, or even nature.

(e) welcome notes: This phrase describes how the speaker perceives the reaper's song. It suggests that despite its melancholic nature, the song brings him a sense of comfort and solace. This highlights the power of music to transcend sadness and offer beauty and peace.

Q. Briefly discuss the main idea or the theme of the poem "The Solitary Reaper"

Or

Briefly analysis the poem

Or

Write the theme of the poem

Or

write the summary of the poem

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the poem

Ans: The Solitary Reaper" is a poem by the English poet William Wordsworth. The poem was inspired by the poet's trip to Scotland in 1803 with his sister Dorothy Wordsworth. It was first published in 1807. In the poem, the speaker tries—and fails—to describe the song he heard a young woman singing as she cuts grain in a Scottish field. The speaker does not understand the song, and he cannot tell what it was about. Nor can he find the language to describe its beauty. He finds that the traditional poetic metaphors for a beautiful song fail him. The poem thus calls, implicitly, for a new kind of poetry: one that is better able to approximate and describe the pure, unpretentious beauty of the reaper's song.

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The poem begins with the speaker asking readers to

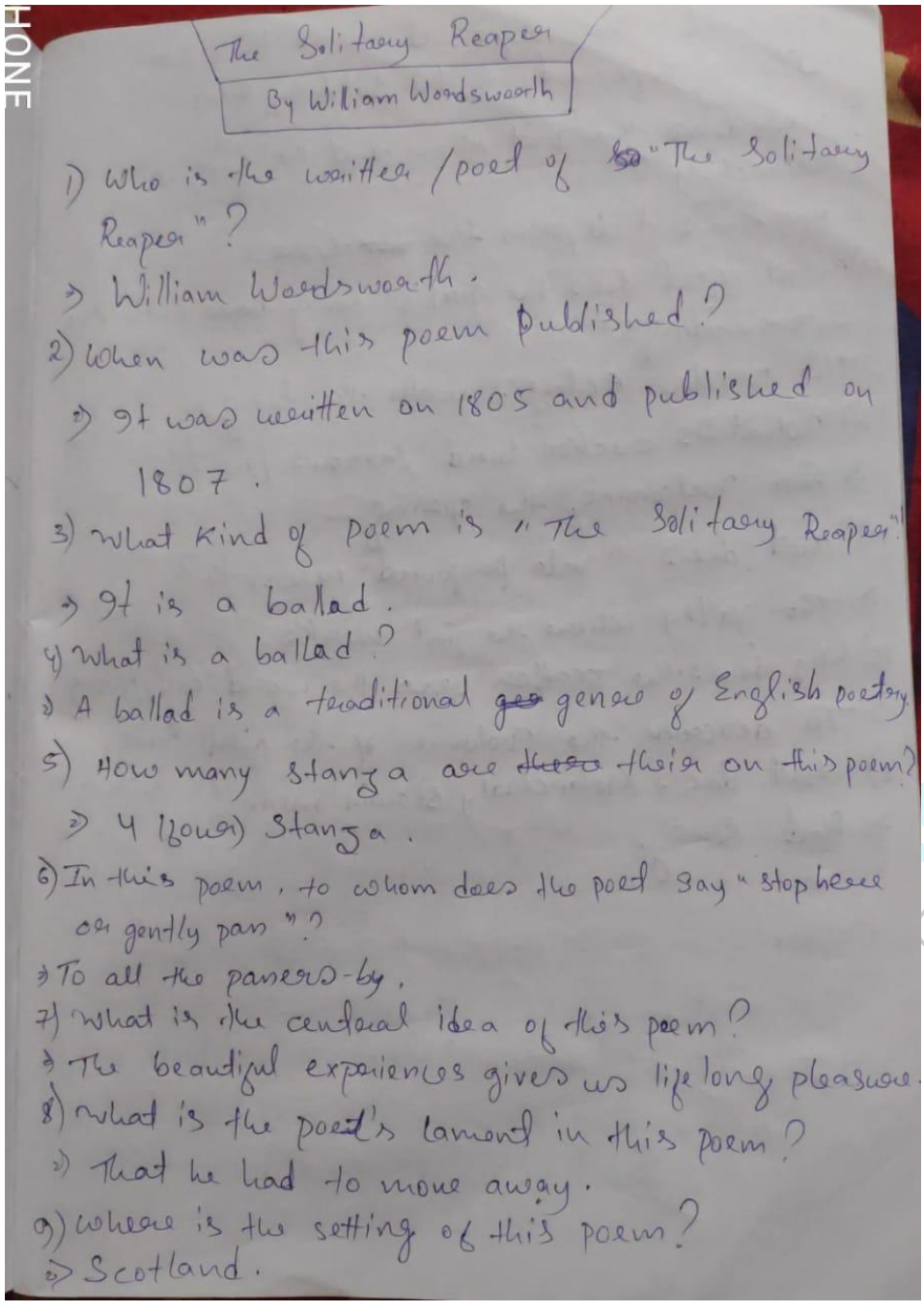
behold a young girl 'reaping and singing by herself' in a field. The song the girl sings is a sad song, and anyone passing by, the speaker says, should either stop and listen or 'gently pass' so as not to disturb her. He is so struck by the sad beauty of her song that the whole valley seems to overflow with its sound.

In the second stanza, the speaker compares the girl's

singing to that of a nightingale and a cuckoo bird. He

says that the song she sings is more welcome than any nightingale might sing to weary travellers in the desert, and the sound of her voice is more thrilling to hear than the cuckoo-bird in spring. He is utterly enchanted, although as we see in the next stanza, he cannot understand the language of the song and so cannot say what the song is about. In the third stanza, the speaker tries to imagine what the song might be about. Given its sad tune, he speculates that her song might be about some past sorrow, pain or loss of old, unhappy things or battles fought long ago. Or perhaps, he says, it is a humbler, simpler song about some present sorrow, pain, or loss, a „matter of to-day. "

The poem ends as the speaker understands that whatever the girl sings about does not matter. It is the Beauty of the song and her singing that touches his heart and lingers in his mind, giving him joy as he travels up the hill and carries her song with him long after he can no longer hear it.



The Solitary Reaper

By William Woodsworth

1) Who is the writter / poet of "The Solitary Reaper"?

⇒ William Woodsworth.

2) When was this poem published?

⇒ It was written on 1805 and published on 1807.

3) What kind of poem is "The Solitary Reaper"?

⇒ It is a ballad.

4) What is a ballad?

⇒ A ballad is a traditional genre of English poetry.

5) How many stanza are there on this poem?

⇒ 4 (four) Stanza.

6) In this poem, to whom does the poet say "stop here or gently pass"?

⇒ To all the passers-by.

7) What is the central idea of this poem?

⇒ The beautiful experience gives us life long pleasure.

8) What is the poet's lament in this poem?

⇒ That he had to move away.

9) Where is the setting of this poem?

⇒ Scotland.

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10) Who is 'She' referred to in this poem?
⇒ She is referred to the Solitary reaper.

11) How does the poet know that the song is Melancholy?
⇒ He knows it from the ~~tune~~ tune.

12) What effect does the girl's song have over the surroundings?
⇒ The valley echoes with the song.

13) What is cuckoo bird famous for?
⇒ For welcoming the spring.

14) What does a vale profound" refers to?
⇒ The valley where the girl works.

15) Why does the speaker uses the word "overflowing"
⇒ To describe the volume of the girl song.

16) What does Melancholy strain mean?
⇒ Sad song.

Ode on a Grecian urn

Q. Why is the urn addressed as Cold Pastoral in "Ode on a Grecian Urn"?

Keats refers to the urn as a "Cold Pastoral" to because it illustrates an image of life in the Ancient Greek farmlands. The pastoral is cold because it is literally made of stone and because it figuratively freezes a moment in time, preventing the actual actions of the story from taking place through preservation.

Q.Why is the bride "still unravished" in "Ode on a Grecian Urn"?

In "Ode on a Grecian Urn," the urn is described as a "still unravished bride" because the images on its sides are forever frozen in time, never to reach a conclusion.

Q. What does the "Attic shape" symbolize in John Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn"?

The "Attic shape" in John Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" symbolizes the urn itself, referring to its Greek origin, as "Attic" pertains to Greece or Athens. While some interpretations suggest it simply denotes the urn's origin, others see it as influencing the poet's perspective on beauty, truth, and life's significance by the poem's end.

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Q.Contrasts between art and life in "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

The primary contrast between art and life in "Ode on a Grecian Urn" is the permanence of art versus the transience of life. The scenes on the urn remain forever frozen in time, capturing moments of beauty and passion, while human experiences are fleeting and subject to change and decay.

Q.Analysis and Interpretation of "Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John keats

"Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats explores the relationship between art and life, emphasizing the permanence of art contrasted with the fleeting nature of human experience. The poem reflects on the scenes depicted on the urn, which capture moments frozen in time, suggesting that while life is transient, art can immortalize beauty and emotion. The famous concluding lines highlight the urn's silent message: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty."

Q.Describe the decoration on the urn in Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn."

The urn in Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" depicts several scenes: a Dionysian celebration, lovers about to kiss, a pastoral piper, and a religious procession with a sacrificial heifer. The speaker reflects on the eternal nature of these images, noting how the piper's unheard melodies and the lovers' unfulfilled kiss remain forever perfect and unchanging, unlike transient real-life experiences.

Q.Why are the figures on the urn in Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" called a "leaf fringed legend"?

The figures on the urn in Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" are called a "leaf fringed legend" because the urn's story is depicted within a decorative border of leaves. The word "legend" refers to both the ancient story told by the urn and something inscribed or written. Keats uses rich, layered meanings to convey the urn's perpetual narrative.

Q.How does John Keats focus on human relations in "Ode on a Grecian Urn"?

John Keats focuses on human relations in "Ode on a Grecian Urn" by depicting scenes of happiness and eternal youth. He describes young people at a festival, a piper eternally playing, and lovers forever on the brink of a kiss. These scenes contrast with the real human experiences of disappointment, aging, and mortality, highlighting the urn's captured moments of joy.

Q.What does the last stanza of "Ode on a Grecian urn" reveal about art?

The last stanza of “Ode on a Grecian urn” tells the reader that a true work of art enables humans to escape the ravages of time and depicts ideals of beauty and truth that inspire future generations. An artwork like the Grecian urn outlives its creator, enabling the artist to live beyond their finite existence. The urn’s beauty guides future generations to seek truth, or the best of human nature, in a world full of uncertainties.

Q. How is imagery used in Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn"?

In "Ode on a Grecian Urn," imagery is used to describe the pictures on the urn and to create a sense of mystery about them.

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Q.What two metaphors does John Keats use to describe the urn in "Ode on a Grecian Urn"?

In "Ode on a Grecian Urn," John Keats uses two metaphors to describe the urn: "unravished bride of quietness" and "foster-child of silence and slow time." These metaphors, found in the first stanza, compare the urn to a bride untouched by time and a child nurtured by silence and time.

Q. What does the line "Why thou art desolate, can e'er return" mean in Ode on a Grecian Urn?

The line "Why thou art desolate, can e'er return" means that nobody depicted at the festival on the urn can ever return to the empty town nearby to explain why it is empty. This emphasizes that art is unchanging and eternal. The figures will always be frozen as they are on the urn.

Q.What is the main message of Ode on a Grecian Urn?

He argues that while life is fleeting and impermanent, art is eternal and unchanging.

Q.What is the main theme of Grecian urns?

The poem's central theme is the transient nature of human existence.

Q.Why is the Grecian urn called Unravished?

The urn is specifically a “bride of quietness,” and since “her” silence has yet to be broken, this bride remains virginal, and hence “unravished.”

Q.What type of bride does the poet declare the Urn?

The poet declares the Urn a bride that is safe and sound from the ups and downs of routine of life.

Q.Why does the poet call Urn a historian?

The poet calls the Urn a historian because it is taking whole history in itself in the form of picture for

countless

Q.What does the poet calculate from the group of the people?

The poet calculates from the group of the people that they may be going to an expedition; he is not sure about the reason of that gathering.

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Q.What does Keats think about the building carved on the Urn?

Keats thinks that the building carved on the Urn may be a temple to which the people are going to present sacrifices.

Q.What are the mad pursuits doing in the picture on the Urn?

The mad pursuits are chasing the maids in the picture on the Urn; the maids are trying to save themselves from gallants.

Q.What are the musicians in the picture doing?

The musicians are playing gay tunes on their pipe in the picture; they seem to singing.

Q.What does the poet say to the musicians?

The poet says to the musicians to go on playing their pipes so that they may entertain the visitors for ever.

Q.What does the poet think about the permanence of the scene on the Urn?

The poet thinks that the music, musicians, trees, and the people in the picture on the Urn will never disappear; they will remain doing the same act for ever.

Q.What does Keats say about the lovers in the picture?

Keats says that the lovers and their beloved ones will remain for ever. The lovers will never catch their young beloveds.

Q.What is the Keats' idea about the trees in the picture?

Keats's idea about trees in the picture is that the branches will never decay; it need not fear of autumn season.

Q.What does the poet think about the destination of the group?

The poet thinks that the destination of the group is some sacred place; he calculates it from the belles, gallants, bishop and garlands in their hands.

Q.What is poet's idea about the village?

The poet thinks that the village is situated on the shore any sea or at the bank of a river. He also thinks the of village a fort.

Q. What images does the poet see in the urn?

The poet describes a scene on an urn that depicts two lovers chasing one another in a pastoral setting and then reflects on the contrast between the transient nature of human love and the enduring nature of art, which has frozen their passion for all time and made it eternal.

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Q.Why does the poet call the urn a historian?

Keats refers to the Grecian urn as a "Sylvan historian," because he feels it is best suited to tell its own story and the story of ancient Greece due to its authenticity and visual storytelling methods.

Q.What does "truth is beauty" mean?

Truth is beauty. This philosophical statement means that the real beauty of a thing lies on its permanence and that there is only one ultimate beauty in this world is truth which never perishes. The remaining, though they seem to be beautiful, is not really beautiful as they are perishable.

Q. Briefly analysis the poem ode to a Grecian urn

Or

Write the theme of the poem

Or

write the sumury of the poem

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the poem!

Ode on a Grecian Urn" was written by the influential English poet John Keats in 1819. It is a complex, mysterious poem with a disarmingly simple set-up: an undefined speaker looks at a Grecian urn, which is decorated with evocative images of rustic and rural life in ancient Greece. These scenes fascinate, mystify, and excite the speaker in equal measure—they seem to have captured life in its fullness, yet are frozen in time. The speaker's response shifts through different moods, and ultimately the urn provokes questions more than it provides answers. The poem's ending has been and remains the subject of varied interpretation. The urn seems to tell the speaker—and, in turn, the reader—that truth and beauty are one and the same. Keats wrote this poem in a great burst of creativity that also produced his other famous odes (e.g. "Ode to a Nightingale"). Though this poem was not well-received in Keats' day, it has gone on to become one of the most celebrated in the English language.

In the first stanza, the speaker stands before an ancient Grecian urn and addresses it. He is preoccupied with its depiction of pictures frozen in time. It is the “still unravish’d bride of quietness,” the “foster-child of silence and slow time.” He also describes the urn as a “historian” that can tell a story. He wonders about the figures on the side of the urn and asks what legend they depict and from where they come. He looks at a picture that seems to depict a group of men pursuing a group of women and wonders what their story could be: “What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape? / What pipes and timbrels? What wild ecstasy?”

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In the last stanza, the speaker looks at another picture on the urn, this time of a young man playing a pipe, lying with his lover beneath a glade of trees. The speaker says that the piper’s “unheard” melodies are sweeter than mortal melodies because they are unaffected by time. He tells the youth that, though he can never kiss his lover because he is frozen in time, he should not grieve, because her beauty will never fade. In the third stanza, he looks at the trees surrounding the lovers and feels happy that they will never shed their leaves. He is happy for the piper because his songs will be “for ever new,” and happy that the love of the boy and the girl will last forever, unlike mortal love, which lapses into “breathing human passion” and eventually vanishes, leaving behind only a “burning forehead, and a parching tongue

In the fourth stanza, the speaker examines another (“To what green altar, O mysterious priest...”) and from where they have come. He imagines their little town, empty of all its citizens, and tells it that its streets will “for evermore” be silent, for those who have left it, frozen on the urn, will never return. In the final stanza, the speaker again addresses the urn itself, saying that it, like Eternity, “doth tease us out of thought.” He thinks that when his generation is long dead, the urn will remain, telling future generations its enigmatic lesson: “Beauty is truth, truth beauty.” The speaker says that that is the only thing the urn knows and the only thing it needs to know.

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Ode on a Grecian Urn

by John Keats

1) whom or what does the speaker addressing in the first stanza?

⇒ The speaker addresses an ancient Greek Urn on the first stanza.

2) what is a question the speaker asks in the first stanza?

⇒ "what men or gods are these?"

3) what does the 'Urn' says in line 49 and 50?

⇒ The Urn says – Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all Ye need to know"

4) what does the Urn in this poem represent?

⇒ The urn itself represent the ~~intertwining~~ intertwining of life and death.

5) what is the final message of the Urn?

⇒ Beauty is truth, truth is beauty.

6) what does the speaker refer to Urn to?

⇒ The speaker refer to Urn as "An unravished bride of quietness".

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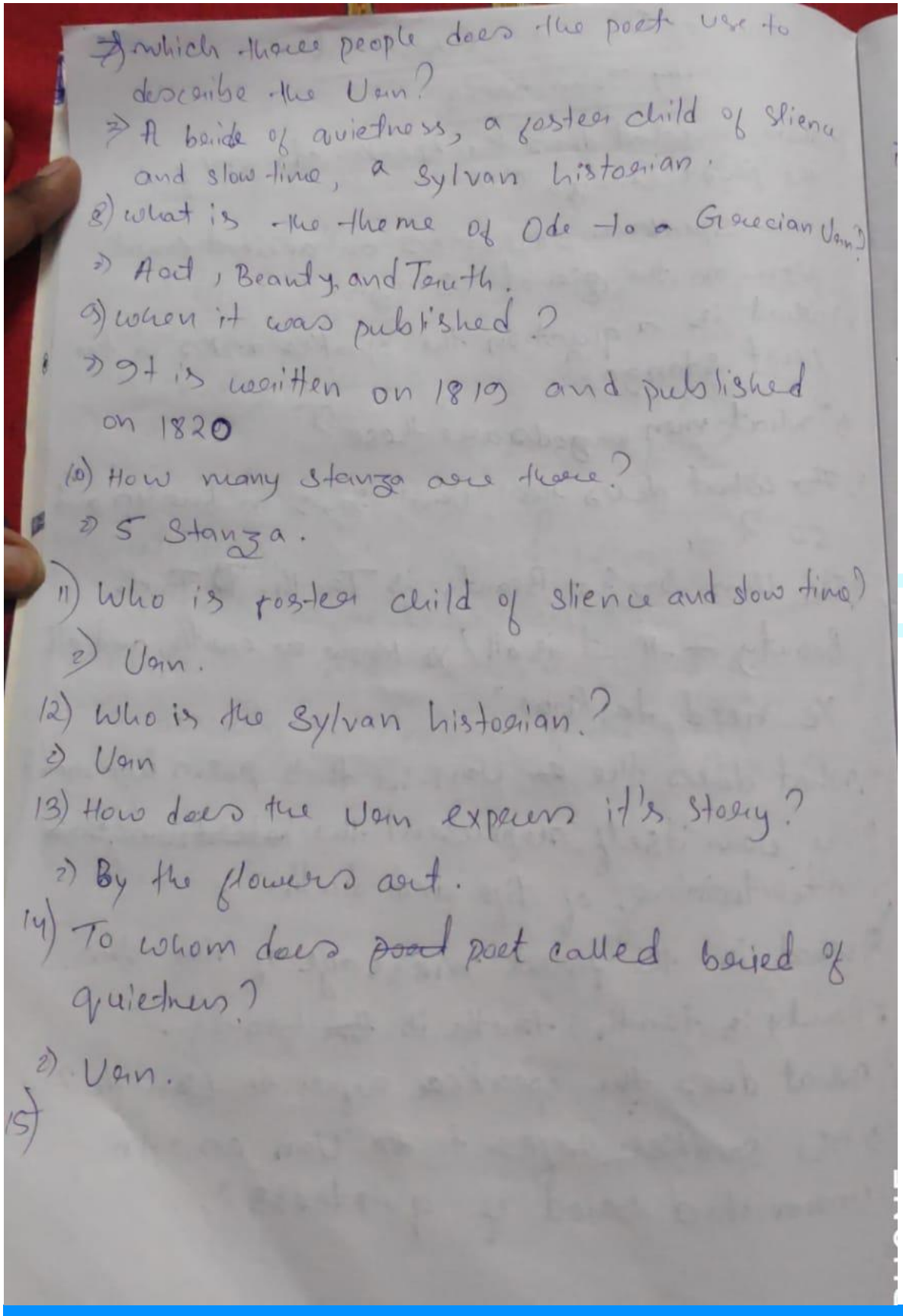

7) which three people does the poet use to describe the Urn?
⇒ A bride of quietness, a foster child of silence and slow time, a Sylvan historian.
8) what is the theme of Ode to a Grecian Urn?
⇒ Aoct, Beauty, and Truth.
9) when it was published?
⇒ It is written on 1819 and published on 1820
10) How many stanza are there?
⇒ 5 Stanza.
11) Who is foster child of silence and slow time?
⇒ Urn.
12) Who is the Sylvan historian?
⇒ Urn
13) How does the Urn express it's story?
⇒ By the flowers art.
14) To whom does ~~poet~~ poet called bride of quietness?
⇒ Urn.
15)

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The last ride together

Q. What does the line "The petty done, the undone vast" mean in the poem "The Last Ride Together"?

The line "The petty done, the undone vast" in "The Last Ride Together" signifies the contrast between the small accomplishments we achieve and the much larger, unfulfilled aspirations we hold. The narrator reflects on human persistence despite failures, emphasizing enduring hope and the desire for future fulfilment, such as his hope that his lover will love him in another life.

Q. Can you explain lines 45-66 of Browning's "The Last Ride Together"?

"Fail I alone, in words and deeds?" through "My riding is better, by their leave."

Lines 45-66 of Browning's "The Last Ride Together" reflect the narrator's contemplation of failure and the human condition. He questions whether he alone fails in love and deeds, introducing Browning's theme of imperfection as a driving force for self-improvement. The narrator then appreciates the joy of the moment, despite unfulfilled ambitions, suggesting that striving for goals brings valuable experiences.

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Q. Why does the lover in "The Last Ride Together" think his riding is superior?

The lover in "The Last Ride Together" believes his riding is superior because, through his experiences, he has learned that love is timeless and incomparable in value. Love itself is its own ultimate reward, surpassing the achievements in art, statesmanship, and warfare, and ultimately leading to Heaven.

Q. Is Robert Browning's "The Last Ride Together" a love poem or a philosophical poem?

I think that Browning's 'The Last Ride Together' is not what you could traditionally describe as a love poem but rather it explores some of the philosophical ideas behind love.

Q.The lover's methods of consolation and justification in Browning's "The Last Ride Together.

In "The Last Ride Together," the lover consoles himself by cherishing the memory of their last ride and justifies his situation by reflecting on the fleeting nature of success and fulfillment in life, suggesting that their ride together was a significant and meaningful experience, even if their relationship did not last.

Q. What is the Rejected Lover's attitude towards love, success, and failure in Robert Browning's "The Last Ride Together"?

The lover is rejected by his sweetheart. But he accepts his fate with dignity. He thanks and blesses her for all the joy her love has given him. Though she hesitates, the ride is finally granted, and he feels deified for one more day, and even imagines the very end of the world

Q.How does Browning convey that effort matters more than success in "The Last Ride Together"?

The lover realizes that all human beings work hard to achieve their goals but only a few succeed. Like others, he too had failed but still he has his last wish fulfilled by riding with his beloved. The lover does not want to complain about his failures but enjoy the ride to the fullest in the company of his beloved.

Q.Do you think that the title of the poem is justified?

ANS: The title of the poem, The Last Ride Together is fully justified. It refers to the single theme of the poem, namely the attempt at seeking a resolution out of the greatest crisis of the speaker's life created by the rejection of his love by his beloved. It is in the last ride together with her that he finds a theological and philosophical solution to his problem.

Q.Since now at length ….needs must be—". Who is the speaker here? What makes him lament thus?

ANS: The rejected lover in Browning's dramatic lyric is the speaker here. He has tried every means to retain her love, but now he understands that he has reached such point of discord where no reconciliation is possible. Therefore, he tries to rationalise his failure and console himself by accepting the fact that the rejection must have been predestined.

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Q.What does the speaker in Browning's The Last Ride Together claim from his lady after being rejected by her? Why does he do so?

ANS: When the speaker of Browning's poem The Last Ride Together understands that his relationship with the ladylove finally has reached such a point where no reconciliation is possible, he claims two things from her: first, he wants to keep the memory of their affair and secondly, he proposes to her for a last ride together. He hopes to transform the ride into a journey towards the eternity and find out theological and philosophical resolution to his crisis.

Q.Explain the expression "Those deep dark eyes …through".

OR, "Fixed me a breathing-while or two….in balance". What is the incident referred to here? What does the speaker try to mean by "life or death in the balance"?

ANS: When the lady begins considering whether she should accept the proposal for the last ride together, she goes through mixed emotions (reflected in her bent eyebrows). On the one hand, her pride objects to accepting such a proposal: on the other, she feels pity for him since it is she who has rejected him.

Q.What does the speaker try to mean by "life or death in the balance"?

ANS: After being rejected by his beloved the speaker proposes to her for a last ride. When she begins considering her proposal, it seems to him as if her pronouncement would determine his death or life as he has invested his sole hope in transforming this journey on earth to heaven and thereby seek salvation.

Q. “The blood…again”. What is the incident referred to here?

ANS: When his beloved begins considering his proposal for a last ride together, the speaker remains in utmost suspense as whether she will accept it or not. He becomes so pale at the thought of the rejection of his proposal that it seems to him his blood gets frozen. But as she agrees, he understands that his mission will be fulfilled, and he feels coming back to life again.

Q. “Fail alone I .../ who succeeds?” Who is the speaker here? Why does he think so?

ANS: …As he is now riding with his beloved for the last time, he remembers the past and rationalizes his failure by saying that he is not the sole person in the world, who has failed. In fact, all men try hard for success, but a few succeed. He finds satisfaction in the fact that he has succeeded in realizing the favour of riding with his beloved for the last time.

Q.Explain the significance of the line, “Whither life’s flower is first discerned…”

OR, what is here referred to by the speaker as “life’s flower” and why?

The speaker here in Browning’s The Last Ride Together refers to heaven as the “life’s flower”. According to him, heaven is the culminating point of human life. Human beings can realize the highest reward, the heavenly bliss only in heaven.

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Q.What thoughts pass through the lover’s mind when he and his beloved were riding together?

The lover expresses the heavenly bliss which he experiences for a short while in the company of his beloved during the ride. The lady bent towards him and placed her head on his shoulder. Her body was in close contact with his own. The lover thinks that the world may end that very night and so the moment of his bliss may become eternal.

Q.Why does the speaker consider the earth a favoured place in comparison to heaven?

Heaven is nothing but the realisation of our highest hopes as aspirations. It is life at its best. Man has always looked upwards and thought that heaven lies somewhere over head. But for the lover if one enjoys the company of his beloved, it is the earth which is heaven. It gives him heavenly bliss.

Q.How are the brave deeds of the soldier rewarded by the world?

In the poem, ‘The Last Ride Together’ the poet has compared his achievement with that of a statesman, a soldier, a poet or a musician. In reference with the above lines in the question, the brave deeds of a soldier is rewarded by the world only with a burial in the Westminster Abbey, a place where only the great and heroic passengers are hurried and a flag is hoisted over his memorial.

Q.How does the speaker compare his soul with a scroll?

As his soul had grown wrinkled and disfigured with grief, so the poet compares it with a scroll.

Q.What does the poet express in his verses?

In his verses the poet expresses the view that sublime ideals and beautiful things are best and men should try to achieve them.

Q. What is the setting of this poem?

The setting of Robert Browning's poem The Last Ride Together is the countryside, outdoors, and likely takes place in the 19th century.

Q.Briefly analysis the poem The Last Ride Together

Or

Write the theme of the poem

Or

write the summary of the poem

Or

Discuss the main idea or central idea of the poem.

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"The Last Ride Together" is a unique poem by English poet Robert Browning, first published in his 1855 collection "Men and Women", his first important work released after his marriage to Elizabeth Barrett. It comprised of fifty-one poems, each by a singular narrator. It is considered one of the most important works of poetry in the Victorian era. "The Last Ride Together" is a ten-stanza poem primarily focused on themes of love and loss. It takes the form of a monologue by a rejected lover reflecting on the end of a love affair. The title represents the last time the former couple takes a carriage ride together. Although the narrator does grieve the end of his romance, he wishes to reflect his appreciation for the time they had together and the love he experienced. The poem has an overall bittersweet tone, balancing sadness and optimism.

In the first stanza, the narrator blames the end of his romance on fate. He bemoans that everything he has tried has failed, and it seems the end of his love affair is set. Despite this, he expresses his love and appreciation for the woman he has spent years with, and blesses her name. He asks only for her the memory of the time they shared together, and one last ride with

her before she goes.

The second stanza focuses on the woman's reaction, as she surveys him with pride tempered with pity. The narrator compares waiting for her answer with life or death, accentuating the emotional stakes that are always at play when it comes to love and passion. In the end, they say

yes, and the parting couple embarks on their final ride together.

The third stanza focuses on the blissful feeling of that last ride, with the narrator waxing poetic about how wonderful the time together feels. He focuses on the beauty of the surroundings, the passion he feels, and the ecstatic feeling that he feels when she touches him. She has provided him with more than he asked for, and he is filled with gratitude for this.

The fourth stanza focuses on Browning's philosophy of the passing nature of life. The narrator begins to let go of what was and begins to enjoy what is. He describes his soul as smoothing out as he lets go of past hopes. He knows that there's no point to speculating what could have been. Things could be better or worse, and instead he chooses to simply enjoy the moment that they are sharing together.

The fifth stanza continues the themes in the fourth, with the narrator contrasting himself with men who strove for other things, and those who have failed. He does this to hide his personal anguish over the end of his affair. He accepts his defeat and expresses his hope for a better future in heaven at the end of his life.

The sixth stanza presents the philosophical idea that a life of contemplation in love is far better than any pleasures that the material world can provide. This stanza contains many allusions and analogies, such as comparing the greatest joys of life to a crown that one can reach. It compares the life of a love with that of a statesman and a soldier, and comes down firmly on the idea that the lover's life is superior.

The seventh and eighth stanzas focus on comparisons of the love to a great poet and later a great sculptor. The narrator describes the talents of these artists - the poet's work being defined by how they create rhyme and rhythm, while the sculptor devotes years to a chunk of rock and carves something spectacular out of it. He later does the same with a composer, stringing notes together. He compares these arts to the years of his life he gave to his love, attempting to create something beautiful out of their union.

In the ninth stanza, the narrator wonders what fate has in store for them, and admits he has no

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idea what would have transpired had they remained together. He expresses his regret that it has to end here, but admits that there is nothing he can do and chooses to let go, stating that his life with his lover is now as far away from him as heaven.

The final stanza has him turn his focus back to his lover, as he observes her and notes that she hasn't said anything in a while. He wonders what would happen if they simply rode forever, together, and this instant they shared was made eternity. That is where the poem ends, on that wistful note for an eternity of this moment, without the future apart that awaits them when the ride ends.

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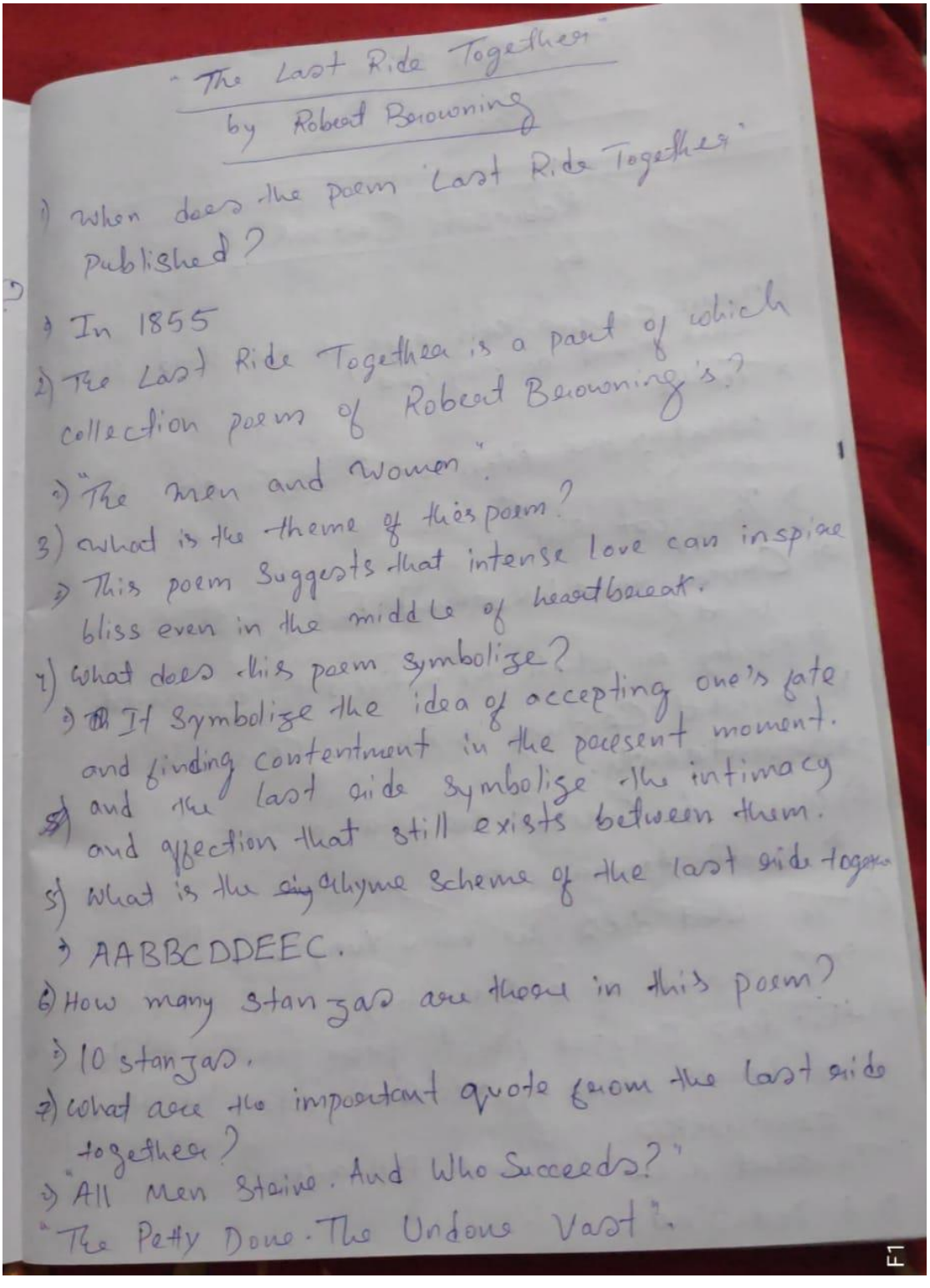

"The Last Ride Together"
by Robert Browning

1) When does the poem 'Last Ride Together' published?
→ In 1855
2) The Last Ride Together is a part of which collection poems of Robert Browning is?
→ "The Men and Women".
3) what is the theme of this poem?
→ This poem Suggests that intense love can inspire bliss even in the middle of heartbreak.
4) what does this poem symbolize?
→ It Symbolize the idea of accepting one's fate and finding contentment in the present moment.
and the last ride symbolise the intimacy and affection that still exists between them.
5) What is the ~~sig~~ rhyme scheme of the last ride together
→ AABBCDDEEC.
6) How many stanzas are there in this poem?
→ 10 stanzas.
7) what are the important quote from the last ride together?
→ "All Men Strive. And Who Succeeds?"
"The Petty Done. The Undone Vast".

F1

UNIT IV: Essays

1. Francis Bacon: "Of Studies"

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2. Charles Lamb: “Dream Children”

Of studies

Question: What are the main benefits of study in the essay “Of Studies” by Francis Bacon?

Ans: According to the greatest essayist Fracis Bacon the main benefits of study are delight, ornament and ability.

Question: What does Bacon mean “Studies serve for delight” in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: According to Francis Bacon “delight” means to get joy or pleasure. So, studies serve to get joy or to get pleasure. Like, we study books to get pleasure and amusement.

Question: What does Bacon mean “Studies serve for ornament” in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: According to Bacon “ornament” means to beautify. So, studies serve to beautify the use of language either spoken or written. Studies improve our use of language.

Question: What does Bacon mean “Studies serve for ability” in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans" According to Bacon “ability” means here, the ability to work, to counsel, to judge and to decide. So, studies serve to improve in trade knowledge, counselling, judgment and decision making.

Question: What is the chief use of studies for delight according to Francis Bacon in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: The chief use of “studies for delight” is to study in leisure time, in loneliness or solitude. It will give you pleasure and reduce the boredom.

Question: What is the chief use of studies for ornament according to Francis Bacon in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: The chief use of “studies for ornament” is in discourse. By studying we know new words and we learn that where we use which words and which not. It’s meant that studies beautify our speech.

Question: What is the chief use of studies for ability according to Francis Bacon in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: The chief use of “studies for ability” is in the judgment and business disposition. Its mean studies improve our ability for judging the problem and decision making. It is also helpful to understand the business nature.

Question: What is Bacon’s view about to spend too much of time in studies?

Ans: Bacon wrote in his essay “Of Studies” that spend too much of time in studies is laziness or inactivity (sloth). Its mean that only study could not be fruitful without experience.

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Question: What is Bacon's view about "too much use of studies for ornament" in his essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: In the essay "Of Studies" according to Bacon the too much use of studies for ornament is affectation. Its mean that too much use of studies for ornament makes your discourse artificial or unnatural.

Question: What is Bacon's view about to make judgment wholly by their rules (learnt from study) in his essay "Of Studies "?

Ans: In the essay "Of Studies" Bacon tells us that to make judgment wholly by their rules (rules that learnt from the studies) is the humor of the scholar. Its mean that the judgments made without practical knowledge or experience are foolish.

Question: What does Bacon say about natural abilities of a man in his essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: Bacon says that the natural abilities of a man are like the plants that need pruning (trimming) and natural abilities of a man also need trimming by the studies. He says that the study only gives lots of directions, but experience also supplement the natural abilities.

Question: What is the attitude of a crafty man about studies, according to Bacon in his essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: According to Bacon in his essay "Of Studies" the crafty man denounces (criticize, condemn) studies because the cunning and sneaky person used the tricks and crooked ways to accomplish the job.

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Question: What is the attitude of a simple man about studies, according to Bacon in his essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: According to Bacon in his essay "Of Studies" the simple man admires (regard, respect) the studies.

Question: What is the attitude of a wise man about studies, according to Bacon in his essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: According to Bacon in his essay "Of Studies" the wise man used the knowledge had gotten from studies.

Question: What does Bacon mean of "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested" in the essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: According to Bacon some books are tasted means not studied completely but in parts. Others to be swallowed means that books are read completely, but without curiosity and some few to be chewed and digested means that books studied with full interest and deeply to get maximum knowledge not only thematic but at the minute level also.

Question: What is bacon's view about "Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others" in the essay "Of Studies"?

Ans: Bacon says about these books that these are guiding only of less important matters.

Question: What are the distilled books, according to the Bacon in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: Bacon says that distilled books are like common distilled waters (distilled water is purified water). So, Bacon here means the summarized books (containing only important information). He says that it is like flashy things. Flashy things are showy things that it only draws attention and of less importance.

Question: What reading, conference and writing made a man according to Bacon in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: According to Bacon in his essay “Of studies” the reading makes a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man.

Question: What a man needs to possess if a man writes little, conference little and read little according to Bacon in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: According to Bacon if a man writes little, he had need have a great memory; if he confers little, he had need have a present wit: and if he read little, he had need have much cunning.

Question: According to Bacon what are the benefits of studying history, poetry, mathematics, natural philosophy, morality, logic and rhetoric in the essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: According to Bacon histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtle; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend.

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Question: According to Bacon the exercise of bowling is good for which disease as mentioned in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: According to Bacon bowling is good for the stone and reins.

Question: According to Bacon the exercise of shooting is good for which disease as mentioned in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: Bacon mentioned in his essay “Of Studies” that shooting is good for the lungs and breast.

Question: According to Bacon the exercises of gentle walking and riding are good for which diseases as mentioned in his essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: Bacon mentioned in his essay “Of Studies” that gentle walking is good for stomach and riding for the head.

Question: If a man’s wit be wandering what Bacon suggests to do, in the essay “Of Studies”?

Ans: In the essay “Of Studies” Bacon says that if a man’s wit is wandering, let him/ her study the mathematics.

Q.What is the main point of Of Studies by Francis Bacon?

For Bacon, the study is always related to the application of knowledge in practical life. At the beginning of his essay, Bacon describes the three main purposes of study including studying for gaining delight, studies done for ornamenting one's life and studying in order to improve one's ability.

What is the main theme Of Studies?

In short, the theme of “Of Studies” is how books benefit a reader tremendously in different ways.

Q.What are Francis Bacon's views on studies in his essay "Of Studies"?

In "Of Studies," Francis Bacon argues that studies are useful for "delight," "ornament," and "ability." In Bacon's view, studies help enrich life for both enjoyment and practical purposes. However, Bacon also believes that moderation is necessary for studies to be most useful. One shouldn't study so much that it distracts them from actually applying their studies and living.

Q.What is the use of studies according to Bacon?

According to Francis Bacon, studies are essential for three reasons: to improve abilities, for personal enjoyment, and to become more interesting and wittier. He emphasizes not only learning from books but also from the natural world and one's experiences. Additionally, he advises selective reading, suggesting not every book should be read in its entirety.

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Q.What did Bacon mean by "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested?

In his essay "Of Studies," Francis Bacon differentiates between books based on their content and value. He suggests that some books, offering little depth, should only be "tasted" or read quickly. Others, which carry more significance, should be "swallowed" or read thoroughly. The most profound books should be "chewed and digested", meaning they should be read slowly, thoughtfully, and revisited to fully comprehend their meaning. These books, Bacon argues, can greatly enrich a reader's thought processes and ideas.

Q.Briefly explain the title of the essay Of Studies

Or

Write the summary of this essay

Or

Describe the main idea of this essay

Or

write the central theme of this essay.

Uses of studies – Bacon writes that studies serve three things i.e. delight, ornament and ability. Studies gives delight in free and personal time while it works as an ornament for discussions in the form of facts and figures. It also provides a person ability to take judgement in different works.

Cons of excessive studies – If a person is involved in excessive studies, he may become sloth (lazy) in terms of other works. Excessive usages of studies in discussion may give impression of affectation or showy or over embellishment. At the other hand while taking judgement wholly based on bookish knowledge may question the critical mindset of the scholar. Studies should be used to give right direction in life and they are used in better way through experience gained in life. Similarly, as a plant is pruned to give it a better growth.

Attitude of the people towards studies – Clever and crafty people hate studies and they don't feel its requirement in life while simple people admire studies as they are too innocent to critically analyze any particular knowledge system. But wise men use studies. They don't confine themselves to gaining knowledge only, rather they use that knowledge in life.

What should not be the purpose of studies – Studies shouldn't be used to 'contradict and confute' i.e. to oppose others unnecessarily. Similarly, we should ensure that we are not blindly impressed with someone's knowledge and forget to use our critical thinking. Studies should also not be used to find opportunities for discussion to show off your knowledge on a particular topic.

Different types of books – Bacon writes that there can be many types of books. Some books are only tasted or read superficially while others are swallowed means demand more seriousness. But there are some other books who deserve to be chewed and digested means read thoroughly and deeply. Some books can be studied by subordinate or junior people who makes notes of them and which are read by others. But such books are unimportant for serious affairs. As such books can be compared to distilled water which is devoid of all the nutrients.

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Purpose of Reading, discussing and writing – Bacon says that reading makes a person as complete man who has knowledge of diverse fields. While discussion makes a person ready for instant and clever replies. It makes a person ready for emergency situations. Similarly writing makes the person precise and exact. It helps in becoming free of unfruitful arguments.

Benefits of different Subjects – It is amazing that Bacon found reason and benefits behind studying a particular subject. He writes that History makes a man wise as it makes one aware about past mistakes. Poetry makes a person witty as a poet compares incomparable things. Mathematics brings subtleness in human being as it teaches to be clever in reaching conclusion. In the similar manner natural philosophy forces a person to think deep, morality makes a person serious by nature. Logic and Rhetoric i.e. art of speaking helps in arguments.

Comparison of studies with exercises – Writer adroitly compares various exercises which helps in curing different diseases to studies which helps in eliminating different weaknesses in human being. Bacon says bowling is good for curing stone problem, shooting is good for lungs and breasts due to recoil effect of gun, gentle walking for stomach issues, riding (horse riding) for head. Similarly different subjects such as mathematics is good to bring concentration as one mistake during solution will make you to do the whole exercise again. If someone is not good at distinguishing good and bad then he should study schoolmen i.e. philosophy. Similarly, if someone wants to make its thought prevail then he should study law. In this manner there is a study for every weakness.

Dream children:

Q.What is the ballad of the children inscribed in the wood and where is carved?

Ans: The ballad of the children in the wood is an ancient ballad which was included in “Percy’s Reliques”. The ballad narrates the sad story of two children who inherited the vast property of their father after his death. But the greedy uncle of those two children hired two murderers to kill the children. But one of the murderers, being kind hearted, left the children alive in the wood and killed the other murderer. The children due to hunger and lack of shelter in the forest died. Then a Robin Red breast saw their dead bodies and covered them with leaves.

The story of this ballad was carved out in wood upon the chimney piece of the great hall in the big house in Norfolk where Mrs. Field, the grandmother of Charles Lamb lived.

Q. What is Abbey in the essay “Dream Children: a Reverie”?

Ans: In “Dream Children: a Reverie” the term ‘Abbey’ refers to the West Minister Abbey which is the National Church of England. The author Charles Lamb mockingly refers to this term to reveal the foolishness of the owner of the house in Norfolk. The owner of the house destroyed the wooden chimney-piece and carried it away to his other fashionable house.

Q. Who is Lady C in Dream Children A Reverie?

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Ans: In Charles Lamb’s “Dream Children: a Reverie”, Lady C is a fictitious name of a rich fashionable woman. The author actually means to say that pulling down of the wooden chimney-piece by the owner of the house in Norfolk is as foolish an act as might be by Lady C’s carrying away the west Minister Abbey to her fashionable drawing room.

Q. Why did both the rich and poor people attend the funeral ceremony of Mrs. Field?

Ans: In “Dream Children: a Reverie” Charles Lamb says that the funeral ceremony of his grandmother, Mrs. Field was attended both by rich and poor people from the neighbourhood for many miles round because she was loved and respected by all for her kind and religious psyche.

Q. Describe Mrs. Field.

Ans: Mrs. Field was the grandmother of Charles Lamb, who lived in a great house in Norfolk. Both the rich and poor loved and respected her because of her kind heartedness and religiosity. She was a tall, upright and graceful woman and in her youth, she was considered the best dancer. She died of cancer but before death the acute pain could not curb her indomitable spirit which perhaps came from her goodness and religiosity.

Q.What is the significance of the apparition of two infants?

Ans: The apparition of two infants gliding up and down the staircase seen by Mrs. Field is a retrospective vision of the ballad of the children in the wood, whose story was carved out on the chimney-piece in the Norfolk house where Mrs. Field lived. This reference is to prove the strength of mind of Mrs. Field who was not afraid of the apparition.

On the other hand, though Charles Lamb did not see the apparition, he was afraid of it because of his weakness in mind due to his lack of religiosity.

Q. Explain the term “Twelve Caesars” as mentioned in the “Dream Children: A Reverie”.

Ans: The term “Twelve Caesars” taken from Charles Lamb’s essay “Dream Children: A Reverie” refers to the twelve Emperors of Rome from Julius Caesar to Domitian or from Caesar Augustus to Antonius Pius. The half busy sculptures of these twelve Roman emperors were seen by Charles Lamb in the Norfolk house where he went to spend his holidays.

Q. Describe the cheerful experience of Charles Lamb in the garden in his holidays.

Ans: Charles Lamb, in his childhood, spent some cheerful holidays in the spacious garden behind the Norfolk house. He could, as if, establish a psychic communication with the garden. Sometimes he was lying on the fresh grass, being filled with the fragrance of the garden.

Sometimes he was bashing in the orangery and was ripened with the food. He stood in front of the yew trees or the firs or was strolling across the garden. He did not pick up fruits because the sight of these gave him a soothing comfort. Also, he enjoyed the movements of various fishes in the pond.

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Q.Describe the John Lamb, the brother of Charles Lamb.

Ans: John Lamb was the brother of Charles Lamb. He outdid the latter in spirit and gusto. Instead of meditating in the solitary corners of the garden, he would like to ride on horses and join the hunters. Though he loved the Norfolk house and the garden, these places could not pent up his indomitable spirit. He was the only playmate and the only companion of Charles Lamb. He used to carry the lame-footed author on his back. But this kind-heartedness of John Lamb seemed to the author an act of sympathy rather than kindness.

Q. What is the pseudonym of Charles Lamb and where is taken from?

Ans: The pseudonym of Charles Lamb is Elia which was the name of an Italian clerk of South Sea House where Lamb had worked for some time.

Q. How did Charles Lamb miss his brother John Lamb?

Ans: After the death of John Lamb, Charles Lamb actually missed his brother’s existence but not his identity. He wished his brother to be alive again just to spend his lonely hours with him. With all his kindness and crossness his brother left him isolated and though he did not cry for his brother, his memory haunted him for all time. Actually, Charles Lamb missed John Lamb not as his brother but as his companion.

Q. How did Charles Lamb present his beloved to his dream children?

Ans: While the dream children of Charles Lamb began to cry to hear of the sad end of their uncle, Charles Lamb tried to relieve their sorrow by describing how his beloved and their mother actually was. He told them that he had courted their mother for seven long years, sometimes in hope and sometimes in despair. He also told them that their mother was very much shy and it was very difficult for him to win her.

Q.Explain the line "We are nothing, less than nothing and dreams" in Dream Children: a Reverie.

Ans: The quoted line taken from Charles Lamb's "Dream Children: a Reverie" testifies to the fact that the children described in this essay are nothing but the products of dream or imagination. When the two children grew gradually fainting to Lamb's view, they without any speech impressed upon Lamb the effects of speech that they were nothing or non-existent in this mortal world.

Q. Why are the children called 'Dream Children'? Or, Justify the title of the essay, "Dream Children a Reverie".

Ans: Charles Lamb's Dream Children: a Reverie weaves its story round the childhood of the author and it is presented through his interactions with his two imaginary children. The children are imaginary in the sense that they have no existence in the world because Charles Lamb was unmarried and he had no children. That the children are the products of dream or imagination is evident from the last portion of the essay, where we see that the children vanish. Actually, the children are the medium through which the essayist communicates with his own world of imagination and desire. Therefore, the title justified.

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Q.How long did Charles Lamb gaze upon the half bust of the Twelve Caesars?

Ans: When Charles Lamb went to the Norfolk house to spend his holidays, he gazed upon twelve half bust sculptures of twelve Roman emperors in the great hall of the house. He looked at them with rapt attention and seemed to be identified with them. Actually, it was his deep absorption that made him feel that either he was borne to their petrified world or they were borne to his living world.

Q.Trace the elements of humour and pathos in the essay "Dream Children: a Reverie".

Ans: Charles Lamb's "Dream Children: A Reverie" isca fine amalgam of hilarious humour and deep pathos. In the description of the dream children's reaction to hear of the account of Lamb has a humorous touch. Alice's act of moving her right foot and John's depositing of the bunch of grapes back upon the plate are tinged with juvenile laughter. On the other hand, whe the children reacted at the account of the sad end of their uncle and spoke to Lamb that they were not his children, the mind of the reader is filled with pathos.

Q. In what sense can the essay be called a "Reverie"?

Ans: Charles Lamb's "Dream Children: a Reverie" is actually the product of the essayist's imaginative mind and through his two imaginary children he actually wants to fulfil his unrequited desire and unquenched thirst for the bliss of family-life. He as a writer, knows very well that in reality his meeting with his children is impossible. But

like a schizophrenic person he deliberately denies the reality and is sunk into the depth of imagination or fancy. Therefore, it can aptly be called a “Reverie”.

Q. What did Lamb notice in the eyes of his dream daughter when he was narrating story?

Ans: In his autobiographical essay, Dream Children a Reverie, while narrating the story of his imaginary courtship with Alice Winterton, Charles Lamb suddenly turned towards his dream daughter, Alice and was astonished to find in her two little innocent eyes an exact and living image of her mother, the elder Alice.

Lamb was stunned at the sight and for the time being he could not perceive who it was really that was standing before him – the daughter or her mother. The bright hair of the girl seemed exactly like the hair of Lamb’s beloved. It was an astonishing likeness. And, as Lamb stood gazing in wonder, the figures of both the children (Alice and John) began to fade. A moment later, nothing of them was to be seen except two sad and mournful figures which though speechless, seemed to Lamb to be really speaking.

Q. How does Charles Lamb present the autobiographical elements in his essay, Dream Children a Reverie?

Ans: The most notable feature of Charles Lamb’s essay, Dream Children a Reverie, is its autobiographical elements which are true to the facts of the childhood of the essayist. In his essay, Lamb has amalgamated the facts of reality with his power of imagination. Lamb presents the characters and incidents from his own life – the sketches of his grandmother, Mrs. Field, his brother John, his sister, Mary Lamb, his beloved Ann Simmons. But Lamb is always playing with facts and fictions and transforms the real into literary.

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Q. How was the reverie ended in the “Dream Children A Reverie”?

Ans: Charles Lamb in His reverie started telling to his dream children how for seven years he courted their mother before marrying, sometimes in hope and sometimes in despair. He referred to her shyness, her objections and denial. Suddenly he happened to turn his eyes on the face of his daughter. It seemed to him that she distinctly represented the features of her mother.

Now children gradually grew fainted to his view, receding and receding till he could hear a voiceless speech from a distance telling him that they were the dream children who neither to Alice nor to Charles. They were merely the dream figures who would have to wait for ages if they might at all be born to Charles and Alice as real children, for Alice, whom Lamb had wished to marry, had a husband and children of her own.

Q."......that would be foolish indeed." -What would be foolish?

Ans: The act of taking out all the old beautiful furniture from the old building after Mrs. Field's death and placing them in the gaudy drawing room of the more fashionable mansion of the owner appeared to be the most foolish thing to little John. the dream-son of Lamb.

Q. Where did Mrs. Field live?

Ans: Mrs. Field, grandmother of Charles Lamb. lived in a big old house in Norfolk. The house belonged to a rich man but was entrusted to her care.

Q. Why did the rich man commit the old big house to Mrs. Field's care?

Ans: The rich man committed the big old house to Mrs. Field's care for he lived in a newer and more fashionable mansion bought in the adjoining country.

Q. What are the names of the dream-children of Charles Lamb?

Ans: The dream children of Charles Lamb mentioned in the essay are Alice and John.

Q. With which tragic incident was the big old house in which Mrs. Field lived associated?

Ans: The big old house in which Mrs. Field lived was believed to be the scene of the tragic incident of two innocent children murdered by their cruel uncle as described in the ballad. "The Children in the Wood".

Q. Where was the story of the tragic incident of the two innocent children killed by their cruel uncle carved out?

Ans: The tragic incident of the two innocent children killed by their cruel uncle was described in the ballad. "The Children in the Wood," The scene was accurately carved out in a piece of wooden frame hanging upon the chimney-piece of the big old building in which Mrs. Field lived.

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Q. Was the house in which Mrs. Field lived her own?

Ans: The big old house in which Mrs. Field lived was not her own. It belonged to a rich man living in a more fashionable house. Mrs. Field lived in it as a care taker.

Q. How does Lamb describe the oddity of the old beautiful furniture being taken away from the old building to more fashionable building of the owner?

Ans: The old things which suited best in the old mansion in which Mrs. Field lived being taken off and placed in the new house, of the owner seemed as improper to Lamb as to take away the old tombs of the Westminster Abbey and place them in the drawing room of some Lady C.

Q. What became the fate of the picture in which the tragic story of the innocent children being killed by their cruel uncle was carved out?

Ans: The beautiful picture in which the tragic incident of two innocent children being murdered by their cruel uncle was accurately carved out was pulled down and replaced by a modem marble one most foolishly.

Q. Name the fruits which were "good for nothing but to look at".

Ans: The fruits which were "good for nothing but to look at”- were the red berries and the firapples.

Q. What nature of a Lady was Mrs. Field?

Ans: Mrs. Field was a good natured and religious lady.

Q. What proofs of Mrs. Field's goodness have been furnished by Lamb?

Ans: Lamb thinks that Mrs. Field's goodness is-proved by the fact that she memorised the entire Psalter and a great part of the Bible by heart.

Q. What was Mrs. Field esteemed to be in her youth?

Ans: Mrs. Field was esteemed to be the best dancer in her youth.

Q. Name the disease Mrs. Field died of.

Ans: Mrs. Field died of cancer.

Q. Whom among her grandchildren did Mrs. Field love most and why?

Ans: Mrs. Field loved John. Charles Lamb's elder brother, most among her grandchildren because he was the most spirited among the brothers.

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Q. What sort of a person Mrs. Field was?

Ans: Mrs. Field was a tall, upright and graceful lady.

Q."..... because they were forbidden fruit." -- Which are the "forbidden fruit" referred to here?

Ans: By the "forbidden fruit" Lamb refers to the nectarines and peaches, hanging upon the walls in the big spacious garden of the big old house where Mrs. Field lived.

Q. Name the fishes Lamb got pleasure to look at in the pond of the big old house in which Mrs. Field lived.

Ans: Lamb got immense pleasure to look at Dace, a small fish darting to and fro, and a great pike. sombre in appearance, hanging midway in the water in the fish-pond of the big old house in which Mrs. Field lived.

Q. What did John, Charles Lamb's elder brother, love to do?

Ans: Instead of staying home in a depressed mood like Lamb. John the elder brother of Lamb loved to ride the most mettlesome horse and made it run half over the country in a morning, and to join the hunters he happened to meet.

Q."..... those innocents would do her no harm." - Who are "those innocents"?

Ans: "those innocents" referred to are the apparitions of the two innocent children killed by the cruel uncle seen by Mrs. Field in the big house gliding up and down the staircase at midnight. Mrs. Field believed that these apparitions of the innocent children would do her no harm.

Q. How did John love his younger brother, Charles Lamb?

Ans: John loved his younger brother Charles Lamb very much.

Q. What was the tragedy of John Lamb?

Ans: In his later life as a result of cancer one of John's legs was. amputated by the doctor, and he died shortly afterward.

Q. "Here the children fell a crying." - Why did the children fall a crying?

Ans: The dream-children of Charles Lamb. John and Alice, fell a crying to hear the heart-rending fact that the doctors had amputated one of the legs of their dear uncle because of cancer.

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Q. Who are referred to as "two mournful features"?

Ans: When Lamb was about to wake up from his reverie the sad faces of John and Alice began to disappear. These are referred to here as two mournful features.

Q. Where must the dream-children of Lamb wait before they have their existence and a name?

Ans: Before they have their existence and a name the dream children of Lamb must wait upon the tedious shore of Lethe. the river of forgetfulness referred to in Greek mythology, for a long long time.

Q. What kind of an essay is "Dream-children"?

Ans: The essay. "Dream Children: A Reverie", is an autobiographical essay.

Q. What did John do when his younger brother could not walk?

Ans: When Charles, being lame footed, could not walk for pain John carried his younger brother Charles Lamb, on his back for miles.

Q. Why was Charles Lamb unable to marry Ann Simmons, his lady-love?

Ans: Charles Lamb could not marry Ann Simmons, his lady-love, as he had to look after his sister. Mary, who became insane and was admitted into an asylum.

Q. How long did Lamb court Alice?

Ans: For long seven years Lamb courted Alice Winterton who was in reality Ann Simmons.

Q. To whom was Alice Winterton married?

Ans: Alice Winterton (Ann Simmons in real life) whom Charles Lamb loved was married to one Mr. Bartrum, a pawnbroker of Leicester Square, London.

Q. "I had more pleasure in these busy-idle-diversions." – Which were the "busy-idle-diversion" of the speaker?

Ans: Lamb who preferred loneliness and seclusion passed his time on holidays with his grandmother, Mr.. Field, in a big old house. He spent most of his time by himself, sometimes gazing upon the marble busts of twelve Caesars placed in the big hall, sometimes roaming about at random from one room to another without getting tired. Sometimes he sojourned in the spacious garden among trees like firs and yews, and enjoyed the beauty and smell of different fruits like nectarines, peaches. oranges, etc. Sometimes he lay down upon the fresh grass, basking in the orangery. Sometimes he looked at the fishes like dace and pike in the fish-pond. He was busy passing his time idly in this way all by himself. These were his busy-idle-diversions.

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Q. Where did little Alice, Lamb's dream-daughter, resemble her mother?

Ans: Little Alice. Lamb's dream-daughter, resembled her mother in her face.

Q. How does Lamb compare the taking away of the old furniture from the big old house in which Mrs. Field lived to arrange in his other house of fashion?

Ans: When Mrs. Field died, the owner of the house took away all the old beautiful furniture from the big old house in which the former lived to arrange them in his other new house which was much more fashionable. This seemed to Lamb as odd and awkward as to take away the old tombs. from the Westminster Abbey to be arranged in the gorgeous drawing room of some fashionable lady like Lady C.

Q. How was the old big house in which Mrs. Field lived decorated?

Ans: The vast mansion in which Mrs. Field lived was decorated with worn-out gilded hangings, fluttering tapestry and carved oaken panels.

Q. What fruits were there in the big garden?

Ans: Delicious fruits like nectarines, peaches and oranges, and fruits like red berries and fir apples were there in the big garden of the big old mansion in which Mrs. Field lived.

Q. What happened with Lamb gazing upon the marble busts of twelve Caesars?

Ans: While gazing upon the marble busts of the twelve Caesars, Lamb got so much absorbed in the busts that he became one with them. The marble busts seemed to come alive again or Lamb seemed to be turning into marble with them.

Q. What happened with Lamb when he spent his time in the orangery?

Ans: Lamb liked much to pass his time basking in the orangery. While doing so, he got so much absorbed that he fancied that he was also ripening with the oranges or the limes there in the warmth of the sun shine.

Q. What are referred to as the "common baits of children."?

Ans: The delicious fruits like the nectarines, peaches and oranges growing in the garden of the big house Mrs. Field lived in are referred to by Lamb as the common "baits of children".

Q. Who is referred to by Lamb as "a king to the rest of us" and why?

Ans: As he was the most handsome and the most spirited youth among them, John Lamb, Charle's elder brother, has been referred to as "a king to the rest of us".

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Q. "I missed his kindness, and I missed his crossness" -Whose kindness and crossness did the speaker miss and how?

Ans: Lamb missed the kindness and the crossness of his loving elder brother, John. when the latter died of cancer.

Q. How did the death of John Lamb affect Charles Lamb?

Ans: Charles Lamb at first bore the death of his elder brother, John. patiently, but afterwards it seemed to be an irreparable loss. His death haunted Lamb all through his life.

Q. 'Was Lamb a victim to the "common baits of children"?

Ans: Lamb, unlike most of the children who loved to pluck and eat the delicious fruits from the trees within their reach. loved to pass his time looking at and enjoying the beauty of the fruits in the garden.

Q.Briefly explain the title of the essay Dream children

Or

Write the summary of this essay

Or

Describe the main idea of this essay

Or

write the central theme of this essay

This essay is about a dream. In this essay all characters are real except the children Alice and John. From the title we can guess that it's a dream and reverie, i.e., a day dream. Alice and John are children of James Elia (Charles Lamb). They ask their father, James Elia, to tell them about their grandmother. Grandmother's name is Field who has been acquainted to us by Lamb as a perfect woman with great qualities. Incidents are real from the life of Lamb. There is a story related to the house where grandmother Mrs Field was a keeper. It was about the murder of children by their cruel uncle. Alice and John came to know this story through a carved writing on a tree which was later brought down by a rich man. After the death of grandmother, house owner took away her belongings and placed them in his new house where they looked awkward. When grandmother was alive she used to sleep alone but Elia was afraid of the souls of infants murdered by uncle as it was thought that house was haunted by the spirits of those children. Elia had a brother John full of enthusiasm and zeal, who was loved by everyone specially by them grandmother on the other hand Elia's childhood was full of isolation and he remained stagnant throughout his life. His mind was working fast but bodily or physically he was totally off and lazy. He was lame and helped by John in every possible way who used to carry him in his back. Unfortunately, John also became lame but Elia never helped him and after his death he realized missing him. At the end of the essay, Alice and John are crying after hearing all this. Elia is looking his wife, whose name also Alia, in Alices face. The children start to become faint and say to Elia or Lamb that we are not your real children and Alice is not your wife and our mother. Lamb wakes up and finds himself in armed chair and James Elia was vanished. The whole story is based on life of Lamb, he was never able to get married and childless died. He is also regretting and remembering moments like, about his brother, about grandmother, his childhood etc. So, whole of essay is full of melancholy and sad tone of Lamb's life. (One should better study about Lamb's short biography in order to understand his essays). A Stylistic Analysis on Lamb's Dream Children Charles Lamb was a famous English prose-writer and the best representative of the new form of English literature early in the nineteenth century. He did not adhere to the old rules and classic models but made the informal essay a pliable vehicle for expressing the writer's own personality, thus bringing into English literature the personal or familiar essay. The style of Lamb is gentle, old-fashioned and irresistibly attractive, for which I

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can think of no better illustration than Dream Children: A Reverie. From the stylistic analysis of this essay we can find Lamb's characteristic way of expression. Dream Children records the pathetic joys in the author's unfortunate domestic life. We can see in this essay, primarily, a supreme expression of the increasing loneliness of his life. He constructed all that preliminary tableau of paternal pleasure in order to bring home to us in the most poignant way his feeling of the solitude of his existence, his sense of all that he had missed and lost in the world. The key to the essay is one of profound sadness. But he makes his sadness beautiful; or, rather, he shows the beauty that resides in sadness. There are remarkable writing techniques to achieve such an effect.

UNIT V: Fiction

1. Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe*

2. R. K. Narayan: *The Guide*

Robinson Crusoe

Q. What does Crusoe's father mean by the "middle state"?

The term "middle state," when used by Crusoe's father in the beginning of the novel, can most closely be read to mean "middle class." Mr. Crusoe is telling his son the benefits of being neither rich nor poor. To Mr. Crusoe, the middle class has less to worry about than others of the superior or inferior classes. Middle-class individuals don't have to worry about making a living or finding an income, nor do they feel pressure about their growing greed or dissatisfaction with the life they life. To Mr. Crusoe, "middle state" is a term that conveys comfort and reliability.

Q Why does Crusoe take Xury with him on his escape but not the Moor?

The differences between Xury and the Moor are multiple, and these differences contribute to Xury's superior desirability as a fellow escapee. Xury, for starters, is a boy, whereas the Moor is an adult. Because the Moor has spent a longer period of his life as a slave, Crusoe feels he may show too much loyalty to his master and prohibit Crusoe from escaping. Xury, on the other hand, is too young to have developed such loyalty. Xury's youth also lends his character to a more subordinate nature. Furthermore, Xury is physically much weaker than the Moor, and possesses a smaller likelihood of physically preventing Crusoe's escape.

Q.Why did Crusoe reject his father's advice to become a lawyer?

Crusoe exhibits a grander sense of adventure and rebelliousness than the rest of his family. Mr. Crusoe advises his son into law for the stability it offers, and also because Crusoe's brother was killed when he set off on an adventure to join the military. Crusoe's stubbornness and rebellious nature prompts him to reject this advice. This decision may also be influenced by the fact that Crusoe is the youngest child, and therefore has and will receive the least inheritance. This predicament causes Crusoe to feel resentment toward his family.

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Q.What does Crusoe's hallucination on the island mean?

After much time on the island, Crusoe eventually suffers a hallucination in which an angelic figure comes down from the sky and admonishes Crusoe for his actions and separation from God. This hallucination comes after Crusoe's sense of time has become so muddled he can no longer keep track of the Sabbath. To Crusoe, this hallucination is proof that his shipwreck was God's punishment for Crusoe's poor behaviour. The hallucination influences Crusoe to read more scripture and repent for his sins. The hallucination's stand-in as a warning and promotion for the importance of repentance is supported by the fact that once Crusoe begins to repent and repair his relationship with God, his circumstances on the island and his overall outlook on life improve.

Q. Does Crusoe see Friday as an equal on the island?

After rescuing Friday from the cannibals, Crusoe establishes a relationship with Friday that is anything but equal. By this point, Crusoe has already adopted the attitude of king of the island. Additionally, Crusoe's sense of heroism for saving Friday causes him to feel entitled to ownership of the man. This attitude is exhibited by the fact that, when teaching Friday English, Crusoe teaches him the word "master" before more useful words like "yes" and "no." Crusoe continues to expect Friday to do his bidding, including menial labour, during the rest of their time on the island. While it is true that Crusoe has an emotional connection to Friday and admits to loving him, it is clear that Crusoe does not see Friday as an equal.

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Q. What is the moral of Robinson Crusoe?

The moral of the story of Robinson Crusoe is that a person can succeed against all odds with the right combination of hard work, planning, thrift, resourcefulness, and religious faith.

Q. Discuss the relationship between Man Friday and Robinson Crusoe in the novel Robinson Crusoe.

The relationship between Man Friday and Robinson Crusoe in "Robinson Crusoe" is multifaceted, imbued with elements of master-slave dynamics and father-son intimacy. Crusoe, exerting superiority, names Friday, a common practice of masters in Defoe's era. However, Friday's servitude is seemingly rooted in gratitude, after being saved by Crusoe. Despite this, Crusoe regards Friday more as a loyal servant than an equal, often disregarding his ideas and contributions. The relationship thus oscillates between authoritarian and paternalistic tones.

Q. What happens at the end of Robinson Crusoe?

At the end of Robinson Crusoe, Crusoe and Friday are saved. They sail back to Europe on an English ship. Crusoe discovers that his investments have made him wealthy. He marries, has three children, and, after his wife dies, sets out on more traveling adventures.

Q. Robinson Crusoe's life, survival methods, and mindset on the island

Robinson Crusoe's life on the island involves significant changes in his survival methods and mindset. Initially overwhelmed, he quickly adapts by salvaging supplies, building shelter, and evolving from hunter-gatherer to agricultural producer. His solitary existence leads to a religious awakening, attributing his survival to Divine

Intervention. He becomes evangelical, converting Friday. However, after leaving the island, his piety wanes, reflecting a pragmatic repentance influenced by his circumstances.

Q.What impacts does nature have on Robinson Crusoe?

In the novel, "Robinson Crusoe", nature serves as both a controller and a teacher to Crusoe. Despite his attempts to dominate it, Crusoe is often at the mercy of nature's power, as shown in the storm that strands him on the island. However, nature also provides him with resources for survival and teaches him humility and acceptance of his limitations. Crusoe's journey of self-discovery is largely through his interaction with nature, leading him to a deeper understanding of his existence and the true meaning of survival.

Q.What narrative techniques are used in Robinson Crusoe?

The narrative techniques in Robinson Crusoe include realistic fiction, autobiography, and spiritual autobiography. Crusoe narrates from his point of view, sharing biographical details and inner emotions, making him somewhat unreliable. The novel also follows the spiritual autobiography tradition, detailing Crusoe's conversion to Christianity. Additionally, Defoe employs realistic sea story elements and epistolary techniques, using Crusoe's diary to present an immediate and authentic experience.

Q. What are the main symbols in Robinson Crusoe?

Some of the primary symbols in Robinson Crusoe are money, the sea, the cross, the footprint, and the bower.

Q. Discuss the portrayal of racism in Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe.

Racism was so engrained in the society of the early eighteenth century that most of the racist attitudes in Robinson Crusoe are quite unconscious. Crusoe engages in the slave trade, which he regards as a matter of course, and assumes that he is "king" of the island on which he is stranded. When he encounters Friday, he immediately assumes that their relations will be those of master and servant.

Q. Briefly explain the title of the fiction Robinson Crusoe

Or

Write the summary of this fiction

Or

Describe the main idea of this fiction

Or

write the central theme of this fiction

Robinson Crusoe follows its titular protagonist on his journey toward self-realization, religious acceptance, and physical survival. What Crusoe wants most changes over the course of the story; his initial desire is formed by his adventurous nature and fraught relationship with his family. As the youngest of three children, Crusoe harbours

resentment for the lesser inheritance and lack of favouritism he receives. This resentment, as well as Crusoe's natural rebelliousness, drives him to the novel's inciting incident, in which he instead sets out to sea.

Following the inciting incident, Crusoe experiences many changing landscapes and obstacles which make up the novel's rising action. From his hometown, Crusoe sets off on a financially lucrative merchant trip to London, providing a temporary sense of hope that his decision to seek adventure may pay off. From London, however, Crusoe sets out to sea again and is captured and enslaved by North African pirates. Crusoe's enslavement is the first in a series of misfortunes that will motivate his future guilt and repentance. After escaping slavery, Crusoe experiences a brief respite from disaster as he meets a Portuguese captain who takes Crusoe to Brazil where he establishes a successful tobacco plantation. Influenced by his newfound success, Crusoe's greed motivates his decision to set sail again in hopes of procuring a number of slaves.

While on his way to buy the slaves, Crusoe's ship is destroyed in a storm. Crusoe is the only survivor of the wreckage, as both the crew and the ship were carried away into the ocean. Crusoe finds himself stranded ashore on an unknown island. This serves as a turning point for Crusoe's desires. Whereas his initial desire was to establish his independence from his family, Crusoe is now confronted with the consequences of his actions and his actions are fuelled by dual motivations. On the one hand, Crusoe must reconcile his rebellious selfishness and decide whether his misfortunes are cosmic or religious punishments for his roguish behaviour. On the other hand, Crusoe is now driven by the need to survive and return home. Each element of conflict in the novel follows one of three major literary conflicts that include Man versus Nature, Man versus Man, and Man versus God.

The narration explores Crusoe's physical motivations and desires through his interactions and clashes with the natural world of the island and other humans. Much of the novel explores Crusoe's growth as a survivalist. Crusoe finds the most success in his ability to conquer the natural world around him. From resource gathering and animal husbandry to the building of shelter and boats, Crusoe thoroughly acclimates to island life over his multi-decade stay. His desire for survival is largely fulfilled as Crusoe uses barley to make bread, domesticates island animals such as goats and parrots, and even builds a canoe. The only moments where it seems as if nature may threaten Crusoe's survival are during disasters like the earthquake and hurricane. Crusoe, however, escapes these misfortunes largely unscathed.

Unlike Crusoe's encounters with nature, his encounters with other humans are much more complex. Through evidence such as footprints, bones, and eventual sightings, Crusoe comes to learn of the presence of cannibalistic humans on or near the island. While the presence of the cannibals certainly puts Crusoe's life in danger, it also brings companionship. Characters such as the Spaniard and Friday, who originally are captives of the cannibals, come to devote their lives to Crusoe as subordinates after Crusoe saves them from their captors.

While Crusoe develops into a survivalist on his quest to ensure his health and safety, he also embarks on an emotional and religious journey towards reconciliation for his past. From the moment he lands on the island, Crusoe begins to struggle with religious guilt for his past decisions. The root of his guilt lies in the combination of his rebelliousness towards his family and the greed he exhibited once he left home. Spurred by a hallucination in which Crusoe is visited by an angelic figure who suggests his predicament is punishment for his ill deeds, Crusoe begins a quest to repent and grow closer to God. This quest motivates Crusoe to repent through prayer, read more scripture, and act charitably to other characters like Friday and the Spaniard.

The novel's conflict culminates in a climactic turning point as Crusoe finds himself rescued by an English ship. After nearly thirty years on the island, Crusoe returns home to find misfortune in the deaths of nearly his whole family. Although Crusoe feels he adequately repented for his actions, the consequences of his rebellion led to him losing his family while away, and gone with them is any opportunity to ask them for forgiveness. Despite his grief and his scarring experiences, the novel ends with Crusoe getting married and returning to Brazil to find his tobacco plantation brimming with success.

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The Learning App

Robinson Crusoe

by

1) When Crusoe eats eggs on the island, from what animal do they come?
⇒ Turtle.

2) What is the Robinson Crusoe's place in his family?
⇒ Youngest son.

3) Crusoe name his servant Friday in honour of what?
⇒ The day on which the native's life was saved.

4) In what Century is Robinson Crusoe set?
⇒ Seventeenth.

5) Where do Crusoe serve as a slave?
⇒ North Africa.

6) To what does the name Xury refer?
⇒ The name of a slave boy.

7) How does Crusoe first grow grain on the island?
⇒ He throws seeds by accident when he discards cornhusks.

8) To what does the name Poll refer?
⇒ A Pet bird.

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9) Of what nationality are the mutineers on the ship that arrives?
⇒ English.
10) What does Crusoe do after drinking a rum and tobacco mixture?
⇒ Experiences a religious illumination.
11) Why is Friday excited when he sees the Cannibals' captive in the boat?
⇒ The Captive is Friday's father.
12) Crusoe is frightened in a cave when he sees whose eyes?
⇒ A goat's.
13) Why does Crusoe's first attempt at making a canoe fail?
⇒ The canoe is too heavy.
14) What livestock makes up Robinson's meat supply on the island?
⇒ Goats.
15) To what does the name Benamucker refer?
⇒ Friday's god.
16) Crusoe's father wishes his son to go into which profession?
⇒ Law.
17) How does Crusoe impress the natives on the African coast?
⇒ Killing a leopard.

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18) The cross that Crusoe erects on the island serves as what?

⇒ A calendar.

19) When Crusoe departs on his second trading voyage, with whom does he leaves some of his money?

⇒ A widow friend.

20) To what does the name Salee refer?

⇒ A north African territory.

21) In Europe, Crusoe encounters travelers wolves in which country?

⇒ Spain.

22) Which type of fruit does Cruson learn how to dry?

⇒ Grapes.

23) Two years after discovering the footprint with what does Crusoe find the shore strewn

⇒ Human body parts!

24) After returning to England, what does ~~Cru~~ Crusoe find out about his family?

⇒ They are dead except for two sisters.

25) Why doesn't Crusoe take his wife back to the island.

⇒ Because she dies.

The guide

Q. Is Raju a transformed man by the end of the novel?

Raju seems to be a transformed man at the very end of the novel due to the imagery of water as purification. The author keeps the novel open-ended, though, as the readers can freely interpret what actually happened as Raju felt that the rain was coming and sagged down. He could have died right there and it could have rained, or he could have lived and it could have never rained, or there are a few more possibilities in between. Raju may have died as the hypocrite he always was and the message may be how some imposters fool people in the name of religion; or, Raju may have lived and the rain could stand for the purification of his soul.

Q. Is Velan a mere fool or a major accessory to Raju's transformation?

Velan seems like a fool throughout the novel being largely manipulated by Raju. But in the last section of the novel, Velan's reaction to Raju's early life story full of dishonesty and hypocrisy might have spurred the real upheaval of morality in Raju. He trusted Velan with his past life's secrets even with the risk of blowing his cover, which makes Velan a very close friend of Raju. He was only pretending to be fasting for a few days but Velan's sincere faith in Raju may have encouraged him to be sincere about something in his life for once, thus forgetting his own interest. This self-realization must have played a huge part in Raju's salvation (if he was saved). Different interpretations of the ending may present Velan in different lights: had Raju been saved, Velan was the key but had Raju somehow lied his way out of it, Velan was a fool.

CAREER STUDY
The Learning App

Q.What does Rosie's fate say about her as a character?

Rosie ends up successful, on her own, and continuing to flourish. As Mani tells Raju, "She had settled down at Madras and was looking after herself quite well... What a huge crowd had gathered to see her off" (182). Rosie doesn't need Marco and she doesn't need Raju. She did everything above board by paying off Raju and her debts, and set Raju adrift. She knows that she does not need a man, especially one who does not value her or treat her well. Her fame is her own to manage now; she can perform as often or as little as she wants. She can hobnob with whomever she pleases without being treated like property. Rosie is a mid-century feminist example in that respect, for she is true to herself, sloughs off the irrelevant men around her, and makes her own life. Her natural effervescence and energy can now express themselves without fetters.

Q. Is Narayan saying there are really divine/paranormal forces at work?

Like many aspects of Narayan's novel, there are some ambiguities and questions to be answered. One of them is whether or not Narayan is actually saying that Raju is a holy man who has the power to influence divine forces to send rain. Narayan seems to be straddling both sides of the fence: this is a Hindu fable, but also a novel about modernity. Critic John Thieme posits, "Thus as a Hindu fable The Guide is inscrutably enigmatic, but it does allow for the possibility that paranormal forces. allied with ancient beliefs, could be efficacious in averting an ecological disaster; and it also works within the conventions of social realism." We do not know if Raju attains the status of holy

man but it is possible. We do not know if God listens to him, but it is possible. Narayan allows for the principles of dharma and karma to ring true, but in the context of modernity.

Q. What roles do dharma and karma play in the text?

Dharma is the totality of what a person is capable of, talented at, and limited by; it is not, though, enough to dictate how an individual lives and does not negate individual responsibility. There is karma, which is the law of causation in the physical and moral realm. As critic David Atkinson writes, "with the concepts of dharma and karma in mind, Narayan stresses how each individual stresses how each individual, limited by inherent capabilities but gifted with freedom of choice, determines his/her own actions and thus who he/she is." Though no one in the novel ends up totally free from carnal and material desires, there is a sense of transformation in both Rosie and Raju. Rosie decides to cut loose those who hold her back; Raju finally stops begin selfish and may attain sainthood at the end.

Q.What is a character sketch of Rosie in The Guide?

Rosie, in "The Guide," is a character who struggles between traditional norms and the desire for freedom. Originating from a family of Devadasis, she combats her stigmatized identity through education and marriage to Marco. Despite attempts to conform to a patriarchal marital life, she embarks on an affair with Raju, reflecting her internal conflict. Rosie defies cultural norms by living with Raju, a relationship that ultimately fails due to his exploitative nature. This leads her to discover her self-reliance and the importance of her craft.

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Q.What portrayal of contemporary society is found in Narayan's The Guide?

In "The Guide," Narayan portrays contemporary Indian society as torn between materialism and spirituality, reflecting post-independence changes and the impact of tourism. Through characters like Rosie and Raju, Narayan explores the commercialization of traditional arts and the conflict between financial success and spiritual values. Ultimately, the narrative suggests the potential for personal and societal transformation through the pursuit of higher, spiritual goals.

Q. Compare and contrast the characters Rosie and Nalini in The Guide.

Rosie and Nalini refer to the same person, but they express different sides of her character. As Rosie, this woman is caught up in a world of oppression as her husband, Marco, prevents her from dancing and as Raju cheats and deceives her. As Nalini, however, she finds freedom and true expression in dance.

Q. What is Raju's life like as a convict in The Guide?

As a convict in The Guide, Raju adapts well to prison life, gaining the favor and support of fellow inmates. Despite being sentenced for forgery, his chameleon-like nature allows him to blend in and thrive, which eventually contributes to his spiritual breakthrough at the novel's climax.

Q.Who is the best character in R.K. Narayan's The Guide?

The best character in R.K. Narayan's The Guide is Rosie. Despite her flaws, including infidelity and lack of commitment, she stands out as an empowered and educated female who actively pursues her dreams. She is a traditional temple dancer with a master's degree in economics, and she prioritizes her passion for dancing over wealth, which she eventually attains as a bonus.

Q. Briefly explain the title of the fiction The Guide.

Or

Write the summary of this fiction

Or

Describe the main idea of this fiction

Or

write the central theme of this fiction

The central theme of the novel 'The Guide' is the transformation of Raju from a tourist guide to the spiritual guide. The novels two stories — one in which Raju's life of tourist guide and his relationship with Iodise is described, pan presents his relation with villagers as a holy person. Both the stories move side by side. The novelist tries to present a character who transforms fIDITl a sinner to a saint. The novel begins with Raju sitting beside the temple and meeting the villager named, Velan, who ITlistakes him for a holy man. Later he tells him about his past life as a guide, as a lover of Rosie, and as a prisoner or culprit. Apart from the central theme of nans formation, the novel also points out the feminine sensibility of Rosie who controls her inner desire of dancing like cobra. But after the encouragement of Raju, she resumes her career as a dancer and becomes an interpreter of Bharat Natya, the classic dance of India. The

novel also focuses upon the theme of marital relationship through the relationship between Marco and Rosie. Marco and Rosie are husband and wise but their nature is pole apart. Marco one the one side likes to busy himself in smdy of books and ancient monuments, cave paintings etc, whereas Rosie, his wife is interested in dancing. They always quarrel with each other. At last, they begin to live separately. Marco abandons Rosie in Malgudi and remans too Madras. R.K.Narayan also presents the theme of faithfulness versus betray in the novel. Ressie is not loyal with her husband, Marco. Raju betrays Rosie by forging her signature for a package of her jewels and for which he earns a two years prison award. Lerer, he betrays villagers with his spiritual lacks and becomes a saint of thar he may get food easily.

Thus, R.K.Narayan has presented different themes in his novel 'The Guide'. He presents the realistic image of the society.

Q. Write the Character sketch of Raju.

Raju, who is also known as the passive character, is one of the most memorable characters ever been presented by R.K.Narayan. R.K.Narayan is one of the leading figures in Indo-Anglican fiction. In the novel 'The Guide' he has presented Raju as 1he central figure. In the words of Paul Vergheese "He is one of 1he most Complex characters of Narayan. In him we find the craftiness, dishonesty and credulity of Margayya, the flashy bombast of Mr. Sampath, the adventurousness of Mali in 'The Vendor of Sweets', the romantic excess of Sriram in 'Waiting for the Mahauna' and the mystical learning of Chandran in 'The Bachelor of Arts' and Srinivas in 'Mr. Sampath'."

His Early? fe : Raju was borned and brought up in a lower middle class family, in a neglected corner of Malgudi. His father was a small shop keeper. Raju as a child saw Malgudi station taking shape. He enjoyed moving with railway workers and was removed from the school from learning their foul language. His father admired Raju to another school where the teacher was extremely poor, abusive and toured by his wife; that was not a school in any case. After the death of his father Raju had to sit at his father's new shop. So, his education had been irregular and desultory. All his knowledge had come from life and from scraps and newspaper and magazines and old books which were brought him for sale.

As a Guide: From a stall keeper, Raju gradually drilted into playing the role of a tourist guide. As a guide, he was very successful. In Malgudi area, Raju was the most popular guide and known as Railway Raju. He knew his customers by their faces, shows them places.

Q. Write the Character Sketch of Rosie.

Rosie, who is also known as 'Nalini' and 'the snake woman', is one of the most favourite characters in the character gallery of R.K.Narayan. She is the central female character of the novel "The Guide". R.K.Narayan, Dne of the greatest Angled-Indian writers, has porYayed her in such a Complex manner who leaves her husband and makes relation with another person, Raju, only to fulfil her desire but on the other hand she keeps a place in her heart for the love of her husband.

Rosie first appears in the novel at Malgudi Railway station where she has Cmdr. with her husband, Marco, from Madras. She is such a charming woman thar Raju, the Guide lost his sense. In the words of Raju — "The moment she got down from the train I wished I had hidden myself somewhere. She was not very glamorous, if thar is what you expect, but she did have a figure, a slight and slender one, beautifully fashioned, eyes that sparkled, a complexion, nor white but dusky, which made her only half visible as if you saw hr through a film of tender coconut juice."

Rosie is the daughter of a devadasi. Her community did not enjoy stems in society although dedicated to temple gods. They were public women; it was always difficult for a devadasi to get a husband of some standing position. She marries Marco not Dut of love but Dut so reverence of his social and intellectual stems. Marco marries her only on this condition that She will leave dance forever.

Love for dancing: Rosie is ford of dancing. Dancing is in her blood and spirit. She loves dancing more than her husband, more than Raju and more than any other thing in her life.

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