

## Unit 1. Two Gentlemen of Verona

### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

5. What do you understand by the following statements?

(a) “We do many things, sir.” Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully.

**Ans.** Nicola’s statement suggests he was hopeful of getting some work from the writer. It reflects his eagerness to work and earn money for his sister.

(b) He coloured deeply under his sunburn, then grew pale.

**Ans.** When the writer asked him where he spent his money, Nicola grew red with embarrassment and then grew pale. He felt awkward at the direct question. Though he wanted to hide the real reason, his guileless self could not lie blatantly.

(c) He smiled uncomfortably, “Just plans, sir,” he answered in a low voice.

**Ans.** Nicola was unwilling to reveal what he planned to do with his money. He didn’t trust the writer as he was a stranger.

(d) Yet in both these boyish faces there was a seriousness which was far beyond their years.

**Ans.** Both the boys were quite mature despite their young age. The rough and tumble of life had left its mark on their tender minds.

6. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Why didn’t Luigi, the driver, approve of the two boys?

**Ans.** Luigi judged the boys on the basis of their appearance. They wore shabby, torn clothes and looked unkempt. He showed his disapproval and cautioned the writer. He felt that such children fleeced the tourists and hence should not be entertained.

(b) Why were the narrator and his companion impressed by the two boys?

**Ans.** Though the boys were dressed in shabby clothes, they looked earnest and vulnerable. Their brown skin, tangled hair and dark eyes appealed to the narrator and his companion. Their appearance instead of deterring the narrator, made him want to help them.

(c) Why was the author surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoeshine boys?

**Ans.** The author had bought fruits from Nicola and Jacopo the previous day. He thought that they picked fruits and sold them to tourists. However, the next morning he saw them beside the fountain in the public square where they were busy shining shoes. It was unexpected and thus it surprised him.

(d) How were the boys useful to the author?

**Ans.** The boys were eager to do any type of work. They acted as guides for the author and his companion and showed them the various places of interest in the city. They also knew where the author could get a packet of American cigarettes and also suggested some good restaurants. They helped him in procuring seats for the opera. They offered their local knowledge of the area and thus proved extremely beneficial to the author.

(e) Why were the boys in the deserted square at night? What character traits do they exhibit?

**Ans.** The boys were sitting in the deserted square waiting for the last bus from Padua and were hoping to sell all the unsold newspapers. They exhibited exemplary dedication, patience and willingness to work hard. The boys did not complain about their misfortune to anyone. They suffered hardships but made the best of the situation.

(f) The narrator asks the boys, “Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired.” The boys reply, “We are not complaining, sir” What do you learn about the boys from their reply?

**Ans.** The conversation reveals that the boys were reticent and unwilling to share their misfortune with the narrator. They do not grudge the fact that they have to work so hard to pay for their sister’s treatment. It speaks volumes for their commitment to the cause and devotion towards their sister who was suffering from tuberculosis.

(g) When the narrator asks the boys about their plans, they are evasive. Why don’t they disclose their problems?

**Ans.** The boys were hesitant and evasive, when the author asked them about their plans or rather about their problems. This might have been so because firstly, they did not want a stranger to become involved in their plans, but most importantly they wanted to maintain their dignity and did not want to ask anyone for favours.

7. Discuss the following questions and write the answers in your notebook.

(a) Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys.

**Ans.** The two boys were young and vulnerable. Their clothes were shabby and the driver Luigi did not trust them. They worked hard night and day, possibly earned quite a bit but never spent on clothes or good food. The author’s questions met with evasive answers. He had thought that they were saving to emigrate to America but realized later that he was wrong; he was deceived by their appearance. Behind their shabby exterior, they were two of the finest gentlemen of Verona. The boys worked hard to pay for their sister Lucia’s medical expenses. They were loyal, loving and dedicated. Their selfless love and humane behaviour taught the author that we can’t always judge a book by its cover.

(b) Do you think the boys looked after Lucia willingly? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** Yes, the boys looked after Lucia willingly. They had always known a comfortable and cultured life but later faced severe adverse circumstances. They suffered from near starvation and exposure to the extreme cold weather but that did not deter them from doing their duty. It in no way dampened their spirit. Their sister was suffering from tuberculosis and they got her admitted to a hospital. They laboured hard, day and night, without a word of complaint, to pay for her medical care. They never spent money on themselves. They were selfless and caring. Their dignity prevented them from asking help from others. They displayed rare courage, love and dedication towards their sister Lucia.

(c) How does the story ‘Two Gentlemen of Verona’ promise hope for society?

**Ans.** The story upholds the virtue and value of love and family. Nicola and Jacopo are young yet they display a maturity far beyond their years. Their diligence and selfless love is a lesson for all to imbibe. It promises hope for the society as it brings to the fore a unique

bond between three siblings. The two young brothers work day and night to pay the medical expenses of their sister. They do so without any complaints or regret.

They do not cry about their comfortable past. Rather they bravely face the adverse circumstances of the present. They are cheerful and work hard to make a better future.

Their attitude towards life and family makes them stand out in a society that is turning increasingly selfish and intolerant. It reaffirms our faith in the goodness of human spirit.



## Unit 2. Mrs. Packletide's Tiger

### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

4. Answer the following questions in your own words:

(a) Why did Mrs. Packletide wish to kill a tiger?

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide was a jealous and competitive kind of a lady. Her life and decisions were governed by the dislike she felt for Loona Bimberton. Loona Bimberton had been carried eleven miles in an aeroplane by an Algerian aviator and she was basking in the glory of this achievement. To outdo her and to be the centre of attention, Mrs. Packletide wished to kill a tiger.

(b) What made her decide to give a party in Loona Bimberton's honour? What did she intend to give Loona on her birthday?

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide's decision to give a party in Loona Bimberton's honour was a well thought out plan. To make sure that Loona would not skip the party she gave it in Loona's honour. She was determined to make the conversation (at the party) revolve around her tiger hunt, thereby making Loona Bimberton jealous.

She intended to gift a Tiger-claw brooch to Loona Bimberton on her next birthday.

(c) How was the tiger shooting arranged? What kind of a tiger was chosen for the purpose?

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide offered a thousand rupees to the people of a neighbouring village, for the opportunity of shooting a tiger without much risk or exertion. An old sickly tiger which hunted small domestic animals and could not run fast to save his life was chosen for the purpose.

(d) In what way did the villagers help Mrs. Packletide shoot the tiger?

**Ans.** The villagers played a central role in the hunting expedition. The prospect of earning a thousand rupees had stimulated the sporting and commercial instinct of the villagers. Children were posted on the outskirts of the local jungle to head the tiger back in case it attempted to roam away from the neighbourhood in search of fresh hunting grounds. They left about cheaper kind of goats, with elaborate carelessness, for the tiger to prey on. Even the women carrying their babies home through the jungle after the day's work in the fields stopped singing to their babies for the fear of disturbing the tiger's sleep. The villagers did everything in their power to make the hunt a success.

(e) Who was Miss Mebbin? Was she really devoted to Mrs. Packletide? How did she behave during the tiger shooting?

**Ans.** Miss Mebbin was Mrs. Packletide's paid companion. She was devoted to no one but herself. She didn't want to perform any extra service other than what she was getting paid for. She was miserly and a materialistic kind of woman who took advantage of people's circumstances. During the tiger hunt she was quite composed and urged Mrs. Packletide to shoot the tiger before it touched the goat so that the money of the bait could be saved. She was more concerned about reducing the expenses rather than enjoying the adventure.

- (f) Mrs. Packletide was a good shot. Discuss.
- Ans.** Mrs. Packletide was not a good shot. During the hunt she shot at the tiger but the bullet hit the goat instead. The old tiger, in fact, died of heart failure caused by the sudden report of the rifle. Her shooting powers left a lot to be desired.
- (g) What comment did Miss Mebbin make after Mrs. Packletide had fired the shot? Why did Miss Mebbin make this comment? How did Mrs Packletide react to this comment?
- Ans.** Miss Mebbin was the first to realize that the bullet had killed the goat instead of the tiger. She drew everyone's attention to this fact. She perhaps realized that she could take advantage of the situation and make some extra money out of it.
- Mrs. Packletide was annoyed at her comment as it threatened to ruin her dream of out doing Loona Bimberton.
- (h) How did the villagers react to the tiger's death?
- Ans.** The villagers were excited and gathered at the scene shouting in joy and sent the message across by thumping their tom-toms. The temptation of the thousand rupees made them overlook Miss Mebbin's insinuations and in a chorus of triumph accepted the killing of the tiger by Mrs. Packletide.
- (i) Do you think Mrs. Packletide was able to achieve her heart's desire? Give reasons for your answer.
- Ans.** Mrs. Packletide was able to achieve her heart's desire. Her dream of hunting a tiger came true. Although she didn't kill the tiger, she became a possessor of a dead tiger and was successful in convincing the villagers to go along with her story. Her pictures appeared in the *Texas Weekly Snapshot*, the illustrated Monday supplement of the *Novoe Vremya* and other news papers. It irked Loona Bimberton to the extent that she refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks. She also declined the luncheon party and above all her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger claw brooch was a model of repressed emotions. Mrs. Packletide was successful in making Loona Bimberton envious of her achievement.
- (j) How did Miss Mebbin manage to get her week-end cottage? Why did she plant so many tiger lilies in her garden?
- Ans.** Miss Mebbin was a shrewd and calculating woman. She waited till the party was over and Mrs. Packletide got wide publicity. Thereafter she subtly blackmailed her. She alluded that Loona Bimberton would not only believe but shall be immensely happy to learn the truth about how the tiger was killed. She got her week-end cottage by not giving away Mrs. Packletide's secret.
- Miss Mebbin planted the tiger lilies in her garden, probably as a special reminder of the incident, her participation in big game hunting, that led to her acquiring the cottage.
- (k) "The incidental expenses are so heavy." she confides to inquiring friends. Who is the speaker? What is she referring to here?
- Ans.** The speaker is Mrs. Packletide. She is referring to the money she had to pay Miss Mebbin to keep her mouth shut about the hunting expedition. Miss Mebbin had blackmailed her to pay for her week-end cottage.

5. Discuss the following questions in detail and write the answers in your notebooks:

(a) Do you think the tiger shooting organized by the villagers was a serious affair? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** The villagers indeed took it seriously. Yet their efforts to make the shooting a success evokes laughter. Beginning with the intentions of Mrs. Packletide to the humorous ending, the entire episode acquires a comic overtone.

For example, the villagers posted children on the outskirts of the local jungle to prevent the tiger from roaming away from the neighbourhood. The very idea of children keeping an eye on a tiger in itself is quite absurd and funny. Moreover, the villagers left the cheaper kind of goats as easy prey for the tiger to keep him interned in the vicinity of the village. They were extremely careful, so as not to disturb the tiger, even the mothers hushed their singing to their babies while passing through the jungle. Last but not the least, they were anxious that the tiger should not die of old age before the date of hunting. The humorous/sarcastic tone of the author undercuts the seriousness of the task. Although the villagers were committed to the cause, the entire affair becomes a comedy of sorts and evokes laughter instead of pity, sympathy or any other serious emotions.

(b) Do you think the writer is trying to make fun of the main characters in the story i.e. Mrs. Packletide, Miss Mebbin and Loona Bimberton? Pick out instances from the story that point to this fact.

**Ans.** Yes, the writer makes fun of the three main characters in the story. He uses humor to poke fun at the ladies. Mrs. Packletide is portrayed as a vain and shallow woman whose only purpose in life is to outshine Loona Bimberton. She takes to hunting of a tiger to be the centre of attraction in their society and irk Loona Bimberton. She wants to throw a party where she could boast about her adventure. Her petty concerns are a source of amusement. Loona Bimberton shares Mrs. Packletide's characteristics. Her life too is guided by jealousy and vanity. She refuses to look at the papers where Mrs. Packletide's picture had appeared. She even refuses the invitation to the luncheon party organized by Mrs. Packletide. Her subdued letter of thanks for the tiger claw brooch sent by Mrs. Packletide on her birthday reflects humor and evokes laughter.

The writer makes fun of Miss Mebbin, the paid companion of Mrs. Packletide, by highlighting her stinginess. She has a protective elder sister like attitude towards money. She urges Mrs. Packletide to shoot the tiger before it touches the bait, which would help them save the money that needed to be paid for the bait. She was cunning and materialistic. She blackmails Mrs. Packletide to pay for her weekend cottage and she names it 'Les Fauves' meaning 'The Wild Animals'.

The portrayal of the ladies, laced with sarcasm, satirises them.

(c) A person who is vain is full of self importance and can only think of himself/herself and can go to great lengths to prove his/her superiority. Do you think Mrs Packletide is vain? Give reasons in support of your answer.

**Ans.** Mrs. Packletide is indeed a vain and a competitive lady. Her motivation and her guiding force is the jealousy she feels for Loona Bimberton. She goes to ridiculous lengths to

organize a safe tiger hunt to counter Loona Bimberton's achievements. Even when her plan misfires she poses for photograph like a real hero. She even allows herself to be blackmailed, pays Miss. Mebbin to buy her silence. To prove her superiority and to demean her rival Loona Bimberton, she throws a party where she planned to gloat over her hunting expedition.

Through out the story Mrs. Packletide's motives and actions reveal her vanity. She emerges as an extremely self centred person. She is willing to go to any lengths to create an image that would make Loona Bimberton jealous.

- (d) Sometimes writers highlight certain negative aspects in society or human beings by making fun of it. This is called satire. In your groups discuss whether you would classify this story as a satire. Give reasons to support your answer.

**Ans.** The story 'Mrs. Packletide's Tiger' is a tongue in cheek account of vanity, jealousy and greed. The writer presents a satirical picture of the British upper class society which was pre occupied with money, power and fame. Saki shows the main characters in a poor light. The characters are pretentious, self absorbed and rather unscrupulous. They wish to prove their superiority by hook or by crook. They don't hesitate to manipulate facts to suit their interests. Their genteel language contains thinly veiled insults and their outward politeness masks a scheming self interest. All the characters are superficial. The working middle class, represented by Miss Mebbin, aspire to be rich and are willing to go to any lengths to achieve that. Even the villagers, in spite of knowing the truth hide it for prestige and money.

The story surely is a satire.

- (e) How does the writer create humor in this story?

**Ans.** The writer uses various techniques to create humor in the story. Subtle sarcasm reveals the flaws and shortcomings of the characters.

Saki's style of writing – brings humor to ordinary situations. E.g. 'her sudden deviation towards the footsteps of Nimrod', 'protective elder-sister attitude towards money in general, irrespective of nationality or denomination'.

Adding twist to the tale – Mrs. Packletide kills the goat instead of the tiger.

Use of Oxymoron – elaborate carelessness, pardonably annoyed, disagreeably pleasant laugh, venerable herd robber etc.

An amalgamation of all these makes the story interesting and immensely humorous.

## Unit 3. The Letter (by Dhumaketu)

### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

5. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Who was Ali? Where did he go daily?

**Ans.** Ali was an old coachman who had once been a famous and clever hunter. Miriam, his only child was married to a soldier and had left him to go away with her husband to his regiment in the distant state of Punjab. For the past five years Ali had no news of his daughter. He was anxious to get some news of her. Early in the morning, everyday, he went to the post office to wait for a letter from her.

(b) “Ali displays qualities of love and patience”. Give evidence from the story to support the statement.

**Ans.** The story revolves around Ali’s love for his daughter Miriam. After Miriam had gone away with her husband, Ali missed her immensely. This brought about a drastic change in him. He gave up hunting as after being separated from his daughter he became lonely and came to understand the pain and suffering one has to undergo when someone is separated from their loved ones.

He visited the post office daily to wait for a letter from his beloved daughter Miriam. Despite getting no news from her, he followed the routine for five long years. Unmindful of the bitter cold, his failing health, the jokes and rebukes of the post office employees, he was the first to arrive and the last one to leave the post office displaying “infinite patience” and “boundless faith”.

(c) How do you know Ali was a familiar figure at the post office?

**Ans.** The post office has been referred to as a place of ‘*pilgrimage*’ for Ali, a journey which he undertook daily. The weather notwithstanding, Ali was the first to arrive at the post office early in the morning. He used to occupy a particular seat in a particular corner of the building, waiting to receive a letter from his daughter and was always the last to leave the post office. When people got to know of this habit of his, they laughed at him. The postmen began to make a game of him. They would sometimes call out his name to have fun. They even called him a ‘bit touched’ or mentally unsound.

(d) Why did Ali give up hunting?

**Ans.** Ali gave up hunting since the day his only child, Miriam left him and went away with her husband. He reflected deeply, and realized the value of love and the sorrow caused by separation. He could no longer enjoy the sportsman’s pleasure and laughter at the bewildered terror of the young partridges bereft of their parents.

(e) What impression do you form of the postmaster after reading the story ‘The Letter’?

**Ans.** At first the post master appears to be haughty, arrogant and hot tempered. He dismisses poor Ali as being mad. He had no sympathy for Ali, no understanding of the old father’s anxiety for his daughter’s well being. This was because he had no first-hand or personal experience of sorrow or grief. He got a taste of it when he himself had to spend a sleepless

night, waiting to hear from his ailing daughter. The newly awakened father's heart in him reproached him for ill treating Ali. A transformed postmaster is ready to make amends for his mistake. He decides to handover Miriam's letter to Ali personally. On learning of Ali's demise he accompanies the peon Lakshmi Das to Ali's grave to place the letter there, displaying the compassionate side of his nature.

- (f) The postmaster says to Ali, "What a pest you are, brother!" Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** No, Ali cannot be considered a pest or a nuisance. Though Ali came daily to the post office, he waited patiently without disturbing anyone. Even when the employees of the post office jokingly called his name, the disheartened Ali never rebuked them. He silently went away and sat on his seat not bothering or troubling any one. Ali surely was not a pest. Moreover, being a public servant, it was most unbecoming of the postmaster to call him 'a pest'.

- (g) "Ali came out very slowly, turning after every few steps to gaze at the post office. His eyes were filled with tears of helplessness, for his patience was exhausted, even though he still had faith." Why were Ali's eyes filled with tears of helplessness? What had exhausted his patience but not his faith?

**Ans.** The long, futile wait and the postmaster's rebuke made tears of despair fill Ali's eyes. He felt miserable and lonely in this unfriendly world. He knew that his end was near; he would have to leave the world without a letter from his beloved daughter, Miriam. That exhausted his patience but his hope and faith did not desert him. His love for his daughter gave him the faith that one day she would definitely write a letter to him. He gave the clerk Lakshmi Das five golden guineas and extracted a promise from him to forward Miriam's letter to his grave.

- (h) "Tortured by doubt and remorse, he sat down in the glow of the charcoal sigri to wait." Who is tortured by doubt and remorse? Why? What is he waiting for?

**Ans.** The postmaster is tortured by doubt and remorse. He now realizes a father's anxiety on not hearing about the wellbeing of his daughter. He longs for a letter from her. All sorts of fears and forebodings torture him. He is filled with remorse for being rude and unkind to Ali. He regrets his behaviour that was unbecoming of a father. Moreover, he is still bewildered at the reality of the knock on the door and the tears in Ali's eyes. He sits down to wait for a letter from his daughter who is sick.

## Unit 4. The Frog And The Nightingale

### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions briefly:

(a) How did the creatures of Bingle bog react to the nightingale's singing?

**Ans.** The nightingale's song was beautiful and melodious. The creatures of the Bog were spellbound to hear her sweet and heavenly voice. They cheered and shouted in admiration. They kept on requesting her to sing throughout the night.

(b) Which are the different ways in which the frog asserts his importance?

**Ans.** The frog was a very crafty creature. He introduces himself to the nightingale as the owner of the Sumac tree and a columnist in 'The Bog Trumpet'. He asserts his importance by becoming her critic; he points out some drawbacks in her singing. The self styled critic commented that her song was not that bad, the technique was fine but the song was too long and lacked a certain force. He also offered to train her so that she could sing even more beautifully.

(c) Why is the frog's joy both sweet and bitter?

**Ans.** A large number of creatures came to hear the nightingale's song. The frog charged admission fee from each of them and made a lot of money. This made him extremely happy. On the other hand, he could not bear the increasing popularity of the nightingale. He was jealous as his song had never elicited such response. Moreover, it was a threat to his supremacy in the Bingle Bog. Therefore, the frog's joy was both sweet and bitter.

(d) Why was the frog angry?

**Ans.** Continuous and rigorous training under the wily frog's guidance made the nightingale's song tired and mechanical. She started losing her charming and melodious voice and the crowd that usually thronged to her concerts stopped coming. This made the already jealous frog angry because with the fall in the number of the audience, his income also fell.

(e) How did the frog become the unrivalled king of the bog again?

**Ans.** The tired and nervous nightingale, to escape the wrath of the frog, tried so hard that she burst a vein and eventually died. Consequently, the frog became the unrivalled king of the bog once again.

11. Discuss the following questions and write the answers in your note-books.

(a) Bring out the irony in the frog's statement – 'Your song must be your own'.

*[Irony is a mode of speech in which the real meaning is exactly the opposite of that which is literally conveyed.]*

**Ans.** This statement is made by the frog after he is successful in eliminating the nightingale from his path. It is ironical indeed. In the beginning, when the Nightingale had defended her song by highlighting its originality, the frog brushed aside her claim as 'nothing much'. Instead, he made her follow his guidelines for singing, which ultimately led to her death.

The frog had done this deliberately and knowingly. Therefore under the circumstances this statement that everyone should follow his or her own heart's advice seems ironical.

**(b)** Do you think the end is justified?

**Ans.** This world is a very difficult place to live in. It believes in the dictum 'Survival of the fittest'. The frog is the embodiment of the crooked people in society whereas the nightingale symbolizes innocence and sweetness. The frog was boastful of his talent. Every one in the bog loathed his voice but failed to deter the frog. When he found a competitor in the nightingale, he influenced her and made her follow his instructions, that ultimately resulted in the death of the nightingale. Thus the frog could once again become the unrivalled king of the bog again. The nightingale died of her naivety. Hence the end is apt and justified.

**(c)** Do you think the nightingale is 'brainless'? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** Yes! The nightingale indeed appears to be brainless in the poem. She was a poor judge of music and could not recognize her own talent. She was easily taken in by the glib talk of the frog and calls him 'Mozart'. She fails to see through the frog's trick that he was using her songs for making money and spoiling her sweet and melodious voice with his inapt training. Acting blindly, on the frog's advice she herself became the reason of her own death.

**(d)** In spite of having a melodious voice and being a crowd puller, the nightingale turns out to be a loser and dies. How far is she responsible for her own downfall?

**Ans.** The nightingale, definitely is the only one who is to be blamed for her own downfall. She was a skilled singer but did not recognize her own talent. She was so naïve that she blindly followed the advice of the crooked frog and did not use her brains. Her innocence, simple heartedness and lack of self confidence brought about her death.

**(e)** Do you agree with the Frog's inference of the Nightingale's character? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** The frog's inference that the nightingale was a stupid creature is very much true. She lacked self confidence and worldly wisdom. The frog was a cunning creature. He used the nightingale for his own benefit. The nightingale did not have faith in her own capabilities and was therefore easily befooled by the frog who made tall and false claims about his talent in the field of music. The nightingale was impressed and accepted the frog at his face value. She even accepted his tutelage without verifying his credentials. The frog manipulated her singing and created circumstances that ultimately led to her death. The nightingale failed to see through the plans of the crafty frog. Thus the frog's inference of the nightingale's character is quite appropriate.

## Unit 5. The Mirror

### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

4. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What poetic device is used when the mirror says 'I swallow'?

**Ans.** The mirror seems to absorb (swallows) whatever appears before it. The poetic device used is 'personification'.

(b) How does the mirror usually pass its time?

**Ans.** The mirror passes most of its time watching the opposite wall fixedly and quietly. It keeps reflecting the opposite wall to pass its time.

(c) What disturbs the mirror's contemplation of the opposite wall?

**Ans.** The mirror's contemplation of the opposite wall is disturbed only by darkness or when someone stands before it.

(d) Why does the mirror appear to be a lake in the second stanza? What aspect of the mirror do you think is being referred to here?

**Ans.** The mirror is compared to a lake or pool with crystal clear water in it. It is highly suggestive. One can also see one's image in a pool though not as clearly as in a mirror but both cannot reflect what the woman wants to see in it.

(e) What is the woman searching for in the depths of the lake?

**Ans.** The woman looks into the lake intently so as to know what she has come to with the passage of time. She is searching for her lost youth and beauty.

(f) How does the narrator convey the fact that the woman looking at her reflection in the lake is deeply distressed?

**Ans.** The woman is looking at her reflection in the lake. She looks distressed as the woman sheds tears and moves her hands in agitation.

(g) What makes the woman start crying?

**Ans.** The woman starts crying as she views her old, wrinkled self. She yearns for her lost youth and beauty. She finds it difficult to accept the fact that she was growing old.

(h) What do you think the 'terrible fish' in the last line symbolizes? What is the poetic device used here?

**Ans.** The woman is too frightened to see her ageing looks in the mirror. It brings to her mind the image of some terrifying ugly looking creature like a 'terrible fish'. It makes her behave like a fish out of water or a terrified fish trapped in the net of time.

5. Read the poem silently and answer the following questions

(a) List out the adjectives that have been used to describe the mirror. Add a few more adjectives to the list.

**Ans.** Adjectives used for the mirror are: silver, exact, unmisted, cruel, truthful, little, four cornered.

A few suggested adjectives could be : clear, reflective, thoughtful, real.

(b) In the second stanza why has the narrator replaced the mirror with a lake? What is he/she trying to focus on?

**Ans.** The mirror has been replaced by a lake as both have one common feature. Both reflect the face that bends over them. Both are honest and truthful. She is trying to focus into the lake, as if to search its depth for her earlier beautiful and youthful face.

6. Find the various instances of personification used in the poem

**Ans.** There are a number of examples of personification in the poem.

- (i) I have no preconceptions
- (ii) I am not cruel only truthful
- (iii) I meditate



## Unit 6. Not Marble, Nor the Gilded Monuments (*Sonnet 55*)

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### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Why do you think the rich and powerful people get monuments and statues erected in their memory?

**Ans.** The rich and the powerful people get monuments and statues erected in their memory to be remembered by posterity, the future generations. They wish to become immortal. They want to be loved, praised and remembered even after their death.

(b) Describe how the monuments and statues brave the ravages of time.

**Ans.** The monuments and statues brave the ravages of time, fighting the devastating effects of time they remain standing to keep the memory of someone alive. As time flows, the monuments gradually are subjected to neglect and they become untidy, unclean. Wars, tumult, fighting, disturbance, attrition by weather leaves their mark on the structure. Despite all these, the spoiled, disfigured, partially destroyed monument tries to uphold the memory of the person.

(c) Why does the poet refer to Time as being sluttish?

**Ans.** Slut means a woman with loose moral character, whorish. As an association with a slut 'besmeares' or spoils the youth, metaphor for beauty, strength and the generative aspect of man' similarly time tarnishes, disfigures, destroys all physical entities, that is why Shakespeare refers to time as sluttish.

(d) The poet says that neither forces of nature nor wars can destroy his poetry. In fact, even godly powers of Mars will not have a devastating effect on his rhyme. What quality of the poet is revealed through these lines?

**Ans.** Through these lines the poet addresses the idea of immortality through verse. He is not only optimistic but confident that his poetry will immortalize his beloved. Protected against death, unmindful of her enemies, unaffected by wars and destruction his beloved would be remembered till the day of judgement, until the end of humanity.

## Unit 7. The dear departed

### ANSWERS TO TEXT BOOK QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) How does Mrs. Slater plan to outshine the Jordans? What does it reveal about her character?

**Ans.** Mrs. Slater plans to be in the best mourning dress. She cleans the house thoroughly and asks Victoria to change her clothes. She wants to present an appearance of mourning that will outshine her sister's. Donning a partial mourning dress she hopes to out do her sister as she feels that the Jordans, in their hurry to start off for her house wouldn't even have thought of the mourning outfits. It reveals a jealous, competitive and manipulative streak in her character. Even on the sombre occasion of her father's death she is concerned with petty issues.

(b) Why does Mrs. Slater decide to shift the bureau from grandfather's room before the arrival of the Jordans? How does Henry react to the suggestion?

**Ans.** Mrs. Slater had an eye on the bureau and wished to have it after grandfather's death. She decides to shift the bureau because she wants it to be seen as her own and not grandfather's. If she brings it downstairs, her sister Elizabeth, who is unaware of the bureau's existence, would not be able to lay claim to it. Henry, at first is stunned by the suggestion and does not consider it 'delicate'. He wanted his wife to arrange with her sister to have it while dividing up things. But subsequently he abides by his wife's wish and helps her in shifting the bureau.

(c) What is the reason for the Jordans taking a long time to get to the house of the Slaters? What does it show about the two sister's attitude towards each other?

**Ans.** The Jordans do not show unnecessary haste to get to the house of the Slaters after getting the news of grandfather's death. They order new mourning clothes and wait for them to arrive. This reveals that there is tremendous rivalry between the sisters. They wish to outdo each other at every occasion and their actions are motivated by jealousy. Their sole aim appears to be to embarrass and contradict each other.

(d) What does Mrs. Jordan describe as 'a fatal mistake? What is the irony in the comment she makes on Mrs. Slater's defense?

**Ans.** The Slaters sent for Dr. Pringle when they realized that grandfather was dead but 'he was out' and (according to the Slaters) professional etiquette prevented them from giving a call to any other doctor. However, Mrs. Jordan felt that some other doctor should have been called, that might have saved grandfather. This prompted Mrs. Jordan to call it 'a fatal mistake'. The IRONY of the comment was that the mistake of not calling the doctor indeed proved to be a serious one as it convinced the Slaters that Abel Merryweather had died which subsequently proved to be wrong.

(e) Ben appreciates grandfather saying 'it's a good thing he did'. Later he calls him a 'drunken old beggar'. Why does he change his opinion about grandfather?

**Ans.** Initially Ben appreciates the idea that grandfather had paid his insurance premium that same morning. Expecting to be one of the beneficiaries, he feels happy at the prospect of getting his share of insurance money. However, later it is revealed that the old man went to 'Ring-O-Bells' and might not have paid the premium which was overdue. This angers and irritates Ben. A disappointed and dejected Ben changes his opinion about the grandfather and calls him a 'drunken old beggar'.

**(f)** What change does grandfather make in his new will? What effect does it have on his daughters?

**Ans.** According to the new will which grandfather proposes to make, his property and belongings would go to that person with whom he is staying at the time of his death. Hearing this condition, the mean, selfish and greedy daughters of Abel Merryweather start wooing grandfather to stay with them. Three years ago, they had fought fiercely because they did not want to keep him with them. But now they profess their love for him & squabble to keep him.

**(g)** What are the three things that grandfather plans to do on Monday next?

**Ans.** On Monday morning, the first thing that the grandfather plans to do is to go to a lawyer and alter his will. Secondly, he plans to visit the insurance office and pay his premium. And lastly, he plans to go to St. Philip's Church and get married to Mrs. John Shorrocks and in fact invites all of them to attend his wedding.

2. Answer the following in detail:

**(a)** Bring out the irony in the title of the play.

**Ans.** Irony is a familiar figure of speech used by writers. In simple terms it means saying one thing and meaning, often the opposite. Irony displays the contrast between the surface statement which is pleasant and the underlying truth which is bitter.

'The Dear Departed' is a very well chosen title. It highlights the satirical element of the play as the departed soul is hardly dear to any adult character of the play. In the first half of the play the word 'departed' refers to the grandfather's demise. In the next half the 'departed dear one' is shocked at the news of his own death and the avaricious attitude of his daughters and sons-in-law.

In the Slater household no one except little Victoria, spares a kind or gentle thought about the person who has died; instead all are concerned about their appearances and pretences. Mrs. Jordan's arrival and her subsequent behaviour are in tune with the Slaters. The irony of the title is reinforced by the petty actions of the daughters. The death of the father triggers a quarrel over the inheritance rather than evoking grief in the hearts of the daughters and sons in law. Materialism and greed has overshadowed human emotions and love. The dead might have departed but there is no love or dearness attached to him.

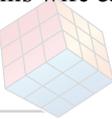
**(b)** How does the spat between his daughters lead to grandfather discovering the truth?

**Ans.** When the grandfather wakes up after being considered as dead, it leads to confusion and chaos. The two daughters, Mrs. Amelia Slater and Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan had been discussing the valuables and how to divide them. Grandfather's appearance makes them insecure. Miffed at Amelia's bid to grab the father's belongings before her arrival, Elizabeth

retaliates by exposing Mrs. Slater to Mr. Abel Merryweather. She tells him the reason for the big quarrel that had happened three years ago. The ensuing argument exposes both the sisters. The old man realizes that neither of his daughters was keen to keep him, they considered him to be a burden. Their concern was just a pretence. They valued his belongings more than him. He decides not to stay with any of his daughters. He marries Mrs. Shorrocks, a widow and goes to stay with her.

- (c) Compare and contrast Henry's character with that of his wife. Support your answer with evidence from the play.

**Ans.** The dominating character of Mrs. Amelia Slater stands in complete contrast to her husband, Henry Slater's submissiveness. Mrs. Slater is a vulgar, dominating woman who is in charge of the entire household. She takes all the important decisions & does not display any moral values. Despite being a man of principles Henry plays second fiddle to Amelia. He protests mildly when he is told to put on grandfather's slippers. A gentle person, he accedes to his greedy wife's demand. He unwillingly helps Amelia to pinch the grandfather's bureau. Mrs. Slater's greed & meanness are two traits that make the two of them strikingly different from each other. Furthermore he is not quarrelsome like his wife, he tries to pacify the two sisters when their heated argument takes an ugly turn. In the scene where we realize the grandfather has probably not paid the insurance, he is the only one who tries to give the benefit of doubt to grandfather while the other three are busy criticizing him. As a gentleman, he supports his wife & stands by her when she needs his support.

**STUDY**  
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## Unit 1. A Shady Plot

### 1. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What genre of stories does Jenkins want the narrator to write? Why?

**Ans.** Jenkins wanted the narrator to write a ghost story because his skill in writing such stories was exceptional and the readers wanted to read his ghost stories. The ghosts, in his stories, were well defined characters like living beings.

(b) Does the narrator like writing ghost stories? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

**Ans.** The narrator did not choose to write only ghost stories. He wanted to try his hand at other genres too. But it was his ghost stories that were popular, so he says, “I didn’t specialize in ghost stories, but more or less they seemed to specialize in me”. Moreover, he was in no position to contradict Jenkins as he was the only one who printed his stuff.

(c) What makes Helen, the ghost, and her other co-ghosts organize The Writer’s Inspiration Bureau?

**Ans.** Helen had been a writer before she died. During that period she had to struggle for inspiration and ideas. So, she and the other writers who were ghosts now formed “The Writer’s Inspiration Bureau” to provide support to receptive writers without ideas but with a mind soft enough to accept impression.

(d) Why had Helen, the ghost been helping the narrator write ghost stories? Why was she going on strike? What condition did she place for providing continued help?

**Ans.** Helen had been assigned the job of helping the narrator with ideas for his ghost stories. She, along with the other ghosts, was going on strike because she was overworked; Ouija board fanatics kept calling them out of their beds to answer silly questions. Helen wanted John to dissuade his friends and acquaintances from using the Ouija board and then she could help him write once more.

(e) How does the ghost undermine the narrator’s faith in his ability to write ghost stories?

**Ans.** In the past, the narrator had always started off without any ideas on the plot of his ghost stories, but each time inspiration had come to him rather mysteriously and he had been able to write enjoyable ghost stories. As a result, he had become a bit overconfident about his ability to write. This faith in his ability to write is severely undermined when Helen makes it clear that the plots for all his ghost stories had been supplied by the ghosts themselves.

(f) Why does John want the ghost to disappear before his wife appears on the scene? What impression of his wife’s character do you form from his words?

**Ans.** John says that his wife Lavinia is very sensitive. The sight of the ghost could make her hysterical. His apprehension reveals that his wife is a fragile, sensitive and vulnerable person who cannot face fear. Also, she may not like the presence of a woman in the house, even if the woman was a ghost.

(g) Why does the narrator hesitate to be a partner of Laura Hinkle during the Ouija Board Party?

**Ans.** The narrator is hesitant to be a part of the Ouija board party because his participation could upset the ghosts. Helen, the ghost, had specifically asked him to exert his influence and stop people from using Ouija boards. If he becomes a partner to Laura Hinkle, he would be defying the ghost which could lead to unpleasant and adverse consequences for him.

(h) What message does the ghost convey to the group that had assembled in the narrator's house? What is their reaction to the message?

**Ans.** The ghost calls John a traitor and asked the Ouija board users to ask him why she was calling him that. Everyone present in the room received a similar message and started looking at the narrator suspiciously and accusingly.

(i) Do you agree with the narrator calling the assembly of women "manipulators"? Give reasons.

**Ans.** Yes, the narrator is right to call the women "manipulators". First his wife refuses to return the Ouija Board and holds a party at her house. He is given no choice and is forced to participate and partner Laura Hinkle. The people using the Ouija boards had their fingers moving on the board to get messages from the other world. They also seemed to control the narrator's life. But the Ouija boards were being manipulated by the ghost, Helen. So, she was the real 'manipulator' sending messages to the narrator through the Ouija boards.

(j) Why is John's wife angry? What does she decide to do?

**Ans.** The narrator's wife was angry because she felt her husband had been cheating on her as the ghost of a woman 'Helen' tries to communicate with John and calls him a traitor. She also felt that he was trying to flirt with Laura Hinkle. Therefore, she decided to go to her grandmother's house and seek legal assistance.

(k) Why does John wish he were dead?

**Ans.** John wished he were dead because his life seemed to be crumbling around him. His wife was annoyed and was ready to walk out on him. Since a ghost seemed more in control, John thought he might be better off dead.

(l) When confronted by Lavinia about his flirtations over the Ouija Board, John insists that 'The affair was quite above-board, I assure you my love'. Bring out the pun in John's statement?

**Ans.** [Pun – A pun consists in the use of a word in such a way that it is capable of more than one application.]

John reassures his wife that his interaction with Laura Hinkle was harmless and innocent, there was nothing secretive going on at the Ouija board party. The affair was literally and metaphorically 'above-board' as they had only placed their fingers together on the Ouija board and had nothing to hide.

(m) John's apprehensions about his wife's reaction to her encounter with the ghost are unfounded. Justify.

**Ans.** John felt that his wife Lavinia was extremely sensitive and would become hysterical on seeing a ghost. His fears seem unfounded as she took the appearance of the ghost in her stride, she neither shrieked nor screamed. In fact, she smiled at the ghost, talked to it and was relieved to find out that she wasn't Helen of Troy.

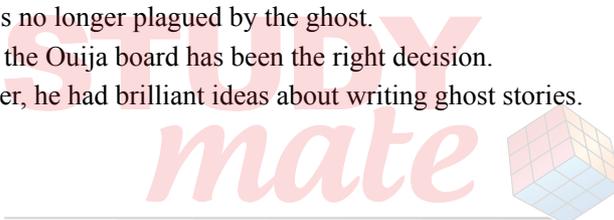
2. (a) After her reconciliation with her husband, John Hallock, Lavinia writes a letter to her friend expressing how her relationship with him had almost been on the verge of breaking and what saved it. Write her letter.

**Ans.(a)-** Thankful that she met the ghost, Helen. Her marriage has been saved.

- Was bothered by John's behavior at Ouija board party ... jealous and suspicious.

- Felt John flirted with Laura Hinkle.
  - Made up her mind to leave for grandmother's place
  - Chance encounter with the ghost revealed the truth.
  - Relieved that the ghost was a plain Jane and not Helen of Troy.
  - Trust and faith are important in all relationships.
- (b) John Hallock reflects upon his experience with Helen's ghost and in retrospect he finds it quite amusing. All the same he is relieved that he is no longer plagued by it. Ironically, the self same ghost inspires his creativity and he writes a diary entry reflecting upon the comical aspect of his experience. Write his diary entry.

- Ans.** (b) - Memory of Helen's ghost always brings a smile - an amusing incident.
- Cannot forget how she materialized in sections.
  - had almost wrecked his life. Can still recall the accusing look on Lavinia's face.
  - Felt like an insect at the Ouija board party.
  - How he had tried to prevent Lavinia from seeing the ghost ... behaving in a comical manner.
  - Glad he's no longer plagued by the ghost.
  - Burning the Ouija board has been the right decision.
  - Soon after, he had brilliant ideas about writing ghost stories.


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## Unit 2. Patol Babu, Film Star

### 4. Discuss the following questions in detail and write the answers.

(a) “I hope the part calls for some dialogue?” Who says this? Why does he /she ask this question?

**Ans.** This question was asked by Patol Babu to Naresh Dutt. He had at one time been a very famous stage artist. Dialogue delivery had been his forte. There were occasions when people would buy tickets especially to see him. Thus when he was offered a role in a film after so many years, his first query was whether the part had a dialogue.

(b) “Were these people pulling his leg? Was the whole thing a gigantic hoax? A meek, harmless man like him, and they had to drag him into the middle of the city to make a laughing stock out of him. How could anyone be so cruel?” Why does Patol Babu have these thoughts?

**Ans.** Patol Babu had once been a renowned stage artist and had done a variety of roles with extremely strong dialogue delivery. As soon as he got the acting offer, he also asked whether there would be a dialogue to which the answer was a yes. Being a perfectionist, Patol Babu was very particular about rehearsals. When he reached the venue, he asked for his dialogue as he wanted to practice it. One of the team members scribbled something on a piece of paper and handed it to Patol Babu. He was shocked to see that it was just the word ‘Oh!’. Patol Babu was crestfallen and he thought that the entire episode was just a gigantic hoax. He felt humiliated that a meek, harmless man like him was dragged into the middle of the city to make a laughing stock out of him.

(c) Patol Babu is an amateur actor for whom walk –on part in a movie turns into an ultimate challenge. Discuss.

**Ans.** Patol Babu, 52 years old, had been a stage artist performing in Jatras, amateur theatricals and plays put up by his neighbourhood club. He had been very passionate about his acting and was always in demand. Patol Babu was an amateur artist and thus he also had to work for a living. Patol Babu kept struggling to make both ends meet and acting had become a thing of the past. When he suddenly got an acting offer in a film, he could not believe his luck. He was extremely excited but at the same time also wanted to know about the part and the dialogue. He was assured that the part had a dialogue. Later when he realised that that the dialogue was just a monosyllable ‘Oh’, he was very annoyed. He was so angry that he was about to quit and go back to his normal Sunday routine. It was then that he recalled the words of his mentor, Pakrash. He would say that every part, however small, was important and an artist must make the most of his opportunity. Patol Babu immediately overcame his disgust. Not only did he accept the part and the dialogue gracefully but also put in his best effort to give that one single syllable his best shot. Thus a walk-on part in a movie turns into an ultimate challenge for an amateur actor like Patol Babu.

(d) Do you agree with the statement that Patol Babu is a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** I completely agree with the statement that Patol Babu is a practical man who comes to terms with whatever his life has to offer.

Patol Babu’s life seems to be like a roller coaster ride. At one time everything is smooth and the next moment there is a struggle. As an amateur stage artist, Patol Babu had carved a niche for himself. but it was not his means of livelihood. He was first working in a railway factory but later got a higher paid job in Hudson and Kimberly which he lost on account of retrenchment due to

war . After that he tried his hands at many things for mere survival. He never considered any job or work below his dignity and would take up anything that came his way. Though acting was his passion he stopped pursuing it as he had responsibilities to fulfill. At the age of 52 he suddenly got the offer to play the part of a pedestrian. Initially he was very upset about his dialogue which was a monosyllable ‘oh’. Later when he reconciled with the dialogue he meticulously practiced it so that he could give his best.

- (e) Why does Patol Babu walk away before he can be paid for his role? What does this reveal about his character?

**Ans.** Patol Babu was initially annoyed on learning that his dialogue was just a single syllable ‘Oh’. Acting was a passion for Patol Babu. He never did it for the sake of money though he always needed money. He earned his livelihood through other jobs. He had become so involved and busy in making both ends meet that he had to give up his passion of acting. Later in life he got an offer to act in a film. Though it was a small part, he gave it his best shot. He put in a great effort in rehearsing his action for the single shot and the dialogue which was just a single word. The shot was okayed in a single take without any rehearsals conducted by the director. Patol Babu was appreciated by the director and the hero. He was extremely satisfied that all the years of struggle in his life had not blunted his sensibility. He did not wait for the payment and went away. According to him the money he would get would not measure up to the intense satisfaction of a small job done with perfection and dedication. This shows that he was not money minded at all and acting was purely his love of life.

- (f) Do you think making a movie is an easy job? Discuss with reference to the story.

**Ans.** As soon as we see a movie for about 2 to 3 hours, we immediately pass a judgment without thinking about the complex process that is involved in making the movie. The entire process right from the conception of the story line to the screening of the movie is a very tedious and lengthy one. The idea is first conceived in the form of a rough story line. Once there is a buyer for the story then starts the process of detailed scripting and characterization. As we see in the given lesson the script involves the detailing of even the small character of a pedestrian. Then there is detailed dialogue writing. Along with that now there is the casting process which not only involves the lead actors but also the other characters of the plot. The team which works behind the scene is also to be finalized. In this lesson we can see the innumerable people at the location. The locations, the equipment, the scheduling are also a very important part of film making. Above all the finance is the most important thing. Once the movie is made then there is marketing and editing. This lesson highlights just two shots but it is clearly visible that it is a complex process involving a lot of hard work.

**5. Answer the following questions briefly.**

- (a) What was the news that Nishikanto Ghosh gave Patol Babu?

**Ans.** Nishikanto Ghosh told Patol Babu that his youngest brother-in-law, who was into film business, was looking for an actor for a scene in a film they were shooting at that time. Nishikanto said that they needed a character who was fiftyish, short and bald-headed. He thought Patol Babu would be very suitable for the role and thus had suggested his name.

- (b) How did Patol Babu react? Why?

**Ans.** Patol Babu was totally astonished as he had never expected that he would get an offer to act in a film at the age of 52. He had once been a stage artist and had always been in demand. Now, on hearing the news of the offer to act in a film, he was happy and nervous at the same time. Later, while buying provisions in the market, he mixed up his wife's orders and also forgot to buy the aubergines.

(c) Why had Patol Babu lost his first job in Calcutta?

**Ans.** Patol Babu had been very fortunate to get a well paid clerical job in Calcutta in the year 1934. He also was lucky to find a flat in one of the best locales in Calcutta where he settled with his wife. All was well for a few years and Patol Babu was in the good books of his boss. But in 1943 the war caused a sudden retrenchment in his office and he lost his job of nine years.

(d) How does Patol Babu reconcile to the dialogue given to him?

**Ans.** Patol Babu, who had once been a renowned stage artist was a stickler for perfection. As soon as he got an acting assignment for a film, he was worried about the part he was to play. When he reached the venue of the shooting, he asked for his dialogue. Finally, one of the crew members scribbled something on a piece of paper and handed it to Patol Babu. Patol Babu was shocked to see just a monosyllable 'Oh'. He was furious that they had called him all the way for the shooting just to utter a word. He started reminiscing his good old days as an actor. While doing so he remembered his mentor Gogon Pakrashi's advice. Pakrashi used to say that every part and every dialogue is important and an actor must give his best to every shot. The memory of his guru made Patol Babu bow his head in obeisance. He left no stone unturned to make the best of the monosyllable which was given to him as his dialogue.

(e) Who was Mr. Pakrashi? How do his words help Patol Babu in enacting his role?

**Ans.** Mr. Gogon Pakrashi was Patol Babu's mentor. He was a wonderful actor, a saintly person and an actor in a million. Mr. Pakrashi had given Patol Babu a priceless advice. He used to say that no role is below one's dignity and an actor must accept it. According to him every word spoken in a play is important and an actor must do justice to it. When Patol Babu was given the monosyllable 'Oh' as a dialogue, he was so upset that he was about to leave the shoot. It was only when he remembered his mentor's advice did he reconcile to it. Not only did he continue with the shoot but also meticulously rehearsed the dialogue.

(f) How do we know that Patol Babu was a meticulous man?

**Ans.** There are many instances in this story which highlight the fact that Patol Babu was a meticulous man. As soon as he got the offer to act in a film he wanted to know about his part and whether there was a dialogue along with it. The moment he knew there would be some dialogue, he took some ginger lemon juice for his throat. At the shoot, Patol Babu asked for his dialogue so that he could rehearse it well in advance. Finally when he got the dialogue, he was very upset because it was just a single word 'oh'. But later once he reconciled with it, he rehearsed it on his own. Along with the dialogue he also practiced his reaction to the collision. He also counted the steps he would have to take in order that the collision would happen perfectly.

(g) Why did Mr. Mullick turn down Patol Babu's request for a rehearsal?

**Ans.** Patol Babu suggested a rehearsal but the director Baren Mullick turned it down. He explained

that the scene had to be shot in sunlight and there was a large patch of cloud approaching which could hide the Sun.

(h) What were the special touches that Patol Babu gave to his role to make it more authentic?

**Ans.** Patol Babu, having been a famous stage artist was a stickler for perfection. He was a very meticulous man and wanted his part to be done in the best possible manner. Firstly he rehearsed the dialogue which was just a single syllable. He enunciated the syllable in various ways not to forget the ginger juice he had taken the previous night for his throat. Along with that he worked out how he would react physically when the collision took place. He also calculated how many steps he would have to take for the collision. Finally just before the take he suggested that he should carry a newspaper open in his hand so that the collision would look genuine. These were some of the special touches that Patol Babu gave to his role to make it more authentic.



## Unit 3. Virtually True

### I. Answer the following questions briefly:

1. According to the newspaper, what had happened to Sebastian Shultz?

**Ans.** According to the newspaper, Sebastian Shultz had been badly injured in a motorway accident six weeks ago and had gone into coma. His condition was described as critical though stable. Despite doctors' hopes, he did not regain consciousness. They feared his comatose condition might last forever but miraculously the 14 year old schoolboy had awoken from coma the previous day.

2. 'Dad's nutty about computers.' What evidence is there to support this statement.

**Ans.** The narrator's father had a passion for the latest gadgets and gizmos that came on the market. He had a Pentium 150 MHz processor, with 256 RAM, a 1.2 GB hard disc drive and 16 speed CD-ROM, complete with speakers, printer, modem and scanner. In order to keep abreast with advancing technology, he visited the computer fair and came away with a virtual reality visor and glove, and a handful of the latest interactive psycho drive games.

3. In what way did the second game seem very real?

**Ans.** As soon as the narrator became a part of 'Dragon quest', he felt himself walking through the massive studded doors of the dragon's castle lair. Even princess Aurora squeals, "My hero" on seeing the narrator and asks him to rescue her. Moreover, all through the game as Sebastian and the narrator were running away to escape the dragon, the narrator could hear, feel and even smell the evil dragon following in close pursuit. All this made the game seem very real.

4. The last game has tanks, jeeps, helicopters, guns. What headings would you put this and the other games under?

**Ans.** All the games narrator played can be put under the heading of interactive, virtual reality games also called psycho-drive games. In these games, the player becomes a part of the action and controls the action in the game by his thoughts. With the added dimension of 'touch' and 'smell' in these games, they provide the true thrill of adventure in the realm of virtual reality.

5. What was Michael's theory about how Sebastian had entered the games?

**Ans.** When Michael found out more about the MIRACLE RECOVERY story, he came to know that Sebastian was playing one of his psycho drive games when he met with an accident. Since he was plugged into the computer when he banged his head, the computer had saved his memory in its own. Michael believed that the weird version of the games that the narrator had been drawn into, had all been attempts to retrieve Sebastian's memory. After all, nothing ever got lost from a computer's memory!

### II. Answer the following Questions briefly:

a. Why did the news of the 'miracle recovery' shock Michael?

**Ans.** The news of the 'miracle recovery' shocked Michael because he knew the boy who had miraculously recovered from coma. He was his companion in the psycho drive games. Michael just could not understand how Shultz in the game and Shultz in hospital could be the same person.

b. Michael's meeting with Sebastian Shultz had been a chance meeting. Where had it taken place and how?

**Ans.** Michael met Sebastian Shultz in a psycho drive computer game he was playing. In the game 'Wildwest', where Michael assumed the role of Sheriff Dawson, he unexpectedly came across

a second sheriff who was actually Shultz. The two boys met at a saloon where Black-Eyed Jed challenged Sheriff Dawson to a duel.

c. What kind of computers fascinated Michael and his dad? Why?

**Ans.** Michael and his dad were passionate about computers. Both were fascinated by the latest and fastest computers available in the market. Infact, Michael's dad could not resist any of the new gadgets & gizmos that came on the market. He already had a Pentium 150 MHz processor, with 256 RAM, a 1.2 GB hard disk drive and 16 speed CD ROM complete with speakers, printer, modem and a scanner. This helped them paint, play music, create displays and even play the latest psycho drive games on it.

d. Describe the first place where Michael was virtually transported.

**Ans.** In the first game, Michael was virtually transported to the wildwest. He found himself striding down the dusty track through the centre of town. There he burst through the doors of a saloon wearing a sheriff's uniform and ordered a 'Sarsaparilla'. Immediately, a glass of the fizzy red stuff came sliding along the bar towards him. Just as he took the first sip, he heard a loud crash. He spun around to find Black-Eyed Jed who challenged him to a duel outside the saloon.

e. What help did Sebastian Shultz ask Michael for? How did he convey this message?

**Ans.** Sebastian Shultz's memory had got stored in the psycho drive games he was playing on his laptop just before the accident. Now, he lay stuck in the game. He asked Michael to save him by playing another game 'Dragon quest'. Shultz conveyed this message through the printer attached to the computer.

f. Why does Michael fail in rescuing Sebastian Shultz the first time?

**Ans.** In the game Wildwest, Sheriff Dawson and Sheriff Shultz try to escape being shot by Black-Eyed Jed. They race through the labyrinth of corridors and doors but find themselves back in the saloon where they are surrounded by Jed and his men. Then the two smash a saloon window, dive out and speed off on horseback raising a cloud of dust. A shot fired from Jed's gun echoes in the air. Sheriff Shultz asks Sheriff Dawson to duck but is himself hit by the bullet. He groans and slumps back against Sheriff Dawson. Thus, Michael's first attempt to rescue Sebastian Shultz fails.

g. The second attempt to rescue Sebastian Shultz too was disastrous. Give reasons.

**Ans.** The second attempt to rescue Sebastian Shultz was through the game 'Dragon quest'. The two knights leap out of princess Aurora's chamber and come down with the help of a rope made of her hair. Hotly pursued by the dragon, Sir Sebastian i.e., Shultz and Sir Michael, with his sword drawn, run through a maze of spiral staircase and secret passages and take refuge in a dungeon. This turns out to be a fatal mistake for the dragon appears at the end of the corridor and swoops on Sir Sebastian. Sir Michael Dawson cannot do anything about it.

h. Narrate the accident that injured Sebastian Shultz.

**Ans.** Sebastian was playing psycho-drive games on his laptop when the motorcar he was riding in met with an accident critically injuring him. Apparently the motorcar had skidded and spun off the road when the driver suddenly applied brakes. He was brought to the General Hospital in a critical but stable condition. Despite the doctors' best efforts he did not regain consciousness and slipped into a coma.

i. How had Sebastian Shultz entered the games?

**Ans.** At the time of the motor accident, Shultz was playing psycho-drive games on his laptop. As the car skidded and spun off the road, Shultz banged his head and lost consciousness. During this process the computer had saved his memory into its own. That is how Shultz's consciousness entered in the psycho drive games he was himself playing before the accident.

j. How was Sebastian Shultz's memory stored on Michael's disk? How did Michael discover that?

**Ans.** Actually, Shultz's pack of psycho-drive games was stolen from the hospital in which he was admitted and mysteriously ended up at the Computer Fair where Michael and his dad bought it. Now, Shultz's computer had saved his memory into its own since he was plugged into it at the time of his accident. Through the games pack it had now got transferred to Michael's computer.



## Unit 4. Ozymandias

### 1. Answer the following questions briefly:

(i) “The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.” Whose hand and heart has the poet referred to in this line?

**Ans.** The expression, ‘The hand that mocked’ refers to the sculptor’s skill in reproducing king Ozymandias’ expression of contempt. Though the statue is broken, the expression of the king reminds the viewer of the king whose heart bred such emotions. So, ‘the heart that fed’ refers to the arrogance of the conceited king Ozymandias who considered himself to be the mightiest of the mighty.

(ii) “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:” Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as King of Kings? What quality of the king is revealed through this statement.

**Ans.** Very proud of his power, position and glory, Ozymandias thought himself to be the greatest of all kings. He calls himself “king of kings” and in doing so reveals his arrogance and contempt of others.

(iii) “Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!” Who is Ozymandias referring to when he speaks of ye Mighty? Why should they despair?

**Ans.** Ozymandias refers to other important and powerful people through time who will see the statue of the king. He wanted to intimidate them with his stature. He feels that the magnitude of his own greatness is so enormous, that it would pale their achievements into insignificance and give them reason to feel dejected.

(iv) Bring out the irony in the poem.

**Ans.** In “Ozymandias”, P.B. Shelley brings out the pretentiousness of the rich and the powerful. The king believed that no one could surpass his work. Through his message on the pedestal he foolishly tries to establish a permanence in his greatness, glory and splendour. However, quite ironically, time has devoured all his grandeur and magnificence and the very icon of his glory lay neglected and half buried in the sand. Today, his ostentatious challenge sounds hollow. The egotistical statement on the pedestal with the trunkless legs mocks Ozymandias’ claim to power and might.

(v) ‘Nothing beside remains.’ What does the narrator mean when he says these words?

**Ans.** The narrator means that Ozymandias’s existence passed into oblivion and nothing has survived except for the broken statue. There is irony in this statement — the king aimed to achieve immortality through his statue and his accomplishments, but not a trace of them is left in the world.

(vi) What is your impression of Ozymandias as a king?

**Ans.** Ozymandias appears to be a powerful but conceited king who looked down upon the other kings and considered himself to be the greatest of all. His irrational approach to immortalize himself by getting a colossal statue carved out shows his short sightedness.

(vii) What message is conveyed through this poem?

**Ans.** Through this poem, the poet brings out the vanity of human glory and power. The attempt of mighty kings to immortalize their names by building statues is bound to fail for ravages of time

destroy everything. Nature subdues human achievements and compels us to look modestly at ourselves. The poem also impresses upon us the fact that fame is longer lasting when we make a genuine contribution to human society.

2. Imagine that Ozymandias comes back to life and as he sees the condition of his statue, realization dawns on him and he pens his thoughts in a diary. As Ozymandias, make this diary entry in about 150 words. You could begin like this: I thought I was the mightiest of all but...

**Ans.** Value Points:

- (a) thought I was the mightiest.
- (b) my glory and splendour deserved to be immortalized.
- (c) got my statue built with an intimidating message on the pedestal.
- (d) got a shock to see the dilapidated, neglected state of the statue.
- (e) meant to symbolize enduring power but only a heap of stones ravaged by time remains.
- (f) a shameful sight — lays bare the hollowness of human pride.
- (g) trunkless statue — a mockery of my pompous words.
- (h) wish 'time' gives me an opportunity to make amends — to lead a life of humility.



## Unit 5. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

### PART I

#### Answer the following questions briefly:

1. How did the ancient mariner stop the wedding guest?

**Ans.** The hypnotic effect of the Mariner's glittering eye stopped the wedding guest. He failed to free himself from the magnetic gaze of the impassioned Mariner and had to listen to his tale of sin and suffering.

2. Was the wedding guest happy to be stopped? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** No, the wedding guest was not happy at being stopped as he was in a hurry to join the wedding feast. He was annoyed when the mariner held his hand and tried to disengage himself. Later, he beat his breast in frustration on hearing the bassoon signifying the arrival of the bride while he helplessly listened to the mariner's story.

3. Describe the ancient mariner.

**Ans.** The ancient mariner had an enchanting persona. He had a long, grey beard and bright, shining eyes. He looked quite fearful to the wedding guest because of his strange appearance.

4. How does the mariner describe the movement of the ship as it sails away from the land?

**Ans.** The ship cleared the harbor amidst loud cheers. All the sailors were in high spirits. As it sailed into the open sea, it left behind landmarks such as the church, the hill and the lighthouse.

5. What kind of weather did the sailors enjoy at the beginning of their journey? How has it been expressed in the poem?

**Ans.** At the beginning of the journey, the sailors enjoyed pleasant weather. The sun shone brightly during the day making the sailors cheerful.

“The sun came up upon the left.

Out of the sea came he!

And he shone bright and on the right

Went down into the sea.”

6. How did the sailors reach the land of mist and snow?

**Ans.** A violent storm was encountered by the sailors. It has been described as being both tyrannous and strong. It chased the ship and because of the intensity of the storm it was pushed southwards till it reached the South Pole, the land of mist and snow.

7. How does the mariner express the fact that the ship was completely surrounded by icebergs?

**Ans.** The mariner says that the ship was surrounded by mast-high blocks of ice. “The ice was here, the ice was there, the ice was all around” and the sailors could not see any man or beast around.

8. How do we know that the albatross was not afraid of the humans? Why did the sailors hail it in God's name?

**Ans.** The albatross readily responded to the sailors' call and accepted food from them. Evidently it was not afraid of the sailors. They hailed it in God's name as they considered it a good omen.

They were also pleased with this diversion that helped them forget their gloomy existence.

9. What was the terrible deed done by the Mariner? Why do you think he did it?

**Ans.** The mariner killed the albatross with his crossbow. It was a wanton act with no apparent reason to do so. We can only speculate and say that he either killed it for sport or to save their food that the albatross was eating up.

## PART II

### Answer the following questions briefly:

1. In which direction did the ship start moving? How can you say?

**Ans.** The Sun now rose 'upon the right' and set on the left. It is also mentioned that the good south wind blew from behind. This indicates that the ship started moving towards the north.

2. Why does the mariner say that 'no sweet bird did follow'?

**Ans.** The mariner sounds full of remorse as he makes this statement. He means to say that as he had killed this harmless and lovable bird it did not follow the ship any longer.

3. How did the other mariners behave towards the Ancient Mariner at first? How many times did they change their mind about the Ancient Mariner? What does this tell us about their character?

**Ans.** Initially the mariners were critical of the ancient mariner's action. They were afraid that great grief and misfortune would befall them as a result of the killing of the albatross.

Later when they noticed that the good luck streak continued, they praised the ancient mariner and said that killing the albatross was justified as it brought the fog and mist. However, when the ship got stuck in the middle of the hot and sultry silent sea, the sailors once again changed their stand and blamed the ancient mariner for their unprecedented miseries. This shows that the sailors were selfish and fickle minded.

4. How did the sailing conditions change after the ship had moved out of the land of mist and snow? What or who did the mariners blame for this change?

**Ans.** As the ship moved out of the land of mist and snow, the winds stopped blowing altogether. The sails deflated and they got stranded in the sea. They blamed the wrongful killing of the albatross by the ancient mariner for their miserable condition.

5. What is indicated by the line 'The bloody sun, at noon,/Right up above the mast did stand,/No bigger than the moon'?

**Ans.** The line suggests that the sun was blazing red and scorchingly hot. It was right above the ship and the harsh sunrays were falling directly on the ship.

6. How does the mariner describe the fact that they were completely motionless in the middle of the sea?

**Ans.** The motionless state of the ship is graphically described by the ancient mariner when he compares the ship to 'a painted' ship upon a painted ocean. The poet clearly says that the ship was 'stuck' in the sea. There was no motion or wind (breath).

7. What is the irony in the ninth stanza? Explain it in your own words.

**Ans.** The ninth stanza depicts the peculiar fate of the sailors stuck in the silent sea. Water was

everywhere, still the boards started shrinking. Although they were surrounded by immeasurable amount of sea water, they had not a drop of water to wet their parched mouths. Their own stock of fresh water was exhausted and they couldn't drink the saline sea water.

8. What is the narrator trying to convey through the description of the situation in the tenth and eleventh stanza?

**Ans.** The tenth and eleventh stanza convey the dismal condition of the sailors who helplessly awaited their impending death. In a state of hallucination, they saw slimy creatures crawling upon rotten sea. The death-fires danced at night. The water, like witch's oil, seemed to burn giving out hues of green, blue and white. In other words, the sailors were now facing the wrath of God due to the sin of killing the innocent albatross.

9. What or who did the mariners feel was responsible for their suffering?

**Ans.** Having once blamed and acquitted the ancient Mariner, the fellow sailors finally blamed him and held him responsible for their misfortune and suffering. They felt the wrongful killing of the albatross was responsible for their tragic condition.

10. Describe the condition of the mariners as expressed in the thirteenth stanza.

**Ans.** With not a single drop of drinking water to quench their thirst, all the sailors desperately yearned for water. Their 'withered' tongues were stuck to their throat. They just could not speak. They felt as if their throats had been choked with soot.

11. Why did the mariners hang the albatross around the neck of the Ancient Mariner?

**Ans.** The sailors looked at the Mariner accusingly. According to them the sin of the wanton killing of the albatross by the ancient mariner had brought misery for the sailors. In order to punish him for his evil deed, they hung the dead albatross around his neck. It would serve as a constant reminder of his sin and guilt.

helps excel in boards

## Unit 6. Snake

### Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

- (a) Why does the poet decide to stand and wait till the snake has finished drinking? What does this tell you about the poet? (Notice that he uses 'someone' instead of 'something' for the snake.)

**Ans.** The poet decided to stand and wait till the snake has finished drinking as he was fascinated to see (a real) snake drinking water in front of his eyes. This act of waiting till the snake has finished drinking also shows the poet's gentlemanly behaviour. Thus we get to know child-like curiosity of the poet and his instinctive respect for another living creature.

- (b) In stanza 2 and 3, the poet gives a vivid description of the snake by using suggestive expressions. What picture of the snake do you form on the basis of this description?

**Ans.** In stanza 2 and 3, the snake is described as a yellow-brown creature that moves lazily. He has a soft-belly and straight gums. He has a flickering two-forked tongue with which he sips water quietly. The snake is as gentle as the cattle and drinks water just like them without bothering anyone. He is fearless enough to come to the poet's water trough in broad daylight

- (c) How does the poet describe the day and the atmosphere when he saw the snake?

**Ans.** The poet has given a vivid description of the day and the atmosphere when he saw the snake. This definitely adds to the appeal of the poem. The incident took place on a hot July day in Sicily (Italy). Mount Etna smoking in the backdrop only heightens the heat of the atmosphere. The heat is so intense that the poet is in pyjamas. Both he and the snake feel so thirsty that they rush to the water trough to quench their thirst.

- (d) What does the poet want to convey by saying that the snake emerges from the 'burning bowels of the earth'?

**Ans.** By saying that the snake emerges from the 'burning bowels of the earth', the poet wants to convey that snakes usually live underground in deep, dark recesses. Also, at the symbolic level it connotes to modern life disturbing nature.

- (e) Do you think the snake was conscious of the poet's presence? How do you know?

**Ans.** In the poem, it is the snake who is the first-comer to the water trough. The thirsty snake drinks water at a leisurely pace and seems quite oblivious of the poet's presence. He does lift his head while drinking water but looks vaguely towards the poet with unseeing eyes.

- (f) How do we know that the snake's thirst was satiated? Pick out the expressions that convey this.

**Ans.** The following lines in the poem convey the idea that the snake's thirst was satiated: "drank a little more"; "He drank enough And lifted his head, dreamily as one who has drunken."; "flickered his tongue.... Seeming to lick his lips".

- (g) The poet has a dual attitude towards the snake. Why does he experience conflicting emotions on seeing the snake?

**Ans.** The poet has a dual attitude towards the snake. The poet did actually feel honoured that a snake had come to seek his hospitality from the deep recesses of the earth. He is fascinated by its looks as well as the graceful manner in which it drank water and then proceeded to his hole. However, the voice of reason and education within the poet convinces him that the golden brown poisonous

snake must be killed. Thus, the sight of the snake evokes conflicting thoughts in the poet and the poet is both honoured and horrified on seeing it.

- (h) The poet is filled with horror and protest when the snake prepares to retreat and bury itself in the 'horrid black', 'dreadful' hole. In the light of this statement, bring out the irony of his act of throwing a log at the snake.

**Ans.** The poet is filled with horror and protest when the snake prepares to retreat and bury itself in the 'horrid black', 'dreadful' hole. Although the snake did no harm to the poet; but just drank water from trough, the poet threw a log at the snake. Due to irrational fear and with act of showing human supremacy he performs the ironic act, keeping aside his initial fascination for the snake.

- (i) The poet seems to be full of admiration and respect for the snake. He almost regards him like a majestic God. Pick out at least four expressions from the poem that reflect these emotions.

**Ans.** Four expression from the poem that reflect the poet's admiration and respect for the snake. (a) But must I confess have I liked him. (b) He had come like a guest in quiet. (c) (He) looked around like a god. (d) He seemed to me like a king.

- (j) What is the difference between the snake's movement at the beginning of the poem and later when the poet strikes it with a log of wood? You may use relevant vocabulary from the poem to highlight the difference.

**Ans.** There is considerable difference between the snake's movement at the beginning of the poem and later when the poet strikes it with a wood. The poet has described the snake's movements with the minutest details such as the snake trailing his yellow brown body, resting of his throat upon the stone bottom etc. He drinks water at leisure and moves effortlessly as though in a dream.

When the poet strikes it with a log of wood, he becomes panicky and wriggles into a hole in undignified haste.

- (k) The poet experiences feelings of self-derision, guilt and regret after hitting the snake. Pick out expressions that suggest this. Why does he feel like this?

**Ans.** The poet experiences feelings of self-derision, guilt and regret after hitting the snake. The expressions which show his shame are - 'And immediately I regretted it' 'I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!' 'I despised myself and the voices of my accursed human education'. He is filled with remorse because he had hit the snake without any reason. The snake had caused him no harm and was there only to slake his thirst. He had tried to harm a natural being. The poet had succumbed to the societal voice of being called a coward if he had left the snake without hitting the log. Thus, he gave in to irrational fear and expectation and performed the act.

- (l) You have already read Coleridge's poem The Ancient Mariner in which an albatross is killed by the mariner. Why does the poet make an allusion to the albatross?

**Ans.** In the poem, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', the ancient mariner hunted the innocent bird albatross for no reason and later regretted his heinous act. Similarly, the poet threw a log at the snake though the snake had not harmed him. Thus, the poet makes an allusion to the albatross owing to the guilt feeling involved in his act of throwing a log unnecessarily at the harmless snake.

(m) 'I have something to expiate'-Explain.

**Ans.** 'I have something to expiate' This is the final poetic line with which the poet ends the episode of his confrontation with a snake. It is very clear in poet's mind he has to expiate i.e. to make amends and that too about 'A pettiness'. He performed a petty act of hitting a harmless snake with a log of wood just in order to show his human 'bravery'. The poem ends in a meditative tone of making the poet (man) think of his trivial attitude towards the snake (natural world).



## Unit 7. Julius Caesar

### Answer the following questions briefly:

1. How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar?

**Ans.** Calpurnia says that gods announce the death of distinguished people by certain signs. She sees the unnatural happenings in the city of Rome as a bad omen foretelling Caesar's death. Her own nightmare strengthens her premonition and warns them to take precautions.

2. What does Calpurnia try to convince Caesar of?

**Ans.** Calpurnia tries to convince Caesar that her dream and the horrible, unnatural occurrences reported by the guards are omens foretelling grave danger for Caesar. She pleads with him not to go to the Capitol that day.

3. Why does Calpurnia say Caesar's 'wisdom is consumed in confidence'? What does she mean?

**Ans.** Calpurnia says Caesar's confidence consumes his wisdom because he scoffs at her for believing in omens and preventing him from going to the Senate-house. Caesar has wisdom, but his over-confidence overrides his thinking faculty and influences all his decisions. He lets his exaggerated sense of self dictate terms in life which ultimately leads to his death.

4. What does Calpurnia dream about Caesar? How does Decius Brutus interpret the dream?

**Ans.** Calpurnia dreamt that Caesar's statue had a hundred spouts with blood pouring from them and smiling Romans were washing their hands in it. She saw this as a warning indicating a threat to Caesar's life. Decius Brutus, however, puts a positive spin on the dream and says that the dream was a clean indication that Rome would rise to greater heights based on Caesar's strength and valour. He says Caesar's blood would be revered as a memento.

5. What are the arguments put forward by Decius Brutus to convince Caesar to go to the Capitol?

**Ans.** Brutus manages to convince Caesar to come to the Senate-house by appealing to the great leader's vanity and ambition. He finds Calpurnia's dream auspicious and suggests that it means greater glory for Rome and Caesar. He tells Caesar that the Senate had decided to crown him and his absence may make the Senate change their minds. He also mocks Caesar for listening to his wife and jokes that the Senate would remain closed till Calpurnia had a good dream. This forces Caesar to leave his house and go to the senate.

6. Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar ?

**Ans.** Brutus appeals to Caesar's vanity and ambition. He tells him of the senate's decision to crown him and brings into play his warrior image by mocking him about keeping the Senate closed till Calpurnia has a good dream. This riles Caesar's ego who agrees to go to the Capitol. In contrast, Calpurnia appealed to his love for her and her intuition which fails.

7. What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators ? How does Caesar respond to it ?

**Ans.** The conspirators petition Caesar to revoke the banishment order he had imposed on Metellus Cimber's brother. Caesar is steadfast and refuses to reverse his previous order. He considers himself as 'constant as the northern star' and refuses to change the law according to convenience.

8. Who says "Et tu Brute" ? When are these words spoken ? Why?

**Ans.** Julius Caesar says 'Et tu Brute' when he sees that Brutus is among those who have stabbed him. He is heart-broken and feels defeated by Brutus' betrayal as it seems like ingratitude for the service he has provided Rome and his friendship with Brutus.

9. In the moments following Caesar's death what do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death ?

**Ans.** They proclaim liberty, freedom, enfranchisement. They believe that they are freeing Rome and its citizens from slavery, in the future, and protecting democracy.

10. Seeing the body of Caesar, Antony is overcome by grief. What does he say about Caesar ?

**Ans.** Mark Antony is heart-broken to see a great leader like Julius Caesar reduced to lying on the ground like a normal person. He exclaims that in spite of Caesar's conquests, glories, triumphs and spoils, he lies so "low". He says there can't be a moment more opportune than the hour of Caesar's death while their hands and weapons are still warm from Caesar's blood.

11. Whom does Antony call 'the choice and master spirits of this age'? Why?

**Ans.** Antony calls the conspirators the choice and master spirits of this age. He does so to flatter them and pretend to be their friend so that he can gain their trust and then when the time is right avenge Caesar's death.

12. How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony's speech ?

**Ans.** Brutus asks Antony not to repeat his request to be killed next to Caesar and offers him their friendship. He explains that they had killed Caesar in order to save the democratic spirit. Cassius, on the other hand, is more cautious. He tries to bribe Antony with power and says he will get a say in the new government.

13. Why does Cassius object to allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral? How does Brutus overcome this objection ?

**Ans.** Cassius fears that Antony will use this opportunity to instigate the people against them. Brutus overrules him by stating that he would speak first and explain the reason for Caesar's death to the crowd. He will also tell the people that Antony has been allowed to speak about Caesar with their permission.

14. What are the conditions imposed by the conspirators before allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral ?

**Ans.** The conspirators agree to allow Antony to speak, but only if he agrees to their preconditions, which are: Letting Brutus speak first; not blaming them for Caesar's death in his funeral speech; telling the people that he had been given permission to speak; and speaking from the same pulpit as Brutus.

15. When he is left alone with the body of Caesar what does Antony call Brutus and the others ?

**Ans.** Antony treads very cautiously on finding Caesar assassinated. Being his close friend and associate, he fears that the conspirators might try to murder him too. Therefore, he is meek and gentle in their presence and gives vent to his real feelings when he is alone with the body of Caesar.

16. What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?

**Ans.** Antony predicts that Italy would suffer 'domestic fury' and 'civil strife', and there would be blood and destruction all over the country. He says mothers would go mad and smile when they

see their children killed during the fighting. Corpse would be lying unclaimed all over with no one to bury them. He also says Caesar's spirit would roam about for revenge and his spirit will be accompanied by Ate, the goddess of strife.

17. What reasons does Brutus give for murdering Caesar ?

**Ans.** Brutus says he loves Rome and its citizens more than he loved Caesar. He explains to the crowd that Caesar was an ambitious man who wanted to enslave Rome's citizens and become a dictator. He says they killed Caesar to save Rome and keep democracy intact.

18. Who says, "Let him be Caesar"? What light does this throw on the speaker ?

**Ans.** The third citizen, representing the common man, spoke the line 'Let him be Caesar'. The mob is fickle-minded and this fickleness is seen in the fact that they hail Brutus now without thinking rationally.

19. Why is Antony's speech more effective ?

**Ans.** Mark Antony's speech is more effective because unlike Brutus he doesn't appeal to the crowd's ability to reason and its sense of fairness. He plays with its emotions by first approaching it as a friend and not a noble soul like Brutus. He appeals to their emotions and greed by mentioning Caesar's will. He uses irony, sarcasm, reiteration and visual imagery to manipulate the crowd.

