

➤ A Day

Emily Dickenson

a. How does the poet describe the morning sun in the first stanza?

In the first stanza, the poet describes the morning sun as the beautiful beginning for a new day which brings hope, glow and beauty along with joy and happiness.

b. What does the line ‘The news like squirrels ran’ mean?

The line ‘The news like squirrels ran’ means that with the beginning of a new day, everything changes so fast and everyone starts doing their task in a hurry.

c. What do you understand by the line ‘The hills untied their bonnets’?

The line ‘The hills untied their bonnets’ implies that hills are no longer covered with darkness and have begun to glow because of sunshine.

d. Is the speaker watching the morning sun? Why? Why not?

In reality, the speaker is not watching the morning sun because all the visions that she had created are not possible to occur in same time. The rising and setting of sun is not possible to occur simultaneously.

e. How does the sun set?

It sets by taking all the happiness, glow and beauty of a day and leaving darkness,

f. What, according to the speaker, is a day?

According to the speaker, a day is a minor form of journey throughout the life which usually begins with many new hopes and lots of happiness. After learning many new things and gaining lots of experience throughout the day, it ends.

g. What purpose does the hyphen in the first line serve in the poem?

A hyphen (-) is a punctual mark used as pauses, longer ones than commas or semi-colons. It enhances the methodical, unhurried nature of the scene. Poet has filled the gap by letting readers imagine after the end of the phrase.

h. What makes this poem lyrical and sonorous? Discuss.

The poem “A Day” by Emily Dickenson is both a lyrical and sonorous poem. Emily has used her magic wand to make this poem lyrical and sonorous. She has depicted her own experience of dusk and dawn in her writing. The pronoun “I”, as used in lyrical poems, indicates the poet’s persona. On that note, ‘A Day’ like most of Dickinson’s poems is a lyric; it expresses a powerful thought from the perspective of a single persona. This poem’s musicality is enhanced by the use of sound techniques such as alliteration, assonance, rhyme, and rhythm.

i. Who are the target audience of the speaker? Why?

Children are the target audience because the poem has tried to reveal the truth of human life comparing it with a day. The speaker is imparting the message about the beginning and ending of a day where a kid completes his journey from innocence to experience. She is delivering message about life to everyone mostly the children.

j. The poem seems to describe a day for children. How would the adult people respond to this poem?

As this poem speaks about the reality of human life, it is somehow obvious that the adult people will respond normally and will find it meaningful because they also have gained the same experience throughout the life-time.

➤ Every Morning I Wake

Dylan Thomas

a. When does the speaker pray to the Lord?

The speaker prays to the Lord in the morning time and evening time.

b. What does the speaker pray for?

He prays to god for having his loving eye on all poor creatures who are mortal.

c. Who are the ‘poor creatures’? Why does the speaker call them ‘poor creatures’?

The ‘poor creatures’ mean all the innocent creatures that are on planet earth. The speaker calls them ‘poor creatures’ because they are born to die and it is not sure whether they can see another morning or not.

d. What does Milk Wood sound like? A type of wood or a place? Why?

Milk Wood sounds like a place because there is no use of article before this noun. If it is a type of wood then an article either ‘a’, ‘an’ or ‘the’ must have been used according to grammatical rules.

e. Why do the inhabitants of Milk Wood bow to the setting sun ‘but just for now’?

The inhabitants of Milk Wood bow to the setting sun ‘but just for now’ because they know that they are not permanent and they are ending the prayer of that day and wishing to see another day.

f. Discuss “Every Morning When I Wake” as a prayer to the God.

“Every Morning When I Wake” is a prayer poem by Dylan Thoma’s. In this poem, the speaker prays to the magnificent God to have mercy on ordinary inhabitants living under the Milk Wood. The speaker prays to the Lord to keep his loving eye on all mortal poor creatures. He says the remote of all creatures is in the hand of the Lord and prays to have mercy on them. He prays to the Lord to let him/ them see the next morning as no one knows what is going to happen tomorrow.

g. Why does the speaker make a prayer to the God, but not to a king, a billionaire or a scientist?

The God is the creator of all beings. The God is immortal and all creatures are created and destroyed by him. The remote of all creatures life is in the hand of the God. A king, a billionaire and a scientist are nothing in front of the God. They are just humans created by the God. They are born to die but the Lord is immortal. Hence the speaker makes a prayer to the God, but not to a king, a billionaire or a scientist.

h. How does the poet highlight the magnificence of the God?

This is a prayer poem by Dylan Thomas. The speaker has highlighted the magnificence of the God. He says that the God is the creator of all creatures who can destroy it too. The God is immortal. We see next morning because of the blessings of the God. He makes us and is guiding us. He see the best side of us as nobody is perfect to do so. In this way the poet describes the magnificence of the God by highlighting his powers.

i. How does the rhyme scheme of the poem reinforce its message?

A rhyme scheme is the ordered pattern of rhyming words at the end of each line of a poem. The rhyming structure of this poem is AABB. The rhyme scheme of the poem reinforces its message beautifully. It makes the poem lovely to read. AABB rhyme scheme has made the poem much more attractive. It is a prayer poem in which the speaker prays to the God to have mercy on all creatures. For this poem, the rhyme scheme that has been used is the best.

➤ I Was My Own Route

Julia de Burgos

a. Why did the speaker try to be the way men wanted her to be?

The Speaker tried to be the way men wanted her to be because she was a modern woman and actually she didn’t like to be a puppet of male ideologies. Infact, she was determined to fight against the prevailing male domination.

b. What do you understand by her feet ‘would not accept walking backwards’?

The term her feet ‘would not accept walking backwards’ means that she didn’t like to live a life being inferior to men. She was digging out her own route that could lead the entire female race in a similar position to men that is the destination of freedom.

c. Who are the old guards? Why did they grow desperate?

The old guards are the rigid members of male-dominated society. They behave women as inferior creatures and dominate them in every aspect of their lives. They grow desperate because she was advancing to the liberation of the women race.

d. How did the speaker have ‘a feeling of intimate liberation’?

The Speaker had a feeling of intimate liberation by advancing steps forwards to a new route despite difficulties. Ultimately she made a separate route separating more and more in spite of pains from the old route made by males.

e. Why did the speaker’s desire to follow men warp in her?

The speaker’s desire to follow men wrapped in her because she sensed the rigid rules and regulation imposed by men on woman. She wanted to become independent, enjoy freedom and happiness, and utilize her own potentials which were suppressed by men ideologies that is why she twisted them.

f. What does the speaker mean when she says she was playing a game of hide and seek with her being’?

The line “she was playing a game of hide and seek with her being” is the third line of the first stanza and is repeated in the last stanza too. Hide and seek is a game played by the children in which one player is blind folded, other players hide in different place and the blindfold is unfolded and he or she finds the other places from the hiding places. “A game of hide and seek is also used as an idiom which means a situation in which one is constantly evading or avoiding other. In the poem, the line a game of hide and seek with my being means that the speaker is trying to avoid the norms and limitations set by males to females. Men wanted her to be a woman defined as by them but as a modern and rebellious being, she was evading males.

g. Why, in your view, was her back ripped by the old guards as she was advancing forward?

The Speaker says “At each advancing step on my route forward, my back was ripped by the desperate flapping wings of the old guard” because. She was walking ahead on the path of women’s liberation challenging the chains of male ideologists. She was advancing forward the desperate flapping wings of the old guard was pushing her back. The limitations and chains of patriarchal ideologies can be found as the old guard was obstructing her on the way forward intimate liberation of women race. In her advancing steps forward, the old guard imposed several threats to her.

h. What, according to the speaker, did it feel like to be free?

According to the speaker, she felt being free is like getting cherished liberation. It is like she won independent identity being free from all kinds of social norms and limitations imposed on women by the men.

i. Why does the speaker prefer the present to the past?

The speaker prefers the present to the past because the situation of her past was miserable. She was one of the victims of male domination. Her family background was not so good. Even one of her siblings’ died of malnutrition. She was living under the shadow of a male-dominated society. But in the present, she has become an iconic person, a pathfinder, and a savior of the female race. She has set a route for all the women who can walk freely pursuing their own identity. She feels proud of herself and deserves the homage.

➤ **The Awakening Age**

Ben Okri

a. Who are the people ‘who travel the meridian line’?

→ The people ‘who travel the meridian line’ are Nigerians who have been separated into two groups as a result of the horrific civil war: the south and the north. During their existence in fragments, these people have experienced hunger, poverty, unemployment, and other facets of their life.

b. What does the poet mean by ‘a new world’?

→ The poet implies a beautiful world full of hope, wealth, unity, truth, knowledge, and creativity when he says “a new world.” Following the emergence of civil peace in Nigeria, people have experienced the world of a unified Nigeria.

c. How are people connected to each other?

→ People are connected together to each other by a sense of optimism derived from history. They have a lot of faith in their dreams and they may ascend to a new height of prosperity and unity with optimism and knowledge because of this strong hope.

d. What can we gain after our perceptions are changed?

→ After our perceptions are changed, we can gain a variety of benefits. We get honesty away from troubles and suffering by changing our perceptions. We acquire harmony, , wealth, work, wisdom, and creativity by changing our perceptions.

e. How are we benefited by new people?

→ We are benefited by new people in a variety of ways since our solidarity with them drives us to a flourishing nation. They assist us in reaching a higher level of happiness in our hearts, sincerity in our views, work, knowledge, and creativity.

f. Describe the rhyme scheme of this sonnet.

→ There are seven separate couplets in the poem, totalling fourteen lines. This sonnet’s rhyme scheme is simple and sonorous, providing a rhythmic tone, and each stanza has a rhyming couplet. The rhyme scheme is AA BB CC DD EE FF GG.

a. What does the poet mean by ‘the awakening age’?

→ It refers to the period when Africans recognize, or become conscious of their situation. This is the age of enlightenment when there is peace, prosperity, happiness, unity, and harmony among them after the civil war.

b. Why, in your view, have these people ‘lived with poverty’s rage’?

→ In my view, these people have ‘lived with poverty’s rage’ because Africans were exploited by Europeans during colonization. African countries were involved in a civil war. Due to a few strong people gaining control of authority, there was an imbalance in the distribution of national wealth. Ordinary people have no idea there was more to life than poverty. They were more preoccupied with internal problems such as religion, culture, ethnicity, and so on, neglecting the sufferings of ordinary Nigerians.

c. Why does the poet appeal for solidarity among the people?

→ The poet appeals for solidarity among the people for their dream of a better world to come true. He wishes for all of Nigeria’s unfortunate citizens to achieve new heights of prosperity, hope, unity, truth and wisdom. He thinks that people’s solidarity can only help them overcome their obstacles, challenges, and sufferings.

d. Does the poet present migration in a positive light? Why? Why not?

→ Yes, the poet presents migration in a positive light as it increases the working-age population. Migration helps for a shift in their condition from one level to another via awakening. The poet wishes for them to be unified, prosperous, honest, smart, and creative in a new age of awakening, free of the conception of suffering. Migrants bring skills with them and contribute to the development of human capital in recipient countries. They also encourage the advancement of innovative technology.

e. Nepal is also known for its economic as well as educational migrants. Have you noticed any change in the perceptions and behaviours of these migrants when they return home from abroad?

→ Yes, I have noticed some sorts of changes in the perceptions and behaviors of these migrants when they return home from abroad. Lots of Nepalese youths travel overseas to pursue their education and find work. When they return home, we’ve witnessed a shift in their attitudes and behaviors. There are several advantages of returning to the home country. Working overseas allows people to raise their income, learn new skills, and save and invest. When they return home, they carry with them both financial and

human capital gained overseas. Return migrants can only gain rewards if they are successful in earning skills, knowledge, and savings and if their home nation supports policies that encourage them to invest and apply their abilities.

f. Relate the rhyme scheme of this sonnet to the kind of life idealized by the poet.

→ The rhyme scheme is AA BB CC DD EE FF and GG, and it is a poetry of optimism. Every couplet in each of the seven stanzas is beautiful in both rhyme and meaning. The poet can show the idealized existence of Nigerians in a new world of the awakening age with the assistance of the poem’s rhyme pattern. All of these rhyming phrases after couplets are linked to the lives of Nigerians and their ideal way of life, including wisdom, realization, hope, prosperity, truth, opportunity, and joy. His excellent rhyme scheme accurately expressed his expectations and good wishes for the ideal existence of Nigerians in the new world of the awakening age.

➤ **Soft Storm**

Abhi Subedi

a. When does the speaker grow soft? Enlist the occasions when he grows soft.

→ The speaker grows soft on various occasions like; After he heard the tumult, When; the moon sang of lampposts and gutters in this seamless city, homeless children in Thamel cried with hunger, he returns from the melee, he saw a forlorn child carrying a transistor radio, he saw a blood-stained shirt and so on.

b. What do you understand by ‘this seamless city’?

→ By ‘this seamless city’, I understand a city where residents can wander around freely, free of social disruptions or problems, and experience the true fruits of freedom and happiness, unbiased.

c. Describe the poor children portrayed in the poem.

→ Under the bat-bearing trees of Kesharmahal in Thamel, poor homeless and parentless youngsters cry out in hunger and poverty. They are deprived of their constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights.

d. What do you understand by ‘the unwedded gardens of history’?

→ I understand the unaddressed incidents in the past, as well as the society’s ignored culture and traditions, which literally translates to a lawless, chaotic condition in Nepalese society caused by social and political hegemony.

e. Why was the forlorn child wailing?

→ The forlorn child was wailing to find his mother in the corridors of violent history.

f. What do you understand by ‘soft storm’?

→ I understand Abhi Subedi’s inner disturbing feelings as a result of a lawless society and chaotic atmosphere by ‘soft storm,’ the two words combined by Abhi Subedi to title his poem. A storm denotes bad weather, but when combined with the word “soft,” it signifies the chaotic times that the poet observes in today’s society.

g. Why does the speaker call our time ‘mad time’?

→ Because our time in current society is not under the control of the constitution or the law of the nation, the speaker calls it “mad time.” Corruption, favouritism,

sociopolitical unfairness among the people and environmental degradation are all prevalent in society, according to him.

h. What does the speaker want to do in “hard times”?

→ In “hard times”, the speaker wants to melt like a rainbow.

i. The poet uses the word ‘soft’ with the words like ‘storm’ and ‘gale’, which generally refer to disorder and violence. What effect does the poet achieve through the use of such anomalous expressions?

→ An anomalous expression is a syntactically well-formed but semantically meaningless expression. The expressions ‘soft storm’ and ‘softness rose like a gale’ in the poem are uncommon and paradoxical in nature. The poet produces a psychological effect using these terms. He can express his troubled inner experience by connecting two contradictory ideas.

J. What is the speaker’s attitude towards the time he describes in the poem?

→ The speaker’s attitude toward time is negative, as he finds no specific work being done by humans. He thinks the time is messed up since he notices a lot of strange things going on around him. He is experiencing difficulties because society is out of control. As a result, the speaker in the poem has a negative attitude toward time.

k. What is the speaker like? Is he a rebel? Why? Why not?

→ Yes, the speaker is like a rebel in the poem but his rebellious nature is not directly depicted in the poem. The poet finds the society in chaos, with people living in poverty, hunger, and corruption. He observes hungry homeless children crying. He sees people who are forgetting history and treating each other inhumanely. He appears to be a rebel, challenging everything.

d. Explain the stanza below in your own words:

**I became soft
when I saw
a blood-stained shirt
speaking in the earth’s ears
with bruised human lips
under the moon
of history and dreams
playing hide and seek
in open museums
of human times.**

→ These lines are from the fourth stanza of Abhi Subedi’s poem “Soft Storm”. In the given lines, the poet expresses his discomfort when he observes a person in a bad condition late at night. From these lines, the poet describes a man with a blood-stained shirt and bruised human lips who is unable to speak because the powerful residents of the night have silenced his voice. The moon of history and dreams, which refers to the history of human aspirations and accomplishments, is occasionally covered by clouds.

The moonlight falls on a culturally and historically significant location. The landowners and the labourers are linked by the game of hide-and-seek.

Neighbours

a. Describe how the young couple’s house looked like.

The young couple’s house was small, but it’s high ceiling and paned windows gave it the feel of an elegant cottage. From his study window the young man could see out over the rooftops and used car yards the Moreton Bay figs in the park where they walked their dog.

b. How did the neighbours help the young couple in the kitchen garden?

The neighbours helped the young couple in the kitchen garden by advising them about spacing, hilling, mulching and providing the bagful of garlic cloves for planting.

c. Why were the people in the neighborhood surprised at the role of the young man and his wife in their family?

The people in the neighborhood were surprised at the role of the young man and his wife because his wife used to do work in hospital while he used to live in the house working on his thesis and cook for his wife when she return back home.

d. How did the neighbours respond to the woman’s pregnancy?

The neighbours responded to the woman’s pregnancy by smiling tirelessly. The man in the deli gave her small presents of chocolates and him packets of cigarettes. In the summer, Italian women began to offer names. Greek women stopped the young woman in the street, pulled her skirt up and felt her belly, telling her it was bound to be a boy. By late summer the woman next door had knitted the baby a suit, complete with booties and beanie and the Polish widower next door had almost finished his two-car garage.

e. Why did the young man begin to weep at the end of the story?

The young man began to weep at the end of the story because he was greatly touched by the help of neighbours which wasn’t expected by him due to the human feelings of neighbours towards them.

f. Why do you think the author did not characterize the persons in the story with proper names?

I think the author didn’t characterize the persons in the story with proper names because he wants to generalize the case not to specific person but also for the every person who are culturally and linguistically from different society. So the writer make the couple for the universal character and he tries to share his idea that in neighbourhood, humanity remains even after having different languages and cultural norms.

g. The story shows that linguistic and cultural barriers do not create any obstacle in human relationship. Cite some examples from the story where the neighbours have transcended such barriers.

The story shows that linguistic and cultural barriers do not create any obstacle in human relationship. Humanity and love is one of the such feelings that links the

persons. It doesn’t look race, caste, language, nationality, culture or language. The love, respect and kindness of a person towards othe beautify the person or shows a real person. In this story also, due to different languages there was some misunderstandings on newly couples towards their neighbours. But when they were in problems the neighbours helped them alot. Some examples where the neighbours have transcended such barriers are as follows:

1. The neighbours gave advice to the young couple about spacing, hilling and mulching the vegetables in the kitchen garden.
2. The polish widower rebuilt the falling henhouse of the young couple although they didn’t understand his words.
3. The young couple offered heads of cabbage and took gifts of grapes and firewood from neighbours.
4. They gifted chocolates, knitted the baby a suit when they were going to be parents.

h. The last sentence of the story reads “The twentieth-century novel had not prepared him for this.” In your view, what differences did the young man find between twentieth-century novels and human relations?

In my view, the young man as the writer used to think that the people in twentieth were selfish and helpless and his thought become true for sometimes when he had just shifted to the new community. The people of the community are noisy and annoying. They used to make noises and shout each others. Even the small kids also have poor sanitation. But when he and his wife need small help too, all the neighbours helped them without saying a word. Yeh way of counselling each othes in nedd and sharing happiness with each othe touches his heart and proved him wrong. He found the huge difference between his thinking and reality. His thinking changed and he said that the novel for which he was researching had not prepared for him.

i. A Nepali proverb says “Neighbors are companions for wedding procession as well as for funeral procession.” Does this proverb apply in the story? Justify.

Yes, this proverb applies in the story. Neighbours are the real companions of life who keep on passing their lives with us in various situations. Neighbours are need in every step of life no matter joy or sorrow. They are the companions for wedding procession as well as a funeral procession. Here in the story, we find the nieghbours involvement in various events. The story has mainly focused on three close neighbours who are seen living their lives sharing and caring for eachother. We find the concept of share, care and help among the neighbours in the story. During the pregnancy, the young woman was cared, assured, presented gifts by people of her neighbourhood. These neighbours are seen passing time teaching each other, enjoying and shouting, living in a neighborhood. Thus neighbours in the story are seen as the best companions as mentioned in the proverb.

j. The author has dealt with an issue of multiculturalism in the story. Why do you think multiculturalism has become a major issue in the present world?

Multiculturalism is the way in which a society deals with cultural diversity, both at the national and at the community level. Multiculturalism can take place on a nationwide scale or within a nation's communities. It may occur either naturally through immigration, or artificially when jurisdictions of different cultures are combined. I think multiculturalism has become a major issue in the present world because along with making people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds together, it invites various social problems such as failure to assimilate, ethnic segregation, and adaptation issues such as school dropout, unemployment, and high crime rates etc. Also, migration is another reason for multiculturalism. People travel across different places of different countries and they settle in any place where they get proper facilities and job due to which multicultural peoples are found in same city or region. Due to this many peoples in neighbourhood don't know each other and the relation, love, compassion between the neighbours found in the past days are not found in the present days. In this way, multiculturalism has become a major issue in the present world.

A Respectable Woman

a. Why was Mrs. Baroda unhappy with the information about Gouvernail's visit to their farm?

Mrs. Baroda was unhappy with the information about Gouvernail's visit to their farm because she was looking forward to a period of unbroken rest, now, and undisturbed tete-a-tete with her husband.

b. How was Gouvernail different from Mrs. Baroda's expectation?

Mrs. Baroda had formed an image of Gouvernail in her mind as tall, slim, cynical; with eyeglasses, and his hands in his pockets but he was different from her expectation. He was slim enough, but he wasn't very tall nor very cynical, neither did he wear glasses nor carry his hands in his pockets.

c. How does Mrs. Baroda compare Gouvernail with her husband?

Mrs. Baroda compares Gouvernail with her husband by their frankness. Mr. Gaston Baroda, her husband was frank and chatty but Gouvernail was not frank and he was quite silent person.

d. Why and how did Mrs. Baroda try to change Gouvernail's solitary habits?

Mrs. Baroda was a frank woman and wanted. Gouvernail to be frank chatty and demanding to make him feel at home. She tried to change Gouvernail solitary habits by being frank and offering wordy hospitality.

e. How does Gaston disagree with his wife on Gouvernail's character?

Mrs. Baroda was taking Gouvernail seriously and Gaston disagrees with his wife on Gouvernail character by saying that Gouvernail gave no trouble to her and he didn't like commotion.

f. Why is Gaston surprised with his wife's expression towards the end of the story?

Gaston is surprised with his wife's expression towards the end of the story because she never like the arrival of Gouvernail but at the end she proposed, wholly from

herself, to have Gouvernail visit them again.

g. What is the cause of conflict in Mrs. Baroda's mind? What role does Mrs. Baroda 'being a respectable woman' play in the story?

The cause of conflict in Mrs. Baroda's mind is her attraction towards Gouvernail and the fear of society. Being a respectable woman Mrs. Baroda controls her feeling and let the social norms win. She was so attracted to her husband's friend Gouvernail, she wanted to touch his face, lips with her sensitive fingers but she doesn't do that and controls herself being a respectable woman.

h. Sketch the character of Gouvernail and contrast it with Gaston.

Gouvernail is the Mr. Baroda's college friend who came to spend a week or two in his friend's sugar plantation. Gouvernail is a slim and attractive man. He doesn't wear eyeglasses and he is so lovable and inoffensive. He is a silent guy and loves peace. He neither frank nor too chatty. He loves to sit on portico and enjoy the cool air with cigar. He accepts what Baroda couple gives and doesn't demand anything. Some characters of Mrs. Baroda and his friend Gouvernail are just opposite. Mr. Baroda is so frank and chatty but Gouvernail is too silent. Gouvernail smokes but Mr. Baroda does not. It can be said that Mr. Baroda is extrovert and more sociable man whether in contrast Gouvernail is introvert and less sociable man.

i. Why does Mrs. Baroda not disclose her feelings towards Gouvernail to her husband?

There are some battles in life which a human being must fight alone. Mrs. Baroda was a respectable woman and if she discloses her feelings towards Gouvernail to her

husband, it may cause a serious problem. A husband never likes his wife being attracted to another man. Many husbands have given divorce to their wives after knowing that they are attracted towards other man. Moreover, if she reveals her feelings the friendship of Mr. Baroda and Gouvernail may weaken. That's why Mrs. Baroda does not disclose her feelings towards Gouvernail to her husband.

j. The last three sentences of the story bring a kind of twist. After reading these three sentences, how do you analyze Mrs. Baroda's attitude towards Gouvernail?

The last three sentences of the story bring a kind of twist. Mrs. Baroda liked Gouvernail but due to the fear of society and fear of loss of her respect she didn't want Gouvernail to come in their house. But last she proposed, wholly from herself, to have Gouvernail visit them again. She said to her husband, "I have overcome everything! You will see. This time I shall be very nice to him". After reading this I think Mrs. Baroda has overcome the fear of society. And now, she will not control herself and will flow with her emotion. I think she will do everything what her heart wants to do with Gouvernail as she has said that she will be nice to him. In another point of view, we can say that she has overcome her feelings and emotions towards Gouvernail and will be normal to him.

A Devoted Son

a. How did the morning papers bring an ambience of celebration to their family?

The morning papers brought an ambience of celebration in the Varma family as it showed that the Rakesh had topped the Medical Examination and it was the matter of pride for the family.

b. How did the community celebrate Rakesh's success?

The community people celebrated Rakesh's success by visiting his little yellow house at the end of the road. There they congratulate Rakesh's parents on their son's remarkable success and congratulate Rakesh himself. The whole house and garden was quickly filled with the sights and sounds of a festival, with beautiful garlands, party clothes, and gifts.

c. Why was Rakesh's success a special matter of discussion in the neighbourhood?

Rakesh's success was a special matter of discussion in the neighbourhood because he was the first son in the family to receive an education. His parents had sacrificed so much in order to send him to school and then medical college. It was the matter of pride for the family as well as neighbours. Rakesh's exemplary behavior that he touched the feet of his father as soon as he saw his results made Rakesh success a special matter of discussion in the neighbourhood.

d. How does the author make fun with the words 'America' and 'the USA'?

Rakesh had won a scholarship in USA. His father learnt it to be called as 'USA' and taught the whole family not to say it as 'America' as it was the term to be called by his ignorant neighbours. In this way the author makes fun of the words 'America' and 'the USA'.

e. How does the author characterize Rakesh's wife?

The author characterizes Rakesh's wife as an uneducated, old fashioned, plump girl. She was so placid, complaisant and lazy but too good-natured and pretty fat one.

f. Describe how Rakesh rises in his career.

After completing his medical education, he started his career as a doctor in the city hospital and quickly reached the top of administrative: organization and was made a director. Then, he opened his own private clinic and became known not only as of the best but also the richest doctor in city.

g. How does the author describe Rakesh's family background?

Rakesh was from a poor family who used to live in a village in India. His father worked for a kerosene vendor and his mother spent her life in the kitchen. His grandparents also used to work as vegetable vendors. Despite of the poor economic condition, his parents worked hard and sacrificed everything they have for the higher education and medical college of his son Rakesh.

h. What is the impact of Rakesh's mother's death on his father?

Rakesh's father was broken into pieces by the death of his wife. He fell ill so frequently and suffered with such mysterious disease named a peevish whim (sudden irritation in mind) that even his son could no longer make it out.

i. What did Rakesh do to make his father's old age more comfortable?

Rakesh used to bring his father his morning tea in the old man's favorite brass tumbler, and sat at the edge of his bed, comfortable and relaxed his father's night-shirt, and read out the morning news for him. He used to help his father down the steps and onto the bed, soothing him and settling him down for a night under the stars.

j. Are Mr. Varma's complaints about his diets reasonable? How?

I don't think that the Mr. Varma's complaints about his diets are reasonable. His son had made a diet plan for him so that he could live a healthy life. Rakesh being a responsible son and a doctor too, can't allow his father to risk his life eating unnecessary foods and sweets. Rakesh did so because he didn't want to lose his father as he had already lost his mother. Thus the Mr. Varma's complaints about his diet aren't reasonable.

k. How did the Varma couple make sacrifices for their son's higher education?

Mr. Varma being a worker in a Kerosene Dealer Depot and Mrs. Varma being a housewife doing household things have done and made a lot of sacrifices for their son's higher education. Mr. Varma had never seen how the school looks like from the inside as he had never gone to study. So, he wanted to fulfill his dream from his son and he sent Rakesh to the school for quality education. Rakesh was the first son in the family to receive an education. Thus the Varma couple worked hard and sacrificed their life, time, money and everything they have for the higher education and medical college of son for the betterment of his future.

l. Mr. Varma suffers from diseases one after another after his wife's death. Would he have enjoyed better health if she had not died before him? Give reasons.

I think yes he would have enjoyed better health if she had not died before him. He had fell ill as soon as his wife died. Before the death of his wife he was enjoying his life with no mental harassment but after the death of his wife he started being in depression and many other mental conditions. He was broken mentally as well as physically. It is usual too because when a person with whom you have spent decades, they become part of your life and when they leave permanently, it is obvious to get a shock. Thus, if she had not died before him, he would have enjoyed better health.

m. Dr Rakesh is divided between a doctor and a son. As a son, he loves his father and worries about his weakening health but as a doctor, he is strict on his father's diet and medicine. In your view, what else could Rakesh have done to make his father's final years more comfortable?

With no doubt Rakesh is a good son and a good inspiring doctor. Though he did remain devoted to his father. Actually he is divided between a doctor and a son. In my view, Rakesh could have been more polite and respectful in his behaviour with his father in the final years. He could have let his old father take the lead and give him the same independence and freedom because it is the age where parents feel like they are left behind. Rakesh could have also given his father some personal space and let him dictate how and when his son help him. His loud-speaking made his father very troublesome and miserable. So, if he had spoke to his father politely and in respectful way, he could have made his father's final years more comfortable.

n. What does the story say about the relationship between grandfather and grandchildren?

Desai's story "A Devoted Son" shows loving companionship between grandfather and grandchildren. There is an unbreakable bond between them. Having a close relation, once the grandfather tried to bribe his grandchildren to bring Jalebis for him. He used the innocence and mean nature of a small kid for his own benefit. Though he loved his grandchildren very much but due to his meanness he tried to show his grandson the wrong path. For that reason, the relationship between grandfather and grandchildren was found to be innocent, tricky, trusty and bonding in the story.

o. Do you call Rakesh a devoted son? Give reasons.

Yes, I call Rakesh a devoted son. He always did whatever his parents have advised or wanted him to do like; good academic performance, crucial part of a boy's life which is marriage, and also choosing to get back to his own nation and live with his family though he could earn a lot of more money living in the USA. Though Rakesh stucked at some part of giving his father a happy life but he had tried his best. He always used to separate time for his old father despite of being very busy in his professional life. He never wanted his father to suffer. Hence, I think that Rakesh is a devoted son in the sense that he is able to put his own wishes aside for their betterment.

The Treasure in the Forest

a. Describe the expository scene of the story.

The story opens with two treasure hunters, Evans and Hooker in the canoe approaching the land, the thicker and deeper green forest, slopy hill with a little river flowing to the sea.

b. What does the map look like and how do Evan and Hooker interpret it?

The map looks like very old rough map. By much folding it was creased, unclear and worn to the pitch of separation. Evan interprets twisting lines in the map as the river and the star as the place whereas Hooker interprets the dotted line and straight line and the way to the lagoon in the map.

c. How did Evan and Hooker know about the treasure?

Evan and Hooker knew about the treasure by hearing the Chinese man conversation and the map he had.

d. Describe Evan's dream.

During their journey, Evan began to doze and saw a dream. Evan had a dream about the treasure and Chang-hi. In the dream, they were in the forest and saw a little fire where three Chinese men sat around it and talked in quiet voices in English. Evans went closer and he knew that Chang-hi took the gold from a galleon after shipwrecked and hide it carefully on the island. He worked alone and it was his secret, but now he wanted help to get the gold back. There was a battle and Chang-hi was brutally killed by them. He thought that someone was calling him, so he suddenly woke up.

e. What do the two treasure hunters see when they walk towards the island?

The two treasure hunters saw three palm trees, thick bushes and dim white flowers at the mouth of the stream when they walk towards the island. They also saw the dead body of Chinese man named Chang-hi which makes both of them surprised.

f. In what condition did the treasure hunters find the dead man?

When Evan and Hooker reached the place where the treasure was buried, they saw a dead man lying in a clear space among the trees with a puffed and purple neck and swollen hands and ankles.

g. How did the treasure hunters try to carry gold ingots to the canoe?

The treasure hunters tried to carry gold ingots to the canoe with the help of the coat of which one end of the collar catching by the hand of Hooker and the other collar by Evan.

h. How were Evan and Hooker poisoned?

Evan and Hooker were poisoned as a slender (thin) thorn nearly of two inches length pricked in Hooker's thumb and Evan rolled over him and both of them crumpled together on the ground which made them suffered a lot.

i. How do you know the story is set on a tropical island?

The story "The Treasures in the Forest" has been set on a tropical island. It begins with two men, Evans and Hooker, heading in a canoe towards a coral island in the heat of the sun. It's atmosphere, naturally variable ecosystems, thicker and green forest, freshwater lakes and streams, salt marshes and mudflats (wetland), mangrove and

coastal forests, fringing and offshore coral reefs, and deep sea represents that the story is set on a tropical island.

j. Why do you think Evan and Hooker took such a risk of finding the buried treasure on a desert island?

I think Evan and Hooker took such a risk of finding the buried treasure on a desert island because of their greed for wealth. They took it as a challenge and the risks as rewards. They were also attracted by the fact that it was the treasure left behind by a shipwrecked h4ish galleon which may cost millions of dollars. So they became crazy about the treasure and took such a risk of finding the buried treasure on a desert island.

k. Do you think the narrator of the story is racist? If yes, what made him feel superior to other races?

Yes, I find some sort of racist feelings in the narrator of the story when he presents Evan and Hooker as superior to that of the Chinese man in the story. In fact, a racist is a person who is prejudiced against or antagonistic towards people based on their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized. In the story, we find the Chinese man was brutally killed by Evans and Hooker. When Hooker said to Evans, "Have you lost your wit?", it also reflects dominating nature of Hooker over Ivan. Thus, many instances in the story state that the narrator of the story looks like a racist.

l. What is the moral of the story?

The moral of the story is that peoples can do anything for money. They can take any kind of risks for it. As in the story Evan and Hooker killed a Chinese man brutally to get their way to treasure buried in the desert, people can even take lives of other. It's greed that is the disordered desire for more than is decent, not for the greater good but one's own selfish interest, and at the detriment of others and society at large. Greed can be for anything but is most commonly for money or treasures and power which is much more. At the end of the story, Evan and Hooker both were poisoned. This shows that greediness leads to the destruction. So we should not run behind the money and treasure, rather than focus on our dreams and be happy with the things as much as we have.

My old home

a. How does the narrator describe his feeling at the arrival of his old home?

At the arrival, the narrator perceives the mixed and blended emotions. He feels pleasure and happiness. In his childhood, his hometown was lovely where the green sky lies above. But now, he saw that everything had changed. The green sky changed into a vast and greying sky: they were gloomy, deserted, devoid of any deception of life. There is no sign of development in his hometown. The condition of his home was extremely bad. His childhood deceived him here and made him nostalgic.

b. What were the three kinds of servants in China then? What does it indicate about contemporary Chinese society?

There were three kinds of Chinese servants: dailies, yearlong and busy-mothers. First are day workers who work for the day or for some time only, sometimes known as short-timers. Yearlong are people who work for the same family all year or more. Finally, Busy-mothers were landowners who only worked for one family at a time, such as around New Year's festivals, or when rent was due to pay. The servant in contemporary Chinese society demonstrates the slavery system and the tendency of dividing the work. Based on their statuses, the work used to be allocated.

c. What makes the narrator nostalgic? What did he do with Runtu in his teenage years?

With the words of his mother to meet his childhood friend Runtu, the narrator becomes nostalgic. When he was a teenager, He and Runtu used to catch the bird with a trick and also kill the Zha by stabbing it. They went to collect shells—reds, blues, ghost-scarers. They also went out to look for badgers, porcupines.

d. How did Runtu hunt a Zha at a young age?

Runtu hunted a Zha by attacking with a pointed knife suddenly while he was standing to watch over watermelons at a young age.

e. How does the narrator make a humorous picture of Mrs Yang?

The narrator has described the image of Mrs Yang. He has associated Yang with the beaucurd beauty. The narrator narrates the appearance of Yang with narrow cheekbones and lips. She used to powder her face. He portrays her as the face of two compasses in a geometry box when he sees her and expresses her as a humorous picture.

f. According to the narrator, what were different factors that made Runtu a poor man throughout his life?

The narrator exposes Runtu as a poor man throughout his life. There are many factors behind the poverty of Runtu. Different obligations and social division play the most important role behind his poverty. Alongside he suffered from a lack of opportunities. feeble economic background and discrimination he faced in his prime time is a reasonable factor. Besides it, the bad harvest, too many children, harsh taxes, famine and gentry folks are the other factors behind his poverty throughout his life.

g. How does the narrator help Runtu before leaving the old home?

The narrator helps Runtu before leaving the old home by offering different household items. Since they were leaving Runtu was financially poor, the narrator thought he could make his life a bit easier so he gave him two large tables, a few candles, an incense burner, and a set of scales.

h. How does the author differentiate two kinds of idols?

Superstitious idols and hope are two mentioned idols of the story. He distinguishes between these two types of idols in sense of time and belief, stating that people worship superstitious idols for the short term because they want something immediately, while hope is shown as the long term enduring empathy people need in most circumstances.

a. While reading the friendship between the narrator and Runtu, Hindu readers remember the friendship between Krishna and Sudama. Which particular description reminds you of the mythological example?

The friendship between Xun and Runtu reminds the story of the friendship between Krishna and Sudama. The friendship between Krishna and sudama is described in the Mahabharata epic. This story also resembles the moral and story of true friendship.

There are many similarities between the friendship of Xun and Runtu to Krishna and sudama. The mythological examples include: The story shows that xun is a rich person and Runtu as a poor man which resembles the Mahabharata where Krishna was the king and rich person whereas sudama was a poor brahmin. Xun's friend Runtu is suffering from poverty, same as Krishna's friend sudama. Runtu is not even able to fulfil the basic needs of his family like sudama. In the story, when Sudama meets Krishna he felt ashamed and shy thinking that he is very poor and in front of Krishna his standards are not even like servants. the same incident is narrated in this story too.

Runtu is feeling shy and ashamed to meet Xun thinking that Xun is rich and happy. Another similarity or the incident is when sudama meet Krishna, Krishna welcomes him very greatly and with love for him. Krishna helped Sudama by changing his hut to a palatial mansion where every facility was available to live a happy life. Similarly, xun also welcomes Runtu with a great heart and gives him household goods and helps him to make his life a little better. By both stories, we get to learn that friendship is not about wealth, status, fame or anything.

b. How does the story support the proposition that the relationships of childhood are innocent, impartial and disinterested?

This story supported the proposition that the relationships of childhood are innocent, impartial and disinterested by showing the friendship between Xun and Runtu. Children don't know what is rich and what is poor. Which is upper-class and which is lower-class. Children make friends in their childhood not for the seek of profit besides their friendship. The friendship in childhood is pure and never changed. they are helpful and willing to do the same in the future. The relationship built-in childhood never changes. But later different social boundaries and greed make them apart. When the desire is fulfilled most of the friendships become stories. In the story, the friendship between Xun and Runtu is shown. xun is portrayed as rich and Runtu as a poor person. But the friendship between them is stronger as much when they were childhood friends. They used to play and enjoy themselves together. In the story, the friendship between them is shown as a great gesture when Runtu is suffering from poverty and needs help, Xun helps him by providing household goods such as a long table, incense burner to make his life a little easier. Therefore the helping nature of Xun and their pure friendship is an example of childhood relations that are innocent and impartial.

c. After reading the story, what inferences can you make about the contemporary Chinese economic and social system?

This story is based in the contemporary society of China which shows us the value of true friendships and gives a vision of ancient Chinese society. The narrator narrates the geographical features, types of classes and the value of friendship in this story. Two main characters Xun and Runtu are portrayed as poor and rich personalities to indicate the economical divergence in ancient society. The story shows the main occupation of people in ancient Chinese society is agriculture. They are making their basic life hard. they couldn't even fill their family's stomachs. Thus the poor economic condition of Chinese society is shown as a main agenda of the story. Alongside, the story tells about the different social classes of people and servants. the main society was divided into two classes i.e. rich or upper class and poor or lower class.

The tradition of being a servant was there as poor people also had to make a living. servants or people are classified as Yearlongs, short-timers, and busy mothers. If they worked for a whole year, they would be called year-long, if they worked for a day or short time, they were short-timers, and people who own land or worked for a specific family just during holidays and when rents were collected, they would be called busy-mothers. people of one class weren't allowed to make any relations with other or lower classes. This shows the redundant and narrow-minded society which has inhuman social boundaries and discrimination.

d. What does the story indicate about the geographical features of the narrator's hometown?

The setup of this story is in the winter season of 1921 in ancient China. The story includes the ancient Chinese society often called the contemporary society, its economic condition and social boundaries. The story focuses on the true friendship of Xun and Runtu by justifying their respect and locality beside the obligation of making relations between a different class of people. The story also speaks about climate change and destruction in the name of development. The narrator nostalgically narrates his hometown. In his childhood, his hometown was lovely and surrounded by greenery where the green sky lies above. The story especially focuses on the hometown of the narrator that was underneath the blue-black sky and land covered with green grasses and vegetables. The birds used to fly around his garden and house. He feels very good and warm when he comes home. But now, when Xun went back to his old hometown after twenty years, everything was changed. The green sky he used to see and wonder was changed into the vast and greying sky where no imagination was possible to be made. they look like they already lost the resemblance of any life, they were drab and desolate. There is no sign of progress over the years. He also talked about the seaside where he used to go to collect shells of different colours. He also described how he caught the bird, kill Zha underneath the blue-black sky.

Half-closed Eyes of Buddha

a. How does the tourist describe his initial impression of the Kathmandu valley?

The tourist describes his initial impression of the Kathmandu valley through the words of appreciation of natural sceneries, landscape, the fragrance of soil, and the clay-made homes painted in red, yellow, and white. He feels the air filled with the serenity of mountains and is fascinated by views of the valley.

b. According to the tourist, why is the West indebted to the East?

Tourists insist that the west is indebted to the east because the west has provided different civilizations through Puranas, brass- figures and ivory decorations. In addition, the manuscripts of palm leaves, copperplate inscriptions and ornaments of the west have a different value and this fascinates the west. The atmosphere, cultural and religious harmony is what the west is indebted to the east.

c. How does the tourist interpret the gaze of the monks and nuns?

The tourist interprets the gaze of the monks and nuns as 'the samyak gaze'. They believe that the gaze of monks has a holy sight. They take it as an uncontaminated, free from all impurities and discriminations.

d. Why do the tourists think Nepali people are wonderful and exceptional?

The tourists think Nepal is wonderful and exceptional because of their co-existent lives and peaceful nature.

e. What are the different kinds of communities in the Kathmandu valley and how do they coexist with each other?

Aryans, non-Aryans, Hindus, and Buddhists are the various kinds of communities in the Kathmandu Valley. They co-exist with each other due to the effect of Nepali soil that allows them to grow together and live together in harmony and peace.

f. What does the tourist feel about the temple of Adinath?

When she saw the Adinath temple from Chobhar hill, she feels the living example of Nepalese tolerance. Nepal is stand out with the example of harmony because of coexistence and variety of gods, religions, and philosophies

g. Why does the guide take the tourist to the remote village?

The guide takes the tourist to the remote village to find the harsh reality of people living beyond the scenario. He wants to see her the poverty and sympathetic elements of the beautiful country which was never talking in any novels or books nor seen by other tourists and neither captured by their cameras.

h. What does the innocent village couple think of the doctor?

The innocent village couple accepts her as the eldest son who has brought a life-restoring treatment across the seven seas for his brother.

i. What are the differences between the paralyzed child and his sister?

The difference between the paralyzed child and his sister as mentioned in the story are: Paralyzed child (boy) is very sick as his whole body is useless; he cannot speak, he can't move his hands, he can't chew his food, or even spit. His body is not in the situation of heeding commands from his brain. The thing that indicates himself alive is his eyes. Meanwhile, his sister is quite fine as her whose body functions properly work.

She crawls around, picking up everything she comes across and putting it into her mouth, knocking over the beer, overturning the cooking stone.

j. Why does the guide show the instances of poverty to the tourist?

The guide shows the instances of poverty to the tourist to make her feel how actually so-called bright faces are in reality. In the beginning, tourist only sees the bright aspect of the country i.e. various cultural and religious diversity, natural beauty and Himalayas, the gaze of monks and nuns. So, the guide shows him the pulse of reality to guide him through the instances of poverty and sympathetic way i.e. poverty and sympathetic aspect of the beautiful country in the farmer's house.

k. Which narrative technique is used by the author to tell the story? How is this story different from other stories you have read?

The author uses the technique of 'stream of consciousness technique' in this story. This story is different from other stories I read ever now because of the appearance of double views on the story which shows the good and bad aspects. Unlike other many stories where the author writes only about the event of the story from one side but if you read this story, it deals with the monologues of two characters a tourist guide of Kathmandu valley and a foreign tourist. in other many conventional stories, I read ever follow the stream of awareness techniques where a narrator shows the action and events through fictional characters or other ways.

b. How is the author able to integrate two fragments of the narration into a unified whole?

The author is able to integrate two fragments of the narration into a unified whole by providing the insights and examples of different eyes, views, experiences and linking them to two different aspects. The author shows the reality of Nepalese (eastern) poverty and sympathetic aspect which the western not see from their eyes and doesn't capture from their camera nor write in their books. They only see the upper beauty of the Himalayas and green forests. But they don't understand and feel the inner reality of the eastern and their pain suffocated in the poverty and the life spent in lacking. The author shows the hardship, diseases that the people face in the community. The tourist only pictures the things of beauty But a guide makes her see the things of reality and sympathetic pain.

c. The author brings some historical and legendary references to the story. Collect these references and show their significance in the story.

In the story 'The Half-closed Eyes of the Buddha and the Slowly Sinking Sun', the author brings some historical and legendary references in the story. They are:

Manjushri and his deed: It is believed that Kathmandu was once a lake and Manjushri cut a gorge at a place called Chobhar Gorge, near Chobhar Ancient Hill Village, and drained away the waters to establish a habitable land and that's where the Kathmandu valley formed.

Cultural, tradition, and art crafts: it is mentioned in the story that easterner had given many things to Westerners; Puranas, images of brass and ornaments of ivory, manuscripts of palm leaves and inscriptions on copperplate and also civilization and many musical instruments. If we destroy all the history books then these are things which would again create a new tradition, religion, and culture and made us rich in culture, tradition, religion, and art crafts.

The gaze of monks and nuns: The story shows the gaze of monks and nuns who received alms and spread the law in the nooks and fissures of the Kasthamandap with 'the samyak gaze'. This is a sight that perceives everything in its purest form.

Historical Relationship: The close relationship of Nepal and Tibet at the time of the Licchavi dynasty is mentioned in the story. Half closed eyes of Buddha and setting sun reflected in the eyes of the Buddha: The Half closed eyes of Buddha and the setting sun reflected in the eyes of the Buddha represents peacefulness and harmony in the country by which people feel the love and peace.

d. The author talks about the eyes in many places: the eyes of the shaven monks and nuns, eyes in the window and door panels, the eyes of the Himalayas, the eyes of the paralyzed boy, the eyes of the welcoming villagers and above all the half-closed eyes of the Buddha. Explain how all the instances of eyes contribute to the overall unity of the story.

Different eyes are mentioned in the story: the eyes of the shaven monks and nuns which is compared with eyes 'samyak gaze': a sight that senses everything in the purest form. The author mentions other many eyes in the story; eyes in the window and door panels, the eyes of the Himalayas, the eyes of the paralyzed boy, the eyes of the welcoming villagers, and above all the half-closed eyes of the Buddha. These all eyes represent Nepal as a country that is rich in culture, religion, tradition and diversity.

The half-closed eyes of Buddha represent Nepal as a peaceful country where people feel peace and warmth. The author connects all these eyes for the overall unity of the story through the connection of cultural, traditional, religious aspects which made Nepal rich. He insists that if all the history books were even burnt then also these eyes will create the old tradition of love and peace.

A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings

a. How does the narrator describe the weather and its effects in the exposition of the story?

The narrator set up the picture of a rainy day to describe the weather and its effects in the exposition of the story. The rain falls continuously for three days and makes the land and houses filled with rainwater. During the rainy season, the sky and sea were changed into ash grey colour and the sand of the shore glimmered like powdered light,

which had become a hash of mud and rotten shellfish. The light sparked was so weak and hard to see.

b. Describe the strange old man as Pelayo and his wife first encounter within their courtyard.

When Pelayo and his wife first encountered the strange old man, they noticed him dressed in the manner of a rag picker. He had a bald head and looked almost completely shaved. His mouth was almost empty with no sans teeth remaining. His large and dirty buzzard wings were half-plucked and entangled in mud.

c. Why did Pelayo and Elisenda imprison the old man in the chicken coop?

Pelayo and Elisenda imprisoned the old man in the chicken coop thinking that he is an angel and he was there to take their child.

d. Why was Father Gonzaga not sure about the old man being a celestial messenger?

Father Gonzaga Was not sure about the old man being a celestial messenger because the old man didn't know how to greet ministers and also didn't understand the language of god. Father noticed this when he said good morning in Latin, he just murmured something in his dialect which father didn't understand.

e. Many people gathered at Pelayo's house to see the strange old man. Why do you think the crowd assembled to see him?

Many people gathered at Pelayo's house to see the strange old man because he was unique and strange with his buzzard wings. People thought of him as an angel or messenger of god and thought of making some fun with him.

f. Some miracles happened while the crowd gathers to see the strange man. What are these miracles?

In the story, it is mentioned that some miracles happened while the crowd gathers to see the strange man. Those miracles were the blind man who couldn't recover his eyes but grew three new teeth, the paralytic person who couldn't walk but almost won the lottery and the leper whose shore flourished sunflowers.

g. State the irritating things that the people did with the strange old man.

The people gathered at Pelayo's house also did some inhuman and teasing tasks with the strange old man. Such irritating things include throwing stones at the old man and burning his side with an iron rod. Which made him injured and he was not capable of moving. He laid there like a dead man for half an hour and woke up full of tears. People pulled his feathers too.

h. How and why was the woman changed into a spider?

The reason behind the changing of the woman into a spider is lightning. Without any permission, she went out to dance and when she was returning from the forest a massive lightning strike shattered the sky and a bolt of brimstone hit and converted her into a spider.

i. Describe how Elisenda saw the strange man flying over the houses?

Elisenda saw the strange man flying over the house from her windows while she was chopping vegetables in the kitchen. While doing so, she felt a breeze and moved to the window to check whether it is. She then saw the elderly guy was trying to fly and after a while, she saw that he succeeded to fly and vanished as quickly.

j. The arrival of a strange old man at Pelayo's courtyard arouses many suspicions and explanations. Explain how the neighbour woman, Father Gonzaga and the doctor speak of the strange man. Why do you think these three people give three different kinds of interpretations?

The appearance of a strange old man at Pelayo's courtyard produces many suspicions and explanations. According to the neighbour woman, he was an "angel" who came for their child, but the poor fellow is so old that the rain knocked him down. When Father said Good Morning in Latin, he muttered something in his dialect which father couldn't understand.

Father Gonzaga was not sure about the old man being a celestial messenger because he (old man) did not understand the language of God or know how to greet His ministers. He looked much too human, he had an intolerable smell of the outdoors, and the backside of his wings was sprinkled with parasites. There was nothing about him measured up to the proud dignity of angels. So Father told to the viewer that an old man who has wings wasn't an angel. But the crowd didn't pay attention to Father Gonzaga. According to the doctor, the strange man couldn't be alive for a long time. He found so much whistling in the heart and so many sounds in his kidneys. It seemed the body of an angel was complete as a human organism but he couldn't understand why other men didn't have them too.

In my opinion, these three people give three different kinds of variations to a strange old man because they are all involved in different types of activities and they all see the strange old man with their different views. An old woman believes in things like an angel, ghosts, etc. Father Gonzaga was a person who believed in god and interpreted everything with proof. And a doctor was a person who see the strange old man as his patient.

k. This story belongs to the genre of 'magical realism, a genre perfected by Gabriel Garcia Marquez in his novels and short stories. Magical realism is a narrative technique in which the storyteller narrates the commonplace things with magical colour and the events look both magical and real at the same time. Collect five magic realist happenings from the story and argue why they seem magical to you.

The story 'a very old man with enormous wings' belongs to the genre of 'magical realism', a genre perfected by Gabriel Garcia Marquez in his novels. Following are the five magic realist happenings from the story:

At the beginning of the story Pelayo saw a very old man, lying face down in the mud in his garden who couldn't get up in spite of his tremendous efforts which also had

wings. The writer here uses Magical realism techniques through the word 'enormous wings' of an old man. This shows that an old man belongs to another universe or world. When Pelayo and Elisenda tried to talk with the strange old man, he answered in an unbelievable dialect with a strong voice. It shows the example of a magical link in the sense that he was from another mysterious world. After seeing the old man, the old woman called him the "angel" who came for their child, but the old man is so old that the rain knocked him down. The word 'angel' itself justifies the magical link in the story. The modification of the woman in spider for having disobeyed her parents by going out to dance without any permission to a spider. In his childhood, she had crept out of her parent's house to go to a dance, and while she was coming back through the dark forest after having danced all night without permission, a massive thunderclap hit and through the crack came the lightning bolt of brimstone that changed her into a spider. This also links the story to magical realism techniques. As shown by the story, the doctor failed to treat the old man. According to the doctor, the strange man couldn't be alive for a long time. He found so much whistling in the heart and so many sounds in his kidneys. An old man became weak and sick. His feathers had fallen down. But quickly his feathers regrow again and fly in the sky. This also links the story to magical realism.

c. The author introduces the episode of a woman who became a spider for having disobeyed her parents. This episode at once shifts people's concentration from the strange old man to the spider woman. What do you think is the purpose of the author to bring this shift in the story?

The author introduces the episode of a woman who became a spider for having disregarded her parents by going outside to dance without any permission. The scene of shifting a woman into a spider is somewhat breaking the attention of an old man, I think, the author brought this shift in the story is to show another example of magical realism. The intention of the author was to show us the greed of humans. In the beginning, Pelayo, and Elisenda take care of a strange old man when they benefit from him by charging five cents admission to see. But when a spider woman comes and people pay less attention to an angel, they do not care about him. Old man drags here and there. The house of an old man collapses due to rain and sun but they didn't repair it.

d. The story deals with the common people's gullibility. How do Pelayo and his wife take advantage of common people's whim?

The story 'A Very Old man with Enormous Wings' deals with the common people's gullibility. Pelayo and his wife saw an old man with wings in their garden. When they wanted to talk with him, he answered in an impenetrable dialect with a strong voice. They were unable to understand his language. So they called an old woman who was a witch. She called an old man an "angel" who came to take their child but he is so old that the rain knocked him down. Pelayo pulled him out of the mud and locked him up with the hens in the wire chicken coop. A short time afterwards the child woke up

without a fever and with a desire to eat. They now felt like magic just happened. Then they felt generous and decided to put the old man on a raft with fresh water and provisions for three days and leave him to his fate on the high seas. But when they get early in the morning and saw that, their courtyard was full of crowds and they were amazed by seeing that. The news of the angel spread like a fire. People didn't even listen to Father Gonzaga's voice that he was not an angel. Pelayo's wife got an idea to charge five cents admission to see an angel. They gathered a lot of wealth from it and built a luxurious house for themselves.

On Libraries

a. Where could the author be found when he was late for lunch or dinner?

The author is none other than the greatest neurologist and literary figure Oliver Sacks. There was Oliver's favorite room, which was very quiet and beautiful in the house and it was the room of the oak-paneled library. His parents had libraries in the house. So whenever he was late for lunch or dinner he could be found absorbed in a book in the library.

b. What are his first memories?

Oliver was so inquisitive that he was absorbed in a book in his favourite room of library. He even used to get late for his lunch and dinner as he was found to be too absorbed in the books. He learnt to read early in the morning at 4 or 5 o'clock. The beautiful oak panel library and books are his first memories.

c. Why did he dislike school?

He disliked school because he didn't like to obey the instructions from the teachers. He gained better information and knowledge exploring books in the libraries than that from the school. He used to get excellent lessons from the libraries before the teachers taught in the class. He was not a good student but was a better learner. Thus, he disliked school because he liked to learn himself in libraries being free to choose books of his own choice.

d. What did he feel about at the library?

He felt free when he is at the library. It is because he is free to choose any books of his interest out of thousands of books. The atmosphere of the library was so comfortable and quiet that he roamed through the shelves and wondered by the books kept in them. He also used to enjoy the quiet companionship of other readers all like him in the same quest.

e. Why was he so biased about sciences especially astronomy and chemistry?

He was biased about science especially astronomy and chemistry because of the two reasons – The first reason was that all the children used to dream of being astronauts and explore the space at that time. So he must have wished to know about it. The second reason was that he got older and he only needed those books which would support his studies.

f. Why did he become so fascinated by Hook?

He became so fascinated by Theodore Hook because he found the books written by him in the Bodleian library. Actually, Hook was greatly admired for his wit and his genius theatrical and musical improvisation. He was the greatest star in the nineteenth Century for what he had done. He had composed more than five hundred operas on the spot.

g. Describe library at the Queen's College.

The Queen's College is a constituent college of the University of Oxford, England. It has the magnificent building designed in a form of palace by Christopher Wren, who was a great architect. Beneath the college, there were underground large rooms which was the library. There were number of book shelves. There were heating pipes attached to the walls and corners. The design of the library was classical. The books of original prints and editions from Gesner to Darwin were available.

h. Why did the students ignore the bookshelves in the 1990s?

The students ignored the bookshelves in the 1990s because they had access to the digitalized books. The access of books from their computers made them rarely go to the shelves. The books were no longer of their consideration. They felt more comfortable with the new form of reading books in their electronic devices than going to the shelves in the library.

i. Why was he horrified when he visited the library a couple of months ago?

He was horrified when he visited the library a couple of months ago because the books from almost all public libraries were thrown out of the shelves and were digitized. Unfortunately he didn't know how to use the computers. The books, the shelves and libraries were gone one by one and he was deeply saddened in the loss of the centuries of knowledge. Therefore, he was horrified.

j. The author says, "I was not a good pupil, but I was a good listener." Justify it with the textual evidences.

'On libraries' is an autobiographical essay by one of the 20th century's greatest neurologist and author, Oliver Sacks. In this essay, he describes about his experiences of going to libraries and how successful stories shaped his personality and made his life better. He describes how he developed his deep interest in visiting the libraries till he became a successful figure and how he was deeply affected by the loss of books in the libraries in the 1990s.

Oliver Sacks says, "I was not a good pupil, but I was a good listener." That's true. He was always absorbed in the books in the library and he got real education from there. When he was in school, he sat in the classrooms, merely listened to teachers but he couldn't be convinced on what he wanted in depth from the teachers. He listened to them through one ear and blew away their sayings from another ear. However, it doesn't mean he wasn't active in the class. He was not passive either. In terms of doing exercises, submitting assignment he himself considered that he was not a good student (pupil) but he listened to them. Besides going to school, he preferably spent most of his time in the library, where he enhanced his skill of gaining knowledge from

the additional books. He used to search the things that he listened from the teachers, compared the lectures with findings, noted down the conclusion in the copies and into his mind. This kind of keen interest of reading in the library made him a good reader, learner even though he consider himself as a poor student in the classroom.

k. A proverb says, “Nothing is pleasanter than exploring a library.” Does this proverb apply in the essay? Explain.

The given proverb, “Nothing is pleasanter than exploring a library” is quite appropriate for the essay “On Libraries”. Nothing is more satisfying than reading a book in library with a literal companion. Oliver Sacks was a bookworm who used to spend a lot of time in different libraries in different places. He disliked school, sitting in class, receiving instruction; information seemed to go in one ear and out by the other. He had to be active, learn for himself, learn what he wanted, and in the way which suited him best. So he roamed the shelves and stacks of the libraries, had the freedom to select whatever he wanted. His book reading started from his own library at home. All of his family members loved reading books and he was grown up in that environment. The oak-paneled library at his own home was his favourite room. Instead of going to formal school, he preferred to read freely in the library. He especially enjoyed the library environment and the quiet companions of other readers. Best of all, he wants to sit at the library table with a pile of books in front of him. Therefore, he said that he was not a good pupil, but was a good listener who explored different libraries to gain knowledge for his own academic excellence. Hence the above proverb fits for this essay.

l. Are there any other services that you would like to see added to the library?

Yes, there are some other services that I would like to see added to the library. I would prefer different rooms for different age groups such as child, adults and aged people because they prefer books most likely of their interest with their age. The elders may like to read environment, nature, culture etc., the aged people may like to read books related to politics, ethics, philosophy etc. and the kids would like to read stories, comics etc. The other thing I would like to see added in the library is surveillance camera. Many people tear the books or even take them due to which other readers are affected. Hence to prevent these bad activities on library, surveillance camera should be fitted. Good furniture to read books on is also an essential thing to be added to the library. Readers may feel bored reading on the tables. So, a small garden in the backyard of the library may be useful to remove the reader’s tiredness. I would also like to see a cafe added to the library because peoples who love reading long hours in the library may get hungry, then they can enjoy reading by eating something, which can quench their hunger.

Marriage is a Social Institution

a. According to the author, what is marriage?

According to the author, marriage is much more than the sum of spouses which is defined by loyal, moral and conventional assumptions and have a variety of close personal relationships and associations.

b. How is marriage an institution?

Marriage is an institution in the sense that it is a means of meeting social, economic, physical and family requirements by two individuals, and it is linked to other institutions such as education, the economy and politics.

c. What are the rules that a marriage has?

Marriage has a complex set of rules that help in the planning and maintenance of the rights of the spouses to each other within a society..

d. Why does marriage matter to men?

Marriage matters to men because it provides structure to their lives and organizes their goals and ambitions.

e. What is one of the central problems in modern society?

One of the central problems in modern society is putting various legitimate boundaries around modern individuals seemingly limiting the desires for wellbeing, comfort, luxury and prestige.

f. What does social capital consist of?

Social capital consists of a vast network of people who are all connected by a bond of trustworthiness and reliability.

g. What is normative marriage? Explain.

Normative marriage is a form of social control, a way by which behaviors and aspirations are channeled appropriately. It is a force greater than the individuals involved because it represents the collective sentiments of others. Marriage in this view is qualitatively different from other intimate relationships.

h. Discuss six dimensions that define normative marriage in America.

The six dimensions that define normative marriage in America are: marriages are entered voluntarily by mature, heterosexual adults with the expectation that husbands will be the principal earners, that both partners will be sexually faithful, and that married partners will become parents. Although many marriages depart from these ideals, the ideals still constitute the core of normative marriage as it is expressed in law, religion, and custom. Normative marriage is a form of social control, a way by which behaviors and aspirations are channeled appropriately. It is a force greater than the individuals involved because it represents the collective sentiments of others. Marriage in this view is qualitatively different from other intimate relationships. Much of the meaning of marriage in men’s lives will be found in these rules. Together, these six premises provide a definition of marriage that will inform the rest of this work.

i. Do marriages differ according to culture? How is your marriage practice different from marriage in America?

Marriage practices vary across cultures. Every culture has its own way of conducting marriage according to their traditions and customs. Most cultures share common

customs and practices, while some cultures have unique practices. Even within our country, the marriage practices of one geographical place differ from those of others. However, the Hindu religion is practiced by the majority of Nepalese people.

Marriage practices in Nepal is totally different than in America. Marriage practices are not so important in the American culture, and couples are free to choose; to follow common or to choose a combination of practices. The American culture is not strong on the institution of marriage as it is for Nepal. The current American society does not consider marriage institution; its importance comes after career and financial matters. Nepal considers the marriage institution as very important and should be treated with all respect by all in the society. The importance of the marriage institution is evident from the marriage practices that have remained consistent in the Nepalese culture. In Nepal, most of the marriage are arranged by the parents but in America, couples choose their partner themselves. Marriage not only connects the two individuals (boy and girl), but also unites two different families. There is equal involvement of the parents of the couple for the marriage ritual in Nepal. In this way, the marriage practices differs in our culture than in America.

Knowledge and Wisdom

a. What are the factors that contribute to wisdom?

Russell believes that there are several factors that contribute to wisdom. The first factor is a sense of proportion. He defines it as the capacity to take account of all the important factors in a problem and to attach to each its due weight. The second factor focuses on awareness of the ends of human life. Russell substantiates this factor using the example of Hegel, an eminent historian from Germany. The third factor is emancipation from personal prejudice. Russell also stresses on the need to try and view the world with impartiality although to the view the world with complete impartiality is impossible.

b. What message does the writer try to convey with the example of technicians?

The writer tries to tell us knowledge itself cannot save the world. Knowledge without wisdom will not benefit the world and in some cases will even pose a serious threat to humanity. So a wise person has to have a comprehensive view.

c. Which leaders does Russell say were able to mix knowledge and wisdom soundly?

Queen Elizabeth I in England, Henry IV in France and Abraham Lincoln in the United States of America were the leaders Bertrand Russell says who were able to mix knowledge and wisdom soundly. Queen Elizabeth I and Henry IV remained free from the errors of their time, being unaffected by the conflict between the Protestants and the Catholics. Abraham Lincoln conducted a great war without ever departing from wisdom.

d. Why is wisdom needed not only in public ways, but in private life equally?

Wisdom helps to free ourselves from personal prejudices and hatred against one another. Two persons may remain enemies because of their prejudice. One may dislike

the other for imaginary faults. However, if they can be told that we all have flaws then they may become friends. This is the matter of public life. Considering about the private life too, we may fail in choosing the target of our life and we may not have sufficient patience and sufficient persuasiveness. That's why wisdom is needed not only in public ways, but in private life equally.

e. What, according to Russell, is the true aim of education?

Russell feels that wisdom can be taught as a goal of education. The message in the parable of the Good Samaritan is that we should love our neighbour whether friend or foe. However, in many situations we miss the message in this parable because we fail to love those who cause harm to the society. The only way to eradicate hatred is through understanding and love. Queen Elizabeth I in England, Henry IV in France and Abraham Lincoln in the United States of America were the leaders Russell says who were able to mix knowledge and wisdom soundly. Russell feels knowledge and wisdom can be combined in the scheme of education. People should be educated to see things in relation to other things of the world.

f. Can wisdom be taught? If so, how?

Yes wisdom can be taught as a goal of education. The message in the parable of the Good Samaritan is that we should love our neighbour whether friend or foe. However, in many situations we miss the message in this parable because we fail to love those who cause harm to the society. The only way to eradicate hatred is through teaching of the wisdom. The danger of hatred and narrow-mindedness can be pointed out in the course of giving knowledge. Russell feels knowledge and wisdom can be combined in the scheme of education. People should be educated to see things in relation to other things of the world. They should be encouraged to think of themselves as world citizens.

g. Why does the world need more wisdom in the future?

Wisdom is needed to free ourselves from personal prejudices and hatred against one another. Two persons may remain enemies because of their prejudice. One may dislike the other for imaginary faults. However, if they can be told that we all have flaws then they may become friends. We can avoid hatred if we are wise. Wisdom lies in freeing ourselves from the control of our sense organs. Our ego develops through our senses. As we grow, we give up thinking of ourselves alone. We start thinking of other people and grow wiser and thereby help us in giving up on our ego. Thus, the world needs more wisdom in the future.

h. According to Russell, "The pursuit of knowledge may become harmful unless it is combined with wisdom." Justify this statement.

The essay 'Knowledge and Wisdom' written by Bertrand Russell talks about the need to integrate knowledge and wisdom. He defines various ways of achieving wisdom and how knowledge without wisdom can be harmful. Russell stresses on the importance of comprehensiveness, but at the same time says that comprehensiveness alone does not constitute wisdom. Hegel's philosophy was comprehensive, but was lacking in wisdom

and there was prejudice in his philosophy. Hegel wrote with great knowledge about history, but made the Germans believe that they were the most powerful race in the whole world which led to war. Therefore, it is necessary to combine knowledge with feelings. Men who have knowledge and have no feelings lack wisdom. We need wisdom both in public and private life.

i. What, according to Russell, is the essence of wisdom? And how can one acquire the very essence?

Russell believes that it is unwise to pursue certain goals if it is impossible of achievement. He points out that the essence of wisdom is to free oneself from the confinement of the physical world and the emotional world and look beyond. He also points out that emancipation from personal prejudice makes one's thoughts and feelings to become less personal which contributes to wisdom. Wisdom does not come immediately with knowledge. According to Russell, wisdom is defined as the practical application and use of the knowledge to create value. One can acquire the very essence through learning and practical experience.

Humility

a. Describe the claim of the Chinese nationalists about human history.

Chinese nationalists claim that history began with the Yellow Emperor and the Xia and Shang dynasties. They believe that anything that was accomplished by other rulers like westerners, Muslims or Indians is a bit imitation of Chinese achievement.

b. What do pious Muslims believe about human history?

Pious Muslims believe that all history follows the Quran. All the history before Prophet Muhammad was mostly meaningless and all history after that following Quran's revelation revolves around the Muslim ummah.

c. What did the Aztecs firmly believe about the universe?

The Aztecs firmly believed about the universe that annual sacrifice is the reason behind the existence of the universe. Without annual sacrifice, the sun wouldn't rise and the whole cosmos would collapse.

d. What, according to the essay, are the universal human abilities?

According to the essay, the universal human abilities are art, creativity, spirituality and mortality.

e. How are the basic yoga postures derived from the shape of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet?

The basic yoga postures derived from the shape of letters of the Hebrew alphabet as the yoga posture Tuladandasana imitates the letter 'daled', Trikonasana imitated the form of the Hebrew letter 'aleph' and so on.

f. How do Hindu nationalists refute the Chinese claim that human history began with the Yellow Emperor and the Xia and Shang dynasties? Who do you agree with, and why?

Hindu nationalists refute the Chinese claim that humans began with the Yellow Emperor and the Xia and Shang dynasties by claiming that Indian sages developed the

theory of planes and nuclear weapons long before Plato, Confucius or Einstein and the Wright brothers. In the Hindu holy books of Hindus, different evidence of discoveries and inventions are found long before any scientists proved them. Hinduism is found to be the oldest religion in the world according to various scientific as well as archaeological studies. Thus I agree with the Hindu nationalists over Chinese claims through different evidence that was found in Hinduism.

g. The author has dealt with a controversial debate on human history. Why do you think history has been a major contested issue in the present world?

The essay 'Humility' written by Yuval Noah Harari is about the different controversies about human history. The essay presents the thoughts and people's beliefs in human history according to their religion. In my opinion, history has been a major contested issue in the present world due to egoism. I would like to call egoism the supremacy of their belief in their religion only rather than understanding others. Most individuals believe that their religion is the oldest and they are the center of the universe. They believe that their culture is superior to all others. According to them, everything originated from their culture. So because of egoism human history has been a major contested issue. The author wishes to remove a sense of superiority and domination from humanity.

Human Rights in the Age of Inequality

a. What is the first human rights declaration adopted by the United Nations?

The first human rights declaration adopted by the United Nations is mobilization for economic and social rights.

b. When is Human Rights Day observed?

Human rights day is observed on 10th December every year.

c. What is the goal of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

The goal of the Universal Declaration of human rights is to assure the most basic entitlements and key values of human welfare and rights like equality, dignity, freedom, fairness and respect. Also, its goal is to assert justice and peace in the world alongside the foundation of freedom.

d. What are two big stages that involve writing the history of human rights about that of political economy?

The two big stages that involve writing the history of human rights about that of the political economy include the heroic age of national welfare after the condition of World War II and the bitter enemies of the new cold war era in 1948.

e. What are the facts that have been missed in Roosevelt's call for a "second Bill of Rights"?

The facts that have been missed in Roosevelt's call for a "second Bill of rights" are:

- It marked a provincial America's late and ginger entry into a North Atlantic consensus which is already foreordained.
- His highest promise was "special privileges for the few" instead of protection of

masses which creates a ceiling of inequality. – He hoped that it would h4 the globe but it was organized nationally instead of organizing internationally.

f. Write the truth expressed in Herodotus’s Histories.

The truth expressed in Herodotus’ histories is to assure global socio-economic justice, local socio-economic justice. it would require redistribution from rich to poor by novel forms of legal activism.

g. Why is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights important to you?

The universal declaration of human rights is important to me as it assures the basic rights of humans and provides justice, equality, equity for all human beings equally. it aimed to remove injustice, partiality, discrimination, inequality and so many inhuman behaviors from society.

h. Does the essay give ways on how to stigmatize inequality? Explain.

The essay “human rights and age of inequality” written by Samuel Moyn is the essay briefing about how the concept of human rights arises and what it brought to human welfare. The essay focuses on the stigmatization of inequality rather than giving some specific ways how to stigmatize inequality. History shows us that there are wrong kinds of agents who are not fearful enough to provoke redistribution. Surely, opponents will arise someday if inequality grows like this. Thus the need for justice and equality is in demand. so the new human rights movement sorted of different views for the common people can bring and justify social equality and liberation. it is very necessary to remove partiality and discrimination by proper supervision, monitoring and enacting strict laws. For the welfare of common people and all human beings, inequality must be removed as it is believed to be a stigma for society.

i. Is another human rights movement necessary? Why?

In my opinion, another human rights movement is necessary. Also as the essayist finds human rights is functioning under different political and economical suppression, I also agree on that point. He wishes to see other human rights movements in the coming days due to many reasons. The people with political and economical power and in higher positions are violating the law. In human affairs, inequality has been contained. The practice of nepotism and favoritism is still in use and it has suppressed different new ideas and talents. More than that political and social hegemony is still prevalent. Laws and rights are only documented rather than taken into practice. And the major thing is the classification of society based on their economic conditions like rich or poor has brought injustice and inequality. Thus the need for another human rights movement is true.

A Matter of Husbands

a. What favour does Earnest Young Woman ask from The Famous Actress?

Earnest Young Woman asks a favour of return her husband from The Famous Actress because she loves her husband very much but she comes to know The Famous Actress has stolen her husband from her.

b. What, according to The Earnest Young Woman, are the indications that her husband has fallen in love with Famous Actress?

According to the Earnest Young Woman, her husband sends flowers to The Famous Actress. She comes to know about it from a florist. One day, her husband forgets the love letter on table, which says her husband is unable to call the Famous Actress and beg apology offering her thousands of kisses.

c. Is Earnest Young Woman convinced by the argument of Famous Actress? How?

According to the basic conversation between Earnest Young Woman and famous Actress, it Seems as Earnest Young Woman is convinced by argument of Famous Actress. The Famous Actress tells her that Earnest Young Woman’s husband has done that love affair with the actress so that she gets jealous and regains love from her. She tells her that many actresses easily accept such proposal for the sake of reunion of the families.

d. Where is the Earnest Young Woman’s husband hiding himself as they are talking about him?

According to the play, the Earnest Woman’s husband appears at the end of the play when the Famous Actress calls him to come When Out of her boudoir. This means throughout the entire play the Earnest Young Woman’s husband is hiding in the famous Actress boudoir.

e. When do you feel that Famous Actress is really good at acting?

I feel the famous Actress is really good at acting when she tells the Earnest Young Woman that her husband is playing a game upon her to make her jealous so that she will change her personality and can try to impress him her by any means. She asks for lock of hair, which the Earnest Young Woman brings with her. She says Alfred has that because her hair-dresser may steal and give it to him.

f. How do we come to know that Famous Actress and the husband of Earnest Young Woman are in love?

From the final part of the play we come to know that famous Actress and the husband of Earnest Young Woman are in love. Alfred is called to come out of the Famous Actress boudoir. It’s obvious that the Earnest Young woman is fooled and they are in love.

g. Write down the plot of the play in a paragraph.

A Matter of Husbands is a one-act written by most celebrated and controversial play wright Ferenc Molnar. This play sheds light on the role of actors on the stage and in real life and how much they are capable of keeping us in an illusion.

In the beginning, the Earnest Young Woman rushes to the Famous Actress angrily, asking her to return her husband. The famous Actress boldly denies, that she has stolen her husband. She says she knows him because once the contract for a case has given to him. Earnest Young Woman tells her that her husband sends her flowers and writes love letter. She reads her husband’s love letter for the actress.

Upon the circumstance, the actress smiles and still begins to deny that she has received any flowers or any letters from him. Now she fools Earnest Young Woman by saying that a misunderstanding may have arrived between her and her husband. She makes Earnest Young Woman believe that her husband has been playing with her to make her jealous and gain her love back. Then, the Earnest Young woman innocently realizes her misdeed and begs sorry with her. Earnest Young Woman leaves the stage and the famous Actress calls Alfred to come out of her boudoir.

h. Sketch the character of Famous Actress.

The Famous Actress is a young, renowned, and beautiful actress who is envied by the ordinary woman. On the outside, she looks innocent and harmless but in reality, she is mean and wicked. She is cunning and deceitful as seen in the way she concocts a story to sway the woman from believing that her husband was having an affair with her. She also lives an immoral life as seen in the conclusion of the story where it was revealed that Alfred, the ordinary woman’s husband was actually in her house.

i. Shed light on the difference between an ordinary woman and an actress.

In the story, “A Matter of Husband”, the ordinary woman is portrayed as a simple-minded and timid person who was easily deceived by the false story told by the actress. She had come to the actress in tears completely sure that her husband was having an affair with the actress. However, the actress told a story to her of how her husband was trying to regain the love he had for her by doing things to get her jealous. Without asking questions, the ordinary woman believed her and bought into the story. In the end, it was revealed that her husband was actually in the actress’s room. This shows that the actress was cunning while the ordinary woman was timid.

j. According to Famous Actress, men associated with theatre use the theatre actresses to make their estranged wives jealous so as to woo them back. Do you agree with her argument? Why? Why not?

Yes I agree with her argument. A men associated with theatre mostly have an ordinary, simple-minded and timid wife who can be easily deceived by the false story. In the act too, Alfred was hiding in the actress’s room so as to regain the love he had for her by doing things to get her jealous. Thus, men take advantage of the cunning actress to make their estranged wives jealous so as to woo them back.

k. How does Famous Actress make a fool of Earnest Young Woman?

Famous Actress makes a fool of Earnest Young Woman by saying that a misunderstanding may have arrived between her and her husband. She makes Earnest Young Woman believe that her husband has been playing with her to make her jealous and gain her love back. Then, the Earnest Young woman innocently realizes her misdeed and begs sorry with her.

e. The conversation between the two women takes place on the stage of the theatre. What role does the theatre house as a part of setting play in A Matter for Husband?

f. How do we learn that the bull is dead?

There are various indications of the bull's death. The conversation between cowherds, Laxminarayan and the king clearly indicates the death of the bull. Alongside the physical appearance of the bull as his eyes are motionless, tail has loosened, it was breathless and ears were dropped down and he was unable to eat anything.

g. How does the play make a satire on the feudal system?

The play 'the bull' written by Bhimnidhi Tiwari is one of the mirrors of the feudal system and its terrific act. The horrible acts towards ordinary people by the feudal system have been tried to show as it was then in the play. The domination and dehumanization towards ordinary people have been tried to portray in the play. The feudal system at its best is cruel and doesn't value the people. In the play, the survived cowherds are presented in such a panic even though they have survived by the mercy of their lord. The play shows that the king's animal receives more respect, comfort and care than the people there. The people there are living in terror and they are hiding their reality in order to save their lives in front of the king.

h. Write down the plot of the play in a paragraph.

The play 'The Bull' was written by well-known Nepali poet and dramatist, Bhimnidhi Tiwari. The plot of this play shows the emotional connection between bull and King Rana Bahadur Shah.

i. Discuss the late eighteenth-century Nepali society as portrayed in terms of the relation between the king and his subjects as portrayed in the play.

During the eighteenth century the monarchy system was prevalent in Nepal. Nepal was ruled by the shah dynasty. They were used to being strict and so is the Nepalese society. People's choices were under the king's or ruler's dominance. They weren't free to conduct their lives. The same similarity is portrayed in the play 'the bull'. It shows a horrible society in which people are compelled to live under the terror of kings or lords. Their masters treated them horrifically. Also if they or their opinion went against the masters, they were punished. This play shows the miserable life condition of Nepalese society. People were not given even fundamental rights. They were deprived of political and financial knowledge. They were bound by patriarchal rules and ideals. The society was purely male dominated. Men's were allowed to marry multiple wives. In this play, Laxminarayan also has seven wives. And the king had complete control over the lives of common people.

j. What does the relation between Laxminarayan and his wives tell us about the society of that time? To what extent has the Nepali society changed since then?

Laxminarayan is the main character of the play and a Forty years old legal officer and king's bull's doctor. Taking the scenario of his relationship with his wives, he has seven wives. Yet he is not satisfied with all of them and he is planning to marry his eighth wife. He calls his wives with different nicknames. This practice of having more wives shows about the male dominant society. Men's are allowed to marry multiple wives whereas women's are compelled to live their life under the full dominance and violence of their husband. Women's were illiterate and unconscious about their rights.

People and especially women's are deprived of political and financial knowledge. Child marriage was prevalent at that time. But the Nepalese society has altered this situation dramatically since then. The current situation of Nepali society and especially Nepali women is significantly better. Human rights and women rights are there to protect them with their basic rights. The literacy rate of women has also increased substantially. They were in a higher power of economic and political authority. The concept of equality and equity is operational in Nepalese society. Many of the patriarchal traditions like child marriage and prathas are at the end. Many organizations are working for the betterment of women. Overall the society is significantly changed.

k. Shed light on the practice of chakari as portrayed in the play. Have you noticed this practice in your society?

The practice of chakari was prevalent and very popular during the king's rule. During the royal system, there used to be a craze or we can say majority of people were involved in the chakari of their leaders, monarchs and lords. Chakari was famous for gaining wealth or gifts from the king. They aimed to please the king by doing chakari and receiving the wealth. They do chakari in the hope of their advancement of life and living but meanwhile there are serious consequences if they do not perform correctly.

The practice of chakari was shown very perfectly in the play too. The play's main character Laxminarayan and cowherds Gore and Jitman are frequently seen as doing the chakari of their king. Laxminarayan was once also punished due to his bad deed of speaking in loud voice in front of the king. They used to be very anxious from the deed of kings. When the bull dies, Laxminarayan is so aware of the king's anger and punishment so he picks his moves carefully to save his and cowherds life from severe punishment. In the play it is shown that they are calling the bull by "the bull sir". Therefore the action of Laxminarayan and cowherds demonstrates the chakari they are doing.

l. How does Laxminarayan outsmart Rana Bahadur?

Laxminarayan outsmarts Rana Bahadur with his great trickery. Laxminarayan is 40 years old, one of the legal officers and doctor of the king's bull. As Gore and Jitman inform him about the death of the king's bull, he rushes to the king's palace. He has the amazing talent of flattering the king away from his emotion. He knew king will be angry and enraged by the death of bull, so Laxminarayan didn't inform immediately. Rather than telling the truth immediately, he tells the bull about the bull's sickness to the king. He even tells cowherds to massage and wave fans at the bull. By this action the king believes the bull died due to sickness despite excellent care and treatment. It helps to protect the lives of cowherds. This way Laxminarayan flattered the king and protected the life of his and cowherds from the king's severe punishment.

m. Sketch the character of Laxminarayan.

Laxmi Narayan Dahal is one of the main characters of the play 'the bull'. he is forty years old, one of the legal officers and king's bull's doctor. He is married to seven wives. It is shown that he is still unsatisfied with all of them despite having seven different women at home. He is planning to marry eighth wife. When he learns about the king's bull's death, he flatters the king using his intellectual moves. Instead of telling the news immediately, he tells the king about the bull's sickness first. When king arrives to the cowshed at thulo Gauchar to see his bull, Laxminarayan tells the cowherds to massage and wave fan to the bull in order to please king and save his life. due to this act of Laxminarayan and cowherd, they were saved from king's punishment. Therefore, we can say Laxminarayan was a cunning man and he unmastered the king with his trickery.