

Reading Material
B. A. Semester I
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Alluring Aroma

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What We Must Learn from the West

N R Narayana Murthy.

Summary

N R Narayan Murthy, the co-founder of the Infosys Company is India's most successful businessman. 'What we must learn from the West' is a speech delivered by N R Narayan Murthy when he received the Lal Bahadur Shastri Award for excellence in Public administration and management in 2001. He received it from Lal Bahadur Shastri institute of Management. In this speech, Narayan Murthy compares certain characteristics of the people of the West with those of the Indian people and concludes that the Indians need to learn certain qualities from the West to achieve more. Mr Narayan Murthy has travelled extensively in the West for his work and he also has many Western stakeholders in his company and this has given him an opportunity to interact and observe the western attitude towards work. Citing valid examples, Mr Narayanmurthy explains that Indians in general are apathetic. They are selfish and lack initiative and discipline in public life. Narayan Murthy also observed that the Indians do not have the quality of admiring good in others. This quality is a great hindrance for the Indian Society to learn from other progressive societies. Mr Narayan Murthy rightly points out the flaw in the Indian society that as an Indian individual climbs the ladder of success, he becomes less and less accountable. His conscience neither pricks him for insincerity nor corruption. Mr Narayan Murthy also observed a lack of professionalism and punctuality in Indian society. The chronic problem in Indian mind-set is the absence to value every work at each level as important, integral and indispensable. Dignity of labour is not practised. The Indians are not brought up to become independent thinking individuals by parents and so this dependence is reflected in their workplace when they tend to rely on their bosses for constant guidance. They are unable to take independent decisions. Moreover, they do not honour contracts and create a bad name for the whole Indian Community. In a gist, the author feels that Indians only care for their family while the West cares for the public and society at large.

Answer the following questions in 150 words-

a) Why, according to Murthy, do we need to develop a value system In India?

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NR Narayanmurthy has observed over the years the difference in approach and attitude of the westerners and Indians about living life. Westerners seem to harmoniously combine loyalty to family and society according to Narayanmurthy. The author feels that we should also learn to revolve our life towards the good of society in addition to the good of family. Western values like caring for public property, taking initiatives for societal well-being, being accountable, prompt decision-making, understanding dignity of labour, professionalism and honouring

contracts should be systematically and purposefully imbibed by the Indians. NR Narayanmurthy feels that this change in overall attitude and behaviour would provide the necessary boost for the progress of Indian society.

b) What is it that makes the author proud of Indian culture?

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In the beginning of his speech, the author speaks about the positives in Indian culture and then goes on to enlist the different salient features of the western society which have given them that competitive edge. NR Narayanmurthy is proud that Indian culture has deep rooted family values-parents make enormous sacrifices for their children: children consider it their duty to take care of aged parents; and marriage is held to be a sacred union with husband and wife bonded for life.

c) What changes does the speaker foresee if societal orientation is brought about in India?

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The author foresees that the care for family has been extended to society as well and Indians have become more competitive, punctual, professional and sincere. They have learnt to harmoniously blend the loyalty to family with loyalty to society.

d) Mention some of the changes that the speaker would like to see in Indian society.

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The author wants the Indians to develop respect for public good accountability, intellectual independence, responsibility to the community, dignity of labour, acknowledging the accomplishments of others, professionalism and respect for contractual obligations.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. After receiving which award did Murthy deliver this speech?

- a. The Pulitzer Prize
- b. The Bharat Ratna Award
- c. The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award
- d. The Param Vir Chakra

2. The author has spoken decisively about the-----.

- a. western traditions and culture being adopted in India
- b. role of western values in contemporary Indian society
- c. lack of civic sense and the importance of civic duties in Indians
- d. superiority of the West as opposed to India

3. According to the speaker Indians are-----.

- a. apathetic towards the community
- b. sympathetic towards the community
- c. apathetic towards family
- d. sympathetic towards family

4. In the West, people-----

- a. evade punishment easily
- b. are held accountable for their deeds
- c. are exempt if they hold high positions
- d. are free to break the law at will

5. Dignity of labour exists

- a. as a part of western values
- b. to some extent in the West
- c. Completely in India
- d. in other parts of the world except India

6. In the West, people-----

- a. allow personal relations to interfere with professional relations
- b. do not chastise colleagues
- c. do not allow personal relations to interfere with professional ones
- d. prefer to hire people with whom they have close family ties

7. What does the author say about Indians and punctuality?

- a. Indians do not respect the time of others
- b. Indians are more punctual than Westerners
- c. The West should learn punctuality from Indians
- d. The West is not as punctual as India is

8. In the West-----

- a. parents make all decisions for their children
- b. parents teach their children to obey their decisions
- c. parents encourage their children to think independently
- d. parents think their children should follow Indian culture

9. What were some Indian students who had taken loans to study abroad obliged to do after graduating?

- a. Spend two years working abroad in the country they studied in
- b. Spend five years working in the country they studied in
- c. Return to India and remain working in India permanently
- d. Return to India and work for five years

10. "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both." This was said by president

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. Dwight Eisenhower
- c. Karl Marx
- d. Nelson Mandela

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	c	2.	b
3.	a	4.	b
5.	a	6.	c
7.	a	8.	b
9.	d	10.	b

Mary Kom Interview: “I was pretty confident about myself”

Summary

Mary Kom is an Indian boxer from Kangthei village in northeast state of Manipur, born on November 24, 1982. She is famously referred as ‘Magnificent Mary’. She comes from a poor family, where her parents, Mangte Tonpa Kom and Mangte Akham Kom, used to work in jhum fields as tenant farmers. Being a dutiful daughter, she often helps her parents with farm related chores. Despite all hardships she continues her schooling. She has a keen interest in athletics from the time of her youth. The success of Dingko Singh has inspired her to take up boxing as a career. Her father, an ardent wrestler has urged her to make career in boxing.

Her boxing career began in 2000, when she won Manipur State Women Boxing championship and the regional championship in West Bengal. At the age of 18 Mary Kom began competing at international level. She is a five-time winner of the World Boxing Champion and the first woman boxer to win a medal in each one of the six global championships. She is the first woman to qualify for London Olympics and also to win a bronze medal in boxing for India. Mary Kom became an inspiration for women.

In an interview with Sportskeeda, Mary Kom speaks about her preparation and performance in Olympics. She is exhilarated and happy with her success in the 51 kg flyweight category of boxing. She says she was confident about herself and prepared well for her game. She says more people should take up sports as a full-time career to win more gold medals. Further she adds, Corporate should sponsor players so that they can concentrate on their games rather than taking the tension of financial aid. Her international achievements have opened doors for many budding women boxers to take up the sport as a profession. She is very simple human being with strong family ties. Her hard work and dedication have gained her the adoration of fans worldwide. She is sensible, patient, and realistic person with no arrogance.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each: -

a) How does Mary Kom convey her feelings about being the first Indian woman to win medal at the Olympics? What can be said about her as a person from this interview?

Mary Kom an Indian boxer is a five-time winner of the World Boxing Champion and the first woman boxer to win a medal in each one of the six global championships. In an interview with sportskeeda Mary Kom speaks about her preparation and performance in Olympics. She is

exhilarated and happy with her success in the 51 kg flyweight category of boxing. She says she was confident about herself and prepared well for her game.

Mary Kom is a wonderful human being who apologised to the entire nation for not being able to win the gold, it shows her humility and greatness. Though she has earned so much fame, yet she is grounded. She is very simple human being with strong family ties. Her hard work and dedication have gained her the adoration of fans worldwide. She is sensible, patient, and realistic person with no arrogance.

b) What role the corporate sector play in furthering the cause of Indian athletes?

India is a nation of 1.3 billion people but our performance in Olympics is poor. Indians are not keen to make career in sports except cricket. However, beyond cricket, a very few individuals who have had some success in competitive sport. We are not aware about sportspersons or teams of international repute except game of cricket. Indians should change this mentality and more people should take up sports as a profession to bring laurels in Olympics. In India, Athletes doesn't get the financial as well as moral support to make it full time career.

Due to social and monetary disparity in India, every citizen does not have an equal opportunity to participate in sports, avail themselves of sporting amenities, or compete at professional level. Corporate sector should come forward to strengthen the sports ecosystem of the country, and to be stakeholders in India's journey towards becoming a sports powerhouse. As a Corporate Social Responsibility, they should sponsor players so that they can concentrate on their games rather than taking the tension of financial aid. Further, the CSR funds can be advance for preparation of athletes as well as assistance to athletes for participation in various international events. Corporates should allocate more funds to the sports sector like maintenance of stadiums, gymnasiums, and sports science support so that country can take major stride in developing sports culture.

c) What does Mary Kom have to say about women athletes in India?

Mary Kom is indeed a living legend when it comes to women's boxing. She is from Kangthei village in the state of Manipur, where boxing wasn't a sport to pursue by girls. Being a dutiful daughter, she always helps her parents with farm related chores. Despite all hardships she continues her schooling. Initially she has interest in athletics. Her father has encouraged her to take up boxing as a profession. Her international achievements have opened doors for many budding women boxers to take up the sport as a full-time career. While speaking in an interview about female athletes and their nutritional requirements, Mary Kom says that nutrition has been a neglected area in Indian sports. Previously women were not aware about their diet and nutrition. However, the awareness is growing now among the female athletes about the nutritional requirements.

She says, she had to gain 3 kgs since she had to fight in the 51 kg event instead of the usual 48 kgs that she fights in. She has focused on her eating habits to gain weight. In her opinion athletes should eat healthy food rather than bad saturated food.

d) The responsibility of sponsoring Indian athletes should lie with the government. Discuss.

Athletics are group of sporting events that involve competitive running, jumping, throwing, racewalking. These games are also called track and field sports. It has been developed out of basic activities of human beings like running, walking, jumping etc. Athletics is truly international sports wherein every country participate. Most nations send sportsmen and women to participate in World Championship (Olympics game).

In India many athletes come from poor socio-economic background. They cannot afford to spend money on sports related activities. Government should make the policies which can be helpful to strugglers. The responsibility lies with the government in developing sports industry and satisfying popular needs. In the beginning government should sponsor Indian athletes and encourage them to make the career in sports. Nowadays many people sponsor sportsperson if they do well and become successful. Government should make significant investment to support players for productive participation in sports, it should offer them scholarships to master the game and support the sports persons in the initial stage.

e) How can more young people be encouraged to take up a career in sports? What the Indian education system needs to change in order for that to happen?

Earlier game was played for recreation. People used to think that a career in sports is not a good idea. It was a common belief that sports cannot earn money and stable future. People used to tell their children to pursue sports only as a hobby, not as a career.

First, try to break this taboo that sport is for fun but not for career. We should encourage the young people to play the game of their interest. Parents play a vital role in making career choice for their children, they can encourage them to participate in various activities based on the games. Support them financially and psychologically to build their career in sports. Youngsters should be briefed about various career opportunities available in the sports industry for them. They should be told different career roles as well as the government scholarships and policies.

Sports is included in the curriculum but just for the sake of a formality. Education is mostly limited to academics; sports must be an integral part of it. In school, one sport should be compulsory for the child. Sports education should be the significant part of curriculum. Professional sports trainers should be appointed to give the coaching to the students, and it should reach to grassroot level.

Government should invest more money in sports to give scholarships and facilities to competent children.

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. In which category Mary Kom win an Olympic medal in 2012?**
 - a) The feather weight category
 - b) The flyweight category
 - c) The heavyweight category
 - d) The middleweight category
- 2. What added to her fame in India and the world?**
 - a) She won a gold medal
 - b) She is the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal for India.
 - c) She was from the northeast state of Manipur.
 - d) She was athletic right from a young age.
- 3. Mary Kom's coach was not allowed to accompany her. She-----**
 - a) Felt nervous
 - b) Requested to different coach
 - c) Refused to go without her coach
 - d) Had done her homework and was confident
- 4. When asked if she will train her kids to be boxers she said-----**
 - a) She wasn't sure
 - b) She would definitely train them
 - c) For now, just let their mother box
 - d) She had no plans of training them
- 5. According to Mary Kom diet and nutrition -----**
 - a) Has been neglected by Indian athletes
 - b) Has been adequate for Indian athletes
 - c) Has been given the importance it deserves
 - d) Has not been considered at all
- 6. For India to do better at the Olympics, Mary Kom feels that-----**
 - a) More people should take up sports as a career
 - b) The government should provide better sports facilities
 - c) Corporate should sponsor more athletes
 - d) Schools should sponsor more athletes

7. **Mary Kom has broken**-----
- Stereotypes
 - Tradition
 - Culture
 - Dreams
8. **Mary Kom is acclaimed as a** -----
- Two times world boxing champion
 - Five times world boxing champion
 - Three times world boxing champion
 - None of the above
9. **Mary Kom is from**-----
- Kangthei village in the state of Manipur
 - Chandel in the state of Manipur
 - Ukhrul village in the state of Manipur
 - Barpet village in the state of Assam
10. **She has won the bronze medal in** -----
- 51 kg middleweight category of boxing.
 - 48 kg flyweight category of boxing.
 - 41 kg middleweight category of boxing.
 - 51 kg flyweight category of boxing.
11. **Mary Kom's father was a keen**-----**in his younger age.**
- Cricketer
 - Wrestler
 - Badminton player
 - Runner

Answers Keys

Question	Correct Optio	Questio	Correct Optio	Questio	Correct Optio
1.	B	2.	b	3.	d
4.	C	5.	a	6.	a
7.	A	8.	b	9.	a
10.	D	11.	b		

The Naïve Friends

Munshi Premchand
Translated by Priyanka Sarkar

Summary

The story “The Naïve Friends” is about two siblings, Keshav and Shyama. Keshav is elder to Shyama. Both discover a bird had laid eggs on the cornice in their house. They both were pleased to watch the birds fly back and forth to the extent that they forgot the joys of milk and jalebi. Looking at the birds, their minds are filled with many questions like – How big were the eggs! What colour were they? How many! What did they eat! How would the chicks come out of them? What is the nest like!. To their despair nobody was there to answer to their questions. Their mother had no time from the household work and their father had no time from his books. The two children had to comfort themselves by asking and answering each other.

The nest and the eggs were not visible to the children, therefore their curiosity increased. They longed to have a look of the eggs. They were certain that the chicks must have come out of the eggs and worried for the food of the chicks. The very thought the chicks would starve to death when they will come out of the eggs left Keshav and Shyama anxious. They also thought the baby birds would die of thirst up on the cornice and also there is no shade above the nest. They decided to scatter some grains on the cornice for the bird to pick and feed its chicks, keep a bowl of water for them and to erect a temporary roof above the nest.

The children brought rice from the kitchen, arranged for a bowl to fill water in it and used the garbage basket to provide shed to the nest. They brought a stool from the room and a small bathing stool to place under the first to climb on top to see the eggs. It was unsteady, and Keshav felt quite scared while climbing on the stool. He asked Shyama to hold the stool firmly. The moment Keshav’s hands reached the cornice, the birds flew away. Keshav saw some twigs scattered on the cornice, and three eggs lying on them. There was no nest like the ones he had seen on trees.

Shyama’s curiosity increased, she asked her brother to show her the eggs. Instead of showing her the eggs, Keshav asked her to bring a piece of cloth to cushion the eggs as they were lying on the twigs and straw. Shyama immediately brought a piece of cloth, Keshav took it from her, folded it into a cushion and placed it under the eggs. Then he scattered the grains, kept the bowl of water and erected the shed. Shyama pleaded Keshav to show her the eggs or else help her climb up to see the eggs. But Keshav denied to Shyama’s request. The children were doing all these silently, without letting their mother know of their work.

Meanwhile the two birds approached the cornice only to quickly fly away again. Keshav wondered if they were scared and he took away the stools. Shyama was tearful as she could not get a chance to see the eggs. It was summer afternoon; their mother noticed them outside the house and scolded them. The two children silently came inside the house and slept instantly. Upon waking up they at once went out to see the eggs. The eggs were broken and were lying on the floor. Keshav went pale and stared at the ground with gloomy eyes. Just then their mother came out and saw the broken eggs. She became angry and scolded them for fiddling with the eggs and asked them how they reached to the cornice. Shyama told her mother everything whereas Keshav stood tongue tied. Mother told the children the birds dropped the eggs as they were tainted by their touch, and the birds don’t hatch such eggs. Keshav went pale and gloomy and stared at the ground with gloomy eyes. He was pricked by a guilty conscience.

In his efforts to protect the eggs he had destroyed them and this thought made him cry many a times.

The children, in their innocence and lack of wisdom, truly felt that they were helping the mother bird by comforting the eggs. But to their despair their good intentions only lead to the destruction of the eggs. The children were so enthusiastic to guard the eggs that they fail to observe certain rules of nature, resulting in the destruction of the eggs. The children were inexperienced, but their intentions are honest and kind. Keshav and Shyama too were such children in the story and are referred to as 'naïve' as they think they were friends of the birds, but act unwisely out of ignorance. This is how the author used the children to convey the message to the readers that lack of knowledge and wisdom leads to destruction, however the intentions may be good.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each.

a. Describe the relationship between the two siblings.

The two siblings in "The Naïve Friends" are Keshav and Shyama. Keshav is elder to Shyama. Both discover a bird had laid eggs on the cornice in their house. They both are pleased to watch the birds fly back and forth to the extent that they forget the joys of milk and jalebi. Looking at the birds, their minds are filled with many questions like – How big were the eggs! What colour were they? How many! What did they eat! How would the chicks come out of them? What is the nest like!. To their despair nobody was there to answer to their questions. The two children had to comfort themselves by asking and answering each other. The two children worked in earnest to arrange for rice grains, water and shelter and also for the comfort of the eggs by neatly placing the rags underneath the eggs. And with great team work they accomplished all this without letting mother know of their act. In all this Keshav's conduct is of an elder brother, ordering and scolding Shyama and Shyama following his orders and defending him from mother. She complained about Keshav to mother only when the eggs were broken.

b. Why do you think the eggs were broken? How did that make the children feel?

Keshav and Shyama decided to comfort the birds and their chicks. They scattered some grains on the cornice for the bird to pick and feed its chicks, kept a bowl of water and made arrangements to shade the nest on the cornice with the help of a garbage basket. They even decided to cushion the eggs as they were lying on the twigs and straw. For that they used a piece of cloth torn out from an old sari of their mother, folded it a number of times to make it into a cushion and placed it under the eggs. With their efforts to comfort the birds and the eggs, the children were fully satisfied. The two birds approached the cornice, but quickly flew away again. Then, after sometime, the children saw the three eggs lying broken on the floor. The birds dropped the eggs as they were tainted by the touch of the children. Keshav went pale and gloomy and stared at the ground with gloomy eyes. He was pricked by a guilty conscience. In his efforts to protect the eggs he had destroyed them and this thought made him cry many a times.

c. What lesson can be learned from the story? What was the role of the mother in helping them learn?

The story the “The Naïve Friends” is about two children who discover a bird had laid eggs just above the cornice in their house. The children feel that the eggs are unsafe and they should do something to protect them. With this intention in mind they handle the eggs and the eggs are destroyed. The children, in their innocence and lack of wisdom, truly feel that they are helping the mother bird by comforting the eggs. But to their despair their good intentions only lead to the destruction of the eggs. The children were so enthusiastic to guard the eggs that they fail to observe certain rules of nature, resulting in the destruction of the eggs. Many a times we do something with good intentions, but due to lack of knowledge and wisdom our good intentions lead to destruction. Nature has prepared all living creatures to take care of themselves; the mother bird too knows to guard its eggs and the enthusiasm of the children results in their destruction. This is the lesson one can learn from the story. In the story it is the Mother who informs the children and tells them the birds dropped the eggs as they were tainted by their touch.

d. How does the author use children to convey a message to the readers?

The story the “The Naïve Friends” is about two children who discover a bird had laid eggs just above the cornice in their house. The children feel that the eggs are unsafe and they should do something to protect them. With this intention in mind they handle the eggs and the eggs are destroyed. The birds had dropped the eggs as they were tainted by their touch. The children, in their innocence and lack of wisdom, truly feel that they are helping the mother bird by comforting the eggs. But to their despair their good intentions only lead to the destruction of the eggs. The children were so enthusiastic to guard the eggs that they fail to observe certain rules of nature, resulting in the destruction of the eggs. The children are inexperienced, but their intentions are honest and kind. Keshav and Shyama too are such children in the story and are referred to as ‘naïve’ as they think they are friends of the birds, but act unwisely out of ignorance. This is how the author used the children to convey the message to the readers that lack of knowledge and wisdom leads to destruction, however the intentions may be good.

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) **Where did Keshav and Shyama discover bird’s eggs?**
 - a. In a nest at the cornice in their house.
 - b. In a nest in the backyard.
 - c. In a nest in the front of their house.
 - d. In a nest on the tree.
- 2) **What made Keshav and his sister forget about the joys of milk and jalebi?**
 - a. The pleasure of seeing the two birds
 - b. The pleasure of seeing the eggs of the birds
 - c. The pleasure of seeing the chicks
 - d. The pleasure of seeing the chicks growing
- 3) **Numerous questions rose in the minds of Keshav and Shyama when they came to know of the bird’s eggs. Those were –**
 - a. How big were the eggs!

- b. What colour were they?
 - c. What is the nest like!
 - d. All of the above.
- 4) **The thought _____ left the siblings very anxious and they decided to scatter some grains on the cornice for the bird to pick.**
- a. The chicks will not come out of the eggs
 - b. The chicks were sure to starve to death
 - c. The chicks are growing fast
 - d. The chicks are weak and fragile
- 5) **How did Keshav reach the cornice?**
- a. He climbed a ladder.
 - b. He used a long stick.
 - c. He climbed the water pipe.
 - d. He placed a stool on the bathing table.
- 6) **What did Shyama beg of Keshav?**
- a. She begged to show her the eggs.
 - b. She begged him not to tell their mother.
 - c. She begged him not to climb.
 - d. She begged him to let her climb up.
- 7) **Why did Shyama keep quiet in front of their mother?**
- a. She didn't want to get in trouble.
 - b. She didn't want her mother to know.
 - c. She didn't want Keshav to say anything.
 - d. She wanted to blame Keshav.
- 8) **What made Keshav pale and gloomy?**
- a. The fact that the eggs were broken.
 - b. The fact that he would get into trouble.
 - c. He didn't want his sister to see the eggs.
 - d. He was afraid his sister would tell on him.
- 9) **What does 'dicey' mean?**
- a. Careless
 - b. Confused
 - c. Temporary
 - d. Unpredictable or potentially dangerous
- 10) **"You will fall down." Who said these words and to whom?**
- a. Mother to the siblings
 - b. Shyama to the mother
 - c. Keshav to the mother
 - d. Keshav to Shyama
- 11) **Keshav asked Shyama to bring _____ .**
- a. A bowl of water
 - b. A bowl of rice
 - c. A bowl of water and some rice grains
 - d. Some grains

12) Why did Shyama think the baby birds would die of thirst up in the nest?

- a. Because they had no food or water.
- b. Because the mother bird wasn't feeding them.
- c. Because it was too hot up in the nest and no water to drink.
- d. Because they were only drinking water and not eating any food.

13) What does 'gingerly' mean?

- a. carefully
- b. cautiously
- c. with care
- d. all of the above

14) Why did Shyama feel that Keshav should be punished?

- a. Shyama felt that Keshav must not have put the eggs back carefully enough so that they had rolled off.
- b. Shyama felt that Keshav must have put the eggs back carefully enough so that they had not rolled off.
- c. Both of the above
- d. None of the above

15) What did 'Ma' mention about bird's eggs to the children at the end of the story?

- a. That the eggs should not be touched.
- b. If the eggs are touched then they become tainted.
- c. If the eggs are touched then the birds do not hatch them.
- d. All of the above

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	a	2.	a	3.	d
4.	b	5.	d	6.	d
7.	b	8.	a	9.	d
10.	d	11.	c	12.	c
13.	d	14.	b	15.	d

Fur

Hector Hugh Munro (Saki)

Summary

The story 'Fur' is an extract taken from *The complete Short Stories of Saki* (1930). The story deals with the themes of selfishness, friendship, kindness, keeping up appearances and revenge in the story. The selfish Suzanne is keen on getting her wealthy cousin to give her expensive fur for her birthday and devises devious plans with her friend Eleanor to achieve her objective. She is so focused on herself, so determined to fit in with rich Russians at Davos that she can think of nothing else. She is unwilling to do anything for Eleanor and turns down a simple request that she makes. The result-the infuriated Eleanor turns the tables on her and get what she had wanted most-fur-while Suzanne is left with another fan, though a good one.

Suzanne's friend Eleanor think Bertram is more likely to give her a fan knowing she will be going to dances. Suzanne dreads the possibility because she already owns too many fans. They meet Bertram on his daily walk to his club. He will pass a department store where Suzanne has been admiring some lovely silver-fox stoles. Once they side-track him into the store, Eleanor can steer the conversation in the proper direction by asking Suzanne what she wants for her birthday.

As they wait for Bertram at a street corner near the store the following day, Eleanor asks Suzanne for a favour in the evening. She says Harry Scaribrooke is planning to visit "umexptedly" and she wants to be able to talk to him alone. She needs Suzanne to drop in after dinner and play bridge with her aunts to keep them occupied. Suzanne refuses because Eleanor's aunts are such slow bridge players that it would be a terrible bore for her.

Bertram comes along and happily joins the two women to explore the store. Suzanne is so anxious to get to the fur department that she gets ahead of others as they stop at a counter. Left alone with Bertram, Eleanor brings up the subject of Suzanne's birthday. She lies and tells him that they are looking for gifts for each other because her own birthday happens to be the day before Suzanne's. As expected, Bertram asks for her advice on a suitable gift for Suzanne.

Eleanor suggests a fan as a useful gift which Suzanne will surely appreciate. She then mentions that Suzanne always gets nice birthday gifts while she only receives small trifles, because her family is not wealthy. She says that her uncle came into some legacy two years ago and promised to buy her a silver-fox for her birthday – but then his wife died and he moved abroad afterwards, understandably forgetting his promise. Eleanor says she is still saddened when she sees a silver-fox pelt. She then directs Bertram to the fan counter. When Suzanne returns, Eleanor tells her that she got separated from Bertram. They do not find him again in the crowded store.

Some days later, Suzanne calls Eleanor to thank her for her birthday gift and to tell her that Bertram got her a "wretched fan." To Suzanne's chagrin, Eleanor tells her that Bertram gave her a nice gift. Their friendship has suffered, but Eleanor has her fur.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each

- 1. How does Suzanne wish to exploit her relationship with her cousin to her advantage? What kind of relationship did she have with him?**

'Fur' has been taken from *The Complete Short Stories of Saki* (1930). It deals with the themes of selfishness, friendship, kindness, keeping up appearances and revenge in the story. The selfish Suzanne is keen on getting her wealthy cousin to give her expensive fur for her birthday and devious plans with her friend Eleanor to achieve her objective. She is so focused on herself, so determined to fit in with rich Russians at Davos that she can think of nothing else. She is unwilling to do anything for Eleanor and turns down a simple request that she makes. The result – the infuriated Eleanor turns the tables on her and gets what she had wanted most – fur – while Suzanne is left with another fan, though a good one. Eleanor and Suzanne are good friends. One day Suzanne tells Eleanor that one of her rich relatives has come to England. This distant cousin, Bertram Kneyght, is very rich and he wishes to give some nice present to her birthday. Eleanor suggests to her that they should make out things in such a way so that this opportunity should not go waste. Suzanne had her heart set on a small Desden figure she'd spotted in a store. She decided to get her a silver fur coat. They both plan to show this rich cousin some good furs in a nearby departmental store the very next day. Next day, both friends meet at the fixed time. Suzanne is very excited about her birthday present. At this moment Eleanor asks Suzanne to do her a favour but Suzanne refuses. Her refusal disturbs Eleanor and she makes up her mind to change the plan a little bit. On meeting Bertram Kneyght, Eleanor tells him that her own birthday happens to be one day before Suzanne's. She tells him that Suzanne has got everything and a fan would be a good present for her. As for herself, she makes up a story and mentions it deliberately to him that she wanted a silver-fox fur. Bertram Kneyght eventually gifts Suzanne a fan and to Eleanor, he presents a nice fur.

- 2. Do you think Eleanor was being a true friend to Suzanne and deserved to be appreciated? Substantiate your answer with relevant reasons from the text.**

'Fur' has been taken from *The Complete Short Stories of Saki* (1930). It deals with the themes of selfishness, friendship, kindness, keeping up appearances and revenge in the story. The selfish Suzanne is keen on getting her wealthy cousin to give her expensive fur for her birthday and devious plans with her friend Eleanor to achieve her objective. She is so focused on herself, so determined to fit in with rich Russians at Davos that she can think of nothing else. She is unwilling to do anything for Eleanor and turns down a simple request that she makes. The result – the infuriated Eleanor turns the tables on her and gets what she had wanted most – fur – while Suzanne is left with another fan, though a good one.

One of Suzanne's rich relatives is coming to England. That distant cousin, Bertram Kneyght is very wealthy and wants to give her a nice gift for her birthday next week. Eleanor is a true friend convinces Suzanne to utilize this opportunity so that it doesn't go to waste. Suzanne wanted a silver fox fur and so they both plan on showing off their wealthy cousin some good fur at a department store.

The next day, both friends meet at a set time. Suzanne was very enthusiastic about her birthday present. At that moment, Eleanor asked Suzanne for a favour to which Suzanne refused. Her refusal angered Eleanor and she decided to ruin her friend's plan. Eleanor told Bertram

Kneight, when she met him that her own birthday happens to be the day before Suzanne's. She tells him Suzanne had everything and a 'fan' would be a good gift for her. She then concocted a story for herself and she consciously mentions Silver fox fur in it. Finally, Bertram Kneight gave Suzanne a 'fan' and Eleanor He got a beautiful coat as her present.

3. Give a brief character sketch of Suzanne.

'Fur' has been taken from *The Complete Short Stories* (1930). It deals with the theme of selfishness, friendship, kindness, keeping up appearances and revenge in the story. Suzanne is selfish character by nature. Suzanne and Eleanor are friends. Eleanor seems to be the true friend. She agrees to meet with Suzanne's cousin Bertram to share with him what Suzanne desires for her birthday. She knows that Bertram is a wealthy man and as such she is looking for an expensive present, a fur. The fact that Bertram is only a distant cousin is not important to Suzanne what matters to her is that she gets a fur. Suzanne is keen on getting her wealthy cousin to give her expensive fur for her birthday and devious plans with her friend Eleanor to achieve her objective. She is so focused on herself, so determined to fit in with rich Russians at Davos that she can think of nothing else.

When Bertram finally arrives at the store, Eleanor is upset with her friend Suzanne because she will not help her out of the bridge game. Instead of telling Bertram that Suzanne desires an expensive fur, she tells Bertram that Suzanne desires a fan, the exact thing she does not need. In this way, Eleanor gets back at Suzanne for not helping her out of the bridge game. She gets revenge and she gets the fur that Suzanne desired. Suzanne should have been a true friend. She should not have been so selfish in thinking only of herself. She does not help her friend Eleanor out. Eleanor is so upset until she tricks Bertram into buying the fur for herself, not Suzanne.

She is unwilling to do anything for Eleanor and turns own a simple request that she makes. The result – the infuriated Eleanor turns the tables on her. Rather than telling Bertram that Suzanne wants costly fur, she tells him that Suzanne wants a fan, which is exactly what she does not require. Eleanor avenges Suzanne for not helping her quit the game or bridge. Eleanor gets her vengeance as well as the fur Suzanne craved. In the end, Eleanor received the fur. Suzanne may not feel as secure about herself not that Eleanor has the fur.

4. What plan did the two friends have to fulfil their objective and why did it not turn out in Suzanne's favour?

'Fur' has been taken from *The Complete Short Stories* (1930). It deals with the theme of selfishness, friendship, kindness, keeping up appearances and revenge in the story. It is a humorous short story by the British author H.H. Munro who wrote under the pseudonym of Saki.

In the short story two friends find out who is true and who is not. Suzanne and Eleanor are friends. Eleanor seems to be the true friend. She agrees to meet with Suzanne's cousin Bertram to share with him what Suzanne desires for her birthday. Bertram is wealthy. Her friend Eleanor comes up with a clever plan to help her steer him towards a silver-fox stole. When Suzanne comes up with a clever plan to help her steer g]him towards a silver-fox stole. When Suzanne refuses Eleanor's request for a favour in return, however, the plan takes an unexpected turn. The next day, both friends, meet at a set time. Suzanne was very enthusiastic about her birthday present. At that moment, Eleanor asked Suzanne for a favour to which Suzanne refused. He refusal angered Eleanor and she decided to do ruin's her friend's plan.

Eleanor, whose birthday is in March, presumably months away, lies to the cousin and says her birthday is tomorrow when she and Suzanne gets separated in a crowded department store, and Eleanor is left alone with the cousin. She tells him a sob story about wanting furs but having no money and no relatives with money who will remember her. She manipulates the cousin into buying her furs and getting Suzanne a fan, which she knows Suzanne does not want. Ultimately, both friends fulfil their objectives. However Eleanor is a true friend in every sense of the word.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Eleanor's Birthday was in _____.**
 - a) April
 - b) June
 - c) March
 - d) September
2. **Suzanne did not like being _____.**
 - a) Greedy
 - b) Anxious
 - c) Impoverished
 - d) Wasteful
3. **If Suzanne told her cousin she was going to Davos, he might give her _____.**
 - a) A fan
 - b) Skiing without Tears
 - c) A stole
 - d) A fur coat
4. **Eleanor wanted Suzanne to make a fourth at _____.**
 - a) The races
 - b) Dinner
 - c) Bridge
 - d) Tennis
5. **Suzanne did not believe in making _____.**
 - a) Excuses
 - b) Inquiries
 - c) Conversation
 - d) Sacrifices
6. **Cousin Bertram joined Suzanne and Eleanor to explore the mart _____.**
 - a) Heartily
 - b) Willingly
 - c) Readily
 - d) Unhesitatingly
7. **Suzanne's reluctance to accede to Eleanor's request resulted in the loss of _____.**
 - a) Sable

- b) Friendship
 - c) Money
 - d) Happiness
8. **Suzanne's birthday was on _____.**
- a) Friday
 - b) Happiness
 - c) Friendship
 - d) Money
9. **Suzanne's birthday was on _____**
- a) Friday
 - b) Sunday
 - c) Monday
 - d) Wednesday
10. **Eleanor confided that she never got a birthday gift**
- a) Of her choice
 - b) Of any value
 - c) Worth showing
 - d) That was unusual
11. **Eleanor's gift to Suzanne for her birthday was a _____.**
- a) Beautiful fan
 - b) Lovely dress
 - c) Treasured book
 - d) A much-needed photograph frame
12. **What was there at Goliath and Mastodon store?**
- a) Silver Fox stoles
 - b) Leather shoes
 - c) Broach
 - d) Fan
13. **H.H. Munro wrote under the pen name _____.**
- a) Maggie
 - b) Henry
 - c) Saki
 - d) Judo
14. **What was the useful thing that Eleanor feel to gift Suzanne on her birthday**
- a) Leather Shoes
 - b) Treasured book
 - c) Silver Fox stole
 - d) Fan
15. **Suzanne refuses to play because Eleanor's aunty were _____**
- a) Slow bridge players
 - b) They don't know the game of bridge
 - c) They are not knowing the rule of the game
 - d) Faster Bridge players.

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	c	2.	b	3.	d
4.	c	5.	d	6.	e
7.	d	8.	b	9.	d
10.	a	11.	a	12.	a
13.	c	14.	d	15.	a

Kali, the Mother by Swami Vivekanand

Swami Vivekanand

Summary

Swami Vivekanand was one of the most well-known spiritual leaders in India. He was a great thinker, orator, and patriot. Through his poems, he presented his thoughts and ideas regarding social reforms. The present poem, “*Kali, the Mother*” is taken from *The Complete Works of Swami Vivekanand* published by *Advaita Ashrama*. The poem was written after Swamiji’s visit to the temple of *Kshir Bhavani* in Srinagar. The poem is a glorification of the Goddess *Kali* who is considered by Hindus as a symbol of empowerment and destroyer of all evils. The poem is mystic in nature, and the figure of the goddess is awe-inspiring and fascinating. Goddess *Kali* as described by Swamiji is the only ray of hope amid darkness as she can rescue the earth from demonic forces. The poem is in the form of an invocation.

The stars have been blotted out, clouds seem to be covering clouds and against the backdrop of such a scenery, the poet invokes Goddess *Kali*. He says that the darkness in the surroundings is sonant and vibrant. Outside, the wind is howling and whirling, and it feels as if the souls of lunatics from the prison-house have been let loose. They seemed to be wrenching trees and sweeping them all from their paths.

The sea also joins the fray, and the waves are swirling and reaching high to “the pitchy sky”, the flash of lurid light shows Death scattering diseases and epidemics and claiming lives. In such bleak circumstances, the poet appeals to the Dark Goddess to come and save earth from destruction. If She is the Creator, She is also the Destroyer as She is the Goddess of Darkness and Death. When sin aggravates on earth, She comes to slay the sinners, the demons, and the devils. The poet describes the invincible form of Goddess *Kali*, whose name itself creates terror amongst the wrong doers. Her breath carries the foreboding about the destruction of demonic forces. Her footsteps shake the earth with the suggestion of the annihilation of evils. Even her idols are highly symbolic as they show Her wearing a garland of the heads of the sinners, cut, and wreathed around.

Here, Swamiji hints at the devilish forces like lust, greed, immorality, sin, vice and so on which are sometimes overpowering this mortal world. In the backdrop of such a scenario, Goddess *Kali* comes with Her weapons to annihilate and destroy sin. She is an epitome of terror, and she breathes death. The world trembles and shakes at her footsteps. She is the Destroyer of the old decadent order and the Creator of the new one. The poet finds the presence of Goddess *Kali* extremely awe-inspiring. Still, he believes that She is the powerful mother of the universe. He seeks Her presence and wishes to express his profound love and respect for the Goddess. He shows his willingness to embrace even Her terrifying form and requests her to come to destroy the demonic world of sin.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each.

a) **How does the poet build the appropriate background for the presence of *Kali*, the Mother?**

In the poem, “*Kali*, the Mother”, Swamiji creates a gloomy and fearful atmosphere that hints at the presence of darkness, evil and demonic power in the world. The entire scenario as described in the poem is dreary and frightening. It is suggestive of the rampant presence of diabolic powers in the world that has resulted in the spread of sorrow and suffering. People are sensing a constant threat of death owing to the spread of diseases like plague and other epidemics. Even Nature is depressing and fierce, foreboding the ominous presence of evil. The poet describes that the stars have been blotted out, clouds seem to be covering clouds and in the backdrop of such a scenery, he invokes Goddess *Kali*. He says that the darkness in the surroundings is sonant and vibrant. Outside, the wind is howling and whirling, and it feels as if the souls of lunatics from the prison-house have been let loose. They seemed to be wrenching trees and sweeping them all from their paths. The sea also joins the fray with swirling waves, pitching high to reach the sky. The flash of lurid light shows Death scattering diseases and epidemics and claiming lives. In such an ominous atmosphere, the poet is extremely worried and appeals to the Dark Goddess to come and save the earth from destruction.

b) ***Kali* is worshipped as an awe-inspiring goddess who destroys all evil. How does the poet present this facet of the goddess?**

The present poem is a glorification of Goddess *Kali* who is considered by the Hindus as a symbol of empowerment and destroyer of all evils. The poet writes of the terror and the need to embrace the Goddess of darkness and death. She is the Mother who will come to end the terror and horror threatening the earth. In the present poem, Swamiji gives a picturesque description of the pervasive demonic power in the world that looms over the existence of mankind. Nature in its fiercest form is full of ominous suggestions of malevolent forces in the world. Under such circumstances, the poet invokes the Dark Goddess *Kali*, to come and save the world.

The poet describes the invincible form of Goddess *Kali*, whose name itself creates terror amongst the wrong doers. Her breath carries a foreboding about the destruction of demonic forces. Her footsteps shake the earth with the suggestion of the annihilation of evils. Even her idols are highly symbolic as they show Her wearing a garland of the heads of the sinners, cut, and wreathed around.

c) **What do we gather about the poet’s relationship with the goddess *Kali* and his beliefs from a study of the poem?**

The poet appeals to the Dark Goddess to come and save earth from destruction. If She is the Creator, She is also the Destroyer as She is the Goddess of Darkness and Death. When sin aggravates on earth, She comes to slay the sinners, the demons, and the devils. The poet describes the invincible form of Goddess *Kali*, whose name itself creates terror amongst the wrong doers. Her breath carries a foreboding about the destruction of demonic forces. Her footsteps shake the earth with the suggestion of the annihilation of evils.

Swamiji hints at the devilish forces like lust, greed, immorality, sin, vice, and so on which are overpowering this mortal world. In the backdrop of such a scenario, the Goddess *Kali* comes

with Her weapons to annihilate and destroy sin. She is an epitome of terror, and She breathes death. The world trembles and shakes at Her footsteps. She is the Destroyer of the old decadent order and the Creator of a new one. He believes that She is the powerful Mother of the Universe. He seeks Her presence and wishes to exhibit his profound love and respect for the Goddess. He shows his willingness to embrace even Her terrifying form, and requests Her to come to destroy the demonic world of sin.

d) Write a critical appreciation of the poem, focussing on the use of imagery, rhyme scheme, style and apt choice of words and phrases.

“*Kali, the Mother*” is undoubtedly a beautiful poem. In this poem, the poet writes about his reverence for Goddess *Kali*, after his visit to *Kshir Bhawani* Temple which is near Srinagar. On returning to India from Chicago after attending the World's Parliament of Religions, Swamiji traveled all over India along with some disciples. His mind was then full of emotions to see the pitiable condition of his motherland and his people. As a devotee of Goddess *Kali*, he had strong faith in the power of the Goddess who could destroy evil and bring order in the world. In this poem, he uses the mythological image of Goddess *Kali* as an epitome of empowerment. She is an omnipotent force who can combat evil and bring order in an apparently chaotic society, during the pre-independence period.

The poet uses different imageries from Nature to drive home his point that disorder and anarchy is evident even in Nature. The phrases like, “the stars are blotted out”, “the roaring and whirling wind”, “mountain-waves” swirling up to the “pitchy sky”, help to build a fearfully grim atmosphere in the poem. In the backdrop of such chaos, the poet appeals to Goddess *Kali* to appear “Dancing mad with joy,”. He is aware of Her terrible form and knows that there is “Terror” in Her name and “Death” in Her breath. Yet, he is ready to embrace “Death” and dares to love “Misery”. The lines are highly significant, suggesting that it is only through sacrifices that Indians can attain their freedom. This readiness to embrace “Death” is not a coward’s acceptance of fate, but a brave man’s readiness for sacrifice and martyrdom. The poet uses several symbols and imageries to drive home his point.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The stars are blotted out because.....

- a. The sky is overcast with cloud.
- b. They shine soft.
- c. The winds are roaring and whirling
- d. The night is vibrant

2. The souls of a million lunatics have been released from.....

- a. Earthy shackles
- b. Their asylum

- c. Earlier bondage
- d. The house that kept them bound

3. The shades of Death seem.....

- a. Horrendous
- b. Deadly still
- c. Dirty and black
- d. Fearfully grim

4. Kali, the Mother is called the All-destroyer as She

- a. tramples over all in Her path
- b. wields immense power where She goes
- c. spells doom to all plagues and sorrows
- d. causes devastation to the demonic world of sin

5. The world trembles and shakes when

- a. Sin and evil reign supreme on earth
- b. The Goddess Kali wields her weapon
- c. The Goddess Kali steps onto the earth
- d. The Goddess Kali dances the dance of Destruction

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	a	2.	b
3.	c	4.	d
5.	d		

Don't Quit

Edgar Albert Guest

Summary

The poem, *Don't Quit* by Edgar Albert Guest, conveys optimism and courage. According to the poet, life has many twists and turns but one should not give up and should exhibit the spirit of courage to fight against the odds. Edgar Albert Guest was a British-born US writer, known for his sentimental and optimistic poems. *Don't Quit* is one of the celebrated poems by Guest.

The poem is about perseverance and tenacity. The poet says that sometimes things seem to go wrong in life and one has to face many adversities. One might want to be happy but have to deal with negative circumstances out of his control. There are times when the funds are limited and one must persist in debt. One is bounded by cares and worries. On such occasions, the poet suggests, 'Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.'

Every person learns from his experiences. He comes to know that 'Life is queer with its twists and turns.' Many times failures turnabout. Victory waits for those who sustain during the period of failure. The speed of success may seem slow but one no one knows that the success may be waiting for him or her after one more attempt.

The poet says that the goal is often closer than it seems to a 'faint and faltering man', tired person who has been struggling. The struggler is not aware that he is very close to success and unfortunately he gives up. He does not know that the 'victor's cap' might have waiting for him. He learns the lesson too late, 'How close he was to the golden crown', achievement of success.

Concluding stanza of the poem gives the message of hopefulness. The poet says that success is achieved by overcoming fears and self-doubt. The poet says that one should try to see the 'silver tint' out of the 'clouds of doubt.' A struggler may be near success when it seems too far to him. When things get hardest, one should not give up and should stick to the fight. The poem concludes with the line, 'It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.'

The message and content of the poem *Don't Quit* will always inspire us to keep going in our darkest times.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each.

- 1. How does the poem Don't Quit bring out the speaker's attitude to life and its problems?**

Don't Quit is one of the celebrated poems by Guest. According to the poet, life has many twists and turns but one should not give up and should exhibit the spirit of courage to fight against the odds. He says that sometimes things seem to go wrong in life and one has to face many adversities. One might want to be happy but have to deal with negative circumstances out of his control. Victory waits for those who sustain during the period of failure. The speed of success may seem slow but one no one knows that success may be waiting for him or her after one more attempt. Thus the poem very strongly conveys the speaker's optimistic attitude to life. He believes that the problematic phase of life is transitory. His hopeful attitude provides a sense of inspiration to many.

2. What often causes a person to become dejected and lose faith in oneself?

The poet says that sometimes things seem to go wrong in life and one has to face many adversities. One might want to be happy but have to deal with negative circumstances out of his control. There are times when the funds are limited and one must persist in debt. One is bounded by cares and worries. Every person learns from his experiences. He comes to know that 'Life is queer with its twists and turns.' Unexpected things happen to overshadow man's performances. Many times failures turnabout. Speed of success seems to be very slow. Such situations cause a person to become dejected and lose faith in oneself

3. Life is never a bed of roses. How can one tackle disappointments and failures to rise above them?

According to the poet, life has many twists and turns but one should not give up and should exhibit the spirit of courage to fight against the odds. He believes that life is never a bed of roses but one can make it successful with perseverance and tenacity. He says that the goal is often closer than it seems to a 'faint and faltering man', tired person who has been struggling. The struggler is not aware that he is very close to success and unfortunately he gives up. He does not know that the 'victor's cap' might have waiting for him. He learns the lesson too late, 'How close he was to the golden crown', achievement of success. One can tackle disappointments and failures by sticking to the fight with optimistic faith. He must not lose belief to rise above adversities.

4. What is the speaker's definition of success? Substantiate your answer with relevant inputs from the poem.

The poem, *Don't Quit* by Edgar Albert Guest, conveys optimism and courage. According to the poet, life has many twists and turns but one should not give up and should exhibit the spirit of courage to fight against the odds. The poet says that success is achieved by overcoming fears and self-doubt. The poet says that one should try to see the 'silver tint' out of the 'clouds of doubt.' A struggler may be near success when it seems too far to him. When things get hardest, one should not give up and should stick to the fight. The poem concludes with the line, 'It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.' So we can say that the speaker's definition of success is the spirit of perseverance kept by a person who is passing through a very difficult phase of life.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Life does not always proceed at the same pace as ----**
 - a. plans can backfire
 - b. things can go wrong
 - c. disappointments can be many
 - d. friends can prove disloyal
2. **Sometimes you are forced to ---- when you wish to smile**
 - a. groan
 - b. whine
 - c. grumble
 - d. sigh

3. **It is possible that you may succeed at the next ---**
 - a. opportunity
 - b. turn
 - c. try
 - d. event
4. **When you are assailed by doubts, success may actually be**
 - a. far away
 - b. just within reach
 - c. inaccessible
 - d. unachievable
5. **The main message of the poem is the ---- to hold on when things seem bleak and hopeless.**
 - a. hope
 - b. tenacity
 - c. readiness
 - d. a and b
6. **The poem *Don't Quit* gives the message of –**
 - a. optimism
 - b. success
 - c. excellence
 - d. education
7. **According to Guest ‘Life is queer with its -----‘**
 - a. success and failures
 - b. mysteries and miracles
 - c. twists and turns
 - d. up and down
8. **Life is said to be ---- in *Don't Quit***
 - a. odd
 - b. mysterious
 - c. beautiful
 - d. queer

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	b	2.	d
3.	c	4.	b
5.	c	6.	a
7.	c	8.	d

In the Bazaars of Hyderabad

Sarojini Naidu

Summary

Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India, was a political activist, feminist and a poetess. Her poetry depicts Indian Romanticism and lyricism and deals with serious themes like patriotism. “In the Bazaars of Hyderabad” is one of the popular poems written by Naidu that was published in “The Bird of Time” (1912). It describes in vivid detail the bazaars of Hyderabad and the things which are sold there. The conversation between a vendor and buyer is beautifully captured in the poem giving the glimpse of Indian culture and traditions. Like other poems of Naidu this poem is also embellished with vivid imagery, rhythmic language and originality.

The poem begins with a question to a merchant about what they are selling as the poetess sees that the goods are very richly and ornately displayed. The merchants reply that they are selling crimson and silver colored turbans, purple brocade tunics, mirrors with amber-frame and daggers with handles made of jade

The poetess then visits the vendors, the maidens and the pedlars. She asks the vendors what they are weighing for sale. The vendors reply that they are weighing saffron, lentil and rice. The poetess then asks the maiden girls what they are grinding and they reply that they are grinding sandalwood, henna and spices. The poetess now goes to the pedlars who are crying their wares and they say that they are selling chessmen and dice made from ivory for the game of chess.

The poetess now goes up to the goldsmiths and asks them what they are making. They are making wristlet, anklet and ring and bells to be tied to the feet of blue pigeons. And the bells are as thin and lightweight as the wings of a dragonfly. They are also making golden girdles for the dancers and golden sheaths for keeping the king’s swords.

Giving some more glimpses of richness of Indian culture the poetess then visits fruit merchants to enquire about what they are selling. And she finds that they are selling Citron, pomegranate and plum. Next she goes to the musicians and brings forth the images of Indian musical instruments like Sitar, Sarangi and drum. After that poet goes to the magicians and asks them what they are chanting. The reply comes, he is chanting the spells to bring in aeons, a divine power, to help him perform his magical tricks.

Further exploring the Indian tradition and culture the poetess questions the flower girls about what they are weaving with the blue and red tassels. The flower girls are making garlands for the bride and the groom and to adorn their bed for the wedding night. They are also making sheets of newly brought white flowers for use on the dead man’s grave for fragrance.

Sarojini Naidu makes us take a tour of Indian market in this poem to explore the rich Indian heritage. The poem also emphasizes the value and beauty of our own traditional and aboriginal things as against European products during the Indian Independence movement.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words.

1. How does the poet successfully depict the charm, variety and fascinating beauty of the bazaars of Hyderabad?

Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India, was a political activist, feminist and a poetess. Her poetry depicts Indian Romanticism and lyricism and deals with serious themes like patriotism. "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" is one of the popular poems written by Naidu that was published in "The Bird of Time" (1912). It describes in vivid detail the bazaars of Hyderabad and the things which are sold there.

Each stanza that is of equal length of six lines bears vivid colorful imagery, rhythmic language and originality. The conversation between a vendor and buyer is beautifully captured giving the glimpse of rich Indian culture and traditions through the charm, variety and fascinating beauty of the bazaars of Hyderabad. The merchants are selling Crimson and silver colored turbans, purple brocade tunics, mirrors with amber-frame and daggers with handles made of jade. The vendors are weighing saffron, lentil and rice to sell, the maiden girls are grinding sandalwood, henna and spices. The pedlars are selling chessmen and dice made from ivory for the game of chess.

The Goldsmiths are making wristlet, anklet and ring and bells to be tied to the feet of blue pigeons, golden girdles for the dancers and golden sheaths for keeping the king's swords. Fruit Merchants are selling Citron, pomegranate and plum and the musicians bring forth the images of Indian musical instruments like Sitar, Sarangi and drum. The chanting of the magician is filled in the air, the beautiful and colourful flowers, garlands, tassels of flower-girls add to the charm of the bazaar making it even more fascinating. Sarojini Naidu makes us take a tour of Indian market in this poem to explore the rich Indian heritage.

2. Most local bazaars cater only to particular section of society? How are bazaars of Hyderabad different? Annotate the above statement using relevant words and phrases from the poem.

Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India, was a political activist, feminist and a poetess. Her poetry depicts Indian Romanticism and lyricism and deals with serious themes like patriotism. "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" is one of the popular poems written by Naidu that was published in "The Bird of Time" (1912). It describes in vivid detail the bazaar of Hyderabad and the things which are sold there. The poem also details the social life in the city of Hyderabad, India, where Naidu was from.

The bazaars of Hyderabad are different from any other local bazaars that cater to only particular section of the society. Unlike these bazaars the bazaars of Hyderabad cater to almost all the sections of the society from a king to an artists or any common person. There are goldsmiths who are making, "Girdles of gold for the dancers" and at the same time, "Scabbards of gold for the kings". These bazaars also cater to artists like musician other than dancers as they can buy, "Sitar, Sarangi and drum". An aviculturist can find, "Bells for the feet of blue pigeons, Frail as a dragon - fly's wing". All the colours of diverse Indian tradition and culture are brought together in this poem representing different sections of the society.

3. Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem exploring the devices used by the poet?

Sarojini Naidu, the Nightingale of India, was a political activist, feminist and a poetess. Her poetry depicts Indian Romanticism and lyricism and deals with serious themes like patriotism. "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" is also one of patriotic poems written by Naidu that was published in "The Bird of Time" (1912). It describes in vivid detail the bazaars of Hyderabad and the things which are sold there. The conversation between a vendor and buyer is beautifully captured giving the glimpse of Indian culture and traditions. The poet uses many literary devices such as imagery, similes, metaphors and rhetoric questions.

Each stanza begins with a rhetorical question and presents a variegated grandeur of the bazaars through colorful imagery of a number of traditional and cultural artefacts being sold by each seller or vendor. Merchants are selling Crimson and silver Turbans, Tunics of purple brocade, and Mirrors with panels of amber, Daggers with handles of jade. The Imagery of Saffron, lentil, rice, sandalwood, henna, spices and flowers not only evoke our visual senses but also appeal to our sense of smell through olfactory imagery. The pedlars crying their wares that is Chessmen and ivory dice, chanting of a magician, musician playing the musical instruments like sitar, sarangi and drum give a feel of Indianness through the auditory imagery arousing our sense of sound. The goldsmiths is selling Wristlet and anklet and ring, Bells for pigeon, Girdles of gold for the dancers and Scabbards of gold for the kings giving another glimpse of Indian tradition.

It is a poem of five stanzas with equal length and alternating rhyme. The basic meter used in the poem is tetrameter, trochaic tetrameter. This gives a regular familiar rhythm to the poem as it is read, so it becomes quite lyrical, like a song. Sarojini Naidu makes us take a tour of Indian bazaars in this poem to explore the rich Indian heritage. The poem also emphasizes the value and beauty of our own traditional and aboriginal things as against European products during the Indian Independence movement.

4. Sarojini Naidu is hailed as the Nightingale of India, How far does the poem under study justify this title?

Sarojini Naidu was a political activist, feminist and a poetess. Her poetry depicts Indian Romanticism and lyricism and deals with serious themes like patriotism. "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" is one of the popular poems written by Naidu that was published in "The Bird of Time" (1912). It describes in vivid detail the bazaar of Hyderabad and the things which are sold there. The conversation between a vendor and buyer is beautifully captured giving the glimpse of Indian culture and traditions. Naidu's literary work as a poet earned her the sobriquet, the "Nightingale of India" because of colour, imagery and lyrical quality of her poetry.

"In the Bazaars of Hyderabad" rightly justifies the title of "Nightingale of India" given to Sarojini Naidu. Like other poems of Naidu, this poem is also embellished with vivid colourful imageries, rhythmic language and originality. The back and forth rhetorical question and answers between each seller and the poet gives the poem a rhythm and cadence. The use of the archaic second person plural pronoun 'ye' as in the line "What do you sell, O ye merchants?" gives a musical effect to poem. The pattern of eight syllables in

the odd lines and seven syllables in the even lines repeats throughout the poem. The basic metre is tetrameter, trochaic tetrameter. This gives a regular familiar rhythm to the poem as it is read, so it becomes quite lyrical, like a song. These lyrical and musical qualities along with imageries and colours in her poems earned Sarojini Naidue the title of “Nightingale of India”.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The mirrors have panels of
 a. Topaz b. Ruby c. Turquoise d. Amber

2. The dancers can look for gold in the bazaar.
 a. Anklets b. Neckless c. Girdle d. Amulets

3. The scabbards of gold are made for.....
 a. Mornarch b. Emporers c. Kings d. Viceroys

4. The pedlars call out to buyers to advertise.....
 a.Spices and lentils c. Herbs and medicine
 b.Shells and Conches d. Chessmen and ivory dice

5. Tassels of azure and red are used by the
 a.Goldsmith b. Magician c. Flower girls d. merchants

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	d	2.	C
3.	c	4.	D
5.	c		

A Walk by Moonlight

Henry Derozio

Summary

In the poem, 'A Walk by Moonlight', Derozio not only recounts an experience but also vividly describes the effect of such an experience on his mind and heart. The effect is profound and mind blowing, and the experience radically changes his perception. He relates about his walk back home on a moonlit night with his friends whom he 'loved' and esteemed and who were like-minded.

The poet was returning home one night with three of his friends after visiting another friend. The night was a 'lovely night' for the 'moon stood silent in the sky' and the 'clouds divided' 'in homage to her worth'. She robed the dancing leaves with 'silver weaves'. The poet feels that such a night was one of those 'happy spots' of memory of his past which never burns or fades away but shines on gently.

The poet gradually moves from the physical description of night to what the scene does to him. The 'song among the winds' made the poet focus his thoughts. The night created magic around them. They not only 'saw' with their eyes but 'felt' with all their senses the beautiful moon lit night. In this mood, the mystery of life was heightened and it evoked in their hearts awe and 'holy mirth'. The scene brought about a mood which in turn made the poet's mind alert and awake. Such a mind, the poet thinks, is a 'light' to itself. It perceives better and everything looks lovely. In such a state one apprehends the 'spiritualness' or the permanence of 'all that cannot die' going beyond the 'earthiness' of the world of impermanent matter.

The poet then views nature – night wind, stars, and the moon – not as inanimate but as full of life. Such a state has his 'inward eye' open to glories that seem to appear only in dreams. The bliss of heaven is experienced here on earth by the poet. The peak of perception that the poet arrives at is when he feels his human heart 'gently bound' to everything and forming 'of all a part' which in other words is communion and interconnectedness with the whole of nature. The flowers, the stars and the sky are then not 'cold and lifeless as they seem'.

The poet reaches a climax in his experience which is expressed in the last stanza. In that moment of deep spiritual insight and heightened sensitivity, the poet feels that he cannot 'crush' the grass beneath his feet for he can 'hear' its heart 'beat'.

The rhyme and the meter make the poem flow smoothly enhancing the theme of physical beauty of a moonlit night and its soothing, and spiritual and psychological effect on the poet's soul.

Answer the following questions in about 150 words each.

a) Why did the poet feel he had been specially ‘blest’ that night and what made it special for him? Elaborate.

A walk by moonlight is poetry to awaken our conscience. In this poem Derozio not only recounts an experience but also vividly describes the effect of such an experience on his mind and heart. Through this poem Derozio illustrates how a casual walk and the observations thus made compel him to question his life and introspect his identity. The poet has been to one of his friends house where he met three other friends. He feels specially blessed and the company of his friends adds to his joy. They at once join him for a walk in the evening whose sounds and sights urge him to compose this poem. This walk at night with the moon shining in the sky with friends whose friendship he truly valued and cherished had a deep influence on him. The poem begins with pleasant memories of the previous night and the poet feels blessed and fortunate for its gifts. Although he believes that eventually with time the memories may fade but they would never disappear and the newfound memories are so illuminating that his heart could have flown.

b) How does Henry Derozio bring out the importance of friendship and the universal law?

Henry Derozio brings out the importance of friendship beautifully in the poem. He had been to meet a friend and saw other friends there too. All were people who thought in the same manner; they shared a common bond. “Like minds to like mind ever tend— An universal law”. When he asked them for a walk, three at once joined him. They were his cherished friends — two were people with intellectual minds and in age were his equals, the other was young but “endeared” by all. The beauty of the night transforms their thinking and revives their hearts, which had become numb. The poet is deeply touched by small movements of nature and uses them metaphorically to bring out the joy and enlightenment that he receives. The universal law stated afore brings out the beautiful mindset of the friends who happen to enjoy the silent beauty of the moonlit walk altogether. The jocund company adds to the joy of the poet who is completely mesmerized by nature’s bounty and also gets time for some self-introspection.

c) ‘The poet realizes that it was just not a walk by moonlight’. How does this realization dawn upon him and affect him?

Derozio realizes then talks of the “lovely” old memories which help us in getting a better insight of ourselves. Due to this awareness we are able to connect with our spiritual selves. And when this happens, man stands “proud”; this is the uniqueness of man — to be touched and be enriched by nature. To understand the universe, we must first understand ourselves. In times we are living, our senses have become numb. We have lost the opportunity to be stirred by beauty, but Derozio feels immense joy and pleasure as his senses are awakened at once. All his memories clear up and he is enthused by the beauty of Nature. All Nature is God’s creation and He saw sadness in man. It is only when man is able to release his soul will he survive and as Derozio glimpses the celestial hand of Nature, he too becomes divine. Now enlightened, Derozio realizes that our bodies are mortal.

d) Henry Derozio was a poet who focused on simple themes to drive home significant truths. How far does this poem bear testimony to this talent of his?

As an ardent lover of nature, a simple act of walk in the moon light made the poet realize the great religious truth that everything in this universe is an incarnation of divinity. A reading of this poem induces a thought in our mind – that in life the most memorable experiences come unannounced. The rhyme and the meter make the poem flow smoothly enhancing the theme of physical beauty of a moonlit night and its soothing, and spiritual and psychological effect on the poet's soul. A royal representative of the greatness of the Creator, the moonlight made the writer realize the transient nature of things and this in turn made him feel proud of the supremacy of man over everything else in this world and the spiritualness of all that cannot die. The poet feels wonderful when he realizes that he is in some way connected with all the things that form part of this world. The simple theme drives home a powerful message effectively.

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. Identify the figure of speech used in the lines ‘Shall it not be for memory/ A happy spot to rest?’**
 - a. Hyperbole
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Personification
 - d. Oxymoron
- 2. The leaves the speaker chanced to see on his walk were dressed in ____.**
 - a. Soft green
 - b. Shimmering gold
 - c. Silver hues
 - d. Glistening dew
- 3. The speaker was able to comprehend the voice of the night wind because he realized ____.**
 - a. His creative genius
 - b. The beauty of the world around
 - c. His part in the universe
 - d. The truth of eternity
- 4. The speaker feels the sense of joy when he realizes the ____.**
 - a. Value of friendship
 - b. Comfort of togetherness
 - c. Beauty of the spiritual world
 - d. Bond with nature
- 5. Glories or unforgettable memories generally flash upon one in ____.**
 - a. Spiritualness
 - b. Dreams
 - c. Sleep
 - d. Joy

Answer Key

Question	Correct Option	Question	Correct Option
1.	c	2.	c
3.	b	4.	c
5.	a	6.	