

POEM - 1
THE GUEST HOUSE
BY – JELALUDDIN RUMI

Key Points –

- Poem ‘The Guest House’ tells us that we should accept all the experiences in life not as challenges but as opportunities and learn to cherish each and every moment.
- We should be grateful to our life. Every moment is precious and every day has something to be learnt.
- The poet also says that we should not resist the thoughts and emotions that come in our mind but meet them with courage, warmth and respect.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- a. violently b. grateful c. delight d. entertain
- e. meanness

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading – 1

The dark thought ----- **them in.**

- a. Name the poem and poet of above extract.
- b. What does the poet mean by ‘the dark thought’?
- c. How should we meet with our dark thoughts?
- d. Write the meaning of the word ‘malice’.

Extract Reading – 2

Be grateful ----- **from beyond.**

- a. Explain the line ‘each has been sent as a guide from beyond’.
- b. What does ‘beyond’ refer to in the above extract?
- c. According to the poet, what should we be grateful for?
- d. Write antonym of the word ‘grateful’.

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions :-

- a. According to the poet, what are the unexpected visitors?
- b. What do you mean by the poetic device ‘extended metaphor’?
- c. Explain the line ‘who violently sweep your house’.
- d. What does the word ‘guest’ refer to in the poem?
- e. How do we treat our ‘unexpected visitors’?

Q-4 Long Answer Type Question –

- a. Write summary of the poem with the message given by the poet .

CHAPTER - 2
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
BY – CHARLES DICKENS

Key Points –

- Chapter ‘A Christmas Carol’ has been taken from the novel written by ‘Charles Dickens’. In this chapter, Ebenezer Scrooge is a miserly old man who believes that Christmas is just an excuse for people.
- He does not believe in all of the good cheer and charity.
- The Three spirits, Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas yet to come, visit Scrooge. They point out him how cruel and bitter he has become.
- Scrooge realizes his mistakes and decides to change his ways.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| a.recompensed | b. munificence | c. whisper | d. growled |
| e.accustomed | f. staggered | g. endeavour | h. assist |
| i.staggered | j. mercy | | |

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading – 1

‘Lord bless me!’ cried----- are you serious?’

- a. Write the name of the chapter of the line given above.
- b. Who said these words to whom?
- c. Why does the speaker say ‘Mr. Scrooge are you serious?’
- d. Who is the ‘gentleman’ in the above extract?

Extract Reading – 2

‘Do you know ----- the big one?’

- a. What did Scrooge want to buy from Poulterer?
- b. Write the meaning of ‘lad’.
- c. What did Scrooge want to inquire from the boy?
- d. Write the antonym of ‘stupid’ from the above extract.

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions –

- a. What kind of man Ebenezer Scrooge was?
- b. What were Scrooge’s views on Christmas?
- c. Scrooge was mean to all. Who came to him on Christmas Eve? What did he say?
- d. How do you think the life of Scrooge changed after the ghosts visited him?
- e. Why does Scrooge not like Christmas?
- f. What is the name of Scrooge’s nephew? Why does his nephew come to his office?
- g. What did the two fat men want from Scrooge? Why did not Scrooge help them?
- h. What is the name of Scrooge’s clerk? Why was he late to the office?
- i. Who is Tiny Tim? What did Scrooge do for him?

Q-4 Long Answer Type Question –

- a. Write the character sketch of Ebenezer Scrooge. What is the moral of the story?

CHAPTER – 3
DUSK
By - SAKI

Key Points-

- Dusk is a social satire on the society asking on the genuineness of compassion and charity.
- Norman Gortsby, the protagonist, is sitting on the bench and reminding his old days.
- Sitting in the park, Gortsby appears to be an individual who judges others.
- He meets two people in the park and has been deceived by the one of them.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| a.gloom | b. harmonized | c.distinguished | d. deserted |
| e. snubbed | f.bleak | g. flung | h. ceased |
| i. retreating | j. vanished | k. reminiscence | l. requisite |
| m.eloquent | n. mused | u.circumstances | |

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading -1

Norman Gortsby ----- gloom in which they sat.

- a. Name the chapter and the writer of above passage .
- b. Where did Norman Gortsby sit?
- c. How does the narrator describe the dusk in and around the park?
- d. Describe the movements in the park and around.

Extract Reading -2

You don't seen----- on his guard.

- a. Who is angry in above passage?
- b. Why did Gortsby strike a conversation with the young man?
- c. How did the young man present himself genuine in his account?

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions-

- a. What kind of story is Dusk?
- b. Why is dusk called the hour of the defeated??
- c. What does Norman Gortsby do on finding the cake of soap?
- d. When does Gortsby realise that he has been cheated?
- e. What does 'Spin an impossible yarn 'mean? Why did the young man think so?
- f. Whom does the dusk hour belong to?

Q-4 Long Answer Type Question –

- a. Justify the title of the story 'Dusk'. What is the irony in the story?

POEM - 4
MILK FOR THE CAT
By – HAROLD MONRO

KEY POINTS:-

- The poem 'Milk for the Cat' is about a cat that comes at the exact time when the tea is brought at 5 in the evening.
- It describes the lust of the cat for the milk.
- When she gets the milk, she feels relaxed and drinks milk with pleasure and she goes back to sleep on the arm chair.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- a. purring b. haze c. glance d. stir
e. trembling f. stiff

Q-2 Read the extract and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading-1

**A long, dim ecstasy holds her life;
Her world is an infinite shapeless white,
Till her tongue has curled the last holy drop,
Then she sinks back into the night....,**

- a. Name the poem and the poet of above extract.
- b. Explain the line 'Her world is an infinite shapeless world'.
- c. What does poet refer to 'shapeless white'.
- d. Write antonym of the word 'holy'.
- e. What does the poet mean about the 'holy drop'?

Q-3 Short Answer Type Question:-

- a. When does the cat totally satisfied?
- b. What does the poet mean about the 'cat's agate eyes'?
- c. Write rhyme scheme used in the poem 'Milk for the Cat'.
- d. Which poetic device is used in 'Draws and dips'?
- e. What do the old ladies do sitting at the table?
- f. When does the cat's 'desire' transformed into 'lust'?

Q-4 Long Answer Type Questions:-

- a. Write summary of the poem.
- b. How does the poet describe cat's feelings for the milk and the movements that she does for getting the milk?

CHAPTER – 5
THE NEW SCHOOLFELLOW
BY – GEORGE ELIOT

Key Points –

- The chapter has been taken from George Eliot’s famous novel ‘The Mill on the Floss’.
- Tom and Philip are the central characters of the story. He meets Philip Wakem at his boarding school.
- Both are keen to prove their superiority over the other in different ways.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the given words: -

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| a. enliven | b. gloom | c. embarrassment | d. acquaintance |
| e. deformity | f. aversion | g. solitude | h. suspicion |
| i. confidentially | j. inclination | k. peevishly | l. indignant |

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions: -

Extract Reading – 1

Tom looked ----- short a notice.

- a. Why was Tom so confused?
- b. Why did Philip look at Tom timidly?
- c. Find the words which mean ‘stared’ and ‘cowardly’ from the above passage.

Extract Reading – 2

‘Why, that’s a donkey ----- dogs and donkeys!

- a. Whom does ‘he’ refer to in the above extract?
- b. Why was Tom so surprised?
- c. What does Tom wish in the above extract?
- d. Find synonym of ‘astonish’ from the above extract.

Extract Reading – 3

‘No, but I dare ----- if I can’.

- a. Who is the speaker in the line given above?
- b. For what help was the speaker talking about?
- c. Find antonym of ‘dejected’ from the line given above.
- d. Write synonym of ‘challenge’ from the line given above.

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions –

Q-1 Write various activities in which Tom was interested.

Q-2 Who is Mr. Stelling? What did he say to ‘Tom’ when he returned to school?

Q-3 Write Character sketch of Philip Wakem.

Q-4 Write Character sketch of Tom.

Q-5 Why did ‘Tom’ not like Philip’ at first?

Q-4 Long Answer Type Question –

Q-1 Describe how Tom and Philip both prove their superiority over each other in different ways .

CHAPTER – 6
A BOND FOR LIFE
By -HELEN KELLER

Key Points-

The story is about a deaf blind girl Helen Keller who was the first deaf blind person to receive a bachelor for Arts degree.

When she was nineteen months old she lost her eyesight and hearing.

As she grew older she felt a burning desire to speak but felt frustrated by her inability and became stubborn and wild.

Then Mrs Sullivan arrived at her house when she was six years and nine months' old Miss Sullivan gave her a doll.

Miss Sullivan taught her to spell words and exploited the difference between mug and water.

From then in, everything acquired a new meaning in her life.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| a. immeasurable | b. contrasts | c. eventful |
| d. repentance | e. plummet | f. reveal |
| g. imitation | h. fragments | |

Q.2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions: -

Extract Reading – 1

The morning after my teacher came she left me into her room and gave me a doll.

- Who is 'she' in the above extract?
- What did she give to the narrator?
- Name the chapter and the writer.

Extract Reading – 2

The most important day I remember in my life is the one on which my teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan came to me. I am filled with wonder when I consider the immeasurable contrasts between the two lives which it connects.

- Name the chapter and its writer from which the above extract has been taken.
- Which day she considers the most important day in her life?
- Write meaning of 'immeasurable'.

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions: -

- How did Helen feel when Mrs Anne Sullivan came to her house?
- How did her teacher teach her the difference between 'water' and 'mug'?
- Write character sketch of Mrs Anne Sullivan?
- How did Miss Sullivan make Helen understand that everything has a name?
- Write brief character sketch of Helen Keller.

Q-4 Long Answer Type Question:-

- Miss Sullivan played an important role in Helen's life. Explain.

POEM – 7
THE LOUSE AND THE MOSQUITO
By -VIKRAM SETH

Key Points-

The louse and the mosquito is a delightful poem by Vikram Seth based on an Indian legend.

In the royal bed of King, there lives a louse known as creep with its family for a long time.

From thirty years each night she came with a large family to drink royal blood.

Without disturbing the King .

One day a mosquito came through the window and landed near the creep (the louse).

He begged and pleaded to stay there for a night.

At last, she allowed him to come in at a promise that he will not risk her family.

Q.1 Write the meaning of the following words: -

- a. ancestral b. enormous c. discreetly d. pleaded
e. remedies f. fatigue

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading – 1

Sir Mosquito, flap your wings.
Leave at once. This beds the kings.
Who may you be, lady louse?
I'm the guardian of this house.

- a. Name the poem and the poet?
b. Who claims to be the guardians of the house?
c. Who is 'I' in the above lines?
d. What did the louse say to the Mosquito?

Extract Reading – 2

Help! A scorpion! A snake!
Screamed the king at once awake.
'I've been bitten! Search the bed!
Find and strike the creature dead!'

- a. Why did the king scream?
b. What did the king order?
c. Write meaning of 'screamed'.

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions: -

- a. Where did the Creep live and with whom?
b. What did the mosquito request to the louse?
c. How did the louse react to his request?
d. What is the theme of the poem 'The Louse and the Mosquito'?
e. Compare and contrast the characters of 'The Louse and the Mosquito'.

Q-4 Long Answer Type Questions:-

- a. Write the summary of the poem 'The Louse and the Mosquito' in your own words.

CHAPTER - 8
THREE QUESTIONS
By - LEO TOLSTOY

Key Points:-

- "Three Questions" is a beautiful story written by Leo Tolstoy.
- A king wanted to know the answers of his three questions.
- His Questions were-
What is the right time to do something ? What is the right job to do? Who is the most important person in life ?
- To get the answers he called wise men from far and wide but the king was not satisfied by the answers.
- Then he went to meet a hermit who used to live in the forest.
There he got answers and he came back happily.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| a. attentive | b. renowned | c. wisdom | d. various |
| e. faint | f. cease | | |

Q-2 Read the extract and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading-1

It once occurred to a certain king, that if he always knew the right time to begin everything, if he knew who were the right people to listen to and whom to avoid, and above all, if he always knew what was the most important thing to do.

- a. Name the chapter and its writer.
- b. What were the king's questions?
- c. Why did he want to know the answers of his three questions?

Extract Reading-2

When the king approached him, the hermit was digging the ground in front of his hut.

- a. Whom did the king decide to consult finally?
- b. What was the hermit doing?
- c. Where did the hermit live?

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions:-

- a. What efforts did the king make to get the answers?
- b. Why did the bearded man want to take revenge?
- c. Mention three ways by which the king helped his enemy, the bearded man.
- d. What message do we get from the story "Three Questions"?

Q-4 Long Answer Type Questions:-

- a. What were the king's three questions and what were the hermit's answers?

CHAPTER – 9
THE CASKET TEST
By - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Key Points:

- "The Casket Test" is taken from Shakespeare's Play "The Merchant of Venice".
- This chapter revolves around a casket test to win the hand of Portia.
- Several suitors' arrive to take the test.
- There are three caskets of Gold, Silver and Lead with one containing the portrait of Portia.
- Prince of Arragon arrives to make his choice, but fails.

As per the conditions he leaves the place at once without saying any word.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- a. portrait b.unfold c.hazard d.treasure

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions-

Extract Reading - 1

To these injunctions every one doth swear. That comes to hazard for my worthless self.

- a. Who is the speaker of these lines?
- b. What were the conditions laid by the speaker?
- c. Explain the given lines.
- d. Name the chapter and its writer.

Extract Reading-2

With one fool's head I come to woo, but I go away with two.

- a. Who is the speaker in these lines?
- b. What is the message conveyed through these lines (by the fool) to the speaker?
- c. Why does the speaker say so?
- d. Explain the given lines in your words.

Q-3 Short Answer Type Questions:-

- a. Who was Portia? Write brief character sketch of Portia.
- b. What do the three caskets symbolize ?
- c. What are the conditions laid by Portia?
- d. What message does the fool give to the Prince of Arragon ?
- e. Explain" How many then should cover that stand bare ! How many be commanded that command!"

Q-4 Long Answer Type Questions:

- a. Write the character sketch of Prince of Arragon.

POEM – 10
THE CANE BOTTOM'D CHAIR
By - WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

Key Points:-

- The Poem is written by William Makepeace Thackeray.
- The poet says that amongst all his possessions he loves the cane bottomed chair the most.
- He is not ready to exchange it ever for the finest couch.
- The chair is old, worn out ,and its feet are twisted.
- The chair is very valuable for him , it is like a shrine of a saint or the throne of a prince .
- It is his beloved Fanny's chair.
- He sits near it, when he is alone and imagines that Fanny is there.

Q-1 Write the meaning of the following words:-

- a. tender b. fresh c. yonder d. cherish

Q-2 Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading-1

To mount to this realm is a toil, to be sure, But the fire there is bright and the air rather pure.

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. How does the poet describe his little kingdom?
- c. Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'kingdom'.

Extract Reading-2

And so, I have valued my chair ever since, like the shrine of a saint, or the throne of a prince.

Saint Fanny, my patroness sweet I declare, the queen of my heart and my cane-bottomed chair.

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
- b. What does the poet compare his chair with?
- c. What does he imagine about his beloved Fanny?
- d. Find a word from the extract that means the same and "holy place".

Q-2 Short Answer Type Questions:-

- a. Describe the 'Snug little kingdom of the poet'.
- b. What is the poet's favourite place and why?
- c. How does the poet describe his beloved, Fanny ? Write her brief character sketch .
- d. How does the poet describe the cane-bottomed chair.

Q-3 Long Answer Type Question:

- a. Whose Company does the poet enjoy when his friends have gone? Give answer in detail

CHAPTER 11
THE POOL
By - RUSKIN BOND

Key points

- The story is about boyhood, growing up and friendship.
- The narrator found a pool and made his friends acquainted with the presence of the secret pool.
- All of them used to visit the pool regularly.
- They spent their time at the pool performing activities like swimming, fishing and buffalo-riding.
- The narrator visited the pool after an interval of four years and found that the pool had changed its course as they had changed theirs.

Q.1. Write the meaning of the following words:-

- a. rushing b. impulses c. graceful d. explosion
e. wrestled f. visualise g. disappointment h. spirits

Q.2. Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading 1

When I saw the pool I turned and ran home because I wanted to tell the others.

- a. Name the speaker of this line.
- b. Who are the 'others'?
- c. What did narrator want to tell?

Extract Reading 2

But we got him out, along with a good supply of stunned fish.

- a. How did the fish get stunned?
- b. Who had planned this incident?
- c. Find the synonym of 'astonished' from above extract.

Extract Reading 3

When I saw him a year ago, he sported a fierce and very military moustache.

- a. Who is 'he' in the above line?
- b. When did he join the military academy?
- c. Find the antonym of 'hearty' from above extract.

Q.3. Short Answer Type Questions:-

- a. How did the narrator find the secret pool?
- b. What idea did Anil get from the explosion in the pool?
- c. List the activities, the three boys used to perform beside the pool.
- d. What would happen if they could visit the pool at night?
- e. How did the narrator and his friends get separated?

Q.4. Long Answer Type Question:-

- a. "I turned away in disappointment and with a dull ache in my heart." Explain the line in detail.

CHAPTER 12

THE TROJAN WAR

BY HOMER

Key points

- The story is adopted from the Epic Iliad written by Homer.
- It covers the quarrels and fighting between Greeks and people of Troy.
- The strife began after the Trojan prince Paris abducted Helen who was the wife of Menelaus, the king of Sparta.
- When Menelaus demanded her return, the Trojans refused.
- Menelaus then persuaded his brother Agamemnon to lead an army against Troy.
- The Greeks and Trojans fought for nearly ten years and Trojans got defeated by the Greeks.

Q.1. Write the meaning of the given words:-

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| a. infuriated | b. elope | c. grief | d. revenge |
| e. disbanded | f. barbour | g. persuaded | h. armour |
| i. exhibition | j. abandoned | k. trifling | l. hastened |

Q.2. Read the extracts and answer the following questions:-

Extract Reading 1

Paris sailed for Sparta to claim his prize, the most beautiful woman in the world.

- a. Who is Paris?
- b. Who is the most beautiful in the world?
- c. Who told Paris about the most beautiful woman?
- d. Find the synonym of 'reward' from the above extract.

Extract Reading 2

After two years of preparation, the Greek fleet and army assembled and set out for Troy

- a. For what they prepared for two years?
- b. Find out the antonym of 'disperse' from the above extract.
- c. Find the synonym of 'composing' from the above extract.

Extract Reading 3

'They decided to resort to a trick.'

- a. Who are 'they' in the above line?
- b. What was the trick?
- c. Did the trick work successfully?

Q.3. Short Answer Type Questions:-

- a. Why did Eris, the goddess of discord, throw the golden apple among the guests?
- b. Why did Hector feel presentiment of danger?
- c. Achilles showed himself to be the bravest but he refused to go on fighting. Give reason,
- d. How did Hector face Achilles? What was the conclusion of their fight?
- e. Who was Laocoon? Why did he warn the Trojans?

Q.4. Long Answer Type Questions:-

- a. 'Trojans dragged their destruction (Trojan Horse) themselves into Troy.' Explain the line in detail.

