**Section 2 School Breaks Up**

**Reading 1**

**1.**

a. ii. he hadn’t prepared well for the exam.

b. iii. he didn’t want others to know that he didn’t know the answer.

c. iii. read books during the holidays.

**2.**

a. Outside the examination hall, with dry lips, parched throat, exhausted and yet with

exaltation, Swaminathan went out having handed over his paper. Outside he saw that he was the only one who had finished his paper so early. He realized that there was still a good half hour before the Tamil paper would end. He suddenly wished that he had not come out so early. He doubted his decision and felt uneasy. He wished that some of the other boys had also submitted their papers like him twenty minutes before time and come out to the veranda that had beckoned so strongly to him. He liked the verandah for it symbolized the freedom from the rule-oriented life that school forced upon him.

b. Swaminathan looked forward to spending his time just as he pleased, after he had handed inhis paper. He thought that for a long time there would be no examinations to worry about and he would not have to study. He would roam about the town in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. He would definitely throw away his books, and would ask Granny to tell him endless stories. He would just enjoy the leisure time on his own terms.

c. Swaminathan spent the last half an hour drawing a complicated pattern in his paper because he had finished answering all the questions. But when he saw his other friends still writing he pretended to revise his answers. He read a first few lines of the first question and was bored. He kept gazing at the question about the moral of the tiger and the brahmin story. But soon the story lost all meaning to him. He did not know what else to write and ended up improving the little dash at the end of the last line of his answer. He made it an elaborate pattern because he had already finished writing all he knew and was just waiting to go out of the examination hall.

d. Two pieces of evidence from the story to prove that Sankar was the cleverest of the boys from the story are—after the examination when the boys were talking about what they would do with themselves in the vacation, Sankar said that his father had bought a lot of books for him and he was going to read them during the vacation. Sankar was serious about his studies and good at them too. When the Pea came and asked Sankar whether he was going to bag a first class, Sankar modestly denied and said he might be able to score only thirty-five only to have the Pea promise that he would cut off the tuft of hair from Sankar’s head if his words turned out to be lies when the results were declared.