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Classwork Questions and Answers for English Lessons

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1. The Little Girl

1.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

To the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. Every morning before going to work he came into her room and gave her a casual kiss, to which she responded with “Goodbye, Father”. And oh, there was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter and fainter down the long road!

1. Who does ‘he’ refer to in the extract?

Ans: ‘He’ refers to Kezia’s father.

2. How did Kezia feel when her father left for work?

Ans: Kezia felt a glad sense of relief when her father left for work.

3. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

Ans: Kezia was afraid of her father because he was a strict disciplinarian with a harsh exterior, which made him a figure to be feared and avoided.

4. What does the phrase “casual kiss” suggest about her father’s behavior?

Ans: The phrase “casual kiss” suggests that her father’s gesture was routine and lacked warmth or emotional connection.

1.2 Short Answer Questions

1. Why did Kezia stutter in front of her father?

Ans: Kezia stuttered in front of her father because she was afraid of him and tried hard to speak properly, which made her nervous.

2. What did Kezia make as a birthday present for her father?

Ans: Kezia made a pin-cushion as a birthday present for her father.

1.3 Long Answer Question

How did Kezia’s perception of her father change by the end of the story?

Ans: Initially, Kezia viewed her father as a fearful and strict figure, feeling relief when he left for work. His loud voice and harsh demeanor intimidated her, leading to incidents like her stuttering or the disastrous pin-cushion gift, where she was punished for tearing his speech. However, her perception changed when her father comforted her during a nightmare, taking her to his bed and making her feel safe. This act revealed his caring side, helping Kezia realize that despite his stern exterior, her father loved her, transforming her fear into affection and understanding.

2. Poem: Wind

2.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

1. What does the poet request the wind to do?

Ans: The poet requests the wind to blow softly.

2. What destructive actions does the poet ask the wind to avoid?

Ans: The poet asks the wind not to break window shutters, scatter papers, or throw down books from the shelf.

3. Which poetic device is used in the lines starting with "Don't"?

Ans: The poetic device used is anaphora, as "Don't" is repeated at the beginning of consecutive lines.

4. What effect does this poetic device create?

Ans: The repetition of "Don't" emphasizes the poet's plea for the wind to be gentle and creates a rhythmic urgency in the poem.

2.2 Short Answer Questions

1. What does the wind symbolize in the poem?

Ans: The wind symbolizes challenges, difficulties, and obstacles in life.

2. How can one befriend the wind, according to the poet?

Ans: To befriend the wind, one must build strong homes, secure doors, and strengthen their body and heart.

2.3 Long Answer Question

What is the central idea of the poem "Wind," and how does the poet convey it?

Ans: The central idea of the poem "Wind" is that one must be physically and mentally strong to overcome life's challenges, represented by the wind. The poet personifies the wind as a powerful force that destroys the weak but strengthens the resilient. Through vivid imagery, such as the wind breaking shutters or scattering papers, and commands like "come softly," the poet illustrates its destructive potential. The advice to build strong homes and steadfast hearts emphasizes resilience. The use of anaphora and metaphors reinforces the message that only the strong survive adversities, encouraging readers to face challenges with courage and determination.

3. Poem: Rain on the Roof

3.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

When the humid shadows hover
Over all the starry spheres
And the melancholy darkness
Gently weeps in rainy tears,
What a bliss to press the pillow
Of a cottage-chamber bed
And lie listening to the patter
Of the soft rain overhead!

1. What are “humid shadows” in the extract?

Ans: “Humid shadows” refer to the dark, rain-bearing clouds.

2. Why does the poet describe the darkness as “melancholy”?

Ans: The poet describes the darkness as “melancholy” because the rainy night feels sad and gloomy, possibly reflecting the poet’s mood.

3. What does the poet find blissful?

Ans: The poet finds it blissful to lie on his cottage bed and listen to the patter of soft rain on the roof.

4. What do the “starry spheres” represent?

Ans: The “starry spheres” represent the stars visible in the night sky.

3.2 Short Answer Questions

1. What effect does the sound of rain have on the poet’s heart?

Ans: The sound of rain produces an echo in the poet’s heart, evoking emotions and memories.

2. Who does the poet remember while listening to the rain?

Ans: The poet remembers his mother while listening to the rain.

3.3 Long Answer Question

How does the sound of rain influence the poet’s emotions and memories in “Rain on the Roof”?

Ans: In “Rain on the Roof,” the sound of rain pattering on the roof deeply influences the poet’s emotions, creating a sense of bliss and nostalgia. As he lies in his cottage bed, the gentle patter evokes a thousand dreamy fancies and recollections, particularly of his childhood and his mother’s loving gaze as she watched her sleeping children. The poet describes the rain as “rainy tears” of a melancholy darkness, reflecting a bittersweet mood. The repetitive sound, described as a refrain, weaves memories into a vivid tapestry, blending joy and longing. This emotional connection highlights the rain’s power to transport the poet to cherished moments, making the experience both soothing and profoundly sentimental.

4. A Truly Beautiful Mind

4.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

A headmaster once told his father that what Einstein chose as a profession wouldn't matter, because "he'll never make a success at anything." Einstein began learning to play the violin at the age of six, because his mother wanted him to; he later became a gifted amateur violinist, maintaining this skill throughout his life.

1. What did the headmaster say about Einstein's future?

Ans: The headmaster said that Einstein would never be successful in any profession.

2. Why did Einstein start playing the violin?

Ans: Einstein started playing the violin at age six because his mother wanted him to.

3. What skill did Einstein maintain throughout his life?

Ans: Einstein maintained his skill as a gifted amateur violinist throughout his life.

4. How does this extract challenge the headmaster's opinion?

Ans: The extract challenges the headmaster's opinion by highlighting Einstein's talent in music, suggesting he had potential for success despite the headmaster's doubts.

4.2 Short Answer Questions

1. Why did Einstein leave his school in Munich?

Ans: Einstein left his school in Munich because he hated its strict regimentation and felt stifled there.

2. What was Einstein's mother's opinion of him as a child?

Ans: Einstein's mother thought he was a freak because his head seemed unusually large.

4.3 Long Answer Question

Describe Albert Einstein's personality and interests as depicted in "A Truly Beautiful Mind."

Ans: In "A Truly Beautiful Mind," Albert Einstein is portrayed as a brilliant yet unconventional individual with a unique personality. As a child, he was considered a freak due to his large head and delayed speech, repeating words twice. He was introverted, earning the nickname "Brother Boring" from playmates due to his lack of social interaction. Einstein rebelled against the rigid discipline of his Munich school, clashing with teachers and leaving at 15 for a more liberal education in Switzerland. His love for music, particularly playing the violin, was a lifelong passion encouraged by his mother. Despite a headmaster's prediction of failure, Einstein's intellectual curiosity led to groundbreaking scientific contributions, like the theory of relativity. His personality combined a love for freedom, creativity, and a kind-hearted nature, as seen in his willingness to help classmates, making him a visionary with a truly beautiful mind.

5. Moments: The Adventures of Toto

5.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

His bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath deep-set eyebrows, and his teeth, which were a pearly white, were very often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. But his hands looked dried-up as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Yet his fingers were quick and wicked; and his tail, while adding to his good looks, also served as a third hand.

1. Who is described in this extract?

Ans: The extract describes Toto, a monkey.

2. What feature of Toto frightened elderly ladies?

Ans: Toto's pearly white teeth, displayed in a smile, frightened elderly Anglo-Indian ladies.

3. How is Toto's tail described?

Ans: Toto's tail is described as adding to his good looks and serving as a third hand, capable of hanging from branches or scooping delicacies.

4. What does the phrase "quick and wicked" suggest about Toto's fingers?

Ans: The phrase "quick and wicked" suggests that Toto's fingers were fast and mischievous, capable of causing trouble or grabbing things swiftly.

5.2 Short Answer Questions

1. Why was Toto kept a secret from Grandmother?

Ans: Toto was kept a secret because Grandmother disapproved of Grandfather bringing home new animals, as she always fussed about them.

2. What did Toto do in the closet?

Ans: In the closet, Toto tore off the ornamental wall paper, pulled out the peg he was tied to, and shredded the narrator's blazer.

5.3 Long Answer Question

What mischievous behaviors did Toto exhibit, and why did Grandfather decide to sell him back?

Ans: Toto, the monkey in "The Adventures of Toto," was a bundle of mischief, causing chaos wherever he went. His bright eyes and quick fingers led to numerous antics: he tore ornamental paper off walls, shredded the narrator's blazer, and disturbed other pets in the servants' quarters by preventing them from sleeping. During a train journey, his movements in a canvas bag attracted a crowd, and he once nearly boiled himself in a kettle while attempting to bathe. Toto's destructive habits extended to breaking dishes, tearing curtains, and frightening visitors with his toothy grin. These behaviors became too much for Grandfather, who realized that keeping Toto was unsustainable due to the constant trouble and expense. Consequently, he sold Toto back to the tonga-driver for three rupees, acknowledging that the monkey's mischief outweighed his charm.

6. Moments: Iswaran the Storyteller

6.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

Iswaran also had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables and cooking ingredients, seemingly out of nowhere, in the middle of a desolate landscape with no shops visible for miles around. He would miraculously conjure up the most delicious dishes made with fresh vegetables within an hour of arriving at the zinc-sheet shelter at the new workplace.

1. Who is described in this extract?

Ans: The extract describes Iswaran, Mahendra's cook and servant.

2. What was Iswaran's remarkable ability?

Ans: Iswaran could produce vegetables and cooking ingredients in desolate areas and prepare delicious dishes quickly.

3. What is meant by "zinc-sheet shelter"?

Ans: The zinc-sheet shelter refers to the temporary housing at Mahendra's new construction site where Iswaran stayed with him.

4. How does the word "miraculously" enhance the description of Iswaran's cooking?

Ans: The word "miraculously" emphasizes the extraordinary and almost magical nature of Iswaran's ability to create meals in challenging conditions.

6.2 Short Answer Questions

1. What were Iswaran's duties for Mahendra?

Ans: Iswaran cooked for Mahendra, washed his clothes, and entertained him with stories at night.

2. How did Iswaran add suspense to his stories?

Ans: Iswaran added suspense by pausing his stories midway, leaving abruptly, and resuming only when urged, creating anticipation.

6.3 Long Answer Question

How did Iswaran's storytelling skills impact Mahendra, and what led to Mahendra's decision to resign?

Ans: Iswaran's storytelling skills had a profound impact on Mahendra, providing entertainment in the remote construction sites where they lived. As a master storyteller, Iswaran wove tales filled with adventure, horror, and suspense, such as the story of taming a mad elephant or encountering a female ghost. His dramatic delivery, with vivid descriptions and strategic pauses, captivated Mahendra, offering relief from the isolation of their temporary shelters. However, Iswaran's tale of a female ghost haunting the area deeply affected Mahendra. One night, Mahendra saw what he believed was the ghost, a shrivelled figure with matted hair holding a foetus, which terrified him. Convinced the place was haunted, Mahendra's fear overwhelmed him, leading to his decision to resign from his job and leave the area, demonstrating the powerful influence of Iswaran's stories on his perception and actions.

7. Moments: In the Kingdom of Fools

7.1 Extract-Based Question

Extract:

The two men were hungry. Now that the shops were open, they went to buy some groceries. To their astonishment, they found that everything cost the same, a single duddu — whether they bought a measure of rice or a bunch of bananas, it cost a duddu. The guru and his disciple were delighted. They had never heard of anything like this. They could buy all the food they wanted for a rupee.

1. Who are the “two men” in the extract?

Ans: The “two men” are the guru and his disciple.

2. What astonished the guru and his disciple?

Ans: They were astonished that everything in the market cost the same, a single duddu.

3. Why were they delighted?

Ans: They were delighted because they could buy all the food they wanted for just a rupee.

4. What does the term “duddu” refer to?

Ans: “Duddu” refers to the currency used in the Kingdom of Fools, where everything cost one duddu.

7.2 Short Answer Questions

1. What was the unusual law in the Kingdom of Fools?

Ans: The unusual law was that people worked at night and slept during the day, with death as punishment for disobedience.

2. Why did the disciple choose to stay in the kingdom?

Ans: The disciple stayed because everything was cheap, allowing him to eat his fill of food like bananas, rice, and ghee.

7.3 Long Answer Question

How did the guru’s wisdom save his disciple in “In the Kingdom of Fools”?

Ans: In “In the Kingdom of Fools,” the guru’s wisdom was crucial in saving his disciple from execution. Initially, the guru sensed danger in the kingdom’s foolish practices, where day was night and everything cost a duddu, and urged his disciple to leave. The disciple, lured by cheap food, stayed and grew fat, only to be later blamed for a thief’s death due to the kingdom’s absurd justice system. When the king ordered the disciple’s execution, the guru returned and devised a clever plan. He claimed the execution stake was holy, and the first two executed would be reborn as king and minister. The foolish king and minister, eager for future power, volunteered to be executed instead. This strategic manipulation showcased the guru’s foresight and quick thinking, exploiting the rulers’ idiocy to save his disciple and ultimately leading to their appointment as the new king and minister, ensuring justice prevailed.