

**NOTE**

1. Please check that this question paper contains **12** printed pages.
2. Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
3. Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.
4. 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper.

**PRE BOARD EXAMINATION-2024-25**  
**CLASS: XII**  
**SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE (301)**

**MAX. MARKS-80****TIME- 3 HRS****GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:*

- ❖ The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- ❖ Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 Marks)**

1.	<p><b>Read the following passage carefully:</b></p> <p>1-Academics has always been an essential part of human development. It prepares us to survive in the outside world and establish an identity of our own. But, is an individual's development restricted to merely academics? In India, from an early age, we have been taught that education is limited to the boundaries of academics only; the idea of getting out into the field, for gaining practical experience, is always considered a hoax. This has hindered students' development. But, the truth is that education represents a considerably broader field than we know of it. Our teaching, from the basics, has been focused on getting good grades and job offers, rather than being creative and unique.</p> <p>2-In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the pure academic type of education is slowly paving way for a whole new type. The paradigm shift in the whole education system is evident. People have now come to understand that education is a 360 degree activity that should focus on students' overall development, rather than restricting him/her to the classroom.</p>	12
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3-Co-curricular activities that take place outside the classroom but reinforce or supplement classroom curriculum, in some way, have become a point of focus today. These activities help in the growth of the child, in more than one way. Participating in such activities helps youngsters grow mentally, socially and individually. Intellectual development of a student is developed in the class**Room**, but for the aesthetic development such as team- building, character- building, and physical growth, students must step out into the outside world. For instance, if a student is a part of school football team, he/ she will learn team- work and coordination, in a practical manner, which cannot be taught in the class.

4-Similarly, in colleges and institutions, there is a need for practical exposure so that the students can experience the actual working of an industry. For example, taking a student to a manufacturing firm will give him/ her real insight and better learning of the industry. Catering to this change, most professional colleges including schools have started providing practical exposure to students through regular guest lectures, industrial visits, conferences, seminars, cultural festivals, and so on. With industry visits, students are able to better identify their prospective areas of work in the overall organizational function. Moreover, they help enhance interpersonal skills and communication techniques. In addition, guest lectures are equally important for all – round development of students. It is a great way for students to gain maximum exposure, as guestspeakers' talk about their real- life experiences and not what is there in the text books.

5-Through such events, students are made to participate and coordinate different events wherein, they get to know how exactly things are managed. Classroom teaching provides the foundation, and co-curricular or extra-curricular activities provide practical exposure and opportunities to implement what students learn in the classroom. This helps in developing the overall personality of the students, inculcating various soft – skills in them, which otherwise are difficult to teach. Clearly, life beyond academics creates creative and empowered professionals.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

I	<b>What hinders the development of the students?</b> i. limiting education to academic boundaries. ii. getting out to the field. iii. being creative and unique. iv. gaining practical knowledge.	(1)	1
II	<b>The shift in the education system means</b> i. to restrict to classroom activities. ii. to focus on academic development iii. to ignore 360 degree activity iv. to focus on overall development	(1)	1
III	<b>What kinds of help does one get from the co- curricular activities taking place outside of the classroom?</b>		1

	<i>correct option</i>	
IV	<p><b>Choose true or false-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i- Co-curricular activity takes place outside of the classroom and it focuses more on academics</li> <li>ii- Aesthetics development of a child makes him enable to coordinate with outside world and academics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>iii- Purpose of teaching is to focus more on grades and physical development</li> <li>iv- None of the above</li> </ul>	1
V	<b>Classroom teaching is not detrimental because it provides...the foundation</b>	1
VI	<p><b>Co-curricular activities are specifically meant for the-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i- Development of a child who wants to make his academics strong and is willing to be a mathematician.</li> <li>ii- Development of a child who wants to make his academics and non-academics strong and is willing to be a doctor -</li> <li>iii- Development of a child who wants to make his non-academics strong and is willing to be a leader</li> <li><b><u>iv- Both i and ii</u></b></li> </ul>	1
VII	<b>What does "aesthetic development" mean? How can it be developed in students?</b>	2
VIII	<p><b>Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 1.</b>          Whisper : Quietly : ..... : Trickily</p>	1
IX	<b>What gives children a better insight into industry?</b>	1
X	<b>Why are soft skills difficult to teach in the classroom?</b>	2

2.	<b>Read the following text carefully.</b>	10 m
	<p>1-The popcorn-munching book fair lovers have established it and India's rich heritage of Vedas and Shastras stands testimony. Among 30 major countries surveyed, the NOP <b><u>World Culture Score Index</u></b> ranks India as the country that loves reading the most if the time spent doing so is taken into consideration. Indians clocked 10.4 hours of weekly reading, as per the list. On an average, that's around one and a half hours of reading in a day. After India, Thailand and China are placed second and third on the list, clocking 9.24 hours and 8 hours respectively. The next three countries — Philippines, Egypt and the Czech Republic —read 7.36 hours, 7.3 hours and 7.24 hours respectively on a weekly basis.</p> <p><b>2-Is there a correlation with literacy?</b></p> <p>Surprisingly, the reading craze has nothing to do with literacy as European countries like Finland, Norway, and Denmark- all of whom are known for high literacy rates and excellent education systems - fail to figure even in the top ten of the list. The only two European countries with an impressive education system that also figure in the top ten are Sweden and</p>	

France at eighth and ninth positions respectively. It's not that India's literacy figures are bad at all – but they're not top of the world either. India has a literacy rate of 74.04 percent (as per the 2011 census) whereas the others in the list which trail India such as Thailand, China, Philippines, Egypt have literacy rates of 93.5 percent, 95.1 percent, 95.4 percent, 73.9 percent respectively.

### Which countries read the most?

Hours spent reading per person per week (selected countries)

India	05.48
Thailand	05.28
China	05.00
Philippines	02.98
Egypt	02.80
Czech Republic	02.78
Russia	02.06
Sweden	02.54
France	02.54
Hungary	02.48
Saudi Arabia	02.18
Hong Kong	02.12
Poland	02.30
Venezuela	02.24
South Africa	02.18



Source: NOP World Culture Score Index

indie100 The INDEPENDENT statista

### WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE THE HIGHEST LITERACY RATES?

In 2021, the worldwide literacy rate was

86%

The highest literacy rate in the world is in East Asia & the Pacific

95.77%



The gender gap in literacy remains in favor of men

while the lowest is in Sub-Saharan Africa

65.47%

2/3 from 781 million illiterate adults worldwide are female.



#### Literacy in Africa

More than 1 in 3 adults in Africa cannot read.  
48 million people between ages 15-24 are illiterate

The global adult literacy rate continues a slight increase year on year since 2015



Countries that report 100% literacy rates are:

- Andorra
- Luxembourg
- Norway
- Liechtenstein

Other nations with (self reported) near-complete literacy rates:

- Russia
- Poland

The 5 least literate countries in the world

- Azerbaijan
- Cuba
- Georgia
- Tajikistan
- Niue
- Guinea
- Niger
- Djibouti
- Kiribati



3-The question thus arises: What is behind India's high rank? A reason that perhaps contributed to India's top billing on the list is the recent wave of successful Indian authors – Ravinder Singh, Amish, Jeet Thayil and Arvind Adiga (who was also awarded Man Booker Prize for *The White Tiger*) — who have created a much-needed disruption in the Indian publishing business through their popular titles. Add to that, a thrust provided by social media and e-books

#### 4-Statistics highlighting the reading trends among the Indian population:

Indian readers possess a wide range of literary preferences, with various genres resonating with them. Contemporary Indian fiction holds a prominent place, capturing the interest and admiration of readers. Additionally, genres like mystery, romance, and literary fiction also enjoy

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substantial popularity. Non-fiction works, particularly those focused on self-help and motivation, attract a significant number of readers. Books exploring Indian mythology and spirituality consistently captivate a broad readership. Furthermore, regional literature in languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, and Malayalam showcase the abundant cultural diversity prevalent in the country.

5-Over the years, there has been a significant increase in the literacy rate in India. It rose from 74.04% in 2011 to 77.70% in 2019, indicating a growing number of readers. However, a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization revealed that only 3% of the Indian population reads books in English, while the majority prefers books in regional languages. Surprisingly, a survey conducted by the World Bank discovered that 48% of Indians aged 15 and above are considered "literate non-readers." These individuals possess the ability to read but consciously choose not to engage in reading activities.

I	<b>What is the implication in the opening statement of the passage? ("The popcorn-munching standstestimony")</b>	1
II	<b>What is India's weekly reading hour as per World Culture Score Index?</b> i- 10.42 hours/person ii- 10.44 hours/person iii- 10.42 minutes/person iv- 10.41 hours/person	1
III	<b>"Does good rank in terms of literacy rate make our country, the most reading country?" Justify your answer in the context of the survey.</b>	2
IV	<b>What was the literacy rate of Phillipines as per 2011 census?</b> i- 95.4% ii- 85.4% iii- 95.44% iv- 55.4%	1
V	<b>According to Fig 1 countries belonging to which continent spent most hours on reading per person?</b>	1
VI	<b>Study the data given in Fig 2 and find out highest and lowest literacy rate globally.</b>	1
VII	<b>Analyse the reasons based on the given data that support more reading habit among Indians.</b>	2
VIII	<b>What evidence does the author provide to prove that reading craze has no relation to literacy?</b> i- India is not among the top ten in the list though it has a very high literacy. ii- None of the European countries are on the list. iii- Highly literate countries like Finland and Norway fail to figure in the top ten. iv- Only two educated European countries – Sweden & France are among the top ten. A- Only i is correct B- Only iii and iv are correct. C- Only iii is correct and iv is incorrect. D- None are correct	1

## SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3.

**Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.**

A

As the Principal of C N Public School, Chennai, draft a notice in about 50 words on the upcoming parent-teacher meeting to be held to discuss the students' performance in the Half Yearly Examination and for planning extra coaching classes during the holidays. Invent necessary details.

**OR**

B

The Residents' Welfare Association, Vrindavan Complex, Mumbai is planning to organise Community Lunch for the people living in the nearby slum. As the president of the association, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the residents about the same and calling for contributions and volunteers for the programme.

4.

**Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.**

A

You are Daisy/Daniel Maria, living at 39, Parvat Niwas Colony, Shimla. You decide to hold a dinner party to celebrate your parents' 25th wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to invite all family members and friends to attend a grand dinner at Hotel Holiday Home.(Word limit: 50)

**OR**

B.

You are Ajay/ Ajita, captain of your school volleyball team. You have received an invitation from NVS School to play a friendly match at their stadium. Write a formal reply to accept the same in not more than 50 words.

5.

**Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.**

A

You are Deepika/Rajesh, a fresh graduate from Trichy Arts & Science College. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply. Write a letter, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in one of the advertised posts.

**DECATHLON**

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

**Content Writer, Data Entry, Computer Operator, Back Office, Typist, Trainer**

**(Part time)**

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**Part-time/Fresher-- Shift and schedule---Day shift**

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B

**OR**  
**You are Mahesh from Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of "The Times of India" about the need for an awareness programme against the use of crackers on Diwali.**

Fireworks -as a mode of celebration- negative implications-pollutants harmful to the environment. & health- especially respiratory issues- and for animals.- children labour involved-any other points

6.

A

**Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.**

5

India recently won 27 medals in Asian Athletic Championship and did India proud. Inspired by their phenomenal performance, you decide to write an article for your school Magazine on "Sports as a Career Option".

- Essential for both physical and mental wellbeing
- Increases blood flow
- Develops spontaneity and response time.
- Builds the stamina of a person
- Sports teach teamwork
- Relieves stress

**OR**

B.

**You are Rohit/Rashi of Vivekananda Sr. Secondary School of Bangalore. Your school has recently conducted a charity show in aid of the land slide-affected people of Himachal Pradesh. As Cultural Secretary of the Students' Council of your school, write a brief report in not more than 120-150 words on this activity of the school for publication in your local daily.**

- A fete and a one-act play 'Love Conquers All' organised.
- Chief Guest- Prominent personality
- Cultural Programme
- Money collected by way of some interesting games
- Collection sent through a Demand Draft to the Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund.

### SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 marks)

7.

**Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two- A or B**

6

A

Those who prepare green wars,  
 wars with gas, wars with fire,  
 victory with no survivors,  
 would put on clean clothes  
 and walk about with their brothers in the shade,  
 doing nothing.

I

**What are green wars?**

1

II

**Pick the option that DOES NOT complete the given sentence suitably, as per the extract.**

1

Green wars ,wars with gas etc will \_\_\_\_\_.

- solve problems in the world.
- destroy everything.
- weaken a nation.
- pollute the environment.

III	What statement does Neruda make about wars? a) Wars are of varied kinds - internal, green wars, wars with gas, with fire etc. b) Wars are wasteful and cause irrecoverable loss and damage to property and life. c) Wars never yield any winners, and the loss is far greater than what can be measured. d) Wars are unavoidable in the enduring struggle for human dignity and power.
IV	The phrase 'putting on clean clothes' refers to .....
V	The poetic device used in the phrase "Victory with no survivors" is a. alliteration      b. irony      c. simile      d. metaphor
VI	State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract: 'Walking about with brothers in the shade doing nothing' emphasises the importance of peace and brotherhood.
	OR
B	Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.
I	'Fingers fluttering through her wool' reflect Aunt Jennifer's a. anxiety      b. fear      c. malnutrition      d. old-age
II	Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment. Choose the option that best explains the above statement, as per the extract. a) Aunt Jennifer's wedding band stands for her oppression whereas the ivory needle gives expression to her desire for freedom. b) Aunt Jennifer knits her desires, but is overpowered by the tigers she creates. c) Aunt Jennifer's hands are too weak to pull the needle through the wool. d) Aunt Jennifer makes panels of tigers when she has time from her responsibilities.
III	Which of the following is an example of alliteration? a) finger fluttering through the wool b) upon Aunt Jennifer's hand c) ivory needle hard to pull d) massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
IV	What is the rhyme scheme of these lines? a. abba      b. aabb      c. abab      d. abcb
V	Uncle's wedding band sits heavily on Aunt Jennifer's hand because a) it is an expensive and heavy ring.      b) she was married against her will. c) she feels burdened in her marriage.      d) their relationship is lacking in love.

VI	Which word in the given extract is an antonym of 'light'?									
8.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two - A or B.	1 4								
A.	<p>The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken.</p> <p>"The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands.</p> <p>"Yes, undoubtedly that would be best," Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man.</p> <p>"If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said.</p> <p>"The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.</p>									
I	In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with 'stupor'?	1								
	<p>A) She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a <u>slumber</u>.</p> <p>B) The manager complained about the employee's <u>sluggishness</u>.</p> <p>C) He seemed to be in a <u>trance</u> when the doctor called upon him last week.</p> <p>D) Seeing him in a <u>daze</u>, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witnessbox</p>									
II	Pick the option that best describes Sadao and Hana in the passage.	1								
	<table> <tbody> <tr> <td>A) Sadao: scrupulous</td> <td>Hana: wary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B) Sadao: daring</td> <td>Hana: prudent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C) Sadao: prudent</td> <td>Hana: suspicious</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D) Sadao: wary</td> <td>Hana: daring</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	A) Sadao: scrupulous	Hana: wary	B) Sadao: daring	Hana: prudent	C) Sadao: prudent	Hana: suspicious	D) Sadao: wary	Hana: daring	
A) Sadao: scrupulous	Hana: wary									
B) Sadao: daring	Hana: prudent									
C) Sadao: prudent	Hana: suspicious									
D) Sadao: wary	Hana: daring									
III	Pick the idiom that best describes the situation in which Sadao and Hana were in.	1								
	<p>A) to be like a fish out of water</p> <p>B) like water off a duck's back</p> <p>C) to be dead in the water</p> <p>D) to be in hot water</p>									
IV	Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.	1								
	<p>Statement 1: Sadao and Hana cared about the soldier but were worried about the consequences of being considerate.</p> <p>Statement 2: Sadao and Hana wanted to shirk their responsibilities of looking after an injured soldier, who could be an American.</p> <p>A) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.</p> <p>B) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.</p> <p>C) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.</p> <p>D) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.</p>									

## OR

**B**

DERRY: What do you do all day?  
 MR LAMB: Sit in the sun. Read books. Ah, you thought it was an empty

house, but inside, it's full. Books and other things. Full.  
 DERRY: But there aren't any curtains at the windows.

MR LAMB: I'm not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind.

DERRY: Yes. I like that. When it's raining, I like to hear it on the roof.  
 MR LAMB: So you're not lost, are you? Not altogether? You do hear things.

You listen.

DERRY: They talk about me. Downstairs, When I'm not there.

**I**

Which one of the options would best describe the attitudes of Mr.Lamb and Derry?

- a. friendly, suspicious  
 c) delighted, disappointed

- b) inquisitive, sad  
 d) excited, defiant

**II**

"You do hear things. You listen." Choose the option that captures the difference between hearing and listening.

hear: listen :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
 a) shut in: shut out  
 c) act: reflect

- b) smile: laugh  
 d) chance: attend

**III**

'They talk about me'. Who does 'they' refer to? What does it reveal about them?

- a. Derry's friends-upset  
 c. Derry's parents- anxious

- b. Derry's parents-angry  
 d. Derry's parents- protective

**IV**

Which one of these slogans would suit Mr.Lamb's attitude towards life?

- a.Just do it  
 c- Imagination at work

- b. Power to do more  
 d. You are worth it

**9.**

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

**A** Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14 October, 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston.' She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, 'Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it.' Yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G. Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to the 'Interview ordeal', but was a fairly frequent interviewee and forty years later found himself interviewing Joseph Stalin.

**I**

Kipling viewed interviews with

- (A) Compassion  
 (C) reconciliation

- (B) condemnation  
 (D) gratitude

(The Interview)

**II**

Why does Rudyard Kipling describe interview as 'a crime'?

**III**

Kipling assaulted

- A) H.G. Wells      (B) Joseph Stalin

- (C) T.S.Eliot      (D) Mark Twain

IV	The word 'wrecked' in the extract most nearly means (A) ravaged      (B) broken      (C) annihilated      (D) ruined	1
V	Who is the writer from which the above extract has been taken? (A) Mukund Padmanavan      (B) H.G.Wells (B) Christopher Silvester      (D) Umberto Eco	1
VI	H.G. Wells violated his own observation about interview on interviewing	1
	(OR)	
B	Usually when the school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher's great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as a Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how I blushed and how frightened I was. <i>(The Last Lesson)</i>	
I	The narrator feels anxious about entering the classroom because  (A) The teacher was in bad mood. (B) All the students were looking at him. (C) He was late and the classroom was quiet. (D) There were villagers sitting at the back of the classroom.	1
II	The phrase "as quiet as a Sunday morning" suggests that _____	1
III	What does the term 'terrible iron ruler' indicate about M. Hamel?	1
IV	Find a word in the extract which means the same as 'chaos.'	1
V	Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? (A) The Fears of a Latecomer      (B) The Importance of Punctuality (C) The Rigidity of the School System      (D) The Anxiety of a Young Student	1
VI	How did the protagonist plan to get into the class without being noticed that he was late?	1
10.	Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words	5x2=10
I	Franz thinks, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" What does this tell us about the attitude of the Frenchmen?	
II	Why did the narrator-Douglas say, "But I was not finished"?	
III	"The battle of Champaran is won." When and why did Gandhiji exclaim this?	
IV	Why did Asokamitran pray for crowd shooting all the time?	
V	What is the childish longing that the poet refers to? Why is it vain?	
VI	Give the summary of stanza 4 of the poem 'My Brother at the Side'	

11.	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.	2x2=4
I	"Stupid Yumi," she muttered fiercely. "Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless man!" In the conviction of her own superiority she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered. Despite the fact that Hana did not like to touch the white man, what made her wash and clean and tend to the wounded enemy?	
II	When and why was it a celebration time for all tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram, in the story 'The Tiger King'?	
III	Antarctica is unlike any other place on Earth. Justify the statement. (Journey to the end of the earth)	
12	Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words	5
I	Explore the symbolism of the returned rattrap and the letter from "Captain von Stahle," and how they encapsulate the central message of the passage.	
II	The childhood experience of terror of Douglas made him stronger and more determined. Elucidate the above statement supporting it with evidences from the text.	
13.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.	5
I	In the story, 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.	
II	A grown up Zitkala-Sa, reflects on the incident about cutting of her long hair and is conflicted that she did not do enough to resist and surrendered easily. She also wonders if she could have tried something else to prevent the incident. As the grown-up Zitkala-Sa, create a diary entry, expressing these thoughts and conclude by absolving yourself of any blame.	