

SSH215 Nation and her Narratives

Mid-semester examination

Marks : 20

Date : 2 March 2024

Time : 3 - 4 p.m

Answer the following questions briefly:

1/ I made preparations to leave the town in a couple of days, leaving the engine to its fate, with all its commitments. However, Nature came to my rescue in an unexpected manner. (2+2)

a. Who is the speaker? Why were the "preparations to leave the town in a couple of days" being made?

b. How did "nature" come to rescue the speaker? Why was it "unexpected"?

2/ No sooner had Dhurjati Babu made the above comment than he put his fork down, picked up the fly-flap from the table and with one deft slap killed a mosquito that had settled on it. (1.5+2.5)

a. What was the context of the comment that Durjati Babu made?

b. Where did the narrator first meet Durjati Babu? Which places did they visit together subsequently?

3/ I tried to laugh her fear gently away, but then she would turn round on me seriously, and ask me solemn questions. (2+2)

a. Who is the speaker here? What were these "solemn questions", and who were asking them?

b. What, according to you, are the reasons for such "solemn questions"?

4/ Where is the gold bangle my father gave you, woman."
"You need not worry. Najab will return with cloves." (2+2)

a. Comment on the context here.

b. What did Najab return with? How was that understood to be valuable/auspicious?

5/ "Were you calling me, Dada?" "I was thinking," said the postmaster, "of teaching you to read." And then for the rest of the afternoon he taught her the alphabet. (1.5+2.5)

a. Why did the postmaster decide to teach Ratan? How far did she learn before the postmaster fell sick?

b. What do you know about the postmaster based on the information shared by the author, Rabindranath Tagore? Comment on the postmaster's association with Ratan.