

Father Returning Home

ICE BREAKERS [PAGE 115]

Ice Breakers | Q 1 | Page 115

Discuss with your partner the difficulties that you face while commuting to and from the college by public transport.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____

Solution: (a) Extremely crowded train/buses

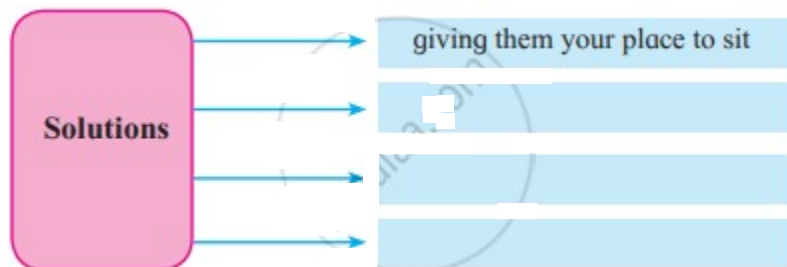
(b) Risk of running late due to delays/traffic jams

(c) Long queues to buy train tickets

(d) Chances of unexpected cancellations of trains/buses

Ice Breakers | Q 2 | Page 115

The similar problems are faced by the other commuters on the way to their work place. Imagine their plight and suggest three solutions.



Solution:

- **Giving them your place to sit**
- Following the queue
- Helping the elderly to board/alight
- Not disturbing the fellow travellers with loud noise

Ice Breakers | Q 3 | Page 115

Complete the following table.

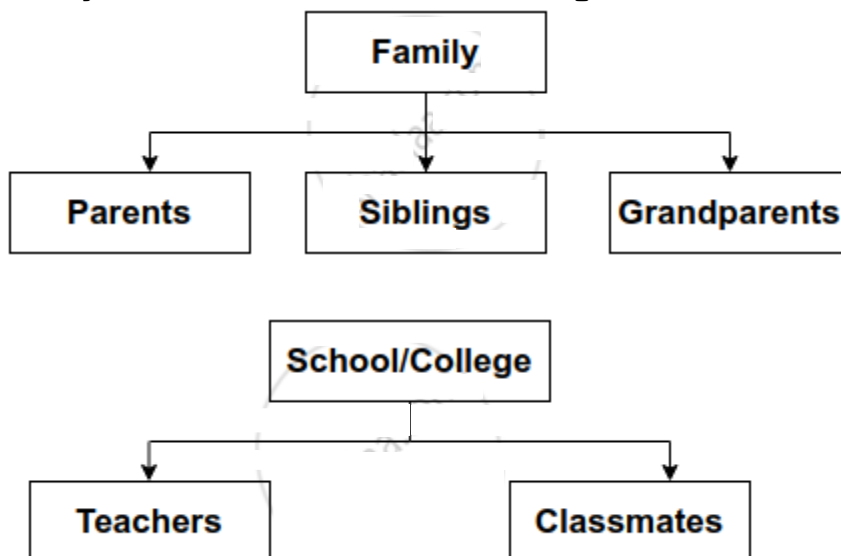
A The way our elders take care of us	B The way you can take care of elders in your family.
1. Love and protect us	1. Help them with daily chores

Solution:

A The way our elders take care of us	B The way you can take care of elders in your family.
1. Love and protect us	1. Help them with daily chores
2. Share their life experiences	2. Teach grandparents how to use technology to make life easier
3. Teach us traditional wisdom	3. Spending time with them, hearing them out and sharing our stories with them

Ice Breakers | Q 4 | Page 115

Write your duties towards the following:



Solution:

- **Family:**

1. Duties towards Parents

- a. Be respectful
- b. Share their work
- c. Be responsible

2. Duties towards Siblings

- a. Be protective of them
- b. Be friendly
- c. Have spirit of sharing

3. Duties towards Grandparents

- a. Update them of technological progress that could help them
- b. Care for them
- c. Spare time to be with them

• School/Colleges

1. Teachers

- a. Be respectful
- b. Be obedient
- c. Be courteous

2. Classmates

- a. Be harmonious
- b. Be helpful
- c. Be friendly

BRAINSTORMING (A1) [PAGE 118]

Brainstorming (A1) | Q 1 | Page 118

Discuss with your friend the difficulties faced by the father in the poem.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____

Solution: (a) He has a rough commute as he stands throughout his journey in the crowded train

(b) Due to the monsoon season, his troubles get worse, as his clothes get wet, while his raincoat and chappals get muddy.

(c) When he reaches home, he is not given nutritious food.

(d) His children do not interact with him.

(e) He doesn't even have any source of entertainment as the radio emits only static.

Brainstorming (A1) | Q 2 | Page 118

Discuss the character sketch of the father with the help of the given points.

(His pathetic condition, the treatment he receives at home, his solitude, the way he tries to overcome it)

Solution: The father is returning home on a crowded train on a dull monsoon evening. His clothes are wet due to the rain and his raincoat is stained with mud, while his bag full of books is falling apart. Nothing about the father's present situation is in good condition. Even his state of mind is weary as he does not look at the sights that pass by or talk to any of his co-passengers. Though surrounded by a crowd, he is all alone on the inside. When he alights from the train, it is as though an insignificant word has been dropped from a long sentence. Its absence is neither going to be noticed nor is it going to make any difference to the sentence. Upon reaching home, his plight is no different. He drinks weak tea and eats stale chapatti, because his existence, even in his own house, doesn't matter. His children ignore him, thus intensifying his sense of alienation from the world. The father doesn't seem to mind though. He goes to the toilet and thinks about his isolation, that is, man's isolation from the world that he himself built. While washing his hands at the sink, he trembles, not just because of the cold water, but also because of the gravity of the thoughts he had been contemplating inside. He has developed a routine for himself, maybe to overcome this sense of estrangement, where he listens to the static on the radio and goes to sleep dreaming about his past and the future as that seems to be the only solace he can find away from his distasteful present.

BRAINSTORMING (A2) [PAGES 118 - 119]

Brainstorming (A2) | Q 1 | Page 118

Given below are the ideas conveyed through the poem. Match the pairs and draw out the hidden meaning from those expressions.

Expression	Meaning
a. Children avoid expressing themselves.	1. Father is so eager to meet family members that he even doesn't bother about his safety
b. Father was deprived of refreshing hot beverages or a nourishing diet.	2. Hostility of children
c. The father hurries home crossing the railway line	3. Indulge in his past and future.
d. The father was destined to listen only to the cracking sounds on media.	4. Uncomfortable journey
e. His sordid present is devoid of any hope.	5. His basic daily requirements were also not catered to.
f. The father's endless commuting distance him from his children	6. Father is not less than any tribal wanderer, a modern nomad.
g. Suburban area, visible through the train, is past unnoticed.	7. Has the least value in the society where his presence or absence might hardly make any difference.
h. He is just as a small word, dropping from a sentence.	8. Because there is hardly anything enchanting/interesting in the monotonous routine journey to look out of the window
i. He doesn't get a place in a crowded train.	9. The father couldn't even fulfill the least expectation of entertaining himself.

Solution:

Expression	Meaning
a. Children avoid expressing themselves.	2. Hostility of children
b. Father was deprived of refreshing hot beverages or nourishing diet.	5. His basic daily requirements were also not catered to.
c. The father hurries home crossing railway line	1. Father is so eager to meet family members that he even doesn't bother about his safety
d. The father was destined to listen only to the cracking sounds on media.	9. The father couldn't even fulfil the least expectation of entertaining himself.
e. His sordid present is devoid of any hope.	3. Indulge into his past and future.
f. The father's endless commuting distance him from his children	6. Father is not less than any tribal wanderer, a modern nomad.

g. Suburban area, visible through the train, is past unnoticed.	8. Because there is hardly anything enchanting/interesting in the monotonous routine journey to look out of the window
h. He is just as a small word, dropping from a sentence.	7. Has least value in the society where his presence or absence might hardly make any difference.
i. He doesn't get a place in a crowded train.	4. Uncomfortable journey

Brainstorming (A2) | Q 2.1 | Page 119

Find the line to prove the following fact from the poem.

Father is deprived of good food.

Solution: Line 14: Eating a stale chapati, reading a book

Brainstorming (A2) | Q 2.2 | Page 119

Find the line to prove the following fact from the poem.

Children did not have a healthy relation with the father.

Solution: Line 20: His sullen children have often refused to share

Brainstorming (A2) | Q 3 | Page 119

The poet deals with the theme of man's estrangement from a manmade world. Analyze it with the help of poem.

Solution: The poem deals with the theme of the poet's father's estrangement from a man-made world. The remark implies that the man finds himself as a no-one in the midst of many people around him, who do not care for him at all. He is just one among the countless and finds himself alienated by not just the outsiders, but also his own family members. The man-made world refers to the social system in which this man carries on with his routine life.

Brainstorming (A2) | Q 4 | Page 119

The father contemplates about his past and peeps into his future. Give reasons.

Solution: The father is disheartened with his present, as he does not find anything exciting in it. He carries on with his present life amidst the indifference of the people around him, including that of his own children. So, he thinks about his past and future as a respite from his sordid present.

BRAINSTORMING (A3) [PAGE 119]

Brainstorming (A3) | Q 1 | Page 119

Complete the following using suitable describing word as appeared in the poem with the help of the words given in the option:

Father's attire

1. weak
2. dim
3. muddy
4. **soggy**
5. stale

Solution: Father's attire - **soggy**

Brainstorming (A3) | Q 2 | Page 119

Complete the following using suitable describing word as appeared in the poem with the help of the words given in the option:

Father's tea

1. **weak**
2. dim
3. muddy
4. soggy
5. stale

Solution: Father's tea - **weak**

Brainstorming (A3) | Q 3 | Page 119

Complete the following using suitable describing word as appeared in the poem with the help of the words given in the option:

Father's footwear

1. weak
2. dim
3. **muddy**
4. soggy
5. stale

Solution: Father's footwear - **muddy**

Brainstorming (A3) | Q 4 | Page 119

Complete the following using suitable describing word as appeared in the poem with the help of the words given in the option:

Father's food

1. weak
2. dim
3. muddy
4. soggy
5. **stale**

Solution: Father's food - **stale**

Brainstorming (A3) | Q 5 | Page 119

Complete the following using suitable describing word as appeared in the poem with the help of the words given in the option:

Father's eyesight

1. weak
2. **dim**
3. muddy
4. soggy
5. stale

Solution: Father's eyesight - **dim**

BRAINSTORMING (A4) [PAGES 119 - 120]

Brainstorming (A4) | Q 1 | Page 119

'Fade homeward through the humid monsoon night'.

In the above line, the weather is humid, not the night. The epithet or adjective is transferred from the weather to the night. This figure of speech is Transferred Epithet. Find out another such expression from the poem.

Solution: 'Fade homeward through the humid monsoon night'.

Alliteration - The sound of 'h' is repeated in the line for poetic effect.

Brainstorming (A4) | Q 2 | Page 119

Identify and write the lines from the poem which express the following figures of speech.

Figures of speech	Lines
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1. Simile	
2. Alliteration	
3. Onomatopoeia	

Solution:

Figures of speech	Lines
1. Simile	"Now I can see him getting off the train Like a word dropped from a long sentence."
2. Alliteration	"Crosses the railway line, enters the lane,"
3. Onomatopoeia	"Listening to the static on the radio, dreaming"

Brainstorming (A4) | Q 3 | Page 120

I see him drinking weak tea, Eating a stale chapati.

Here 'stale chapati' stands for stale food/non-nourishing food or diet, where the part symbolizes the whole, i.e. food. Guess the name of the figure of speech.

Solution: I see him drinking weak tea, Eating a stale chapati.

Synecdoche (Part for Whole) - Here, 'chapati (part)' represents 'food (whole)'.

BRAINSTORMING (A5) [PAGE 120]

Brainstorming (A5) | Q 1 | Page 120

Write a counterview on the following topic.

"Every day is a mother's/ father's day."

- If you love them, you don't need to wait for such days.
- Celebrating days is just a formality.
- Celebrations of the days condition your expression of emotions.
- It is a kind of pretext to neglect your everyday responsibilities.

Solution:

Counterview on "Every day is a mother's/ father's day"

We should consider it a self-taught value to celebrate our parents every single day. However, to have a day specially dedicated only to them would be a nice thing to do. Celebrating such specific days does not mean that on other days we don't love our parents or don't think that they are important. Such days hold cultural significance in present times because our busy schedules leave us little to no time for or families. Therefore, having a day where we completely focus on our parents is not such a bad

thing. Our feelings towards our parents can never be conditioned. It is not possible for one to be overly expressive at all times. Such days, then give us an opportunity to convey our love for and regards towards our parents. In fact, by celebrating these special days, we grow closer to them. This does not mean that we shrug our everyday responsibilities towards them. It only means that we would like to set aside a couple of days in the year when we can go all out to show them what they mean to us. Thus, celebrating Mother's Day/Father's Day is not an excuse to ignore one's parents on other days of the year, so much as it is an excuse to celebrate them as the most influential and wonderful part of our lives.

Brainstorming (A5) | Q 2 | Page 120

Conduct a group discussion on the role of children towards their 'Parents and Senior Citizens'.

Solution:

Moderator:	You've all been given a few minutes to think on your topic for today's group discussion, which is 'The role of children towards their 'Parents and Senior Citizens'. You may now begin the discussion. Who would like to start?
Sakshi:	I think the topic of this discussion is very relevant to all of us here. As children, we all share the responsibility of being obedient and caring towards our parents. However, I think our responsibility doesn't stop with just being good to our parents; it extends beyond home and we must be equally caring and respectful of the senior citizens in our society.
Vijay:	I agree with Sakshi that our social responsibility extends beyond the confines of home. The society in which we live has a significant role in moulding our personalities. It certainly includes those innumerable people who have held our hands in nurturing our growth in school, the caring people of our neighbourhood, and the vendors whom we have seen since our childhood, who are now in the autumn of their lives. We all owe a lot to such people who have shaped us into the individuals that we are today.
Pooja:	Yes, I would like to add that we should not take a limited perspective of calling ourselves good children just by being

	<p>obedient to our parents; yes, we must try and measure up to our parents' expectations because they are our first teachers and they have indeed grown old in seeing us through our childhood and adolescence. But once we cross the threshold of our homes, there are others as well who took charge of our upbringing. Be it our teachers, the bus driver, the doctor or the sanitation worker, who have given the primes of their lives to make way for younger generation; we must see our foster-parents in them and treat them on par in terms of respect and care.</p>
Vijay:	<p>Yes, Pooja, you are absolutely right. But I think we can't be blindly good to every elderly person around. We never know the type of person we are dealing with unless he or she is an acquaintance or a family friend. We children are also in the vulnerable position of being exploited if we mistakenly engage with the wrong person, irrespective of our good intent to help the elderly.</p>
Priya:	<p>Yes, this is true. We keep hearing so much of bad news through the media about child abuse and molestation. After all, the same society has both virtuous and evil-minded people. Therefore, it is very important for us to be careful while trying to be nice to the elderly of our society.</p>
Pooja:	<p>I agree with what Priya says, We have to be socially responsible while ensuring our own safety and security.</p>
Vijay:	<p>That is right. And coming back to our responsibilities towards our parents, it is important that we spend time with them, ask them about their day, and help them out if they seem stressed. When we were kids, our parents understood what we needed and provided it to us even before we had to ask for it. As they age now, it is essential that we, too, ensure their well-being, just like they did for us.</p>

Pooja:	I completely agree with you, Vijay. In fact, as our parents grow old, they might become forgetful or might not understand everything as quickly as they used to before. We need to be patient with them, because as they lose their old self, their insecurities rise and they begin to think that they have become a burden on their children. At such times, it becomes essential for us to make them feel safe and loved. We must share their responsibilities and assure them that they can count on us.
Sakshi:	I would support Pooja and also like to add that our compassion should also extend to the elderly outside our homes, irrespective of whether we know them or not. After all, kindness begets kindness.
Moderator:	All right, everyone. The given time is almost over. Who would like to conclude the discussion please?
Pooja:	Friends, considering all the points brought forth in this discussion, we can conclude that we children must be responsible individuals both, at home and outside home. Let us be as respectful and as caring of the senior citizens in the society, as we would be towards our parents. Let us bear in mind that the parents and the others have shouldered a collective responsibility in our nurture and hence both deserve similar respect and care from us.

Brainstorming (A5) | Q 3 | Page 120

Write an appreciation of the poem 'Father Returning Home'.

Solution:

Appreciation of the poem 'Father Returning Home'

'Father Returning Home' by Dilip Chitre is a biographical sketch of the poet's father. It is a monologue that deals with the plight of man, where he alienated from the very society that he built. He, thus, goes through the mundane motions of life, having no connections with either the outside world or even his family and suppresses his emotions as there is no one with whom he can share them. The poem deals with the themes of alienation or estrangement, isolation, and the dissolution of the self in the man-made world. This two-stanza poem, which has been written in the form of a dramatic monologue, does not follow any rhyme scheme as it is written in free-verse. The lines in the poem clearly depict the miserable state of man in this busy and crowded world. The poet uses numerous figures of speech such as Alliteration, Consonance, Metaphor, Onomatopoeia, Paradox, Personification, Repetition, Simile and Transferred Epithet. An example of Paradox from the poem is "unseeing eyes", as the phrase is self-contradictory. The language used by the poet is very simple and straight-forward. It paints a vivid picture of the tiring routine of the poet's father and communicates his pathetic condition through the use of various descriptive words. The use of enjambment, where one line of the poem continues into the next, indicates the succession of the worsening state of the father's condition, whether it's his isolation from the outside world in the first stanza or his alienation in his own house in the second stanza. The use of imagery is clearly evident in the poem. Whether the poet is sketching the image of his father as an old man with words like "eyes dimmed by age", "fade homeward", "grey platform", or describing his father's appearance "soggy shirt and pants", "black raincoat stained with mud", "chappals sticky with mud", or comparing the disembarking of his father from the crowded train as "a word dropped from a long sentence", the strong use of imagery makes the poem thoroughly appealing.

The message that the poem conveys is that of the seclusion of man from the modern world. In today's fast-paced and humdrum life, the only solace that man can find is in his dreams of the past or the future. The poem also communicates the apathy of the society towards the elderly, who are trying to cope with estrangement in a metropolis. Overall, I find the poem highly relevant to today's world. The aspect that I like the most about the poem is the simplicity with which it conveys a strong message to the readers.

Brainstorming (A5) | Q 4 | Page 120

Compose a short poem in about 4-6 lines on your father.

Solution: As you board your daily bus in the busy evening hours,

As you return home from work, not well before the stars,

As you struggle through the day to make ends meet,

As you smile your way through life's bitter treat,

As you alight the jam-packed bus at your stop,

I wait eagerly for you and wave from the top,

You wave back at me with a smile that's so true,
I am the luckiest in the world to have a dad like you!

Brainstorming (A5) | Q 5 | Page 120

Write a character sketch of your family member.

Solution:

Character sketch of a family member – 'My Father'

Born and brought up in Delhi, my father had a typical middle-class upbringing. The youngest of two siblings, he was the most pampered and mischievous of the lot. A fairly average student, he went on to complete his graduation in Physics. Not a big fan of academics, but cricket and bikes were always his passion. He never missed a chance to cheer for Team India and when it came to bikes, he was always on top of the latest launches. Buying his first bike with his own salary remains one of his most cherished memories. Being a government servant for the past twenty years, he has done everything right by the book. Ensuring that his family gets the best of everything seems to be the motto of his life. He has taught me patience, simplicity and compassion and I look up to him for advising and guiding me through life. My father means the world to me!

BRAINSTORMING (A6) [PAGE 120]

Brainstorming (A6) | Q 1 | Page 120

Dilip Chitre has translated Sant Tukaram's 'Abhang' (devotional poem) for which he received Sahitya Akademi Award. Browse the internet to collect more information about it.

Solution: Do it yourself.

Brainstorming (A6) | Q 2 | Page 120

List various occupations related to services which can be rendered to senior citizens.

- a. To counsel patients of Alzheimer's disease.
- b. _____
- c. _____

Solution:

- a. **To counsel patients of Alzheimer's disease**
- b. Render service at old age homes
- c. Offer Geriatric medicine speciality in hospitals for old age care.