

## Chapter 7

### Glimpses of India

I. A Baker from Goa - Oral Comprehension Check Pg-86

Q.1 What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

Ans.: The elders in Goa are nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days. They also reminisced about the loaves of bread famous from the Portuguese times which they were immensely fond of.

Q.2 Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

Ans.: Yes, bread-making is still popular in Goa. The author can say so as one can still find mixers, the moulders, the bakers and the old age furnaces. The main festivals and occasions are also still not celebrated without loaves, bol or bread-bangles.

Q.3 What is the baker called?

Ans.: The baker in Goa is known as pader.

Note\*: Pader in general sense is a wall made of stone.

Q.4 When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him?

Ans.: When the author was a young child, the baker would come twice a day, once when he set out in the morning and the second time when he returned after emptying his basket. When the baker arrived at their houses, they ran to meet him as they loved bread bangles. They gathered

around him and when they were asked to get aside with a mild rebuke, they used to peep into the basket and climb on the railings and benches.

### I. A Baker from Goa - Oral Comprehension Check Pg-87

Q. 1 Match the following. What is a must?

(i) As marriage gifts ?	(a) Cakes and boilnhas
(ii) For a party or a feast ?	(b) Sweet bread called bol
(iii) For a daughter's engagement ?	(c) Bread
(iv) For Christmas?	(d) Sandwiches

**Ans.:**

(i) As marriage gifts ?	(b) Sweet bread called bol
(ii) For a party or a feast ?	(c) Bread
(iii) For a daughter's engagement ?	(d) Sandwiches
(iv) For Christmas?	(a) Cakes and boilnhas

Note\* - The following answers have been given according to the traditions and practices of the Portuguese in Goa during the good old days.

Q.2 What did the bakers wear: (i) in the Portuguese days? (ii) When the author was young?

Ans.: (i) During the Portuguese days, the bakers had a specific dress known as the Kabai. It was a single-piece-long frock till the knees.

(ii) When the author was young, he saw the bakers in shirts and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

**Q.3** Who invites the comment- “he is dressed like a pader”? Why?

Ans.: Any person who would be seen dressed in half pants which were short and reached just below the knees-invited the comment that “he is dressed like a pader.” This was because bakers (known as pader) wore such an uncommon dress which gave them a different look all together.

**Q.4** Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?

Ans.: The monthly accounts of the baker were recorded on the walls with a pencil. It was done in this manner because at that time there were no proper systems of maintaining records in notebooks.

**Q.5** What does a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ mean?

Ans.: A jackfruit is considered strong and healthy and a jackfruit-like appearance is indicated of having a plump physique. According to the text, such a physique was linked to the bakers as their profession was considered a profitable one. The text also mentions that the baker’s family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous with a jackfruit-like appearance.

## I. A Baker from Goa - Thinking about the Text

Q.1 Which of these statements are correct?

- (i) The pader was an important person in the village in old times.
- (ii) Paders still exist in Goan villages.
- (iii) The paders went away with the Portuguese.
- (iv) The paders continue to wear a single-piece long frock.
- (v) Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.
- (vi) Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.
- (vii) Paders and their families starve in the present times.

Ans.: (i) Correct.

Because the Portuguese people reminisced about the loaves of bread famous from the bakers.

(ii) Correct.

Because the bakers were known as Paders and they still exist in the Goan villages.

(iii) Incorrect

Because paders still exist in Goan villages.

(iv) Incorrect

Because paders wear shirts and trousers which are shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

(v) Incorrect

Because breads and cakes are still an integral part of Goan life.

(vi) Correct.

Because people love eating loaves of bread.

(vii) Incorrect

Because baking is still a very profitable business in Goa.

Q.2 Is bread an important part of goan life? How do you know this?

Ans.: Yes, bread is an important part of goan life. One can say so because their main festivals can never be celebrated without the famous loaves of bread. Marriage ceremonies were incomplete without the sweet bread known as the bol. Bread was also a must at parties, and cakes and bolinhas for Christmas. The tradition of making sandwiches by the lady of the house on her daughter's engagement was also meaningless without loaves of bread. Thus, in other words, the fact that the profession of baking is a profitable business in Goa, it clearly exhibits the love of Goans for bread.

Q.3 Tick the right answer. What is the tone of the author when he says the following?

- (i) The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo can still be heard in some places. (Nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- (ii) Maybe the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family

- profession. (Nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- (iii) I still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. (Nostalgic, hopeful, naughty)
- (iv) The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all. (Naughty, angry, funny)
- (v) Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. (Sad, hopeful, matter-of-fact)
- (vi) The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous. (Matter-of-fact, hopeful, sad)

**Ans.:**

(i) nostalgic

Meaning: Feeling of nostalgia/remembrance

(ii) hopeful, nostalgic

(iii) nostalgic

(iv) funny

(v) matter-of-fact

(vi) matter-of-fact.

## I. A Baker from Goa – Writing

Q.1 In the extract, the author talks about traditional bread-baking during his childhood days. Complete the following table with the help of the clues on the left. Then write a paragraph about the author's childhood days.

<b>Clues</b>	<b>Author's childhood days</b>
The way bread was baked	
The way the pader sold bread	
What the pader wore	
When the pader was paid	
How the pader looked	

**Ans.:**

<b>Clues</b>	<b>Author's childhood days</b>
The way bread was baked	in the furnace as it is done today
The way the pader sold bread	Having the basket on the head and wandering around
What the pader wore	Shirt and half pants covering knees
When the pader was paid	At the end of the month
How the pader looked	Funny due to his peculiar dress

Paragraph about the author's Childhood

Baking and Bakery products have always been a part of the popular culture of the Goan society. When the author was a young child, he often heard his elders reminiscing nostalgically the famous loaves of bread. Although, the eaters of those loaves might have disappeared, the makers (paders) were still making those loaves in the same furnace following the similar processes. During his childhood, he and his family members were woken-up by the jingling thud of his bamboo and the children used to run to him after hearing the jhang-jhang sound. They loved to eat bread-bangles although his main servants used to take loaves. The baker was seen in a special dress (known as the Kabai) in which he moved around the entire village selling his bread. He had a monthly account and was paid at the end of every month. Thus, baking was a profitable profession

and the baker's family and his servants were often said to be having a jackfruit-like appearance.

Q.2A Compare the piece from the text (on the left below) with the other piece on Goan bakers (on the right). What makes the two texts so different? Are the facts the same? Do both writers give you a picture of the baker?

<p>Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in the furnaces had not yet been extinguished. The thud and the jungle of the traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places.</p>	<p>After Goa's liberation, people used to say nostalgically that the Portuguese bread vanished with the paders. But the paders have managed to survive because they have perfected the art of door-to-door delivery service. The paders pick up the knowledge of bread making from traditions in the family. The leavened, oven-baked bread is a gift of the Portuguese to India.</p> <p>[adapted from Nanda Kumar Kamat's 'The Unsung Lives of Gaon Paders']</p>
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May be the father is not alive, but  
the son  
still carries on the family  
profession

Ans.: The topic of both the given texts are same i.e. they talk about paders in Goa and art of baking bread. But the patterns of describing it are different and also at different times i.e. the text on the left side talks about the memories of the elders who recollect the past nostalgically whereas the text on the right-side talks about the period after Goa's liberation talking about the realities of Portuguese bread that now seem to be faded with the passage of time.

**Q.2B** Now find a travel brochure about a place you have visited. Look at the description in the brochure. Then write your own account, adding details of your own experience, to give the reader a picture of the place, rather than an impersonal, factual description.

Ans.: Our School announced an Educational Tour to Amritsar, Punjab in February 2017 for 4 days. It was during our winter vacation. Each student had to pay Rs. 6000 for all the expenditure including hotel and meals for each day. We began our journey on the night of 15 February 2017 and enjoyed the company of our teachers on our way to Amritsar. Next morning, we reached there without any difficulty. We checked into the hotel after reaching and took some rest and left to see the Jallianwala Bagh and the Golden Temple in the afternoon. We saw the bullet marks and were made familiar with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. We also visited a small museum which gave us a deep insight into the same. All lit up with lights, we could see the beautiful reflection of the Golden Temple in the crystal-clear water of the Sarovar in the evening. Late

night, we came back to our hotel. Early morning, next day, we began our drive towards Wagah Border. There we witnessed a spectacular combined drill of Indian and Pakistani soldiers and the evening ceremony. It was among the most memorable experiences we ever had and we returned in the evening. Next morning, we visited the Gobindgarh Fort and became aware of the historical context in which it was built, significant changes over time and the 7D show on the life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. On the last day, we had some fun and frolic in our hotel itself and enjoyed amongst ourselves. Above all, we had an unforgettable experience during our visit and enjoyed their famous sweets and food items as well.

Note\*— This is purely based on a person's experience. Students can write their own descriptions as well.

## **Group Discussion**

Q. 1 In groups, collect information on how bakeries bake bread now and how the process has changed over time.

Ans.: Students can do this activity in groups. They can visit a factory of any bakery and watch the process of baking and note it down. Then this process can be compared with the one given in the chapter.

Q.2 There are number of craft-based professions which are dying out. Pick one of the crafts below. Make a group presentation to the class about the skill required, and the possible reasons for the decline of the crafts. Can you think of ways to revive these crafts?

(i)Pottery

- (ii) Batik work
- (iii) Dhurri (rug) weaving
- (iv) Embroidery
- (v) Carpentry
- (vi) Bamboo weaving
- (vii) Making jute products
- (Viii) Handloom

Ans.: Yes, it is quite right that today there are number of craft-based professions which are dying out, approximately, including all the given. The reason is very clear since all of them are based on old techniques. They take much time, labor and hard work.

While on the other hand, factories have new technologies and advanced patterns of working.

However, it depends on our government and its policies which can revive these craft-based works and professions. Loans on low-interest rate can help in providing an incentives to people in order to work and establish a market for their products. Various other economic policies can also contribute towards the betterment of the artisans and producers of such goods.

## **II. Coorg - Thinking about the Text**

### **Q.1 Where is Coorg?**

Ans.: Coorg (or Kodagu) is the smallest district situated midway between Mysore and Mangalore in Karnataka. It is believed to be heaven on earth which must have been drifted from the kingdom of God.

**Q.2** What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

Ans.: The people of Coorg are believed to be of Greek or Arabic descent. It is said that a part of Alexander's army moved towards the south and had to settle there when their return became impractical. They married amongst the locals and their culture is manifested in marriage and religious rites and martial traditions. The long, black coats with embroidered waist belts worn by Kodavus, known as Kuppia resembles the Kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds also throw light on the Arabic origins of Kodavu people.

**Q.3** What are some of the things you now know about -

- (i) The people of Coorg?
- (ii) The main crop of Coorg?
- (iii) The sports it offers to tourists?
- (iv) The animals you are likely to see in Coorg?
- (v) Its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?

Ans.: (i) The author has described the people of Coorg as a proud race of martial men and beautiful women who are of Greek or Arabic descent. They have a tradition of hospitality and enjoy telling the stories of bravery about their sons and forefathers. In addition, Kodavus are the only people in India who are permitted to carry firearms without a license.

(ii) The main crop of Coorg is coffee. After monsoons, the air breathe of invigorating coffee with coffee estates and bungalows tucked under tree canopies.

- (iii) Coorg offers adventurous sports to its tourists including river rafting, canoeing, rock climbing, elephant riding, rappelling and mountain biking and trekking.
- (iv) The animals one can see in Coorg include birds, bees, butterflies, macaques, wild elephants, Malabar squirrels, langurs, and lorises.
- (v) The distance between Coorg and Bangalore is about 260kms. One can reach there via train, air or road transport.

Q.4 Here are six sentences with some words in italics. Find phrases from the text that have the same meaning. (Look in the paragraphs indicated)

- (i) During monsoons, it rains too heavily that tourists do not visit Coorg. (Para 2)
- (ii) Some people say that Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here. (Para 3)
- (iii) The Coorg people are always ready to tell stories of their son's and father's valour. (Para 4)
- (iv) Even people who normally lead an easy and slow life get smitten by the high-energy adventure sports of Coorg. (Para 6)
- (v) The theory of the Arab origin is supported by the long coat with embroidered waist-belt they wear. (Para 4)
- (vi) Macaques, Malabar squirrels observe you carefully from the tree canopy. (para 7)

Ans.: (i) Keep away many visitors away.

Meaning- stay away to avoid a certain situation.

(ii) As the story goes.

Meaning- As a situation is told or rumored to be so

(iii) Are more than willing to recount.

Meaning -Happily ready to tell or describe people about a story or incident

(iv) The most laid-back individuals become converts.

Meaning – even the slow ones become high spirited.

(v) Draws support from.

Meaning – to take support from a fact or instance to prove something.

(vi) Keep a watchful eye.

Meaning – to observe something or someone very carefully.

## **II. Coorg - Thinking about language**

### **Q.1A Collocations**

Certain words ‘go together’. Such ‘word friends’ are called collocations. The collocation of a word is ‘the company it keeps’.

For example, look at the paired sentences and phrases below. Which is a common collection, and which one is odd? Strike out the odd sentence or phrase.

(a) • How old are you?

• how young are you?

(b) • a pleasant person

• a pleasant pillow

A. Here are some nouns from the text.

Culture monks surprise experience weather tradition

Work with a partner and discuss which of the nouns can collocate with which of the adjectives given below. The first one has been done for you.

Unique terrible unforgettable serious ancient wide sudden

(i) culture: unique culture, ancient culture

(ii) monks:

(iii) surprise:

(iv) experience:

(v) weather:

(vi) tradition:

Ans.: (ii) monks: serious monks

(iii) surprise: sudden surprise, terrible surprise, unforgettable surprise

(iv) experience: unique experience, terrible experience, unforgettable experience

(iv) weather: terrible weather

(vi) tradition: ancient tradition, unique tradition

Q.1B Complete the following phrases from the text. For each phrase, can you find at least one other word that would fit into the blank?

(i) tales of .....

(ii) coastal .....

(iii) a piece of.....

(iv) evergreen.....

(v) ..... plantations

(vi) ..... Bridge.

(vii) wild.....

Ans.:

From the text:	OTHER THAN THE TEXT
(i) tales of valour Valour meaning: Brave, courageous. (ii) coastal town (iii) a piece of heaven (iv) evergreen rainforests (v) coffee plantations (vi) rope bridge (vii) wild elephants	(i) tales of morality (ii) coastal areas (iii) a piece of cloth (iv) evergreen tree (v) crop plantations (vi) well-made bridge (vii) wild animals

### III. Tea from Assam - Thinking about Language

**Q.1A** Look at these words: upkeep, downpour, undergo, drop out, walk-in. They are built up from a verb (keep, pour, go, drop, walk) and an adverb or a particle (up, down, under, out, in).

Use these words appropriately in the sentences below. You may consult a dictionary.

- (i) A heavy ..... has been forecast due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.(ii) Rakesh will ..... Major surgery tomorrow morning.(iii) My brother is responsible for the ..... of our family property.(iv) The ..... rate for his accountancy course is very high.(v) She went to the Enterprise Company to attend a ..... interview.

Ans.:

- (i) downpour

(Meaning/synonym – a heavy rainfall/rainstorm, thunderstorm)(ii) undergo(Meaning/synonym – to experience something or being subjected to something/experience, undertake)(iii) upkeep(Meaning/synonym – to keep something in good condition/maintenance, aftercare)(iv) dropout(Meaning/synonym – an act of abandoning a course of study or rejecting conventional norms to pursue alternative lifestyle/free spirited, rebel)(v)walk-in(Meaning – a service available for people without prior appointment)

**Q.1B** Now fill in the blanks in the sentences given below by combining the verb given in brackets with one of the words from the box as appropriate.

Over, by, through, out, up, down

- (i) The Army attempted unsuccessfully to ..... the Government. (throw)  
(ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major ..... in cancer research.

(break)

(iii) The State Government plans to build a ..... for Bhubaneswar to speed up traffic on the main highway. (pass)

(iv) Gautama's ..... on life changed when he realized that the world is full of sorrow. (look)

(v) Rakesh seemed unusually ..... after the game. (cast)

**Ans.:** (i) overthrow

(Meaning/synonym – to remove from a powerful position/dissolve, topple)

(ii) breakthrough(Meaning/synonym – a very dramatic and important discovery/revolution, development)

(iii) by-pass(Meaning/synonym – a road passing around a town to provide an alternative route/ring road, diversion)

(iv) outlook(Meaning/synonym – a person's point of view or opinion/perspective, stance)

(v) downcast(Meaning/synonym – feeling discouraged/low-spirited, sorrowful)

**Q.2A** Notice how these -ing and -ed adjectives are used.

(a) Chess is an interesting game. -I am very interested in chess.

(b) Going trekking in the Himalayas this summer is an exciting idea. –We are very excited about the trek.

(c) Are all your school books this boring? -He was bored as he had no friends there.

The -ing adjectives show the qualities that chess, trekking, or these books have: they cause interest, excitement, or boredom in you. The -ed/ -en adjectives show your mental state or your physical state: how you feel in response to ideas, events or things.

A. Think of suitable –ing or –ed adjectives to answer the following questions. You may also use words from those given above.

How would you describe

(i) a good detective serial on television? \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) a debate on your favorite topic ‘Homework Should Be Banned’?

(iii) how you feel when you stay indoors due to incessant rain?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(iv) how you feel when you open a present? \_\_\_\_\_

(v) how you feel when you watch your favorite programme on television?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(vi) the look on your mother’s face as you waited in a queue?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(vii) how you feel when tracking a tiger in a tiger reserve forest?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(viii) the story you have recently read, or a film you have seen?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ans.:

(i) interesting

(Meaning/synonym – to catch attention or arouse curiosity/ fascinating, compelling)

(ii) exciting

(Meaning/synonym – to cause great enthusiasm or eagerness/gripping, startling)

(iii) bored

(Meaning/synonym – feeling impatient due to lack of interest in a certain activity/lacking interest, monotonous)

(iv) excited

(Meaning - It is the past tense of excite)

(v) excited/interested

(Meaning - It is the past tense of excite/ interest)

(vi) tired

(Meaning/synonym – in need of rest due to much hectic schedule or activities/weary, exhausted)

(vii) thrilled

(Meaning/synonym – to have a sudden feeling of excitement/delighted, high spirited)

(viii) boring

(Meaning - It is the present participle of bore)

Q.2B Now use the adjectives in the exercise above, as appropriate, to write a paragraph about Coorg.

Ans.: The description that we got from the chapter is very interesting and exciting. It gives an account of natural and scenic beauty. The running sights of description about Kodavus are also quite thrilling. The

wildlife and beautiful view of the entire landscape entralls us. We can feel the internal beauty of nature in the company of birds, langurs, and wild-beasts along with the revitalizing plantations of coffee. The adventurous sports of Rafting, Rappelling and Canoeing and Trekking sports are of much attraction to the readers.

NOTE – This is only a small overview about Coorg. Students can use more adjectives (apart from those given) in the paragraph to make it more enriching.

## **Speaking and Writing**

**Q.1** Read the following passage about tea.

India and tea are so intertwined together that life without the brew is unimaginable. Tea entered our life only in the mid-nineteenth century when the British started plantations in Assam and Darjeeling. In the beginning, though, Indians shunned the drink as they thought it was a poison that led to umpteen diseases. Ironically, tea colonized Britain where it became a part of their social diary and also led to the establishment of numerous tea houses. Today, scientific research across the world has attempted to establish the beneficial qualities of tea - a fact the Japanese and the Chinese knew anyway from ancient times, attributing to its numerous medicinal properties.

[Source: ‘History: Tea Anytime’ by Ranjit Biswas from Literary review, The Hindu, 1 October 2006]

Collect information about tea, e.g. its evolution as a drink, its beneficial qualities. You can consult an encyclopedia or visit Internet websites.

Then form groups of five and play the following roles: Imagine a meeting of a tea planter, a sales agent, a tea lover (consumer), a physician and a tea shop owner. Each person in the group has to put forward his/her views about tea. You may use the following words and phrases.

- I feel..... - It is important to know....
- I disagree with you - I think that tea
- I would like you to know - I agree with
- It is my feeling... - I suggest...
- May I know why you... - I am afraid...

Ans.: Views About Tea - Tea has become a very important part of our life. It is significant to know that tea can be found in every Indian household which is also a must in all functions. Tea plantation is the main occupation in Assam. Tea is a beverage as well as possesses medicinal qualities. It reduces blood pressure and provides instant relief from tiredness. Thus one can see that tea has become a necessity for all.

NOTE – Students can attempt it and put in various additional details about tea.

Q.2 You are sales executive of a famous tea company and you have been asked to draft an advertisement for the product. Draft the advertisement using the information you collected for the role play. You can draw pictures or add photographs and make your advertisement colorful.

Ans.:

## **BROOK BOND RED LABEL**

Now in a new brand and taste 'Natural Flavour'. It gives new energy and revitalizes your body. It is available in your nearby shops in 1 kg, 500 gm, 250gm packs. Get a coupon in every pack and enjoy free vouchers and coupons and much more. Don't miss the chance and enjoy the natural fragrance -sales Executive.

### **The Trees - Thinking about the Poem**

Q.1A Find in the first stanza, three things that cannot happen in a treeless forest.

Ans.: Three things that cannot happen in a treeless forest are as follows -

- (i) The birds cannot sit on the trees.
- (ii) The insects cannot hide in the trees.
- (iii) The sun rays cannot be seen burying their feet in the shadow of the forest.

Q.1B What picture do these words create in your mind? “.... Sun bury its feet in shadow ....”? What could the poet mean by the sun’s ‘feet’?

Ans.: The Sun’s feet here refer to the rays of the sun that reach the earth’s surface. Since the sun radiates heat, the words “Sun bury its feet in shadow” show the image of the radiating sun cooling its feet in the shadow of the forest’s trees.

**Q.2A** Where are trees in the poem? What do their roots, their leaves, and their twigs do?

Ans.: In the poem, the trees are in the poet's house. The roots are working all night to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda's floor. The leaves are straining towards the glass while the twigs are becoming stiff with exertion.

**Q.2B** What does the poet compare the branches to?

Ans.: The poet compares the long-cramped branches that have been shuffling under the roof to newly discharged patients who seem to be half-dazed as they step forward towards the hospital doors after recovering from long illnesses. In a similar condition, the branches also have been confined under the roof and want to get out into the open to spread themselves in the fresh air.

**Q.3A** How does the poet describe the moon:

- (a) At the beginning of the third stanza, and
- (b) At its end? What causes this change?

Ans.: In the beginning of the third stanza, the poet describes the moon saying that it is full and shining in the night sky. However, at the end of the stanza, she describes the moon as broken into many pieces that are similar to a shattered mirror. Since the trees have changed their place and made their way outside the poet's house, their branches have risen high, blocking the moon which is responsible for changing its appearance (that of a shattered mirror.) In the end, these pieces can be seen flashing in the crown of the tallest oak tree.

**Q.3B** What happens to the house when the trees move out of it?

Ans.: When the trees move out of the house, the glass gets broken and the winds rush to meet the trees which are stumbling forward in the night. However, the poet feels that the smell of the leaves of the trees and lichens still reaches the rooms of her house.

Q.3C Why do you think the poet does not mention “The departure of the forest from the house” in the letters? (Could it be that we are often silent about important happenings that are so unexpected that they embarrass us? Think about this again when you answer the next set of questions.)

Ans.: The poet does not mention the departure of the trees in her letters because till now they were imprisoned and their departure from the house was like a hard-won freedom for the poet. It seems that the poet herself was willing that the trees go out and had been preparing for the same. By writing a long letter and letting them go, the poet is trying to free herself of her feelings which were earlier suppressed.

Q.4A Now that you have read the poem in detail, we can begin to ask what the poem might mean. Here are two suggestions. Can you think of others? (i) Does the poem present a conflict between man and nature? Compare it with A Tiger in the Zoo. Is the poet suggesting that plants and trees, used for ‘Interior decoration’ in cities while forests are cut down, are ‘imprisoned’, and need to ‘breakout’?

Ans.: Yes, the poem, ‘The trees’ presents a conflict between man and nature. Man often uses nature recklessly for his own comforts and needs curbing their freedom. Plants and trees are used for interior decoration in homes, trees are cut down for wood, forests cleared for commercial and residential purposes and animals are put in cages. They seemed to be imprisoned and struggle to come out. In many such ways, man becomes a hindrance in the freedom of plants and animals. The poem shows their struggle as they strive to move out. To compare it with the poem ‘A

'Tiger in Zoo', it can be said that the tiger also longs for freedom. The poet thus presents the fact that animals should not be bound in cages because it restricts their freedom to move around. Their condition, in the prison, is pitiable and they want to break out from this imprisonment.

**Q.4B** On the other hand, Adrienne Rich has been known to use trees as a metaphor for human beings; this is a recurrent image in her poetry. What new meanings emerge from the poem if you take its trees to be symbolic of this particular meaning?

Ans.: If trees are symbolic of human beings, then it can be said that humans also want to break away from the handcuffs of their hectic and self-centered lives they lead. They work hard all through the days and nights to achieve their selfish goals and keep striving hard as they are confined under the roofs of their homes and offices. Even they wish to live freely and go out and enjoy the tranquil nature.

**Q.5** You may read that poem 'On Killing a Tree' by Gieve Patel (Beehive – Textbook in English for Class IX, NCERT). Compare and contrast it with the poem you have just read.

Ans.: The poem 'The Trees' describes the internal feelings of trees and narrates their struggle of escaping the confines of man's cages. However, the poem 'On Killing a Tree' describes the ways of killing a tree completely, highlighting the cruelty of man towards the environment. The poet sarcastically explains how a tree should not just be cut with an axe but should be destroyed completely from its roots. In the poem 'The Trees' the poetess throws light on the freedom of plants and animals which are curbed by man's reckless actions. Thus, both the poems in different ways show the deteriorating condition of nature and its elements and try to convey a hidden message to the audience.