

A House is Not a Home

—Zan Gaudioso

INTRODUCTION

The author has given a good account of a teenager how he feels dejection in life during his school days. This house is completely burnt down by the fire and there remains nothing. He thinks that the life is worthless and there is darkness everywhere. The news of fire spreads in school and at every other place. He looms like a dejected soul and walks down around school like a zombie. He knows that all his security has gone. But he finds life and will to live when his classmates help him with everything. They even render a helping hand in his rehabilitation. Their deep concern touches the heart of the author. He feels life for the first time. Thus the teenager encounters the challenges and problems of life. He comes out to be a bold boy with the help of his classmates.

SUMMARY

Missing the old school : The author, after completing Junior High School, went to High School. He missed his classmates, teachers and the school building very much. He often visited his old teachers who always encouraged him that he should himself involve in school activities so that he could meet new people. He would adjust there in the course of time. They even promised the author that he could visit them.

Fire in the House : One Sunday afternoon the author was working homework at the table in the dining room. It was very cold outside. So his mother was tending the fire to keep the house nice and warm. His small cat was lying on the top of his paper. It was purring loudly. All of a sudden he noticed smoke pouring in through the seams of the ceiling. Soon the house got full of smoke. With great difficulty they ran out of the house and the whole roof was completely under flames. The author ran to the neighbours to call the fire department. But the author's mother ran inside to collect a small metal box full of important documents. His father had died when he was young. He felt that his mother was collecting his fathers pictures, etc. When he was to run after

सारांश (Summary)

पुराने विद्यालय की याद : अपना जूनियर हाई स्कूल पूरा करने के बाद लेखक, हाई स्कूल में गया। उसे अपने कक्षा के सहयोगियों, शिक्षकों और विद्यालय भवन की बहुत याद सताती है। वह प्रायः अपने पुराने शिक्षकों से मिलने जाता जो हमेशा उसका हैसला बढ़ाते कि उसे विद्यालयी कार्यकलापों में सम्मिलित करना चाहिए ताकि वह नये लोगों से मिल सके। वह समय आने पर वहाँ ढल जायेगा। वह लेखक को वायदा करता कि वह उनसे मिल सकेगा।

घर में आग लगना : एक रविवार को दोपहर बाद, लेखक अपने भोजन कक्ष में गृह कार्य कर रहा था। बाहर अत्यधिक ठंड थी। अतः उसकी माता जी आग जला रही थी ताकि घर अच्छा और गर्म रह सके। उसकी छोटी बिल्ली उसके कागजों के ऊपर लेटी हुई थी, वह म्यांक की आवाज कर रही थी। उसने अचानक छत के जोड़ों से धुआं निकलते दिखाई दिया। शीघ्र ही सारा घर धुएँ से भर गया। बहुत ही कठिनाई से वे घर से बाहर दौड़े और सारी छत पूर्णतया लपटों में थी। लेखक पड़ोसियों के पास अग्निशमन विभाग को बुलाने के लिए दौड़ा। लेकिन लेखक की माता जी अंदर कमरे की ओर दौड़ी ताकि वह एक धातु का आवश्यक पत्रों से भरा संदूक प्राप्त कर सके। लेखक के पिता जी जब लेखक नौजवान थे, तब मृत्यु हो गई थी। अब वह अपनी माता जी के पीछे दौड़ा। अग्निशमन कर्मचारी ने उसे पकड़ा और एक कंबल में लपेट लिया। शीघ्र ही वे उसकी माता जी को भी बाहर ले आए जिसको ऑक्सीजन मॉस्क लगी हुई थी क्योंकि उसने थोड़ी सी धुएँ की सांस ले ली थी। आग को काबू करने में पांच घंटे लगे। घर पूरी तरह जल गया था। अत्यधिक हानि

her, the fireman caught him and wrapped in a blanket. Soon after they brought out the mother with on oxygen mask because she had inhaled little smoke. It took five hours to control the fire. The house was completely burnt down. Seeing the dead loss, the author broke down in tears. As they had no where to go, so they made their way to the grand parents' house to spend the night.

Reaching the school : The next day the author went to school without proper dress, books and home work. He felt himself as an outcast and desired to die. He walked around school like a zombie. He felt that every security had ripped away. He was missing his cat very much. He thought that he had to borrow money from his grand parents. In high school, all came to learn about his plight. He felt himself responsible.

Next day at school : The next day at school he found the people acting strangely. They were milling around him and dragging into the gym. There she was surprised to see a big table set-up with all kinds of stuff. They had collected school items for him. It was like Christmas. The author was overcome by emotion. People were introducing and inviting him to their houses. Their deep concern touched his heart. He realised relief. He felt for the first time that things were getting to be okay. He made friends that day.

Help by Friends : A month later he found that his friends were watching his house in its rebuilding. He was now not alone. The feeling of insecurity left his mind. He saw wonderful people around him. He realised life. Once while planning about the new bedroom, a woman walked up and said if the cat belonged to him. She had seen the phone number on its caller. Though the lady got much difficulty in tracing the author but she was successful. On seeing the cat, the author grabbed it and hugged. His friends were hugging the author. He felt that the overwhelming feelings of loss and tragedy seemed to diminish. He was full of gratitude for his life and new friends. He was indebted for the stranger and his beloved cat. He uttered ' My cat is back and so am I.'

देखकर लेखक फूट-फूट कर रोने लगा क्योंकि उन्हें कहीं और जाने का ठिकाना न था तो ये अपने दादा जी के घर रात ब्यतीत करने के लिए चल पड़े।

विद्यालय पहुँचना : अगले दिन लेखक विद्यालय बिना उचित कपड़े, किताबों और गृह कार्य से गया। उसने अपने आपको अधमरा सा महसूस किया और जीवन समाप्त करने की इच्छा की। उसने विद्यालय के चारों ओर जिंदा लाश की भाँति चक्कर लगाया। उसे लगा कि उसकी सभी सुरक्षा मर चुकी थी। उसे अपनी बिल्ली की याद रूला रही थी। उसने सोचा कि उसे अपने दादा जी से पैसा उधार लेना होगा। हाई स्कूल में, सभी का उसकी भयानक कठिनाई का पता लग गया। उसने अपने आपको इसके लिए जिम्मेवार ठहराया।

विद्यालय में अगला दिन : अगले दिन उसने विद्यालय में लोगों को अद्भुत रूप से कार्य करते देखा। वे उसके चारों ओर घूम रहे थे और उसे व्यायामशाला की ओर घसीट रहे थे। वहां पर वह एक बड़ी मेज पर सभी प्रकार के सामान को देखकर हैरान हो गया। उन्होंने विद्यालय की चीजें भी इकट्ठी कर रखी थी। यह क्रिसमिस की भाँति लग रहा था। लेखक भावनाओं में अभिभूत हो गया। लोग उसे अपना परिचय दे रहे थे और अपने घरों के लिए आर्मित्रित कर रहे थे। उसके प्रति उनके गहन ख्याल ने लेखक के दिल को छुआ। उसे चैन मिला। उसे प्रथम बार लगा कि सभी कुछ ठीक होने जा रहा था। उस दिन उसने लोगों से मित्रता स्थापित की।

मित्रों द्वारा सहायता : एक मास के उपरांत उसने देखा कि उसके मित्र उसका घर पुनः बनवाने में सहायता कर रहे थे। अब वह एक अकेला मनुष्य नहीं था। असुरक्षा की भावना उसके मन से ज चुकी थी। उसने अपरिचित लोगों को अपने ईर्द-गिर्द पाया। उर जीवन का आभास हुआ। एक बार जब वह अपने नये शयनकक्ष की योजना बना रहा था, एक औरत चलकर आई और कहा दि क्या यह बिल्ली उसकी थी। उसने उसके कालर पर उसके टेलीफोन नंबर देख लिया था। यद्यपि औरत को लेखक को तला करने में काफी कठिनाई लगी परंतु वह अपने कार्य में सफल थ बिल्ली को देखकर, लेखक ने उसे पकड़ा और उससे चिपक ग उसके मित्र भी लेखक से चिपके हुए थे। उसे लगा कि अत्यधि हानि और हादसे की भावनायें कम होती जा रही थी। वह आ जन और नये मित्रों के प्रति कृतघ्नता से भरा हुआ था। उज्जनबी लोगों के तथा प्रिय बिल्ली के प्रति आभारी था। उ कहा "मेरी बिल्ली वापिस आ गई है उसी प्रकार मैं भी जीव वापिस आ गया हूँ।"

ENRICH YOUR VOCABULARY

Reflects रिफ्लैक्ट्स = Meditates (चिंतन करती है), **Awkward** आकवरड = bad (भद्रा), **Afford** अफोर्ड = to give forth (देना), **Worse** वरस = Bad (खराब), **Closest** क्लोजेस्ट = intimate (गहन-गहरे), **Isolated** आइसोलेट्ड = alone, separate (अकेला, अलग), **Involved** इनवोल्वड = bury (भार सम्मिलित हो जाना), **Adjust** एडजस्ट = adopt (ढालना), **Probably** प्रोबेबली = possibly (संभवतः), **Promise** प्रोमिस = make a word (वायदा करना), **Happened** हैपन्ड = Occurred (होना), **Come by** कम बाई = Acquire (प्राप्त करना), **Time-to-time** टाइम-टू-टाइम = Off and on (कभी-कभी), **Comfort** कम्फरट = Relief (चैन), **Nonetheless** ननदीलैस = even then (फिर भी), **Windy** विन्डी = full of violent air (तेज हवा), **Purring** परिंग = voice of a cat mewing (बिल्ली की म्याऊँ की आवाज), **Occasionally** ओकेजनलि = sometimes (कभी-कभी), **Swatting** स्वेटिंग = licking (चाटना), **Entertainment** इन्टरटैनमेंट = enjoyment (आनंद-प्रमोद) **Rescued** रेस्क्यूड = saved (बचाना), **Kitten** किट्टन = small baby (छोटा बच्चा), **Stoking** स्टोकिंग = feed the fire (आग जलाना), **Suddenly** सूडनली = all of a sudden (अचानक), **Pouring in** पोरिंग इन = Coming in (अंदर आना), **Ceiling** सीलिंग = roof (छत), **Seams** सिम्स = the joining line of two pieces (जोड़ना), **quickly** किकलि = rapidly (तेजी से), **Barely** बेयरली = hardly (कठिनता से), **Engulfed** इनगल्फड = filled in (भर जाना), **Dropped** ड्राप्ड = pat (डाल देना), **Crazed** करेज्ड = mad, foolish (मूर्ख), **Screamed** स्क्रीमड = cried (चिल्लाया), **Grasp** ग्रास्प = catch (पकड़), **Yelling** यैलिंग = call (आवाज), **Groping** ग्रोपिंग = search (टटोलना), **Coherently** कोहरैन्टलि = connected (अनुरूप), **Wrapped** रैप्पड = covered (लपेटना, ढँकना), **Emerged** इमरजड = came out (बाहर आया), **Mom** मोम = mother (मां), **Tow** टो = drag (खींच कर लाना), **Hugged** हग्गड = embraced (प्यार करना, चिपट जाना), **Vanished** वेनिशड = hid (छिप जाना), **Inhaled** इनहेल्ड = breathed (सांस लेना), **Dazed** डेज्ड = yawned (ऊंधना, निंद्रा सी आना), **Completely** कम्पलिटली = fully (पूर्णतया), **Regardless** रिंगार्डलैस = without paying attention (बिना ध्यान के), **Piled** पाइल्ड = heaped (ढेर लगाना), **Broke out** ब्रोक आउट = spread (फैलाना), **Embarrassed** इम्बारस्ड = upset (परेशान), **Weird** वीअर्ड = strange (अद्भुत), **Destined** डेस्टाइन्ड = by fate (किस्मत से), **Outcast** आउटकास्ट = downtrodden (दलित), **Geek** गीक = unlucky (अभागा), **Zombie** जोम्बी = dull and apathetic person (परेशान एवं दयावान पुरुष), **Surreal** सरीयल = strange (अद्भुत), **Ripped away** रिप्पड अवे = tear, (दरार, फाड़ना), **Worthless** वर्थलैस = useless (निकम्मा), **Shocked** शॉक्ड = Grieved (दुखी होना), **Destroyed** डिस्ट्रायड = ruined (बरबाद होना), **Heroically** हिरोइकली = Bravely (बहादुरी से), **Rescue** रेस्यू = save (बचाना), **Ached** एच्ड = Pained (दुखी होना), **Grieve** ग्रीव = to feel sorrow (दुख महसूस करना), **Identification** आइडैन्टीफिकेशन = acquaintance (जान पहचान), **Rubble** रब्ल = Pieces of undressed stone (पत्थर के टुकड़े), **Apartment** एपारटमेंट = Room (कमरा), **Debris** डैबरिस = Garbage (मलबा), **Vulnerable** वलनरेबल = liable to injury (घाव पहुंचाने योग्य), **Robe** बोब = dress (कपड़े), **Crawl** कराल = walk slowly (धीरे से चलना), **Missing** मिसिंग = Remember (याद करना), **Terribly** टैरीबली = very much (बहुत अधिक), **Aware of** अवेयर ऑफ = knew (जानना), **Flight** फ्लाईट = fear, trouble (डर, परेशानी), **Gym** जिम = a place for exercise (व्यायामशाला), **Milling around** मिलिंग एराउंड = moving in an aimless manner (अर्थ विहिन अवस्था में घूमना), **Shove** शाव = Push (धकेलना), **Overcome** ओवरकम = control (नियंत्रित करना), **Genuine** जैनविन = Correct (उचित), **Concern** कनसरन = care (ध्यान), **Insecurity** इनसिक्यूरिटी = unsafety (असुरक्षा), **Grabbed** गरेबड = catch (छीनना), **Apparantly** एपरेन्टिली = Clearly (स्पष्ट रूप से), **Freaked** फ्रीकड = spotted (धब्बेदार), **Sorely** सोरलि = very much (बहुत अधिक), **Curled** कर्लड अप = Heaped, huddled (इकट्ठा होकर बैठना), **Diminish** डिमीनिश = reduce (कम होना), **Gratitude** ग्रेट्यूड = sincerity (कृतज्ञता), **Beloved** बिल्वड = lovely (प्रिय), **Curb** कर्ब = to control or limit something (किसी वस्तु पर नियंत्रण करना या सीमा में रखना)।

यह हमेशा दिखाई देता है कि बुरी खबरें शीघ्रता से फैलती हैं और मेरे मामले में यह बिल्कुल भी भिन्न नहीं था। हाई स्कूल में प्रत्येक मेरे शिक्षकों समेत सभी मेरी दुखी अवस्था से परिचित थे। मैं परेशान था कि कहीं मैं इसके लिए किसी प्रकार से जिम्मेवार हूँ। क्या एक नया ढंग था जो एक नये विद्यालय में प्रवेश आरंभ हुआ, यह एक प्रकार का विचार नहीं था जिसकी मुझे तलाश थी।

The next day at school, people was overcome by emotion.
विद्यालय में अगले दिन, सामान्य व्यवहार की अपेक्षा अधिक विचित्रता से कार्यरत थे। मैं अपने लॉकर पर व्यायामशाला की तैयारी कर रहा था। लोग मेरे चारों ओर व्यर्थ इकट्ठे हो रहे थे, और मुझे जल्दी चलने को कह रहे थे। मैंने इसे विचित्र समझा परंतु पिछले कुछ सप्ताहों की रोशनी में, मुझे कोई भी विचित्रता नहीं लगी। ऐसा लागभग लगा कि वे मुझे व्यायामशाला में धक्केलने की कोशिश कर रहे थे। फिर मैंने देखा क्यों वहां पर एक बड़ी मेज पर सभी प्रकार के सामान से सुसज्जित थी, केवल मेरे लिए ही कुछ वसूली की और मेरे लिए विद्यालय की चीजें लाए जैसे कापियां, सभी विभिन्न प्रकार के कपड़े जैसे जींस, टॉप, कमीज, स्वैट-सूट आदि थे। यह क्रिसमस की भाँति था। मैं भावनाओं से अभिभूत था।

People who had never spoken made friends that day.
जो लोग कभी भी मुझसे बात नहीं कर रहे थे वे भी अपने आपको मुझसे परिचय देने आ रहे थे। मैं सभी प्रकार के निमंत्रण उनके घरों से प्राप्त कर रहा था। उनकी मेरे प्रति संबंध रूपी संवेदना ने मुझे स्पर्श किया। उसी क्षण, मैंने चैन की सांस ली और प्रथम बार सोचा कि स्थिति सुधर रही थी। उस दिन मैंने मित्र बनाये।

A month later, I was at my was doing the same thing.
एक मास उपरांत, मैं अपने घर पर उन्हें घर बनवाते देख रहा था। परंतु इस समय यह लग रहा था— मैं अकेला नहीं था। मैं अपने विद्यालय के दो नये मित्रों के साथ था। मैंने अपनी असुरक्षा की भावनाओं को कोंद्रित करने के लिए ध्यान को धूमिल किया और अपने ईर्द-गिर्द सभी अपरिचित लोगों को सहायता के लिए पाया। अब मैं वहां पर बैठा हुआ अपने घर को बनता हुआ देख रहा था जब मैंने महसूस किया कि मेरा जीवन भी ऐसा कर रहा था। (अर्थात् जीवन आगे बढ़ रहा था)।

While we sat there on the curb, the cat and jumping around.
जब हम वहां पर सीमा में बैठे और नये शयनकक्ष की योजना कर रहे थे, मुझे किसी के अपने पीछे से चलने का आभास हुआ जो कह रहा था कि क्या यह आपका है। जब मैंने मुड़कर देखा कि यह क्या था, मुझे अपने ऊपर विश्वास नहीं हो रहा था। एक औरत वहां पर मेरी बिल्ली पकड़े खड़ी थी। मैं उछला और औरत के हाथों पर झपटा। मैंने उसे अपने समीप से पकड़ा और उस सुंदर संतरी पूछ को पकड़कर चिल्लाया। उसने भी खुशी से म्याऊं किया। मेरे मित्र मुझसे प्यार कर रही थी। बिल्ली से प्यार कर रहे थे और ईर्द-गिर्द कूद रहे थे।

Apparently, my cat had loved and sorely missed.
स्पष्ट था कि मेरी बिल्ली आग द्वारा बदरंग हो गई थी और वह भी एक मील दूर भागी होगी। उसके गले में पट्टे पर हमारा फोन नंबर लिखा था, परंतु हमारा फोन नष्ट और कट चुका था। इस अनजानी औरत ने उसे ले लिया और काफी परिश्रम किया कि यह किसकी बिल्ली थी। फिर वह जान गई कि यह बिल्ली, प्रिय और विशिष्ट रूप से अधिक याद की जाने वाली थी।

As I sat there with my friends cat was back and so was I.
जैसा कि मैं अपने मित्रों के साथ बैठा था और बिल्ली मेरी गोद में थी, मेरी सभी हानि तथा हादसे संबंधी भावनायें समाप्त होती सी दिखाई दीं। मुझे अपने जीवन और अपने नए मित्रों, एक अजनबी की दयालुता और अपनी प्रिय बिल्ली की मधुर म्याऊं की आवाज पर कृतज्ञता महसूस हुई। मेरी बिल्ली वापिस आ गई थी और मैं भी इस प्रकार वापिस था।

N.C.E.R.T. TEXTUAL QUESTIONS (Solved) ✓

Thinking about the Text

Q.1. What does the author notice one Sunday afternoon ? What is his mother's reaction ? What does she do?
लेखक एक रविवार शाम को क्या देखता है? उसकी माँ की प्रतिक्रिया क्या होती है? वह क्या होती है?

Ans. One Sunday afternoon the author notices smoke getting into the room through the ceiling. Soon the flames go up. His mother runs back into the house, defying the fire flames. She brings out

two things – a box containing important documents and a case containing father's letters and pictures.

Q. 2. Why does he break down in tears after the fire ?

आग लगने के पश्चात् लेखक क्यों रो पड़ता है?
Ans. The author just forgets that his dear pet cat was also there in the house. The loss of his house, his new school and his missing cat make him cry and break down in tears.

Q.3. Why is the author deeply embarrassed the next day in school? What words show his fear and insecurity?

लेखक अगले दिन स्कूल में तीव्र उलझन में क्यों होता है? उसमें भय तथा असुरक्षा को कौन से शब्द दर्शाते हैं?

Ans. Next day the author went to school. He was improperly dressed. He was devoid of books and homework as well. His backpack was gone. He was troubled at heart and feet unlucky to be an outcast. He felt that he had not wanted to grow up. He wanted to just curl up and die. He walked around school like a dull and an apathetic person. Everything was looking strange before his eyes. He was indefinite what would happen. He was troubled at the idea that all his security from school, friends, house and cat had been ripped away. The damage put him in a deep shock. The following words indicate his fear and insecurity:

Was I destined to be an outcast and a geek all my life?

I just wanted to curl up and die.
All the security I had known from my old school, friends and my cat had all been ripped away.

Q.4. The cat and author are very fond of each other. How has this been shown in the story? Where was the cat after the fire? Who brings it back and how?

बिल्ली और लेखक एक-दूसरे के बहुत शौक रखते हैं। कहानी में यह कैसे दिखाया गया है? आग के बाद बिल्ली कहाँ थी? जो इसे वापस लाता है और कैसे?

Ans. Of course, the author and the cat are very fond of each other. The author had rescued it while she was a small kitten. She knew that he was the responsible person who had given her life. She used to be there mostly on the top of the author's papers. She moved in the house purring loudly and swat his pen for entertainment.

When the fire broke out and almost all the house was burnt, the author realised that she was nowhere to be found. He broke down into tears and cried it won a big loss.

One day they were sitting on the curb, he heard someone walking towards him. She said, 'Does this cat belong to you?' The author was surprised to see the woman with a cat. He grabbed and hugged her. She too purred happily. It was clear that the cat had been injured by the fire and she ran over a mile away. There was a collar in her neck which had the phone number. She traced the real owner and handed her to him. Thus the woman brought her back.

Q.5. What action of the schoolmates change the author's understanding of life and people, and comfort him emotionally? How does his loneliness vanish and how does he start participating in life?

सहपाठियों का कौन-सा काम लेखक की जीवन, लोगों को समझने में मदद करते हैं तथा भावनात्मक रूप से उसे राहत पहुँचाते हैं? किस प्रकार से उसका एकाकीपन दूर हो जाता है तथा वह जीवन में किस प्रकार से भागीदारी करने लगता है?

Ans. The author faced three blows one after the other. He felt isolated and neglected at the high school. His house went up in flames. He lost his dear pet cat. He longed for death. But things changed for the better quite soon. At school he found the students and teachers very helpful and loving. He made new friends. His house was rebuilt. He also got his cat back. Thus he was comforted emotionally and his interest in life was also restored.

Q.6. What is the meaning of 'My cat was back and so was I'? Had the author gone anywhere? Why does he say that he is also back?

‘मेरी बिल्ली वापिस आ गई है और उसी प्रकार मैं भी

लौट आया हूँ।' क्या लेखक कहीं गया हुआ था? वह क्यों कहता है कि वह भी लौट आया है?

Ans. Here the author wants to point out that his ideology of life has gone a complete change. His schoolmates have helped him with their open hearts. They have extended invitations for their houses. Their genuine concern makes the author touch his heart so much that he breathes a sigh of relief. He feels that the things will be okay very soon. After a month woman came with a cat. The narrator grabbed and hugged her. His friends were hugging the narrator. This overwhelming feelings of loss and tragedy seemed to diminish. He was deeply obliged to the stranger who had brought his cat. He could not help say that he was back to his original self. In reality he had gone nowhere but had become exhausted with life due to colossal loss. He felt that he had returned to his original self like the cat who came to his house.

Q.7. Have any of your classmates / schoolmates had an experience like that in the story where they needed help ? Describe how they were helped ?

क्या तुम्हारे किसी सहपाठी को ऐसे अनुभव से गुजरना पड़ा है जैसा कहानी में दर्शाया गया है जब उसे सहायता की आवश्यकता हुई? बताओ कि उनकी सहायता किस प्रकार से की गई?

Ans. Life, let me tell you, is a see-saw of rise and fall, success and failure, victory and defeat. This is normal, natural and unavoidable. No man is destined to achieve his goal easily and in the first attempt. Our rejection is followed by dejection. We feel most depressed when we miss the mark just by a narrow margin. But it is my firm belief that there is no such thing as total or permanent rejection. One must not lose hope and self-confidence. We should take failure as a part of the game, as the stepping stone to success.

I felt acutely depressed when I was rejected for rock climbing because I was found physically not upto the mark. I had a similar feeling when I could not qualify for the state level scholarship. I was in very low spirits. I thought that I was a good-for-nothing fellow. I felt like giving up the fight and even take my own life. I gave a serious thought to all this. I read about the achievements of Santosh Yadav, the girl who conquered Mt Everest twice. I read about Albert Einstein, the great scientist, who was expelled from school for his lack of interest in studies. I wondered why I too cannot reach the top and won the medal if I try again with an iron will. And I accomplished both the goals in the second attempt.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the questions in about 30-40 words each :

Q.1. What happened one Sunday afternoon when author was at home ?
(M. Imp.)

Ans. One Sunday afternoon author was doing his homework. It was very cold outside. His mother was keeping the fire ready. Suddenly the author smelled something strange and saw the fire coming in

through the ceiling. In fact the whole house had been caught in flames.

Q.2. What happened to author's mother?
How did firemen tackle her ?

Ans. Author's mother was caught in the smoke. Firemen come from the house with the mother having an oxygen mask on her face. In fact mother had

inhaled little smoke and she would be alright in sometime.

Q.3. What happened to the author's cat? (CBSE 2017)

Ans. When the fire broke almost all of the house was burnt. The author realised that cat was nowhere to be found. It was clear that the cat might have been injured due to fire or run away due to fear.

Q.4. How much damage had the fire caused to the house ? (V. Imp.)

Ans. The Fire had engulfed the whole house. The house was completely burnt down. A lot of damage had been done. Whatever had not been burnt was destroyed by water and chemicals which had been used to put out the fire.

Q.5. How did Zan go to the school the next day ? (CBSE 2017)

Ans. Next day author went to school in an embarrassed situation. He was not in school uniform. He looked weird in his clothes. He had neither books nor bag. He felt as if he was an outcast and wanted to die.

Q.6. What does the author do as soon as he runs out of the burning house ? What does his mother do? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. When the author ran out of the house, he noticed his mother running back into the house to get the metal box full of important documents. It contained the pictures of author's father and his letters. These were the only things his mother had to remind him. The author wanted to run after his mother when a fireman held him back.

Q.7. What promise does the author make to his old school teacher ? (CBSE 2017)

Ans. The teacher of the author from the old school encouraged him to participate in school activities and meet new people. They also told him that he would adjust in the new school and would love it more than the old one. They took

promise from the author when that happened, he would still come and visit them from time-to-time.

Q.8. Describe the author's reaction when a kind lady gave her back, her lost cat ? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. When the author saw her lost cat, he was shocked and surprised to see it after such a long time. He couldn't believe his eyes. The author leapt up and grabbed his cat and held it close to himself and cried into that beautiful orange fur. She also purred happily.

Q.9. What help did the author get from his school mates after the fire accident ?

Ans. The author was touched by the school mates gesture. They had set-up a big table with all kinds of stuff as jeans, tops, notebooks etc. People who had never talked to him came to talk to him. He made a lot of friends that day.

Q.10. In the story 'A House is Not a Home', why does the author break down in tears after the fire ?

(CBSE 2017)

Ans. The author was completely shocked. He had lost everything. His house was completely burned down. His cat was nowhere to be found. He didn't know that how he would handle life and he just wanted to die.

Q.11. Give evidence from the story which shows that the author and his cat were very fond of each other.

(CBSE 2016)

Ans. The cat was the author's regular companion when he was at home. The author has a red tabby cat. They both loved each other very much. She used to sit in his lap, and fall asleep in his pocket. After the burning of author's house, he missed his cat badly. When one day a stranger woman returned back his cat, the author was overwhelmed with joy and happiness. This showed that the author and his cat were very fond of each other.

Thought Provoking Module

Study the following Questions :

Q.1. The author had shifted from his place, somehow he could not adjust at new place. What are the changes we have to face, when we move from one place to another ?

Ans. When author had to leave junior high school and move to high school, he felt a kind of strangeness. Things were very different. The school was twice as big as the old school. So when we are placed in a situation like the author we face many challenges. When we move to a new place we face challenges. We meet many new people and have to be emotionally attached to them. As we grow we also go through different psychological changes and handle new responsibilities.

Q.2. The fire had ruined author's house. He suffered a lot of loss. A feeling of insecurity made him uncomfortable. What, according to you made his feelings changed?

Ans. The author was already depressed at having moved to new place. This feeling was increased when his house was caught in fire. His house was almost burnt and his cat was nowhere to be found. The damage had put him in great shock. But the author's attitude changed when people who had never spoken poured to introduce themselves. Their deep concern touched author's heart. He was also touched by helpful nature and kindness.

Q.3. After the disaster the author's life was not the same. He was open to

all the wonderful people around him. He was comfortable after this. What, according to you, made this sudden change ?

Ans. When author lost all his belongings, family and even his cat, he was very much depressed. He was troubled at heart and felt an outcast. The damage put him in a deep shock. But now the feeling of embarrassment changed. He found that all the people were acting friendly. They poured every help. They even helped to reconstruct his house. Thus this sudden change I think was due to the help given by all the classmates and faith shown by them.

Q.4. The author loves his cat very much. He was fond of her and could not even think of living away from her. What kind of relationship do they share with each other ? Does the cat also response to his love ?

Ans. The author had felt a great loss when his house was burnt down. But this loss was all the more when he realized that his cat was also gone. The author and the cat were very fond of each other. The author had rescued her when it was a small kitten. Both of them spent time together. They shared love with each other. The cat also shared love with the author. She used to sit on the top of author's papers. She moved in the house and even took author's pen for entertainment. So, I think both author and cat were deeply attached.

Long Answers Type Questions

Answer the questions in about 100-150 words each :

Q.1. When I turned around to see who it was, I couldn't believe my eyes. A woman was standing there holding my cat !

With reference to the above statement, why do you think the narrator of the story 'A House Is Not a Home' couldn't believe his

his old school, the burning down of his house in fire, loss of things carrying emotional attachment, meeting new people, a new school and making new friend. And the greatest of the losses was the loss of his father at a very young age. All these challenges had made the author feel helpless and hopeless in life. The fire had engulfed their house and the related memories. They had no hope for the future. The life needed to be restarted. The values that are needed to cheer up a person on such an occasion are true and genuine concern to help the suffer at this point of time, like the new friends of the author showed towards him. They provided him with things that he needed in this situation. With such care, love and concern, the author was able to forget all his worries and tensions. He was filled with the will to live again.

Q. 4. With reference to the story 'A House is Not a Home', explain the meaning of the title. What values according to you are needed in a person to make a house a home?

(CBSE 2015)

Ans. When the narrator joined high school at a new school, he felt awkward in the new atmosphere. His closest friends had all gone to a different high school.

He felt isolated and missed his old teachers. Whenever he found time, the narrator visited his teachers who encouraged him to get involved in school activities so that he could meet new people. Still the narrator remained aloof. Then there was a huge fire which razed his house – including his belongings, and his cherished possessions. However, the most grievous thing was that his cat was gone. He felt embarrassed to be the centre of attention of his schoolmates. Soon, however the narrator understood their good attention when the schoolmates provided him with all the necessities like clothes, shoes, books and other things. Their overwhelming gesture moved the narrator. Their genuine outpouring of concern touched him. He breathed a sigh of relief with a new hope. Soon he got back his cat, and a newly house was being built too.

As he saw and watched his new house being built, two friends sat with him. It was then that he feel that he had a 'home'. He felt gratitude for his life and his friends, and with it; the loss and tragedy diminished. The kind gesture in times of adversity, and friends to fall back on, are the greatest values that made a house, a home.

TEST ASSIGNMENT

Time : 35 Minutes

Marks : 2 + 2 + 8 = 12

Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each :

(Answer any two Questions)

1. What happened to author's mother ? How did firemen tackle her ?

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2. How much damage had the fire caused to the house ?

.....
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3. In which condition did the author go to school after the fire accident ?

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