



## ***Chapter 8: A Story***

*-Dylan Thomas*

### **Summary:**

"A Story" written by an Irish poet and short writer Dylan Thomas presents events from the perspective of a small boy. The boy narrates those happenings, which he came across in his childhood. His description is full of humor and satire. The age people are shown as if they are stupid stuff. The writer has created the world of absurd people through a boy's narration. A very young man who is living with his uncle and aunt narrates this humorous story. In this story, the boy presents the adult world from a child's point of view. This story is about a day's outline to Porthcawl by motor coach. In the first part of the story, the boy describes his uncle and aunt using metaphors and similes. The uncle was big and noisy whereas his wife was small and quiet who used to move on padded paws. The boy compares his uncle buffalo and a dismantled ship. He compared her aunt with her cat because of her quick and quiet movement and with a mouse because of her nibbling habit and tiny tone. Every Saturday night after heated arguments, the aunt used to hit the uncle on the head after the uncle lifted her on to a chair. The boy also describes uncle's few friends in the story. Mr. Benjamin Franklyn collected the money for the outing and bought 20 cases of light wine. Wil Sentry kept a strict vigil on Benjamin by following him everywhere in order to guard the money. Once Sunday evening, Benjamin and Will Sentry came to uncle with a list of persons who had paid for the outing for the approval. After their departure, the aunt asked the uncle to choose either her or the outing. The uncle however chooses the outing at which she became furious at breakfast. The next Sunday the boy found that, the aunt have already left the house. Finally, the boy describes the outing the uncle and his friends made a trip to Port for the outing destination, they found that old O' Jones had left been left behind and they had to go back to the village to pick him. After O' Jones got on, Mr. Weazely wanted to go home to take his teeth. However, his friends convinced him that the teeth would not be necessary for him in the outing. On the way to the Porthcawl they stopped at every public house (Bar) and drank alcohol heaving the boy outside as children were not allowed into the bars on seem a river on the way they went swimming there. They did not actually arrive at cooking his dinner with kerosene stove and other members started drinking alcohol sitting in a circle in front of closed bar. The boy began to sleep leaning on his uncle's waistcoat. The writer in the story is also able to create humour by describing the uncle, aunt, uncle's friends and their behavior. However, the writer points out toward the bitter aspect connected with human behaviors and habit of drinking alcohol. Alcoholic drink may change people's behavior making them selfish, cruel and indifferent toward others sufferings. Alcohol brings the nice atmosphere of uncle's family on the verge of breakfast. Uncle and his friends also exhibited cruelty towards the small boy after drinking alcohol, as they were very careless about him during the entire trip.

## **Questions Answers:**

1. The plan was to go to Porthcawl for the outing. Did they ever reach there? Why?

The plan of the narrator's uncle and his friends was to reach to Porthcawl for the outing. But they could not reach to their destiny because of their habit of drinking. But it does not mean that it was the only one cause for it; there are many. The first cause was their late departure. It was only at eight o'clock they started their outing. Another cause of it was the late arrival of one of their partners. Because everyone was worried about himself, they moved without counting all heads. But when they knew that one was missing, they could not continue their journey. They returned to receive him. The third and the greatest of the causes as already said is their nature of enjoy drinking a lot. When they reached to mountain sheep, they drank a lot. They did not think of their destiny. It was only after the owner informed them of the closing time. They came out though it was already late to reach to porthcawl. No one worried about even after they came out. They thought of playing with water when they reached to river. Hence, they could not reach.

## **Description of the boy's uncle and his wife:**

The boy's uncle was tall, big and red-hairy. He used to occupy every inch of his room. He was just like a buffalo squeezed into an airy cupboard. His voice was hoarse. He used to drop food and drink on his waistcoat. His waistcoat looked like a picnic spot recently left by picnic goers. Another childish behavior of his was to carry whistle under his neck. Whenever he was happy, he blew whistle his wife however was lean and thin. She did not make noise while walking or working. She was hot-tempered. On every weekend, her anger used to be very high. As she becomes angry, her husband lifted her and kept on the table. She in turn used to hit him with china cup.

## **Some Other Important Questions:**

1. How is the relation between boy's uncle and aunt?
2. Who's Bob the Fiddle ?
3. Illustrate some examples of humour in the story.

## **Short Answer Questions**

### **1. 2076 Set B Q. No. 21**

What message does the boy's aunt leave in the kitchen before she goes to her mother's home? [3]

- In the story, 'A Story', Dylan Thomas presents the narrator's aunt. She has a little role to play in the story. She is small and quick, according to the narrator. Once, on Sunday evening, Benjamin and Will Sentry came to the boy's uncle with a list of persons who had paid for the outing for his approval. After their departure, the aunt asked the uncle to choose either her or the outing. The uncle however chooses the outing at which she became furious at breakfast. The next Sunday the boy finds that the aunt has already left the house. But she has left a note in the kitchen. She has left a message on the note. The message is that his uncle has to take off the boots before he goes to bed and he has to take eggs out of the pantry (store). The uncle doesn't take it seriously because he knows that it is always the case.

### **2. 2076 Set C Q. No. 21**

Write in short 'the unkind and inhuman' nature of the grown ups that they show to the boy, the narrator of the story.[3]

- The narrator plays a great role in the story to expose unkind, uncivilized nature of the grown ups. The narrator of the story is a boy who presents adult's world from his perspectives. He looks into the adult's world and finds ugly, unkind and uncivilized. He displays their every unkind activity in the story. By presenting two different worlds, in the story, the narrator persuades his readers that the adult's nature is unkind and uncivilized. He monitors their activities and finds quite aimless and dirty. He observes them spending the time aimlessly in cards and drinks. They have a plan that they never try to achieve. The boy observes them collecting fund for outing to Porthcawl, he observes their activities in the journey and mocks their time at the mountain ship, a bar. They are shown unkind at the narrator, the boy, who is left outside to look after Charabanc while they drink their liquor in the bar. They don't understand that the boy's do have also feelings. In this way, the boy plays the role of a commentator and observer to expose grownups' unkind and uncivilized nature.

### 3. 2076 Partial D Q. No. 2b

Why do the outing members stop at Hermit's Nest? [3]

- "A Story" written by Dylan Thomas is written from a boy's perspective. The boy narrates the outing of the outing members. They make plan. Uncle of the boy approves it. They move for Porthcawl. But on the way they drank a lot. They stopped at the Mountain Sheep for drinking. Afterwards, they also stopped at the Hermit's Nest to drink rum to keep out cold. They have already returned back without reaching to Porthcawl. Enoch Davis involves in a humorous conversation a stranger at Hermit's Nest, a bar on the highway.

### 4. 2075 Set A. Q. No. 2b

Write a paragraph to describe the outing as Thomas would describe it.

- After Benjamin Franklin and Will Sentry collected the fund and prepared the list of outing members, we had a Sunday morning for outing. I set off with my nephew who was only the boy, from my house and moved towards the Charabanc which we hired for our outing to Porthcawl. All got quite surprised seeing me accompanied by the boy. The matter finally settled, and we drove off for Porthcawl. No sooner we had passed the village; we knew we forgot O' Jones. We drove back to the village to pick old O' Jones up. After O' Jones got on the bus, Weezely, another member of outing, wished to return back home for his teeth. However, we convinced him that teeth wouldn't be necessary for him there. On the way to Porthcawl, we stopped at the Mountain Sheep, a bar, and drank alcohol leaving my nephew, the boy, outside. We asked him to look after the Charabanc. Spending almost forty five minutes, we came out from the pub turning all red. Wherever, we saw the bar, then, we stopped for the drink. On the way, we stopped by the river and went for a swim. We thought the place better than Porthcawl. It was already late. We didn't reach Porthcawl. On the way home, we got off the bus and sat in a circle in the field. Old O' Jones started cooking his dinner on stove while other members started drinking alcohol in front of a close bar. I remember my nephew sleeping my waist coat.

### **5. 2075 Partial D Q. No. 2c**

Describe the relation between the narrator's uncle and aunt. [3]

- The boy, the narrator in the story, shows the relationship between his uncle, Thomas and aunt Sarah. Simply observing they don't seem to be loving and friendly couple. Physically they are shown completely mismatched couples; uncle like buffalo and aunt like cat. Their activities also show they do not make a good match. They quarrel and fight for no reason. She hits him on his head and goes to her parents' house when he chooses outing. But deep down of these oddities, there is a love and a care. They are quite a loving couple. Their love is but of classical type- very reserved traditional couple. Her hitting on his head is one way of expressing her love. She has a gentle love to Thomas which she expresses every Saturday. Similarly, she goes to her parents house only when Thomas goes outing. Perhaps she doesn't find it comfortable to live alone at home. Moreover, she leaves a note to Thomas before she goes to her parents' house by asking him to take off his shoes before bed and eat some eggs from pantry. She loves him. He too loves her. He knows that Sarah does every time the same. To sum up, they are the unique couple found in England. Dylan Thomas envisions a strange type of relation between these two people. They appear violent and soothing at the same time. They have good relation.

### **6. 2075 Partial E Q. No. 12f**

What were the boy's uncle and aunt like?

- The boy who is the narrator of the story, "A Story" by Dylan Thomas, lives with his uncle and his uncle's wife, his aunt. He describes his uncle as big, trumpeting, and red hairy and dirty. He compares his uncle with buffalo. Thomas, boy's uncle is quite awkward. He has a small shop where he squeezes. He puts on suspenders that stream like the steel cables, eats terribly fattening foods, and grows larger and larger. While eating, the house looks smaller than him. The uncle's body badly smells with sweat. On the other hand, his aunt, he describes, is small and quick. Unlike her husband Thomas, she is calm and quite. All she does is, she walks like a cat and feeds the buffalo, the boy's uncle. His aunt is so small that she can hit him only when she stands on the chair. Thomas is like the leader. He approves the picnic and appears to be an influencing figure. Sarah, his aunt, but has not a voice to make her position. She is described as caring and loving woman so combined with in household work.

### **7. 2074 Supp Q. No. 2**



Describe the boy's aunt. Why does he call her his uncle's wife, not his aunt as we expect? [3]

- The boy who is the narrator of the story, "A Story" by Dylan Thomas, lives with his uncle and his uncle's wife, his aunt. He describes his uncle as big, trumpeting, and red hairy and dirty. He compares his uncle with buffalo. Thomas, boy's uncle is quite awkward. He has a small shop where he squeezes. He puts on suspenders that stream like the steel cables, eats terribly fattening foods, and grows larger and larger. While eating, the house looks smaller than him. The uncle's body badly smells with sweat. On the other hand, his aunt, he describes, is small and quick. Unlike her husband Thomas, she is calm and quite. All she does is, she walks like a cat and feeds the buffalo, the boy's uncle. His aunt is so small that she can hit him only when she stands on the chair. Thomas is like the leader. He approves the picnic and appears to be an influencing figure. Sarah, his aunt, but has not a voice to make her position. She is described as caring and loving woman so combined with in household work. The narrator calls his aunt as the wife of his uncle not his aunt. He gives reasons for that. His uncle is red hairy and big like buffalo whereas the aunt is tiny like a cat. She is quick and silk. This huge difference between them makes the boy develop his attitudes toward them. He doesn't find a match between the aunt and the uncle yet he finds them a loving couple. This perhaps is the reason why boy calls his aunt as his uncle's wife.

### 8. 2074 Set A Q. No. 2f

'If you can call it a story'. What does Dylan Thomas mean by this conditional sentence? Does he mean to say it is not a story in a true sense? [3]

- Yes. Dylan Thomas wants to say by the phrase 'do you call this a story that this is not a story in a proper sense. The story doesn't absorb the classical plot of a story. Neither has it had a proper beginning nor middle and ending. The events do not have a perfect chronology. We have characters but none of them get a heroic role. The funny elaboration of the characters and mention of different places make the story a jumble of people and place. It doesn't have a rising action, climax and falling action which every classical story possesses. In this sense, this story is not a story in a real sense. Still this is a story. Dylan Thomas as a twentieth century poet and short story writer sets a new trend in story writing. He critiques a traditional way of writing story by intending to say that a very common place subject can be the subject matter of a story.

### 9. 2074 Set B Q. No. 2f

Describe the boy's uncle. Does he look like a disciplined, honest and careful uncle? [3]

- Boy's uncle is Thomas. The uncle is so huge that the whole room becomes smaller when he comes in side it. He looks like a buffalo squeezed into an airy cupboard. He is very noisy and his voice is

compared with the trumpet of an elephant. He doesn't seem well mannered and when he eats, he litters his waistcoat which is as big as a meadow for the boy. He has a tiny shop of his own where he spends most of his time making plans for outing and playing card with his friends. Physically, he is quite big, noisy, red, hairy and dirty. He devours a lot. He has his fattening diet which he eats greedily. While talking about his dress up, the uncle puts suspenders, since he has a huge waist. He sleeps a deep sleep in his shop under whose stomach the boy has a seat. He is a middle aged man. The body of Thomas sharply smells with sweat. He is manly in nature. He loves his wife Sarah and his nephew, the boy. He is social and frank in his behavior. The gigantic Thomas is respected by his friends, thus asks him to approve the outing list. Dylan Thomas, the writer, thus, portrays Thomas, the boy's uncle, a unique figure who has a fearsome appearance despite his of temperament. He doesn't look like a disciplined, honest and careful uncle. He spends his time by playing cards and spends much of his time in his shop eating and sleeping. He is very ugly uncle with a high tenor of voice. On his way to outing, he doesn't mind spending his time with other members drinking in the bar. Neither has he bothered reaching to Porthcawl. He also doesn't take care of the boy, the narrator. The boy's uncle rather assigns him a duty of looking after the charabance. He is totally indifferent to the boy's sentiments. So he is not a careful father.

#### **10. 2074 Partial D Q. No. 2b**

Write a paragraph to describe the outing as Thomas would describe it.

- Please refer to **2075 Set A Q. No. 26**

#### **11. 2074 Partial E Q. No. 2e**

Describe the relation between the narrator's uncle and aunt. [3]

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2d**

#### **12. 2072 Supp Q. No. 2e**

Describe the boy's aunt. Was there a good match between boy's uncle and his aunt? [3]



- Boy's aunt, Sarah, is small and quick. Unlike her husband Thomas, she is calm and quiet. All she does is walks like a cat and feeds the buffalo, the boy's uncle. His aunt is so small that she can hit him only when she stands on the chair. No, there wasn't a good match between them. The boy's uncle is red hairy, noisy and big like buffalo where as his aunt is so small like the cat. She walks a cat walk, walks quickly and always remains busy in the kitchen. Uncle, on the other hand, is found in his tiny shop. He is so huge that the shop grows smaller when he eats greedily his most fattening foods. Unlike Sarah, his uncle, Thomas is dirty, sweating a cabbage, or onion or eggs and so on. He dresses only suspenders that hang on him like the steel pipes. He groans and grunts and is almost like a trumpet. By nature too they have differences. Sarah, his aunt, is reserved in nature. She is reasonably open only to her husband. She has her time with Thomas at Saturday only. She doesn't show rather keeps quiet when dissatisfied. Her quietness is symbolic weapon against Thomas. On the other hand, Thomas is frank in nature. He is funny drunkard. He has no interest in the indoor activities. He remains busy with the friends of his type. Thus, both Sarah, boy's aunt and uncle. Thomas are different in terms of nature and physique.

### **13. 2072 Set C Q .No. 2e**

Describe the landlord of the Mountain Sheep. How did he welcome the members of the outing? [3]

- The landlord of the bar, Mountain Ship, is also portrayed as greedy and ugly character. When the adults of the story approached near the bar, he saw them and became happy as he knew they would stop there. He ran to welcome them. He perhaps knew them from many years. He thought of making the fortune that day since he was sure of the fact that the old people would remain there and drink the whole mountain ship. In short, the landlord of the ship is seen of the level of the people of outing. He is shown such selfish that he is not worried about their journey but worried about his earning. He welcomed in such a polite way that it looks humorous. He looks mean and self-centered

### **14. 2072 Set D Q. No. 2e**

What was the boy asked to do when his uncle and his friends entered the Mountain Sheep? [3]

- Please refer to **2072 Partial Set B Q. No. 2e**

### **15. 2072 Partial Set A Q. No. 2e**

Why didn't uncle Thomas take the boy into the Mountain Sheep? [3]

- Uncle Thomas asked the boy to look after the coat. But that can't be the reason behind not taking him inside the pub. He didn't perhaps want the boy with him. Uncle is Thomas in the story of the narrator, the boy, he is quite ugly old man. He takes the boy, the narrator, to outing but forgets that he has also the sentiments and feelings. He forgets that the boy also wants to enjoy. The old man is indifferent. So the old man by being unaware of the boy's feelings didn't take him inside the mountain ship. He might have also thought that the boy may hate him or might not like their activities. He might have also thought that boys should not be exposed to such activities. It also can be the case that he never bothered to thin the boy. Or might be, he wanted someone to look after the bus.

### **16. 2072 Partial Set B Q. No. 2e**

How did the landlord of the Mountain Sheep' welcome the members of the outing. [3]

- In the famous story by Dylan Thomas' "A story" the narrator is a boy who accompanies the adult in their outing. But his participation becomes so unfortunate that he had to look after the charabance on the way when the old men go for a drink. The narrator's uncle took him to outing despite the disagreement and dissatisfaction of the other member of the outing. When they passed away from the village and reached to the mountain ship, they entered into a bar called Mountain Ship. At that time the boy was with them on the bus but they didn't ask him to go with them rather assigned him a duty to look after a charabance. This was really humiliating for the boy where his adult friends of outing enjoy drinks, he looks all-around the grazing cows and the stream.

### **17. 2071 Partial Set A Q. No. 12 dl**

Describe the relationship between the boy's uncle and his wife.

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2c**

### **18. 2070 Supp Set B Q. No. 12f**

Describe how the boy, the narrator, sketches the character of Mr. Thomas, his uncle. [3]

- Boy's uncle is Thomas. He has a tiny shop of his own where he spends most of his time making plans for outing and playing card with his friends. Physically, he is quite big, noisy, red, hairy and dirty. He is compared with buffalo by the narrator, He devours a lot. He has his fattening diet which he eats greedily. While talking about his dress up, the uncle puts suspenders, since he has a huge waist. He sleeps a deep sleep in his shop under whose stomach the boy has a seat. He is to a middle aged man. The body of Thomas sharply smells with sweat. He is manly in nature. He loves his wife Sarah and his nephew, the boy. He is social and frank in his behavior. The gigantic Thomas is respected by his friends, thus asks him to approve the outing list. Dylan Thomas, the writer, thus portrays Thomas, the boy's uncle, a unique figure who has a fearsome appearance despite his place of temperament.

### **19. 2070 Set C Q. No. 2 dl**

What role does the narrator have in the story to expose unkind, uncivilized nature of the grownups? [3]

- Please refer to **2076 Set C Q. No. 2f**

### **20. 2070 Set D Q.NO 12 b**

How does the boy describe his uncle and aunt? [3]

- Please refer to **2075 Partial E Q. No. 12f**

### **21. 2069 Q. No. 12e**

How does the writer describe the relation between Thomas and his wife? Explain.

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2c**

## **22. 2069 Partial Q. No. 12c**

Write in brief, the difference between the relation between Thomas and his wife? [3]

- The boy presents a couple, physically so different from each other. The boy's uncle is red hairy, noisy and big like buffalo-where as his aunt is so small like the cat. She walks a cat walk, walks quickly and always remains busy in the kitchen. Uncle, on the other hand, is found in his tiny shop. He is so huge that the shop grows smaller when he eats greedily his most fattening foods. Unlike Sarah, his uncle, Thomas is dirty, sweating a cabbage, or onion or eggs and so on. He dresses only suspenders that hang on him like the steel pipes. He groans and grunts and is almost like a trumpet. By nature too they have differences. Sarah, his aunt, is reserved in nature. She is reasonably open only to her husband. She has her time with Thomas at Saturday only. She doesn't show but keeps quiet when dissatisfied. Her quietness is symbolic weapon against Thomas. On the other hand, Thomas is frank in nature. He is funny drunkard. He has no interest in the indoor activities. He remains busy with the friends of his nature. Thus, both Sarah, boy's aunt and uncle Thomas are different in terms of nature and physique.

## **23. 2068. Q. No. 12b**

Give a short description of the Boy's Uncle.

- Please refer to **2074 Set B Q. No. 2f**

## **24. 2067 Q. No. 12 a**

How does the writer describe the relation between Thomas and his wife?

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2c**

## **25. 2066 Q. No. 12b**

Give a description of the outing as Thomas would describe it.

- Please refer to **2075 Set A Q. No. 2b**

### **26. 2066 (Partial) Q. No. 12 a**

Explain the preparation of the trip to Porthcawl. [3]

- The narrator's uncle had a tiny shop where his(uncle's) friends would collect for the outing: This is where one day the boy heard his uncle and friends making a plan for outing. Mr. Benjamin Franklin, a friend to his uncle, appeared with the news that everything was going well according to the plan. He had a responsibility to collect the outing fund. He collected enough money for the Charabance and twenty cases for pale ale. Will Sentry was following Benjamin thinking that he would misuse the fund. So Benjamin had to be transparent on the account. Next Sunday, Benjamin brought a list of outing members. Thomas went through the list and approved it. Then, they decided that they would go to outing on coming Saturday. This is how the outing preparation was made.

### **27. 2064 Q. No. 12f**

The plan was to go to Porthcawl for the outing. Did they ever reach there? Why? [3]

- Dylan Thomas' narrator says that the story is all about day's outing by a Charabanc to Porthcawl and the Charabanc never reached there. He gives the reasons why they haven't reached Porthcawl. From the very beginning they delayed their journey. They had some obstructions on the way; they drove back to pick up old O' Jones. Then, they found a pub on the way. They stopped for a drink there. Spending virtually forty five minutes in the pub, they came out. Afterwards the members of outing went on stopping wherever they saw the pub. The greatest was the cause that they didn't have the will to go there. Every enjoyment relied on the drinks. They didn't have any interest to enjoy the natural beauty of Porthcawl rather worried about the drinks they have brought with them. Consequently, despite their plan, they didn't reach their destination.

### **28. 2063 Q. No. 127**

Write a paragraph to describe the relation between Thomas (the boy's uncle) and his wife. [3]

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2c**

### **29. 2062 Q. No. 12 C**

Write a paragraph to describe the relation between Thomas (the boy's uncle) and his wife. [3]

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 2d**

### **30. 2060 Q. No. 10 C** A Describe the relation between Thomas (the body's uncle) and his wife. [3]

- Please refer to **2075 Partial D Q. No. 20**

### **31. 2059 Q. No. 2**

How does the boy, the narrator, look at his uncle and his aunt? [3]

- The boy looks at his uncle and aunt in different ways. He manifests his attitudes in the story towards adults in general and his uncle and aunt in particular. He starts expressing his perspectives to them from their physical description. None of them, however, has a pleasing personality given. Uncle is portrayed as hairy, big and trumpeting and aunt as silk, quick and small. He neither admires his uncle's activities; playing cards with the friends in his shop, drinking in every outing in the pub, and lifting his wife on the chair whenever she gets angry. Such a portrayal of his uncle makes us believe that the narrator exposes his aimless, dirty picture. His outlook towards him, thus, is expressed through his physical description and fruitless/meaningless activities. Similarly, he looks at his aunt in a different way. He doesn't like his aunt and her activities. By describing her as a small like cat, he has not given her space. He has animalized her aunt. Again, the way she leaves her house for her parents' house and works in the kitchen, remains silent after the fight with his uncle display that the narrator's perspective to her is not good.

### **32. 2058 Q. No. 37**

What is the reason for which Will Sentry always followed Mr. Franklyn? [3]

- A number of cases of Will Sentry's follow up are meaningful. From the time Thomas, boy's uncle, and Benjamin Franklin and other friends made a plan to go to outing; he follows Mr. Franklin like a Collie. Benjamin didn't like being followed by Will Sentry but Will Sentry was the strong vigil of Benjamin. Later on, Thomas makes the reason clear. He says that Benjamin is being continuously followed by Will Sentry as to keep eye on the outing fund. Will Sentry is very much skeptic that he will misuse the fund like Bob the Fiddle. He doesn't want it to be repeated. Thus, Will Sentry has a noble intention behind his vigil on Benjamin. He wants the fund be transparent and properly used. That's the reason why Bob the Fiddle is strongly criticized by him. He doesn't want another Bob the Fiddle in their outing enterprise. Thus, the narrator humorously presents this situation in the story and makes the reader clear about the reason why Mr. Franklin is followed by Will Sentry. Will Sentry works as a watch dog so that the picnic fund is not misused.

## **Long Answer Questions**

### **33. 2075 Set C Q. No. 3**

Explain 'A Story' as a story of humour. [10]

- 'A Story' by Dylan Thomas is perfectly a humorous story. The title of the story is itself is humorous. A traditional story doesn't have the title like this. The description of boy's uncle, Thomas, is humorous. His comparison with buffalo, his eating habits, his dresses, his shop and his physical structure all are humorous. Similarly, boy's aunt is humorous. She is compared with the cat. Her way of hitting her husband on head with china dog is equally humorous. The way Will Sentry follows Benjamin Franklin is humorous. When the men set out for outing and know that they have forgotten Old O Jones, the sustained laughter is noticed. The anecdote of Weazly's teeth on mantelpiece is humorous too. He wants to return back to get his artificial teeth so that he might want to laugh This is quite humorous in the story. Similarly, the way the landlord of the Mountain Sheep welcome the outing members is humorous. When the narrator explains them inside the bar, we can't stop laughing. They find a river side better than Porthcawl. This is also humorous. The stranger and Eunuch Davies talk about playing Oblivion is humorous. Thus the whole story is humorous story. The humour applied in the story has a purpose though. The narrator wants to point out the ugly attributes of aged people. In this sense, there is a satire implied. Though, the story doesn't have a well-developed plot, it is interesting and readable because of the instance of the humour in the story.



### 34. 2074 Partial E Q. No. 36

Imagine that you are the boy, the narrator of the story. Give a description of the outing of the adult's world from your own perspective. (A Story) [10]

- My outing experience with the adults remain differently memorable in my mind. It all happened when I was a bit big and nicer. I was staying with my uncle and his wife. My uncle was big and loud and red haired; he almost filled the small house of his as an old buffalo would but aunt, on the other hand was small and quiet. She would move from one room to another, like a cat on its soft paws, The uncle sat like a giant steam-run dismantled ship behind the counter of the tiny shop at the front of the house breathing like a brass band; in the kitchen, he ate his big meal in a noisy manner. When he ate the house appeared to grow smaller. His check-waistcoat appeared to be a meadow after having dropped various food items on it. The aunt used to beat him every Saturday after he got drunk. He was usually beaten with a china dog. On Sundays, the uncle used to sing songs after going high on alcohol. One evening when I was reading an advertisement for sheep-dip some of my uncle's friends, Mr. Benjamin Franklyn, Mr. Weazley, Noah Bowen, and Will Sentry entered the shop. I felt their presence inside the house like all of them being in a drawer that smelled of cheese and twist tobacco and sweet biscuits and snuff and waistcoat. They talked about their annual outing. Mr. Benjamin had accumulated the money for the charabanc and twenty cases of pale ale. Benjamin was followed after by Will Sentry, who was keeping track of the money. Franklyn got disgusted as he felt he was not as trustless as Bob, who had been a treasurer in earlier outings and had embezzled some amount of money to buy himself some drinks. Then they played cards in the shop. On Sunday morning, Mr. Franklyn and Will Sentry entered the uncle's house as I and my uncle were eating sardines. They had the list of every member who had paid in full. Uncle Thomas approved the list the outing-goers after having checked it. The two of them went out. No sooner had they gone than the aunt stood in front of the dresser, with a china dog threatening uncle to go over to her mother's house if he chose outing over her. My uncle after considerable contemplation chose the outing. She hit the uncle on the head with the china dog she was holding in her hand after he had lifted her on the chair. For the rest of the week she was quiet and quick. On Saturday morning, breakfast time, my uncle saw his wife's familiar note that she wrote every year. He wanted to take me with him. He knew he would be opposed to by his friends for having taken me but he nevertheless took me too. The charabanc had hardly moved out of the village on the beautiful August morning when they had to return to pick Old O. Jones, a regular outing-goer. After Jones got on, Mr. Weazley wanted to go home to take his(false) teeth, but his friends didn't see its necessity. The charabanc pulled up (stopped) outside the Mountain Sheep, where the members, who were welcomed by the landowner with pouncing eyes, Fished out bleating like young sheep into the bar. I was made to look after the charabanc so that nobody stole it. I had nothing to do for 45 minutes, which seemed to go by like a very slow cloud, except to look at the lake-eyed cows. On the contrary, my uncle and his friends were dead drunk and were breaking glasses. I looked into the bar but hardly could recognize the members of the outing. They were all red with alcohol and asking questions about their fellow friends and their whereabouts. Bob the Fiddle seemed to lead the drunken session: some were arguing; some were shouting. When Mr. Weazley came to me, he moved out and threw stone at the Cows. The uncle came out and everyone followed him. They had drunk the bar dry. The charabanc moved out of Mountain Sheep in the direction of other public houses: The Blue Wall, the Sour Grapes, the Shepherd's Arms, the Bells of Aberdovey: I had nothing to do but remember the names where the outing stopped and kept an eye on the charabanc. Every time a public house

appeared, it used to be Mr. Weazley who would stop the car for a drink. Closing time of public houses meant nothing to the members of the outing. Even when the bar was closed, they would drink behind the locked doors as they did at Druid's Tap. They even tempered the policeman and made him sing. The charabanc finally came to a river where they had a merry time. All gathered there agreed that the river was better than Porthcawl. It was dusk and all the thirty members of the outing were wet and drunk. They were oblivious (not aware) to what was happening around them. They cared little about reaching Porthcawl. In fact Will Sentry said "Who goes there?" to a wild duck flying. They, eventually, stopped at Hermit's Nest for rum to keep out the cold. On the way home there was moonlight. Old O. Jones began to cook his supper on a primus stove in the middle of the charabanc, but Mr. Weazley, ever so much the prime instigator, (bring about or initiate) stopped the bus on the excuse that he was dying of breath. All climbed down to the moonlit field carrying out the remaining cases of ale, the primus stove of Old Jones. They sat down in the field and drank and sang while Old O. Jones cooked sausage. I began to sleep against my uncle's large waistcoat. Will Sentry exclaimed, "Who goes there?" to the passing moon.

### 35. 2069 Partial Q. No. 13

Write an essay on an outing (actual or imaginary) in which you were a participant. [10]

- Outing Last week I went on an outing in floral Godavari with my friends and teachers. We were all the students of science stream. The college took us there for educational research. The research was the part of botany, one of the subjects in our course. Along with the principal, the faculties teaching botany accompanied us. Since such outing is my new experience, I enjoyed it. Moreover the outing taught me difference theoretical class room learning and at the learning in the real field. The moment our college bus dropped at Godavari gate, I felt as if I was in the fairy land. We walked for ten to fifteen minutes for the floral garden. This brought in me an immense excitement and pleasure. The tall trees, the small brook which we crossed through the log, the chirping birds, and the melody of the wind when falls on the green leaves, high green hills, and small meadows all around enchanted me more than any other things could. Our group took some photos and studied the place and its floras. Really admired this sort of learning. The monotony of classroom teaching and learning began to look dull to me. Since this adds a new taste because it leaves the students in to a new setting, the students really learn better and quick. This type of learning casts a great impressions in the students because of which they barely forget it. Then in the garden our teachers assisted us in the learning. We had groups divided and each group had a faculty to explain the things and solve the queries. The tulip, rosemary, rose; sunflowers and so on were seen happy in the garden. We were taught the scientific names of the plants by our botany teacher. The theories we learnt in the classroom were backed by the practical learning. We conceptualized the names in this visually rich setting. The learning in the open sky, in a

natural setting and learning so spontaneous without class rooms, books and notebook, is bliss indeed. After our rigorous study and a visit of the floral Godavari, we had a time for lunch. The lunch united us again. We all used to have lunch every day, but this one was special. It gave a different taste as we all took it together with our teachers. The varieties of the food items, the cameras all around, the fun and, the line, of course, added the flavor in our food. We had singing and dancing and photo session immediately after the lunch. We climbed the small hill and worshipped god Shiva on the top of the hill. Having a light snacks, we moved back in our college by bus. We cracked jokes, sang and danced on the bus. This recreation refreshed us by curbing all the pressure and monotonies at a side. To sum up, outing has become a popular means of socialization on the one hand and an instrument of pleasure on the other. The hectic city schedule, the city hustle and bustle makes our life uninteresting and dull. Outing plays a crucial role making our city life meaningful. In the case of the outing a participated, it served us with practical knowledge. The new setting and method of learning, thus, fosters the students a positive thought to the study on the one hand and to the life on the other.