Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Notes: The Eyes Have It**

**Answer the following:**

1. **Who joined the narrator in the compartment? At which station?**

Ans: A girl joined the narrator in the compartment at Rohana.

1. **Who had come to see the girl off? How did the narrator guess who they were?**

Ans: The girl’s parents had come to see her off at the station. They seemed very anxious about her comfort and the woman gave the girl detailed instructions as to when not to lean out of windows and how to avoid speaking to strangers.

1. **Why was the narrator not able to tell how the girl looked like? What was the first thing he noticed about her? Why?**

Ans: The narrator was totally blind at that time and his eyes were sensitive only to light and darkness so he was unable to tell what the girl looked like. The first thing he noticed about her was that she wore slippers. He concluded this because of the way they slapped against her heels.

1. **The narrator says that it would have taken him some time to discover something about her looks. How did he plan to do so?**

Ans: The narrator plans to do so by asking a few questions which would give him some information

about her looks.

1. **Give a brief description of the conversation between the girl and the narrator in the story ‘The Eyes Have It’.**

Ans: The narrator was travelling in a train to go to Dehra. He was alone upto Rohana. At Rohana a girl got into the compartment. When the train started the narrator asked her where she was going. The narrator’s voice startled the girl. However, the girl told him that she was getting off at Saharanpur where her aunt would receive her. She then asked the narrator where he was going. The narrator told her that he was going to Dehra, and then to Mussoorie. The girl then said that she loved to go to Mussoorie, especially in October. The narrator agreed to her and described Mussorrie in the month of October. After that the narrator thought that he made a mistake by asking her what it was like outside. But the girl asked him to look out of the window. The narrator pretended to look out of the window and described the outside scene. After that the narrator told the girl that she had an interesting face. The girl laughed and replied that she was tired of people telling her she had a pretty face. Then the narrator remarked that an interesting face can also be pretty. The girl called the narrator a gallant young man and asked the reason behind his seriousness. Changing the topic, the narrator told the girl that they would soon be at Saharanpur. After that the train reached Saharanpur and the girl got off. Ruskin Bond has presented the conversation of two blind persons in a very interesting manner.

1. **“Then I made a mistake.” What was the mistake? How ?**

Ans: During their conversation, the narrator asked the girl what she saw outside the window. It was the mistake of the narrator. All through the conversation, the narrator kept talking in such a manner that the girl would not be able to make out he was blind. But by asking the above question, the narrator had given the girl a chance to wonder why he couldn’t see for himself what was outside the window.

1. **What are the narrator’s views about Mussoorie in October?**

Ans: The narrator said that October was the best time to visit Mussoorie. The hills were covered with wild dahlias, the sun was delicious and at night one could enjoy a logfire. As most of the tourists would leave by then, the roads would be almost deserted.

1. **When the girl did not react to the narrator’s question about how it was outside, what did the narrator think?**

Ans: After asking the question , the narrator realised that he had made a mistake. The girl did not seem to find anything strange in the question ,he wondered if she had noticed that he could not see. But she then asked him why he didn’t look out of the window. This question removed his doubts.

1. **Why did the girl comment that the narrator was a very gallant young man?**

Ans: The narrator complimented the girl by saying that her face was interesting as he knew that girls can resist flattery. When the girl told him that she was often told she has a pretty face he then said that interesting faces can be pretty. The narrator thus kept fearlessly flattering the girl. Thus the girl commented that the narrator was a very gallant young man.

1. **When the girl asks the narrator why he was so serious , what did the narrator think of doing ? Does he do so ? Why?**

Ans: When the girl asks the narrator the question , the narrator thought of laughing only for her sake. However, he does not laugh as the thought of laughter only made him feel troubled and lonely.

1. **Why was the narrator ready to sit in the compartment for any length of time when the girl was around?**

Ans: The narrator seems to have developed affection for the girl inspite of the fact that he couldn’t even see her. He wanted to listen to her talking. To him her voice had the sparkle of a mountain stream. He was so attracted that he felt that even after she left the train, he would remember the encounter for some time.

1. **What did the narrator wonder about the girl’s hair?**

Ans: The narrator wondered if she wore her hair in a bun or if it was plaited or was hanging loose over her shoulders or if it was cut very short.

1. **What was a fascinating game for the narrator?**

Ans: The narrator was blind but when he was in the compartment he knew that there were many things happening outside the window . Guessing what went out there was a fascinating game for the narrator.

1. **“She was an interesting girl,” I said, “Can you tell me – did she kept her hair long or short?” Who asked the question and to whom? Why did he ask this question?**

Ans: The girl in the narrator’s compartment got down at Saharanpur Station and another passenger boarded his compartment. The narrator asked the above question to the new passenger. The narrator was extremely attracted to the girl. He kept thinking of her and wondered how she had kept her hair- whether in a bun or plaited or it was kept loose. As her station was approaching, the girl stood up to collect her things. He wanted to raise his hand and touch her hair but she had moved away. Thus the question about her hair still lingered in his mind.

1. **Describe how the girl left the train ? What was the impact of her departure on the narrator ?**

Ans: The train approached Saharanpur. The girl began to collect her things. When the train drew into the station a female voice shouted near the carriage door. The girl bade goodbye and left.

1. **The man who had entered the compartment broke into my reverie.” What was the reverie? How was the reverie broken and who broke ?**

Ans. The narrator was travelling in a train. A girl boarded the train from Rohana Station. Though the narrator could not see the girl due to his blindness, he seemed to have developed a liking for her. He was attracted to her charming voice. After the girl departure at Saharanpur Station, the narrator returned to his own seat and the train started again. He then got immersed in a fascinating game of guessing what went on outside. This was his reverie. A new fellow traveller entered into his compartment. He apologised to the narrator for not being an attractive as the girl. This voice broke the narrator’s reverie.

1. **How are blind people different from people with eyesight? Why does the narrator feel that people with good eye sight fail to see what is right in front of them?**

Ans:- The author remarks that while people with eyesight often fail to see the really beautiful and essential things, blind people take in only the essentials, whatever registers clearly on their remaining senses. As the narrator was blind for a good portion of his life, he had learnt wonderful lessons about blindness. He often noticed that people with sight are worse than those without sight. Although they are able to see, they often fail to see things that they should really see- things that can be seen only by the inward eye. This seems to be very ironical and realistic.

1. **“She had beautiful eyes. But they were of no use to her” – Whose eyes are referred to here? Why were the eyes ‘of no use’ to her? Explain the irony of situation.**

Ans:- In the story The Eyes Have It the eyes of the narrator’s co-passenger is referred to here.  
The eyes were not useful to her because she was completely blind at that time.  
From the start of the journey the narrator pretended to the girl that he was not blind. But when he asked the second co-passenger if the girl had kept her hair short or long, the man replied that that he did not notice the girl’s hair. He only noticed the beautiful eyes of the girl which were of no use to her as she was completely blind. The irony of the situation is that the narrator was trying to hide his blindness from a girl who was also blind.

1. **Is the narrator somewhat cautious about not revealing too much about himself ? Support your point with instances from your text.**

Ans. The narrator who was totally blind at that time conversed with the girl in his compartment tactfully without revealing much about himself. The two major characters the narrator himself and the young girl met each other during their journey by train towards Dehra. The narrator was very eager to know about the girl and to appreciate her beauty as well. But the narrator disclosed very little about himself, except for his destination to Dehra and then to Mussoorie. He did not disclose his blindness to the young girl. He provided no information about himself. Again when the girl asked the narrator about his being too serious the narrator changed the topic. The narrator actually expressed some of his inner thoughts without revealing much about himself for keeping the readers in the shadow of mystery.

1. **Justify the title of the story The Eyes Have it.**

Ans:-The Eyes Have It is a short story by Ruskin Bond. The narrator of this story, a blind man whose eyes were sensitive only to light and darkness, was going to Dehradun by train when he met a girl and had a chit-chat with her. Both the narrator and the girl try to hide their blindness. The girl asks some questions while talking with the narrator and the narrator very skillfully answered as if he could see. The girl also succeeded to hide her blindness. It was only after she left and another passenger came into the compartment that the narrator realizes the girl was blind. Here lies the irony in the story. It is the eyes that have the power to see and observe. But in this story it is the inward eyes of both the narrator and the girl – their senses that perceive (visualize ) each other.