**ANSWER KEY**

1. Which two kinds of people does Salerio mention about? 2

Ans. Salerio says that Nature had framed strange fellows. Some, that would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots at a bagpiper. Others, of such vinegar aspect, that they would not show their teeth in way of smile.

1. How does Bassanio describe Portia? 4

Ans. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given; he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

1. How does Nerissa react to the displeasure shown by Portia about the will? 2

Ans. Nerissa says that Portia’s father was ever virtuous and therefore would have had good inspiration at his death. The lottery that he had devised in those three chests would no doubt be chosen by anybody rightly that the one whom she would love.

1. Who does Portia call a sponge? How is he described by her? 3

Ans. Portia calls the Duke of Saxony’s nephew as a sponge. She says that he is very vilely in the morning when he is sober and most vilely in the afternoon when he is drunk. In his best behaviour he is a little worse than a man and in his worst behaviour he is a little better than a beast.

1. Bring out the contrast between the reaction of the children and that of their grandfather regarding the consequences of the war in the poem ‘After Blenheim’. 4

Ans. The poet has clearly brought out the consequences of the battle highlighting how many thousands were killed including soldiers and the commoners. He then also narrates how the brave heroes of the war were praised by people. After hearing all he had to say about the battle, Peterkin asks him what good had come out of the battle.

1. Explain the term ‘forlorn group’ mentioned in the poem ‘Cold within.’ Why is it an irony? Which figure of speech is it? 3

Ans. ‘Forlorn group’ means a lonely and isolated group. It is ironical because this group consists of six human beings and it cannot be lonely or isolated. However it is, due to their personal feelings and prejudices that have alienated them from each other. The figure of speech given here is ‘Oxymoron’ as two opposite words are used together.

1. In the poem ‘Television’, what has the poet seen in every house he has been? 2

Ans. To every house that poet has been, he has seen children gaping at the screen. He has also seen them loll, slop and lounge about and stare until their eyes pop out.

1. Which tales were found in the books read by children? 3

Ans. The books read by children were brimming with tales of various characters which built the imaginative powers of children. There were tales of dragons, gypsies, queens, whales, treasure islands and distant shores. The books also narrated stories of smugglers and pirates and elephants and cannibals cooking Penelope.

1. Describe ‘Mr. Oliver’ from the story ‘A Face in the Dark’. 2

Ans. Mr. Oliver was a bachelor and an Anglo- Indian teacher working in a school since several years. He was not a nervous or an imaginative kind of person.

1. Explain the line: ‘But for Mr. Oliver it did not end here’. 3

Ans. The line means that the suspense behind the faceless boy should have ended there but for Mr. Oliver, another mystery remained to be unfolded. This line adds a twist to the story and keeps the reader engaged in reading the story further.

1. Who is the narrator of the story ‘Old Man at the Bridge’? What role is he given? 3

Ans. The narrator of the story is an army scout. He is given the role to cross the bridge, explore the bridgehead beyond and find out till what point the enemy had advanced. He was also supposed to return and signal safety to his contingent at the bridge.

1. Explain the symbolism of the animals in the story ‘Old man at the Bridge’. 4

Ans. The animals mentioned in the story are all symbolic. The old man is not worried about the cat as it can take care of itself and is supposed to have nine lives. The doves are supposed to be symbols of peace and are expected by the narrator to fly away (which would be the case when the war is on). The goats are the animals he is worried about. Goats are supposed to be the symbols of sacrifice and in this case too they are being sacrificed without any fault.

1. In the story ‘Hearts and Hands’ was the young woman a regular traveller? Justify. 2

Ans. Yes, the young woman, Miss Fairchild was a regular traveller. She was elegantly dressed and was surrounded by all the possible and luxurious comforts of a person who travels regularly.

1. What was the real reason behind the glum-faced man going for a smoke? What reason did he give? 3

Ans. The glum-faced man was afraid that if the conversation between Miss Fairchild and Easton would continue longer, the truth might be out. The young lady would soon learn that Easton was a prisoner and the other person a marshal. But, he said that he needed a drink and a smoke as he hadn’t had a smoke all day and was half dead for want of a smoke.