1. What kind of farewell was given to Ged?

Ans. The farewell was given to him early in the morning with those first sea-comrades of his, they were shouting good wishes cheerily after him as he went up to the docks.

1. Describe the town of Thwil? What did Ged do there?

Ans. The town of Thwil is not large, its high houses huddling close over a few steep narrow streets. To Ged, it seemed a city, and not knowing where to go, he asked the first townsman of Thwil he met, where he would find the Warder of the School on Roke. The streets were few and short and they turned and twisted curiously among the high-roofed houses and the way was easy to lose. The town and its people were strange, fishermen and workmen and artisans like any others, but so used to the sorcery that is ever at play on the Isle of the Wise that they seemed half sorcerers themselves. As Ged had learned, they talked in riddles and not one of them would blink to see a boy turn into a fish or a house fly up into the air, but knowing it for a schoolboy prank would go on cobbling shoes or cutting up mutton, unconcerned.

1. What did the man answer? Where did he and Ged go?

Ans. The man answered that the wise do not need to ask, the fools ask in vain and went on along the street.

1. What did Ged ask the old lady? What response did he get?

Ans. Ged asked the old lady where he would find the Warder. The old lady said that one cannot always find the Warder where he is, but sometimes one can find him where he is not, saying this, she went on crying her mussels to sell.

1. Describe the square.

Ans. The square rimmed on three sides by the houses with their sharp slate roofs and on the fourth side by the wall of great building whose few small windows were higher than the chimneytops of the houses, a fort or castle it seemed, built of mighty grey blocks of stone. In the square beneath it, market booths were set up and there was some coming and going of the people.

1. What happened at the door of the great building?

Ans. When Ged went to the door and knocked loud, an old man opened the door. Ged told him that he had a letter from thee Mage Ogion of Gont to the Warder of the School on that island. He said that he wanted to find the Warder but he did not want to hear more riddles and scoffing. The old man showed him the school and told him that he was the door keeper and can open it if he could. Ged stepped forward and though it seemed to him that he had passed through the doorway, he stood on the pavement where he had stood before. He stepped forward once again but remained standing outside the door. The doorkeeper inside, watched him with mild eyes.

1. How did Ged resolve this?

Ans. Ged made an opening spell, taught to him by his aunt long ago but the power that held the doorway did not move at all. He stood there for a line time and then finally the old man that he could not enter, unless he helped Ged, which he said unwillingly.

1. Describe the Archmage.

Ans. The Archmage Nemmerle, Warder of Rode, was an old man, older it was said than any man then living. His voice quavered like the bird’s voice when he spoke, welcoming Ged kindly. His hair and beard and robe were white, and he seemed as if all darkness and heaviness had been leached out of him by the slow usage of the years, leaving him white and worn as driftwood that has been a century adrift. He later said that his eyes were old and he could not read the Master had written. He asked Ged to read out the letter to him.

1. Mention the contents of the letter.

Ans. Ged started reading out the letter which was in Hardic runnes and said that the Master has sent Lord Nemmerle one of the greatest of the wizards of Gont, if the wind blew true. This was signed, not with the true name of Ogion’s but with Ogion’s rune, the closed mouth.

1. What happened as a result of Archmage’s mumbling?

Ans. A great black bird, a raven of Osskil, came walking over the stone terrace ad the grass. It came to the hem of the Archmage’ robe and stood there all black with its dagger beak and eyes like pebbles, staring sidelong at Ged. It pecked three times on the white staff Nemmerle leaned on, and the old wizard ceased his muttering, and smiled. He told Ged to run and play, like one tells a little child. Ged knelt on one knee to him and when he rose the Archmage was gone. Only the raven stood eyeing him, its beak outstretched as if to peck the vanished staff.

1. What did the raven say to Ged? What did Ged do next?

Ans. The raven said to Ged, ‘Terrenon ussbuk’, again it said croaking ‘Terrenon ussbuk orrek.’ Saying this, it strutted off as it had come. After that, Ged turned to leave the courtyard, wondering where he should go.

1. Whom did Ged encounter?

Ans. Under the archway, Ged met by a tall youth who greeted him very courteously and bowing his head he told him that his name was Jasper. He was the Enwit’s son of the Domain of Eolg on Hanvor Isle. He told Ged that he was at Ged’s service that day, to show the Great House and to answer Ged’s questions as he could.

1. Describe Jasper. What did Jasper give to Ged? Why?

Ans. Jasper was two or three years older than Ged, very tall and he moved and carried himself with stiff grace, posing which Ged thought was like that of a dancer. He wore a grey cloak with hood thrown back. Jasper took him to the wardrobe room. Ged put on the dark grey cloak that he had chosen. Jasper had given it to him to make Ged look like one of them.

1. Describe the place where Ged was going to stay.

Ans. Ged’s room was in the South Tower with a window looking down over the steep roofs of Thwil town to the sea. Like the other sleeping cells it had no furnishing but a straw-filled mattress in the corner. Jasper told him that they lived were plainly and said that he expected that Ged wouldn’t mind that.

1. Describe the Long table of the refectory.

Ans. Jasper and Ged went to eat the noon meal at the Long Table of the refectory along with a hundred or more boys and young men. Each waited on himself, joking with the cooks through the window hatches of the kitchen that opened into the refectory, loading his plate from great bowls of food that steamed on the sills, sitting where he pleased at the Long Table. Jasper told Ged that it was said, no matter how many people sat on the table, there was always room. There was certainly room for many noisy groups of boys talking and eating mightily, and for older fellows, their cloaks clasped with silver at the neck, who sat quietly by pairs or alone, with grave, pondering faces, as if they had much to think about.

1. Describe vetch.

Ans. Vetch said noting much but shovelled in his food with a will. He had the accent of the East Reach, and was very dark of skin, not red-brown like Ged and Jasper and most folk of the Archipelago, but black-brown. He was plain and his manners were unpolished. He grumbled about the dinner when he had finished it, but then turning to Ged he said that at least it wasn’t illusion like there was so much around there, it stuck to their ribs. Ged did not know what he meant but felt a certain liking for him and was glad when Vetch stayed with them even after the meal.

1. What happened among Ged, Jasper and Vetch on the hillside?

Ans. On the hillside, Jasper halted and said that at at home in Havnor he had heard much about Gontish wizardy and always in praise so that that he had always wanted for a long time to see the manner of it. He further said that there now he had a Gontishman and they were standing on the slopes of Roke Knoll whose roots go down to the center of the earth. All spells were strong there and so he wanted to play a trick. He wanted to know Sparrowhawk’s style. Ged was confused and taken aback and said nothing. Vetch tried to negotiate and help Ged by telling Jasper that let him be. To which Jasper said that he has either the skill or power or the doorkeeper wouldn’t have let him in. Why shouldn’t he show it. Ged says that he does have the power and skill and so to tell him what kind of thing he was talking about. Jasper says ‘illusions’ and pointing fingers Jasper spoke a few strange words where he pointed on the hillside and created the illusion of the stream. Jasper with another word stopped the water. Then Jasper asked Vetch to create an illusion. Vetch scratched his head and looked glum but he took up a bit of earth in his hand and began to sing tunelessly over it, moulding it with his dark fingers and shaping it pressing it stroking it and suddenly it was a small creature like a bumblebee or furry fly that flew humming off over Roke Knoll and vanished. Ged stood staring crestfallen. He did not know but mere village witchery and spells to call goats cure warts move loads or mend pots. Ged said that he doesn’t know many tricks to which Jasper wondered how that was possible. Ged defended that sorcery is not a game and they do not play it for pleasure or praise. Jasper mocked Ged and asked then if it is done for money. Ged simply answered no but he could not think of anything more to say that would hide his ignorance and save his pride. Jasper laughed not ill-humouredly and went on leading them on around Roke Knoll and Ged followed sullen and sore-hearted knowing that he had behaved like a fool and blaming Jasper for it.

1. Did Ged miss Gont? Who comforted him? Mention how their friendship developed?

Ans. Yes, Ged did miss Gont. The strangeness of the place and the thought of all the spells and sorceries that had been worked there began to come over him heavily. Darkness surrounded him and dread filled him. He wished he were anywhere else but Roke. It was Vetch who comforted him by asking if he could come and talk to him. He asked Ged about Gont and then spoke fondly of his own home isles of the East Reach, telling how the smoke of village hearthfires is blown across that quiet sea at evening between the small islands with funny names. That night Vetch offered friendship to Ged; an open and sure friendship which Ged could not help but return.

1. How did Ged prepare to prove how great his power was?

Ans. Ged set all his strong will on the work they gave him, the lessons and crafts and histories and skills taught by the grey-cloaked Masters of Roke, who were called nine. Part of each day he studied with the Master of Chanter, learning the deeds of heroes and the lays of wisdom, beginning with the oldest of all songs, the Creation of Ea. Then with a dozen other lads he would practise with the Master Windkey at arts of wind and weather. Whole bright days of spring and early summer they spent out in Roke Bay in light catboats, practising steering by word and stilling waves and speaking to the world’s wind and raising up the magewind. Frequently Ged’s head got whacked by the swinging boom as the boat jibed under a wind suddenly blowing backwards or his boat and another collided though they had the whole bay to navigate in or all three boys in his boat went swimming unexpectedly as the boat was swamped by a huge unintended wave. There were quieter expeditions ashore other days with the Master Herbal who taught the way and properties of things that grow; and the Master Hand taught sleight and jugglery and the lesser arts of Changing. The tricks of illusion came to him so easily that it seemed that he had been born knowing them and needed only to be reminded.

1. Who was Master Hand? Explain the encounter between Master Hand and Ged.

Ans: The Master Hand was a gentle and light-hearted old man who had endless delight in the wit and beauty of the crafts he taught. Ged felt no awe of him but asked him for different spells and the Master would show him what he wanted. But one day he asked the Master about a spell that will retain diamond as a diamond. How to lock a spell and last it. The Master looked at the jewel that glittered on Ged’s palm and murmured one word ‘Tolk’. He said that it was a rock and by the illusion-change you can make it look like a diamond or a flower or a fly or an eye or a flame. But that is just seeming. Illusion fools the beholder’s senses. It makes him see, hear and feel that the thing has changed but it doesn’t change. To change this rock into a jewel, you must change its true name and even to do so is to change the world. The Master says further that it can be done which is the art of Master Changer and that he would learn it. But he should not change anything until he knows what good or evil will follow on. As the world is in balance and changing and summoning can shake the balance of the world.

1. What had the other prentices learnt soon?

Ans: The other prentices had soon learned that they could seldom match themselves against Ged either in sports or in the earnest. They said of him some in praise and some in spite that he was a wizard born and he would never let them defeat him. Jasper alone neither praised him nor avoided him but simply looked down at him siling slightly. And therefore, Jasper stood alone as his rival who must be put to shame. He did not see or would not see or would not see that in this rivalry which he clung to and fostered as part of his own pride, there was anything of the danger, the darkness of which the Master Hand had mildly warned him. When he was not moved by pure rage, he knew very well that he was as yet no match for Jasper or any of the older boys and so he kept at his work and went on as usual.

1. Mention the activities of the school in the three seasons.

Ans: At the end of the summer, the work was slackened somewhat so there was more time for sport; spell-boat races down in the harbour, feats of illusion in the courts of the Great House and in the long evenings in the groves wild games of hide and seek where hiders and seeker were both visible and only voices moved laughing and calling among the trees following and dodging the quick, faint werelights. Autumn came they set to their tasks afresh, practising new magic. So Ged’s first months at Roke went by fast, full of passions and wonders. In winter, it was different. He was sent with seven other boys across Roke Islan to the farthest northmost cape where stands the Isolate Tower.

1. Who was Kuvremkarmerruk? How is his dwelling described?

Ans: Master Namer. He lived where there was no farm or dwelling that lay within miles of the Tower. Grim it stood above the northern cliffs, endless the lists and ranks and rounds of names that the Namer’s eight pupils must learn. Among them in the Tower’s high room Kuvremkarmerruk sat on a high seat writing down lists of names that must be learned before the ink faded at midnight leaving the parchment blank again. It was cold and half-dark and always silent there except for the scratching of the Master’s pen and the sighing may be of a student who must learn before midnight the name of every cape, point, bay, sound etc. If the student complained the Master might say nothing but lengthen the list or he might say that he who would be Seamaster must know the true name of every drop of water in the sea.

1. What had Kuvrem said to the children?

Ans: Once Kuvrem said something in the Tower on their first night that he never repeated. But Ged remembered the words. He had said that many a mage of great power has spent his whole life to find out the name of one single thing and still the lists are not finished. Nor will they be till the world’s end. He tells the students to listen and they would know why. In the world under the sun and in the other world that has no sun there is much that has nothing to do with the men and men’s speech and there are powers beyond our power. But true magic is worked only by those being who speak the Hardic tongue of Earthsea or the speech from which it grew. He also spoke of the languages that dragons speak and the language Segoy spoke who made the islands of the world and the language of our lays and songs, spells, enchantments and invocations. He mentioned different Hardic words. How different names are derived from the Old Speech. He also mentioned how if Mage Seamaster were mad enough to try to lay a spell of storm or calm over all the ocean, his spell must not only have that word but the name of every stretch and bit and part of the sea through all the Archipelago and all the Outer Reaches and beyond to where names cease. According to Kuvrem, that which gives the power to work magic sets the limits of that power. A mage can control only what is near him what he can name exactly and wholly. If it were not so, the wickedness of the powerful or the folly of the wise would long ago have sought to change what cannot be changed and Equilibrium would fail. The unbalanced sea would overwhelm the islands where we perilously dwell and in the old silence all names would be lost.

1. Which creature had come to Ged? Where are they found?

Ans: In the morning he lifted his head, the rain had ceased and he saw sheltered in the folds of his cloak, a little animal curled up asleep which had crept there for warmth. He wondered seeing it for it was a rare strange beast, an otak. These creatures are found only on four southern isles of the Archipelago, Roke, Ensmer, Pody and Wathort. They are small and sleek with broad faces and fur dark brown or brindle and great bright eyes. Their teeth are cruel and their temper fierce so they are not made pets of. They have no call or cry or any voice.

1. What happened as Ged stroked the animal?

Ans: As Ged stroked the animal it woke and yawned showing s small brown tongue and white teeth but it was not afraid ‘Otak’ he said, and then remembering the thousand names of beasts he had learned in the Tower he called it by its true name in the Old Speech ‘Hoeg!’ Do you want to come with me?’ The otak sat itself down on his open hand, and began to wash its fur.

1. What happened when Ged returned to the school?

Ans: It was homecoming to Ged, who had no home to which he could ever return. He was happy to see so many faces to knew and happiest to see Vetch come forward to greet him with a wide smile on his dark face. He had missed his friend this year more than he knew. Vetch had been made sorcerer this autumn and was a prentice no more, but that set no barrier between them. They fell to talking at once and it seemed to Ged that he said more to Vetch in that first hour than he had said during the whole long year at the Isolate Tower.

1. Who was the guest of the school that night? Mention the different reactions given.

Ans: The guest of the school that night was the lord of O, himself a sorcerer of renown. He had been a pupil of the Archmage, and returned sometimes to Roke for the Winter festival or the Long Dance in summer. With him was his lady, slender and young bright as new copper her black hair crowns with opals. It was seldom that any woman sat in the halls of The Great House and some of the old Master looked at her side long, disapproving. But the young men looked at her with all their eyes.

1. Mention in brief about the Princess Elfarman.

Ans: The Princess Elfarran was someone for whose sake all Enlad was laid waste, and the Hero Mage of Hanor died and the island Solea sank beneath the sea.

1. What kind of illusion-charm was created by Jasper for the Princess?

Ans: A white tree he made sprang up from the stone floor and its branches touched the high roofbeams of the hall, and on every twig of every branch a golden apple shone each a sun for it was the year-Tree. A bird flew among the branches suddenly all white with a tail like a fall of snow and the golden apples dimming turned to seeds, each one a drop of crystal. These falling from the tree with a sound like rain, all at once there came a sweet fragrance while the tree swaying put forth leaves of rosy fire and white flowers like stars. And so, the illusion faded.

1. What was offered to Jasper? Did he accept? Why/Why not?

Ans: The Lady offered Ged to go with them to live with them in O-Tokne. No, Jasper did not accept that offer. He answered that he would gladly go and serve her always when he would have learned skills worthy of his Masters there and worthy of her praise.

1. How did Ged react to Jasper being praised?

Ans: Jasper pleased everyone except Ged. Ged joined his voice to the praises but not his heart. He thought that he could have done better and said to himself in bitter envy and all the joy of the evening was darkened for him after that.