

### **A. Answers for the questions with reference to the context**

1.
  - a. The speaker is the poet Dilip Chitre. His father is being referred to as 'he'.
  - b. The sheoga, oudumber and neem trees were cut down. This was a crime because trees also have lives and this act was similar to killing a person. Moreover, cutting down trees is also harmful to the environment, making it an even more heinous act.
  - c. The poet's father had asked the tenants to leave and demolished most of the structures, except for their house and the banyan tree.
  - d. The speaker was attached to the trees he had grown up seeing. He did not think what his father did was correct.
2.
  - a. The banyan tree is being referred to as 'it'. The banyan tree was thrice as tall as the house of the speaker. It had a circumference of fifty feet and it also had long aerial roots that hung to the ground.
  - b. The banyan tree is compared to a problem. The figure of speech used is a simile. The tree was like a situation that presents some difficulty in being resolved. The banyan tree was not easy to cut down; therefore it is compared to a problem.
  - c. The woodcutters sawed off the branches over the period of almost one week. Then, fifty men came to chop the tree down. It was a very long process.
  - d. The insects and birds who lived on that banyan tree began to leave, when that felling began.
3.
  - a. The speaker uses the word 'terror' to indicate his fear at the merciless way in which the gigantic banyan tree was chopped down.  
'Fascination' indicates his awe at the strength and majesty of the tree, and the sheer effort required to cut it down.
  - b. The tree stump exposed to the world the age of the tree, two hundred years, as indicated by the rings on it.
  - c. The word 'raw' indicates the hard truth, or reality, just the way it is. The stump of the tree revealed the incredible age of the tree—two hundred years. It was so old that it was almost mythical, and the hard facts about its age was laid bare before them when the tree was chopped off.
  - d. The word 'great' suggests the special nature of the banyan tree.

4. a. The city of Bombay is being referred to here. The poet's family originally stayed in a house on a hill in Baroda.
- b. The poet refers to the tree he keeps seeing in his dreams. It is a vision of a tree seen in recurrent nightmares and not a real tree.
- c. The tree seems to be looking for ground to strike its roots, as if it wanted to take root once more. The image is of a banyan tree that seems to grow in size and vents its frustration at not being able to strike roots on safe ground.

### **B Ponder**

- . 1. Perhaps, the poet's father was emptying the premises before selling off the land or developing his property. Therefore, he asked the tenants to leave and had all the trees cut down.
2. Trees are givers of life as well. They too are living beings. Therefore, chopping down the tree is an act of violence. The words which suggest this are massacred, cut down, chopped and slaughter.
3. The speaker is a very sensitive person. The felling of the tree symbolises the end of an era for the poet, once where Nature played a prominent part in the lives of people. The poet regrets the loss of this life.
4. The poem sends out a subtle message that trees are inextricably linked to our survival. Killing them amounts to murder.