

Play
01

Heat Lightning

(Robert F. Carroll)

Words and Expressions

audience	— viewers; spectators	ناظرین۔ حاضرین
bare	— empty; unoccupied	خالی
casually	— carelessly; nonchalantly; indifferently	لا پرواہی سے، بے اعتنائی سے
deserted	— solitary; empty; uninhabited; desolate	سنسان۔ بے رونق
discarded	— waste; cast-off; unwanted; disposed of	بے کار۔ ردی
dishevelled	— untidy; messy	بکھرے ہوئے۔ خراب
drab	— dull; dreary	بے رونق۔ سنسان
faint	— lose consciousness; black out; pass out; collapse; swoon	بے ہوش ہونا
flash	— blaze; spark; flicker; burst	چمک
hum	— droning sound; drone; buzz	جھنجھناہٹ۔ مدھم سی آواز
identify	— recognize	پہچاننا
illuminate	— brighten; light up	روشن کرنا
lead	— clue; indication; hint	اشارہ۔ سراغ
muffled	— quiet; inaudible; hushed; stifled	گھٹی گھٹی، دبی دبی
nondescript	— dull; ordinary; unremarkable; uninteresting; uninspiring	عام سا، بے کش
overhanging	— pendulous; hanging	معلق، لٹکی ہوئی
pat	— stroke; touch; caress	پیار سے تھپتھپانا
peer	— look; gaze; stare; peep	دیکھنا
piercing	— intense; sharp; penetrating	تیز
rattle	— clatter; bang; crash; knock	بجنا، کھلکنا
rear	— back	عقب، پچھلا حصہ
scared	— terrified; frightened	خوفزدہ، سہا ہوا
shudder	— tremble; shiver	کانپنا
slam	— bang; close forcefully and noisily	زور سے بند کرنا
splash	— spatter; ripple; splatter	پانی کا چھپ چھپ کرنا، چھینٹے اڑنا
suspiciously	— distrustfully; apprehensively; doubtfully	بے اعتباری سے
viciously	— violently; badly; furiously; maliciously; disposed to evil	شدید، زور زور سے
smart	— clever; bright; intelligent; perceptive	چالاک، ہوشیار، ذہین

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Choose the correct synonym.

1. The **drab** interior of a bus station.
A) well-furnished B) dull
C) dark D) isolated
2. The drab interior of a bus station along a **deserted** highway somewhere in the Midwest.
A) fenced B) broad
C) busy D) desolate
3. I saw the **rear** light burning. (Board 2015)
A) back B) dim
C) middle D) minor
4. The room is lighted by an **overhanging** light with a dull green shade.
A) sharp B) penetrating
C) high D) pendulous
5. He moves to it and **peers** out the glass.
A) bangs B) peeps
C) slides D) pushes
6. He moves to the **schedule** on the wall and reads it.
A) fixture B) lesson
C) sheet D) timetable
7. He picks up a **discarded** newspaper that lies on the seat beside him.
A) fresh B) dreaded
C) wasted D) desired
8. He turns his attention once more to the paper and begins **going through** it.
A) reading B) proceeding
C) retreating D) enjoying
9. He begins to go through it **casually**.
A) minutely B) carelessly
C) repeatedly D) critically
10. She is **sobbing** and is out of breath. (Board 2018)
A) running B) stumbling
C) crying D) screaming
11. She is sobbing and is **out of breath**.
A) exhausted B) untidy
C) disheveled D) gasping
12. She throws her body against the door, **slamming** it.
A) knocking B) banging
C) bolting D) opening
13. Her hair is **dishevelled**.
A) sleek B) curly
C) wet D) untidy
14. Girl (**Hysterically**). Thank God! You're here!
A) frantically B) stunningly
C) quietly D) calmly
15. You're in a **terrible** state.
A) pleasant B) remarkable
C) very bad D) dangerous
16. The light **dims** slowly.
A) twinkles B) gleams
C) fades D) brightens
17. Now try to **calm** yourself.
A) strain B) enjoy
C) provoke D) compose
18. I must **get hold of** myself.
A) control B) exasperate
C) persuade D) grab
19. She breaks off and **glances** at the door again.
A) gleams B) looks
C) stares D) knocks
20. She **trembles** and glances at the door again.
A) sobs B) pauses
C) shivers D) shrieks
21. She **shudders** at her own thoughts.
A) trembles B) sneezes
C) snores D) giggles
22. I'm **scared**.
A) terrified B) bewildered
C) cherished D) encouraged
23. May be I **screamed**.
A) shuddered B) dodged
C) shrieked D) wailed
24. I was going to **faint**.
A) feint B) black out
C) weaken D) stammer
25. **Nevertheless** you've got to go to the police.
A) more or less B) still
C) probably D) although
26. You couldn't think of something that might give them a **lead**.
A) clue B) trial
C) case D) edge

27. They'll **probably** ask you something like....
 A) perhaps B) essentially
 C) invariably D) hardly
28. Your flashlight – for **instance**.
 A) advantage B) guidance
 C) stimulus D) example
29. Dry your eyes and **fix yourself up**.
 A) make yourself presentable
 B) confine yourself
 C) protect yourself
 D) examine yourself
30. You are too **upset** to even think any more about it.
 A) angry B) disturbed
 C) composed D) elated
31. There is a **brilliant** flash of lightning.
 A) dusky B) artful
 C) bright D) natural
32. There is a second flash of lightning **illuminating** the centre door.
 A) darkening B) eliminating
 C) striking D) brightening
33. The door **rattles** viciously.
 A) clatters B) shuts
 C) flickers D) rings
34. The door rattles **viciously**.
 A) gently B) inaudibly
 C) instantly D) violently
35. What's the **idea** of locking this door?
 A) reason B) doubt
 C) imagination D) anxiety
36. He is a **nondescript** sort of person.
 (Board 2010)
 A) distinctive B) intelligent
 C) clever D) uninspiring
37. The man puts his finger to his lip **conveying** silence.
 A) causing B) pretending
 C) keeping D) suggesting
38. I wasn't **conscious** of lying about anything.
 A) forgetful B) dazed
 C) guilty D) aware
39. I guess I'm **imagining** things.
 A) visualizing B) loading
 C) understanding D) risking
40. It's **pretty** late.
 A) pleasantly B) seldom
 C) quite D) too
41. I'll bet she's **smarter** than you are.
 A) cleverer B) weaker
 C) leaner D) politer
42. Noticing the Girl's **nervousness**.
 A) sensitiveness B) anxiety
 C) briskness D) calm
43. I'm in no particular **hurry**.
 A) suspicion B) situation
 C) haste D) lethargy
44. Has somebody been **bothering** you?
 A) troubling B) urging
 C) signalling D) following
45. The light dims slowly and **goes out**.
 A) dies B) closes
 C) twinkles D) leaves
46. The girl lets out a **muffled** cry.
 (Board 2008,10)
 A) loud B) suppressed
 C) sudden D) hysterical
47. Second Man **strolls** up toward the center door.
 A) drags B) peers
 C) slides D) walks
48. She moves away **suspiciously**.
 A) doubtfully B) stealthily
 C) angrily D) gently
49. I used to be afraid of it, when I was a kid, but I **got over** it.
 A) overcame B) climbed
 C) ascended D) risked
50. There is the **hum** of a motor.
 A) buzz B) beat
 C) horn D) pace
51. The girl looks **stunned**.
 A) beautiful B) dangerous
 C) confused D) delighted
52. **Backing away** from the Second Man.
 A) following B) retreating
 C) advancing D) threatening
53. The Second Man **exits** laughing.
 A) departs B) pursues
 C) ruminates D) enters
54. He was making such a **disturbance** out there.
 A) dubiousness B) inconvenience
 C) speculation D) drudgery
55. You'll have to get to the police **immediately**.
 A) reluctantly B) somehow
 C) straightaway D) ultimately
56. There'll be **routine** questions.
 A) further B) procedure
 C) investigative D) usual

57. The girl stares at it as the lightning crashes again.

- A) dims B) blasts
C) collapses D) wrecks

58. The piercing light of the flashlight is the only light.

- A) perverted B) dreary
C) penetrating D) emergency

59. The girl comes out to pat the dog.

- A) punch B) stroke
C) tickle D) strike

60. I could hear the water splashing under his feet.

(Board 2007)

- A) spattering B) trickling
C) flowing D) gushing

Answers

1. B	9. B	17. D	25. B	33. A	41. A	49. A	57. B
2. D	10. C	18. A	26. A	34. D	42. B	50. A	58. C
3. A	11. D	19. B	27. A	35. A	43. C	51. C	59. B
4. D	12. B	20. C	28. D	36. D	44. A	52. B	60. A
5. B	13. D	21. A	29. A	37. D	45. A	53. A	
6. D	14. A	22. A	30. B	38. D	46. B	54. B	
7. C	15. C	23. C	31. C	39. A	47. D	55. C	
8. A	16. C	24. B	32. D	40. C	48. A	56. D	

II. Choose the correct answer.

- The bus was late due to _____.
A) rush
B) storm
C) accident
D) change in schedule
- The girl was coming from _____.
A) a party B) tour
C) a hill station D) a station
- The girl was afraid of _____.
A) a policeman B) a friend
C) a killer D) a person
- She thought of reaching the house but _____.
A) the car broke down
B) the brakes failed
C) the car ran out of gas
D) the road was blocked
- She saw a man dragging out of his car _____.
A) the corpse of a woman
B) a sack
C) a statue
D) a dog
- Why did she circle round and round into the woods? (Board 2010)
A) to escape from the killer
B) to reach a safe place
C) to cheat a man
D) to save herself
- "You couldn't think of something that might give them a lead" means _____.
A) to find a culprit
B) to find a treasure
C) to persecute
D) to get a clue
- She saw in the flash of lightning _____.
A) a dog B) a bus
C) a car D) a man's face
- The difference in the age of the two men is of _____.
A) ten years B) five years
C) two years D) one year
- If people were smart they wouldn't be out _____.
A) on a day like this
B) on a holiday
C) on a tour
D) on a night like this
- How many benches were there in the bus-station?
A) one B) two
C) three D) four
- The bus schedule was hanging on the wall _____.
(A) up left (B) up right center
(C) down left center (D) down right

13. When the curtain rises the stage is _____.
A) bare B) open
C) dirty D) silent
14. The girl's hair is _____.
A) in curls B) muddy
C) wet D) dishevelled
15. The age of the girl is _____.
A) 21 B) 22
C) 23 D) 24
16. The girl could have stayed all night with _____.
A) her family B) other girls
C) her friends D) colleagues
17. The girl tells the first man that her home is _____.
A) five miles away B) six miles away
C) seven miles away D) eight miles
18. The girl _____ and locked the car.
A) took her flashlight
B) started running
C) ran to the bus-station
D) sat down
19. On seeing the dead body the girl was going to _____.
A) faint B) improve
C) grow D) cramp
20. The First Man advised the girl to see _____.
A) her family B) her best friends
C) the police D) the army
21. The face of the Second Man could be seen pressed against _____.
A) the window B) the door
C) the glass door D) the wall
22. The First Man looked to be the age of _____.
A) 25 years B) 30 years
C) 35 years D) 40 years
23. The Second Man looks to be of the age of _____.
A) 25 years B) 30 years
C) 35 years D) 40 years
24. The Second Man moves straight to _____.
A) the Girl B) the First Man
C) the bus schedule D) the bench
25. The Second Man accuses the first man of _____.
A) theft B) lying
C) discourtesy D) flirtation
26. The First Man says he has _____.
A) early business in town
B) lived near the bus-station
C) no relation with the Girl
D) to stay and wait
27. The Second Man tells the girl she will never get over being afraid of things if she won't _____.
A) understand them B) face them
C) avoid them D) try them
28. The dog comes to the bus-station _____.
A) to save itself from the storm
B) to bite Second Man
C) in search of food
D) chasing the killer
29. The dog seizes the First Man with its _____.
A) paws B) legs
C) nails D) teeth
30. In which condition does the girl enter the bus station? (Board 2007)
A) praying B) sobbing
C) gesturing D) running
31. The lightning _____ the light in the room. (Board 2018)
A) strengthens B) brightens
C) dims D) intensifies

Answers

1. B	5. A	9. B	13. A	17. D	21. C	25. B	29. D
2. A	6. A	10. D	14. D	18. A	22. C	26. A	30. B
3. C	7. D	11. B	15. C	19. A	23. B	27. B	31. C
4. C	8. D	12. B	16. C	20. C	24. C	28. A	

Questions from Textbook

Q.1 Why couldn't the Girl describe the killer?

(Board 2015)

Ans. It was a dark and stormy night with heavy downpour, which hampered clear vision. So, the girl could not see the killer properly. Moreover, she was awfully frightened, and she could not even recall what he looked like.

Q.2 What were the circumstances that forced the Girl to leave her car? (Board 2014,15,18)

OR

Why could not the Girl continue her travel in her own car?

(Board 2010)

Ans. She was driving a deserted highway in the middle of the night when her car ran out of gas. This forced her to leave it there and come for it later.

Q.3 Why did the Girl ask for help from First Man? OR

Why did the Girl consider First Man her helper?

(Board 2016)

Ans. She asked the First Man to help her because there was nobody else around. She was afraid of being chased by the killer. She told him the whole incident assuming that he would give her shelter from the killer.

Q.4 What was the condition of the weather when the Girl entered the bus station? OR

How was the weather like, when the play started? OR (Board 2007, 16,17,18,22)

Describe the atmosphere when the play starts.

Ans. It was a stormy night. There were flashes of lightning and crashes of thunder. The weather was violent and turbulent.

Q.5 How did the Second Man accuse the First Man of lying? (Board 2007, 08, 10,14,15,17)

Ans. The First Man tried to give the impression that there was nobody in that room except him. When the Second Man saw the girl, he accused the First Man of lying – deliberately concealing the presence of the girl.

Q.6 Does the Girl become suspicious of the First Man as the play progresses?

Ans. No, she does not. The First Man, with perfect suavity and caution, hid his identity and intention. It is only towards the end of the play that she comes to realize the sneaky situation when he takes out a flashlight – the flashlight she had dropped in terror at the crime scene.

Q.7 What is the Girl's impression about the Second Man? (Board 2018)

OR

Why did the Girl think ill of the Second Man?

(Board 2014)

Ans. The Girl was distrustful of the Second Man because he had entered the bus station after her and she had a vague notion that he might be the killer she was running from. What added to her distrust was his sly remarks, his too obvious interest in her situation, and his clumsy efforts to help her out.

Q.8 Why did the Girl not accompany the Second Man? (Board 2008, 10)

OR

Why did the Girl decline the Second Man's offer to go with him on board the bus?

(Board 2015)

Ans. The Girl refused to accompany the Second Man because she thought he was the killer she was running from. She was also prompted by the First Man not to go on board with him.

Additional Questions

Q.9 What is the scene of the play "Heat Lightning"?

(Board 2007)

Ans. The play takes place in the dull, drab interior of a bus station along a deserted highway. It is stormy outside with crashes of thunder and flashes of lightning.

- Q.10 What did the Girl see when she reached near the car?** (Board 2007,17)
Ans. She saw a man pulling out of his car a woman's dead body. She saw her hands and long hair being dragged in the mud.
- Q.11 What was the appearance of the Second Man?** (Board 2007)
Ans. The Second Man was a nondescript sort of man. He was tall, nice looking and about 30 years of age. His too obvious efforts to help the girl made her suspicious of him.
- Q.12 How did the girl recognize the First Man to be the murderer?** (Board 2007, 2010)
Ans. She recognized the First Man to be the murderer when he took a flashlight out of his pocket. It was her flashlight which she had dropped in terror on seeing the killer.
- Q.13 What was the man dragging out of the car?** (Board 2008)
Ans. The man was dragging out of his car a woman's dead body. In the flash of lightning, the Girl saw her head. Her long light hair was being dragged in the mud.
- Q.14 Why was the Girl afraid to tell the details of the incident? OR Why did the Girl not want to go to the Police?** (Board 2008) (Board 2016)
Ans. The girl thought that the killer was still after her. Horrified and terror-stricken, she was unable to recall the details of the incident. She was afraid that she would not be able to answer the meticulously investigative questions usually asked by the police.
- Q.15 Why did the Girl circle round and round in the woods?** (Board 2008)
Ans. The Girl circled round and round in the woods in a desperate effort to dodge the killer and escape from him.
- Q.16 What is the condition of the Girl when she enters the bus-station?**
Ans. The Girl is in a terrible state. She is sobbing. Her hair is dishevelled and her clothes are wet and muddy. She is crazed with fear of the killer.
- Q.17 What routine questions are expected from the police?**
Ans. The police might ask questions like whether the killer was wearing a hat. How was he dressed? Was he tall? Was he short? etc.
- Q.18 What is the role of the dog in the play?**
Ans. The role of the dog is significant in saving the girl from the hands of the killer. It seizes the man with its sharp teeth and forces him to run away.
- Q.19 Draw a character sketch of the First Man.**
Ans. He is a pleasant looking man of about 35. He very cleverly wins the trust of the girl so that she looks upon him as her saviour. He does not reveal his identity and intention until the end of the play.
- Q.20 What is the significance of the Fourth of July?**
Ans. The Fourth of July is the Independence Day of America. The day is celebrated with lots of fireworks. A flash of lightning, according to the Second Man, reminds one of the illuminations and brilliance of the Independence Day celebrations.
- Q.21 What does the Second Man suggest to overcome fear?**
Ans. Fear, according to the Second Man, can only be overcome by facing the things one is afraid of. He suggests that she can get rid of her nervousness only if she can come to grips with fear and fright.
- Q.22 What is the significance of the storm in "Heat Lightning"?** (Board 2015)
Ans. The storm echoes the Girl's inner feelings of horror. The recurring crashes of thunder and flashes of lightning represent the waves of horror running in her heart. Moreover, the raging storm increases the dramatic effect and adds to the horror and suspense of the story.

Q.23 How did the girl escape from the killer?

(Board 2017)

Ans. When the First Man tried to seize her, she ran up to the centre door and pulled at it. She bolted the door before the man came near her. At that time, a dog came there by chance. The dog jumped and seized the man with its sharp teeth and thus she succeeded in escaping.

Q.24 What type of person was the Second Man?

(Lahore Board 2019)

Ans. The Second Man happened to be an officious sort of person. His worried and hurried manner, curious looks and inquisitive questions made him a suspect. Otherwise, he was just a passenger who came to the bus station for taking a bus and to seek shelter from the stormy weather.

Q.25 Why did the Girl not become suspicious of the First Man as the play progresses?

(Lahore Board 2019)

Ans. The First Man dissembled his identity and intentions perfectly. He asked her to go and report the matter to the police. He took the girl into confidence and assured her of his help. She did not feel suspicious of him but rather looked upon him as her saviour.

Q.26 Describe the scene of the play "Heat Lightning".

(Lahore Board 2019)

Ans. The play takes place in the drab interior of a bus station along a deserted highway. The room is lighted by an overhanging light with a dull green shade. There are two long benches, a door up center and two doors – up left and down left. A bus schedule hangs on the wall.

Q. 27 What did the Girl tell the First Man at the bus station?

(Board 2022)

Ans. She told him her frightening experience of having just witnessed a murder on the highway. She said her car ran out of fuel. She locked the car and started walking down the road. As she walked along, she saw a man who was pulling a dead body out of a car. She ran away but the killer followed her. At last, she reached the bus station.

Q.28 Why did the Girl go to the bus station?

(Board 2022)

Ans. Mad with fear, she ran crazily to escape from the killer. Thinking that the bus station is a public place, and that she might find someone there who could help her, she went to the bus station. It was the only safe shelter nearby.