

Words and Expressions

acrid	– pungent; unpleasant; bitter	ناخوشگوار۔ تیز و تلخ
advance	– move forward; proceed	آگے بڑھنا
blazing	– burning; shining	چمکنا۔ دھمنا
blot out	– hide; conceal; obscure; darken	دھندلا کر دینا۔ چھپا دینا
clamour	– noise; uproar; clang	شور
clotted	– loaded; filled; covered; crowded; teeming	بھرے ہوئے۔ اٹے ہوئے
crack	– a sharp, snapping sound	ترانخ کی آواز
crisis	– emergency; disaster; catastrophe; calamity	مصیبت، آفت، ہنگامی صورتحال
dense	– thick; packed; compact	گھنا
devastated	– severely damaged; desolate; ruined; destroyed	تباہ شدہ
distorted	– twisted; deformed; unnatural	جکڑی ہوئی۔ خراب۔ غیر فطری
drift	– float; move lightly and effortlessly; flow	حرکت کرنا۔ اکٹھا ہونا۔ بہنا
emphatically	– forcefully; vigorously	پر زور انداز میں
film	– layer; coating; sheet	تہہ
gong	– alarm; a metal plate; warning bell	گھنٹہ۔ الارم
hail	– storm; shower; rain	طوفان۔ بارش
imminent	– about to happen; threatening; impending	منڈلاتا ہوا، متوقع
mangled	– damaged; ruined; destroyed; crushed	تباہ شدہ۔ برباد شدہ
mealies	– ear of corn; maize; corn on the cob	مکی کا بھجھ۔ خوشہ
myriad	– lots; multitude; host	بہت بڑی تعداد
onrush	– flood; a forward rush or push; wave; surge; rush; storm	سیلاب۔ ریلا
overlook	– ignore; miss; skip; pass over	نظر انداز کرنا۔ آگے گزر جانا
perverted	– distorted; twisted; changed; unnatural	مسخ شدہ۔ خراب، غیر فطری
pile	– heap; mass; stack	ڈھیر، انبار
queer	– strange; unusual	عجیب
ruin	– total destruction or disintegration; wreckage	تباہی۔ کھنڈر
snapped	– break with a sharp, cracking sound	ترانخ سے ٹوٹنا

streak	– strip; band; flash
survive	– stay alive; outlive
swarm	– a large group of insects; group
swell	– become larger; increase; spread
veldt	– a broad high grassland; grassland
whiz	– move with a humming noise; hum, buzz
yell	– shout loudly; holler; shout

دھاری۔ پٹی
زندہ بچ جانا
ہجوم۔ غول
بڑھنا۔ پھیلنا
گھاس کا میدان
زنائے سے گزرنا۔ بھنبھناتے ہوئے
چلانا۔ زور سے آواز دینا

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Choose the correct synonym.

- They all stood and gazed.
A) wondered B) stared
C) waited D) thought
- Over the rocky levels of the mountain was a streak of rust-coloured air.
A) heights B) plains
C) passes D) slopes
- Over the rocky levels of the mountain was a streak of rust-coloured air.
A) mass B) cloud
C) sign D) strip
- Over the rocky levels of the mountain was a streak of rust-coloured air.
A) reddish brown B) pitch black
C) yellow-coloured D) clear blue
- Old Stephen yelled at the houseboy.
A) sneered B) ordered
C) shouted D) gazed
- The cook boy ran to beat the old ploughshare.
A) plough blade B) tin can
C) iron rod D) metal plate
- The old ploughshare was used to summon the labourers.
A) suppose B) call
C) direct D) pour out
- The old ploughshare was used to summon the labourers at moments of crisis.
A) cultivation B) harvest
C) war D) emergency
- The farm was ringing with the clamour of the gong.
A) resounding B) sinking
C) pouring D) receding
- The farm was ringing with the clamour of the gong. (Board 2018)
A) intensity B) ploughshare
C) clang D) hollowness
- The farm was ringing with the clamour of the gong.
A) swarm B) call
C) locusts D) alarm
- They could see the labourers come pouring out.
A) pretending B) streaming out
C) yelling loudly D) withdrawing
- They could see the labourers come pouring out of the compound.
A) area B) courtyard
C) farmland D) countryside
- Piles of wood and grass had been prepared there.
A) branches B) trunks
C) pillars D) heaps
- There were seven patches of bared soil.
A) pieces B) particles
C) clumps D) measures
- There were seven patches of bared soil.
A) brown B) cleared
C) mangled D) blotted

17. ... where the mealies were just showing.
A) insects B) flowers
C) ears of corn D) mushrooms
18. And around each drifted up thick clouds of smoke.
A) diminished B) cleared
C) floated D) thinned
19. They were throwing wet leaves on to the fires to make it acrid.
A) pleasant B) pungent
C) hot D) heavy
20. Now there was a long low cloud dvancing.
A) adding up B) going back
C) moving forward D) leaving
21. The long low cloud was swelling forward.
A) slowing B) stumbling
C) spreading D) retreating
22. Every farmer hoped the locusts would overlook his farm.
A) snap off B) wipe out
C) pass over D) cover
23. The smoke was rising from myriads of fires.
A) lots B) piles
C) blackness D) sprinkling
24. A strange darkness, for the sun was blazing.
A) rising B) burning
C) setting D) blinking
25. It was like the darkness of a veldt fire.
A) burning B) myriad
C) perverted D) grassland
26. The sun-light comes down distorted.
(Board 2010, 2015)
A) clearly B) difficult
C) dangerously D) twisted
27. Oppressive it was, too, with the heaviness of a storm.
A) unbearable B) distorted
C) sudden D) clotted
28. The reddish veils in front were the advance guards of the swarm.
a) covers B) hues
c) insects D) light
29. The reddish veils in front were the advance guards of the swarm.
A) mealies B) group
C) cloud D) folk
30. The main swarm showed in dense black cloud.
A) thin B) advancing
C) dark D) thick
31. It's thirsty work, this.
A) easy B) interesting
C) painstaking D) lengthy
32. All the trees were queer and still.
A) strange B) familiar
C) quiet D) old
33. All the trees were queer and still.
A) leaning B) yet
C) motionless D) heavy
34. All the trees were clotted with insects.
A) clear B) loaded
C) bent D) whizzing
35. Locusts crawling everywhere.
A) swelling B) creeping
C) hopping D) advancing
36. Toward the mountains it was like looking into driving rain.
A) light B) dark
C) falling D) stopping
37. The sun was blotted out with a fresh onrush of them.
A) exposed B) darkened
C) clotted D) blazing
38. The sun was blotted out with a fresh onrush of them.
A) crawling B) withdrawal
C) blackness D) surge
39. It was a half-night, a perverted blackness.
A) unnatural B) pure
C) nocturnal D) reddish
40. A branch had snapped off.
A) grown up B) broken down
C) bent down D) shown off
41. A tree down the slope leaned over.
A) broke away B) bent down
C) rolled down D) straightened up
42. Through the hail of insects a man came running.
A) storm B) veil
C) streak D) settlement
43. They are looking for a place to settle.
A) searching for B) appearing from
C) gazing at D) heading towards

44. He picked a stray locust off his shirt.
A) wandering b) staying 11610044
C) flying D) heavy
45. You ever saw a hopper swarm on the march?
A) declining B) fielding
C) moving D) buzzing
46. And the old man said emphatically.
A) tearfully B) enquiringly
C) fearfully D) forcefully
47. This swarm may pass over.
A) die B) move ahead
C) multiply D) eat up
48. ...with a pattern of insects whizzing this way and that.
A) crawling B) buzzing
C) settling D) laying
49. Everything was gone under the moving brown masses.
A) ground B) branches
C) locusts D) leaves
50. But Margaret preferred not even to think of them.
A) worried B) managed
C) protested D) chose
51. They hoped it would rain to spring some new grass.
A) jump B) grow
C) separate D) wet
52. She was trying to get used to the idea of three or four years of locusts.
A) averse B) accustomed
C) experienced D) prone
53. Locusts were going to be like bad weather, from now on, always imminent.
A) well-known B) devastating
C) dangerous D) threatening
54. She felt like a survivor after war.
A) wounded person B) saved one
C) conqueror D) loser
55. If this devastated and mangled countryside was not ruin...
A) dangerous B) large
C) disturbed D) destroyed
56. If this devastated and mangled countryside was not a ruin...
A) mixed B) replanted
C) damaged D) blotted
57. The men ate their supper with good appetites.
A) appearance B) intention
C) relish D) manner

Answers

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

II. Choose the correct answer.

1. Why did the cook boy run?
A) to kill the insects
B) to summon the labourers
C) to inform the landlady
D) to see the locusts
2. Why did the houseboy run off to the store?
A) to shut the door
B) to cover the store
C) to collect any bit of metal
D) to burn fire
3. Why did they throw wet leaves on to the fire?
A) to make the smoke acrid and black
B) to extinguish the fire
C) to burn the leaves
D) to burn the insects
4. "And they neither went bankrupt nor got very rich" means that they were _____.
A) hand to mouth
B) just pulling on their lives
C) enjoying a moderate living
D) penniless
5. How did the locusts attack the crops?
A) one by one B) in groups
C) in swarms D) in formations
6. Why did the people beat the tin cans?
A) to let the insects enjoy music
B) to keep the insects away
C) to kill the insects
D) to fill the cans with insects
7. What did the farmers do at the time of attack?
A) They ran away from the place.
B) They took precautionary measures to keep the locusts away.
C) They covered their crops.
D) They shut themselves in their house.
8. Locusts attack in the area of _____.
A) one kilometer
B) ten kilometers
C) fifty kilometers
D) a hundred kilometers
9. What made the boughs of trees weighed to the ground? 11610066
A) fruits B) locusts
C) birds D) wind storm
10. How did the land look after the locusts had landed?
A) all green B) barren
C) beautiful D) devastated
11. The old ploughshare was used to summon labourer at the moments of _____.
A) attack B) harvest
C) rejoicings D) crisis
12. "We are finished, Margaret, finished," said _____.
A) old Smith B) Margaret
C) old Stephen D) Richard
13. How many patches of bared soil did the farmers prepare?
A) seven B) eight
C) nine D) ten
14. The man split down the stray locust with his _____.
A) pocketknife B) a cutting tool
C) thumbnail D) a ploughshare
15. Margaret was trying to get used to the idea of _____.
A) a devastated landscape
B) locusts crawling everywhere
C) four or five years of locusts
D) three or four years of locusts
16. The earth seemed to be moving because _____.
A) the hoppers were on the march
B) locusts were crawling everywhere
C) locusts were laying eggs
D) thick clouds of smoke were drifting about
17. Everywhere, fifty miles of countryside, the smoke was rising from _____.
A) myriads of fires
B) a perverted blackness
C) seven patches of bared soil
D) a film of bright green
18. The reddish veils in front were _____.
A) the main swarm of locusts 11610075
B) hoppers
C) a fresh onrush of locusts
D) the advance guards of locusts

19. The main swarm of locusts showed in _____.
 A) dense black clouds
 B) reddish veils
 C) a film of bright green
 D) a veldt fire
20. Once locusts have started coming, they might go on for _____.
 A) two or three years
 B) five or six years
 C) six or seven years
 D) seven or eight years
21. Locusts were going to be like bad weather, from now on, always _____.
 A) swarming
 B) imminent
 C) eminent
 D) multiplying
22. After the locusts had devastated the farmlands, the farmers hoped it would _____.
 A) rain soon
 B) be clear
 C) end the locusts forever
 D) be better for crops
23. The men ate their supper with good appetites, thinking that _____.
 A) it was a thirsty work
 B) it could have been much worse
 C) it would rain soon
 D) everything was to be replanted
24. Even after locusts had settled, the men continued with precautionary measures because _____.
 A) they had lost their good sense
 B) the advance guards were not settling
 C) the sun was blotted out
 D) because the main swarm was not settling
25. The author of "A Mild Attack of Locusts" is _____.
 A) Doris Lessing
 B) O Henry
 C) Guy De Maupassant
 D) Richard Matheson

Answers

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

Questions from the Textbook

Q.1 What are locusts?

Ans. Locusts are large insects that live in hot countries. They fly in large groups and can destroy all the plants and crops of an area.

Q.2 Why did the farmers throw wet leaves on the fire?

Ans. They threw wet leaves on the fire to make it acrid and black. They wanted to keep the locusts away from their farms.

Q.3 What was the desire of every farmer?

(Board 2010)

OR

What did every farmer hope for when the locusts were approaching the fields?

Ans. Every farmer hoped that the locusts might overlook his farm and go on to the next one. At the same time, they were fair enough to warn one another of the danger.

Q.4 Did Margaret know what to do to keep the locusts away?

Ans. No, she did not know what to do to keep the locusts away. She just stood and gazed at the onrush of locusts.

Q.5 What was the condition of the trees?

Ans. All the trees looked queer and still. They were clotted with insects. Their boughs weighed to the ground due to the weight of the insects.

Q.6 How did old Stephen treat the stray locust which he found on his shirt?

Ans. He picked the stray locust off his shirt and split it down with his thumbnail. It was clotted inside with eggs. He asked Margaret to imagine the number of those eggs multiplied by millions.

Q.7 Are hoppers different from the locusts?

Ans. Hoppers are young locusts – the immature form of locusts. They are as destructive for crops as locusts.

Q.8 Did Margaret lose heart on the loss of crops?

Ans. She was very sad, but she did not lose heart. She tried to get used to the idea of three or four years of locusts. She felt like a survivor after the war.

Q.9 Why are locusts compared to bad weather?

(Board 2017)

Ans. Locusts are compared to bad weather because both of them can strike any time. Both are equally destructive to crops.

Q.10 Why did the men eat their supper with good appetites?

Ans. The men consoled themselves by saying that things could have been much worse. So they ate their supper with good appetites. They prepared themselves to replant their farms.

Additional Questions

Q.11 Who were giving orders to the labourers and what for?

Ans. Richard and old Stephen were asking the labourers to hurry on to the fields to make enough fire and noise to keep the locusts away from their fields.

Q.12 Describe the settling down of the locusts?

Ans. When the locusts settled down, the trees, buildings, bushes, earth – all went under thick swarm. The trees looked still and their boughs bent down.

Q.13 How did the farmers try to fight the locusts? OR What efforts did the farmers make to prevent the swarm from landing on their crops?

(Board 2018)

Ans. They lit fires and threw wet leaves on them to make the smoke acrid and black. They also made noise by beating tin cans and any old bits of metal.

Q.14 What was the scene in the evening amid locusts?

(Board 2007)

Ans. The air was no longer black and thick, but a clear blue with a pattern of insects whizzing across the sky. Everything else – trees, buildings, bushes, earth – was gone under the moving brown masses.

Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

look look there they are out ran margaret to join them looking at the hills out came the servants from the kitchen they all stood and gazed

Solved:

"Look, look there they are!" Out ran Margaret to join them, looking at the hills. Out came the servants from the kitchen. They all stood and gazed.

2) **Unsolved:**

margaret was wondering what she could do to help she did not know then up came old stephen from the lands were finished margaret finished

Solved:

Margaret was wondering what she could do to help. She did not know. Then up came old Stephen from the lands. "We're finished, Margaret, finished!"

3) **Unsolved:**

and it is only early afternoon if we can make enough smoke make enough noise till the sun goes down they'll settle somewhere else perhaps and then get the kettle going its thirsty work this

Solved:

"And it is only early afternoon-if we can make enough smoke, make enough noise till the sun goes down, they'll settle somewhere else perhaps....." And then: "Get the kettle going. It's thirsty work this."

4) **Unsolved:**

(Board 2012)

all the crops finished nothing left he said but the gongs were still beating the men still shouting and Margaret asked why do you go on with it then.

Solved:

"All the crops finished. Nothing left," he said. But the gongs were still beating, the men still shouting, and Margaret asked: "Why do you go on with it, then?"

5) **Unsolved:**

is it very bad asked Margaret fearfully and the old man said emphatically we're finished this swarm may pass over but once they've started they'll be coming down from the north now one after another

Solved:

"Is it very bad?" asked Margaret fearfully, and the old man said emphatically: "We're finished. This swarm may pass over, but once they've started, they'll be coming down from the North now one after another."

6) **Unsolved:**

for the Lord's sake said Margaret angrily still half crying what's here is bad enough isn't it

Solved:

"For the Lord's sake," said Margaret angrily, still half-crying, "what's here is bad enough, isn't it?"

7) **Unsolved:**

for although the evening air was no longer black and thick but a clear blue with a pattern of insects whizzing this way and that across it everything else trees buildings bushes earth was gone under the moving brown masses

Solved:

For although the evening air was no longer black and thick, but a clear blue, with a pattern of insects whizzing this way and that across it, everything else – trees, buildings, bushes, earth – was gone under the moving brown masses.