

## Words and Expressions

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| arouse                         | – awaken; excite; stimulate  | جگانا۔ بیدار کرنا                            |
| abruptly                       | – steeply; precipitately; very suddenly and not expectedly                       | اچانک  |
| bandana                        | – a large handkerchief   | بڑا رومال                                    |
| bluff                          | – cliff; with a broad face   | سیدھے ڈھال کی چٹان                           |
| bough                          | – a large main branch of a tree; limb; branch                                    | شاخ  |
| brace                          | – support or hold steady; prop   | سہارا دینا                                   |
| brag                           | – boast; talk with too much pride  | فخر کرنا                                     |
| clearing                       | – open space in the forest; patch  | جنگل میں کاشت کے لیے صاف کیا ہوا علاقہ۔ کھیت |
| crawl                          | – move very slowly; work very slowly; creep                                      | آہستہ آہستہ چلنا                             |
| curtly                         | – tersely; bluntly; rudely or briefly  | محقر۔ روکھے پن سے                            |
| with the exception of – except |  | سوائے  |
| fertile                        | – rich; productive   | ذرخیز  |
| flat                           | – a large stretch of level ground  | ہموار زمین                                   |
| fondle                         | – caress; stroke lovingly  | پیار سے تھپتھپانا                            |
| furrow                         | – a long narrow cut in the ground made by a plough                               | کھیت میں بل سے بننے والی نالی یا لکیر        |
| gradually                      | – steadily; slowly   | بتدریج۔ رفتہ رفتہ                            |
| hay                            | – fodder, grass or other plants used as fodder                                   | چارہ   |
| loam                           | – high-quality earth that is a mixture of sand, clay and decaying plant material | پتوں کی کھاد ملی مٹی                         |
| lumber                         | – timber   | لکڑی کے لٹھے                                 |
| meadow                         | – grassland; grassy field  | سبزہ زار                                     |
| motion                         | – signal; gesture ; wave   | اشارہ کرنا                                   |
| pasture                        | – grass-covered land used for grazing livestock; grazing land                    | سبزہ زار۔ چراگاہ                             |
| patch                          | – a small growing area   | چھوٹا سا کھیت                                |
| protest                        | – oppose; complain or object   | شکایت یا اعتراض کرنا                         |
| rim                            | – edge; border; circumference; circle  | گھیرا۔ دائرہ۔ کنارہ                          |
| rugged                         | – uneven; rough  | نامووار                                      |
| sapling                        | – a young tree; young plant  | ننھا درخت                                    |
| saw                            | – cut using a saw: cut   | آرے یا آری سے چیرنا یا کاٹنا                 |

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| score      | - a group of twenty   | بیس  |
| shock      | - sheaves of drying grain or corn                                   | مکئی کے ڈنٹھلوں کا سرے جوڑ کر بنایا ہوا گٹھا |
| sift       | - filter; scatter; sieve  | بکھیرنا، چھاننا                              |
| stalwart   | - sturdy; strong  | مضبوط۔ توانا                                 |
| steep      | - sloping sharply; sheer; sharp                                     | عمودی۔ سیدھی                                 |
| sting      | - prick; itch   | چبھن یا خراش پیدا کرنا                       |
| whiff      | - inhale; smell   | سوگھنا۔ سانس کے ساتھ اندر کھینچنا            |
| wilderness | - natural uncultivated land; jungle                                 | جنگل   |
| wind       | - twist   | گھوم کر یا پکڑ کر کھا کر جانا                |
| wink       | - blink; gesture by closing one eye briefly                         | آنکھ مار کے اشارہ کرنا                       |
| wisp       | - tuft, a bundle, especially of hay or straw: strand; tendril; lock | گھاس پھوس وغیرہ کی پوٹی یا مٹھا              |

## Multiple Choice Questions

### I. Choose the correct synonym.

- "This is the way, Jess," said my father pointing with his cane across the deep valley.  
A) leaning B) sharpening  
C) indicating D) bracing
- I wiped the streams of sweat from my face to keep them from stinging my eyes.  
A) possess B) prevent  
C) have D) continue
- I wiped the streams of sweat from my face to keep them from stinging my eyes.  
A) soothing B) pricking  
C) entering D) wetting
- There were two slips in the road and I couldn't drive my car.  
A) landslides B) cuts  
C) slippery surfaces D) cracks
- He had lived to raise a family of five children.  
A) increase B) make  
C) bring up D) control
- I could not protest to him now.  
A) favour B) oppose  
C) please D) punish
- When he made up his mind to do a thing, he would do it if he had to crawl.  
A) move stealthily B) work very slowly  
C) stagger D) endeavour
- I followed him down the little path between the pasture and the meadow.  
A) steep slope B) valley  
C) grassland D) alfalfa
- He took his pocket knife from his pocket, and cut a wisp of alfalfa.  
A) row B) tuft  
C) hay D) leaf
- He took his pocket knife from his pocket, and cut a wisp of alfalfa.  
A) maize B) wheat  
C) fodder D) grams
- "Look at this, Jess!" he bragged.  
A) exclaimed B) boasted  
C) called D) uttered
- "It's the best looking hay I've seen any place," I said.  
A) patch B) slope  
C) stems D) fodder



13. And in October when the rabbits were ripe and the frosts had come...  
A) full-grown                      B) productive  
C) playful                         D) plentiful
14. He looked at me with his pale blue eyes.  
A) light                              B) dark  
C) yellow                          D) shining
15. He began to climb the second bluff.  
A) path                               B) cliff  
C) rim                                D) furrow
16. He began to climb the second bluff that lifted abruptly toward the sky.  
A) gradually                       B) gently  
C) windingly                      D) steeply
17. The fingers of their long boughs were fondling the substance of a white cloud.  
A) caressing                       B) hiding  
C) peeping                         D) covering
18. I had never seen anything extraordinary upon this high point of rugged land.  
A) level                               B) smooth  
C) rough                             D) grassy
19. Several paths circled around the slope gradually climbing the mountain.  
A) abruptly                        B) steadily  
C) occasionally                  D) vastly
20. It was too steep for my feet to hold unless I braced myself.  
A) supported                       B) aroused  
C) urged                             D) resolved
21. I managed to stand on the path by holding on to a little sapling.  
A) fence                             B) young plant  
C) edge                               D) steep rock
22. It was too steep for my feet to hold unless I braced myself. (Board 2009)  
A) high                               B) zig-zag  
C) long                               D) vertical
23. My curiosity was aroused. (Board 2007)  
A) despair                          B) eagerness  
C) anger                             D) joy
24. My curiosity was aroused.  
A) satisfied                         B) dulled  
C) weakened                       D) awakened
25. I thought he had found a new kind of grass, or an unfamiliar herb.  
A) strange                          B) common  
C) uncultivated                   D) wild
26. We reached the limbless trunks of these tall straight pines.  
A) branchless                      B) huge  
C) stalwart                          D) slim
27. I saw a clearing in the heart of this wilderness right on the mountain top.  
A) valley                             B) jungle  
C) patch                              D) rugged land
28. "Stray cattle if they ever get out of the pasture," he answered me curtly.  
A) wandering                       B) fleshy  
C) sick                                D) strong
29. "Stray cattle if they ever get out of the pasture," he answered me curtly.  
A) level ground                    B) rugged land  
C) fenced farm                    D) grazing land
30. "Stray cattle if they ever get out of the pasture," he answered me curtly.  
A) softly                             B) joyfully  
C) politely                          D) tersely
31. He whiffed and whiffed the smell of this wild dirt into his nostrils.  
A) inhaled                          B) exhaled  
C) pricked                          D) spread
32. "I don't see a weed in this patch," I laughed.  
A) furrow                            B) wild plant  
C) limbless trunk                  D) bush
33. There was a rim of shadow over the rows of dark stalwart plants.  
A) lot                                 B) square  
C) mass                               D) circle
34. There was a rim of shadow over the rows of dark stalwart plants.  
A) strong                            B) delicate  
C) straight                          D) limbless
35. "If the doctors have been right," he said, winking at me, "I've cheated death many times!"  
A) staring                            B) yelling  
C) looking                           D) blinking
36. He wiped the sweat from his red wrinkled face with his blue bandana.  
A) large handkerchief            B) hem  
C) headdress                       D) muffler
37. "And something else, Jess," he said, motioning for me to follow him to the upper edge of the clearing.



- A) signaling B) moving  
C) bragging D) bracing
38. And when you live on that kind of time, then something goes back.  
A) expect B) relive  
C) remember D) spend
39. And we raised more than a barrel of corn to the shock.  
A) grew B) thinned  
C) ploughed D) prepared
40. And we raised more than a barrel of corn to the shock.  
A) tin container B) bundle  
C) basket D) ton
41. "And, Jess, "he bragged, "regardless of my threescore years and ten, I ploughed it."  
A) in addition to B) because of  
C) irrespective of D) in view of
42. I brought my gun to the field and took home a mess of fox squirrels every evening.  
A) a lot of B) a small amount of  
C) a handful of D) a new breed of
43. Many of the trees were big enough to have sawed into lumber at the mill.  
A) converted B) cut  
C) used D) raised
44. Many of the trees were big enough to have sawed into lumber at the mill.  
A) stumps B) timber  
C) pack D) firewood
45. Many of the trees were sixty feet tall and the wild vines had matted their tops together.  
A) drooped B) thinned  
C) separated D) interwoven
46. I had to go back. I had to smell this rich loam again.  
A) dilapidated B) muddy  
C) natural D) fertile
47. "I had to go back. I had to smell this rich loam again."  
A) soil B) fodder  
C) hay D) wisp
48. I had to smell it, sift it through my fingers again.  
A) whiff B) compact  
C) filter D) saturate
49. I had been over this point many times.  
A) dot B) spot  
C) mountain D) valley
50. I followed him down the path that wound this way and that.  
A) twisted B) straightened  
C) descended D) climbed
51. Jess saw many species of hard and soft wood trees.  
A) trunks B) leaves  
C) branches D) kinds
52. I wiped the streams of sweat from my face.  
A) currents B) streaks  
C) gallants D) gadgets
53. Look at this fertile land we have in the valley.  
A) Barren B) Productive  
C) Unproductive D) Waste
54. Twice did my father stop to wipe the sweat.  
A) smell B) wash  
C) rub away D) see (Board 2018)

## Answers

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



**II. Choose the correct answer.**

1. What did the old man want to show his son?  
A) his farm                      B) his land  
C) a patch of clearing      D) a river
2. What was the weather when Jess went with his father?  
A) It was cloudy.              B) It was hot.  
C) It was pleasant.          D) It was cold.
3. How many years ago did the doctor advise the old man to take rest?  
A) ten years                      B) twenty years  
C) thirty years                  D) forty years
4. How many children Jess's father had?  
A) three                          B) eight  
C) five                              D) one
5. What did the old man cut with his pocket knife?  
A) a sapling                      B) green fodder  
C) a wisp of alfalfa          D) green grass
6. In how many years did the old man improve the land?  
A) three years                      B) twenty years  
C) thirty years                  D) forty years
7. Why did the old man hunt the squirrels?  
A) to sell  
B) to save crops  
C) for fun  
D) for meal
8. How many times, had the old man been told by the doctors to go home?  
A) 20 times                      B) 30 times  
C) 40 times                      D) many a time
9. The clearing on the top was not more than \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) two acres  
B) three acres  
C) four acres  
D) three-fourth of an are
10. The land was fenced by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) the son  
B) the mother  
C) the father  
D) the old man and his wife
11. Jess didn't want to go with his father because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) He had already walked half a mile uphill.  
B) He didn't like his company.  
C) He didn't like mountains.  
D) He was pre-occupied.
12. What was the temperature when the old man wanted his son to go with him up the mountain?  
A) 92 in the shade              B) 95 in the shade  
C) 96 in the shade              D) 97 in the shade
13. Jess's father remembered sitting under \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) pines                              B) oaks  
C) hickories                      D) cool shades
14. The old man fenced the land against \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) wild animals                  B) prowlers  
C) wanderers                      D) stray cattle
15. The old man climbed the mountain to raise \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) potatoes, onions and tomatoes  
B) potatoes, yams and tomatoes  
C) all kinds of vegetables  
D) corn and alfalfa
16. What was the age of the old man (Jess's father)?  
A) 50 years                          B) 60 years  
C) 65 years                          D) 70 years
17. Where did the boy lose his little plough?  
A) in a furrow                      B) in the field  
C) in the bush                      D) in the mud
18. When Jess's father made up his mind to do a thing, he would do it even if he had to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) suffer a loss                      B) struggle a lot  
C) crawl                              D) run
19. Many of the trees were \_\_\_\_\_ and the wild vines had matted their tops together. 11602074  
A) forty feet tall                  B) fifty feet tall  
C) sixty feet tall                  D) several feet
20. From January until April, Jess's father had gone to \_\_\_\_\_ different doctors.  
A) five                                  B) eight  
C) twelve                              D) twenty
21. According to Jess's father the morning wind was so good to breathe in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) January                          B) February  
C) October                          D) August
22. One of the doctors advised the old man \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) not to work in fields  
B) not to walk the length of a city block  
C) not to go up the mountain  
D) to rise early



23. The writer had not seen anything \_\_\_\_\_ upon this high point of the rugged land.

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- A) familiar                      B) extraordinary  
C) valuable                      D) fertile

24. While climbing the second steep bluff, how many times did the old man stop to wipe the sweat from his face?

- A) only once                      B) only twice  
C) many times                      D) never

25. The writer could not drive his car because

- A) he was too tired  
B) the road was too steep  
C) there were two slips on the road  
D) the road was muddy

26. When his father brought the boy to the field, the boy was \_\_\_\_\_.

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- A) four years old                      B) five years old  
C) six years old                      D) seven years old

27. The old man had made so many paths up the mountain \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) to enjoy climbing

- B) to test his fitness  
C) to facilitate climbers  
D) for fun

28. According to Jess's father, when you are past seventy \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) your health goes down  
B) your time is ripe  
C) your time is borrowed  
D) you feel alone

29. According to Jess's father, when you are past seventy, you \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) spend time with your family  
B) take life easy  
C) feel like ploughing untried land  
D) love to go back to the places you knew and loved

### Answers

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

### Questions from the Textbook

**Q.1** Why didn't the old man follow the advice of the doctors?

(Board 2010,15)

**Ans.** He didn't follow the advice of the doctors because he had to bring up a family of five children. He was a man of iron-will. He wanted to work. He did not lose his heart.

**Q.2** What had the doctors told the old man?

(Board 2007)

**Ans.** The doctors had told him to sit still and take life easy. They told him not to do any work and to enjoy the few remaining days of his life. One of them told him not to walk even the length of a city block.

**Q.3** Where did the old man take his son to?

(Board 2010)

**Ans.** The old man took his son to the top of the mountain to show him a piece of land which he had cleared and farmed.

**Q.4** Why did Writer's father want him to visit the fertile clearing?

(Board 2018)

**Ans.** The writer's father wanted to show him his achievement, the fruit of his life-long labour, in making a rough and rugged land a fertile and productive place. He also wanted to share his sense of pride with his son.



**Q.5** Had the son ever been there before?

**Ans.** The son had been there many times with the exception of the last three years. However, he had not seen anything extraordinary except wild flowers, rock cliffs, and many species of hard and soft wood trees.

**Q.6** What were the names of the vegetables the old man grew on his farm?

**Ans.** He grew yams, potatoes and tomatoes on his farm.

**Q.7** Why did the old man take the steep path?

(Board 2007,17)

**Ans.** The old man took the steep path because he was hale and hearty now. This was a way to have a good idea about his physical fitness and stamina.

**Q.8** Why did the son at the age of six cry?

**Ans.** The son cried as he had lost his little wooden plough in a furrow. He loved that plough a lot so he cried bitterly when he lost it.

**Q.9** What were the feelings of the old man at the age of seventy?

**Ans.** He felt that his life after seventy years was borrowed. He wanted to go back to the places he knew and loved in the past.

**Q.10** Why had the old man planted his secret garden?

(Board 2008)

**Ans.** He had planted his secret garden because this was the only land where he could not work in the past. Though he was old, he did it all alone. In fact, he wanted to relive the time of his youth.

## Additional Questions

**Q.11** Why was the boy not willing to go with his father?

**Ans.** He wasn't willing to go with his father because he had just finished walking half a mile uphill. Besides, he knew that the weather was too hot for his father to do much walking.

**Q.12** How many doctors had the old man visited from January until April?

**Ans.** The old man had gone to eight different doctors from January until April. All of them had told him to take life easy and not to work.

**Q.13** What kind of man was Jess's father?

**Ans.** He was a determined fellow. Once he made up his mind to do a thing, he would do it even if he had to crawl.

**Q.14** How many years did the old man take to improve that piece of land?

**Ans.** The old man took thirty years to improve that piece of land and make it fertile.

**Q.15** Why did the old man remember the mountain?

**Ans.** The old man remembered the mountain because every inch of it reminded him of the good old days of his youth. It was a living connection between his present and past.

**Q.16** What did the old man remember about the mountain?

**Ans.** The old man remembered that he and his wife had cultivated the mountain slope when he was 22 and his wife was 19 years old. They were the first to cultivate this slope and they raised a barrel of corn to the shock.

**Q.17** Why was the curiosity of the son aroused?

**Ans.** The curiosity of the son was aroused because his father had promised to show him something he had never seen in his life before.

**Q.18** What kind of tree had the old man once found in the woods?

**Ans.** The old man had found a coffee tree in the woods. It was the only one of its kind in the country.

**Q.19** Why had the old man fenced his farm on the top of the mountain?

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**Ans.** The old man had fenced his clearing in the sky to keep off stray cattle if they ever got out of the pasture.



**Q.20 Why did the old man whiff the smell of wild dirt?**

**Ans.** The old man whiffed the smell of wild dirt as it was just like fresh air and it was pleasant to touch. The old man loved his farm. He had good memories associated with it.

**Q.21 Why did the old man prefer to grow vegetables in the new land?**

**Ans.** The old man preferred to grow vegetables in the new land because he believed that anything grown in the new land like that had a better flavour.

**Q.22 How old were Jess's parents when they cleared the mountain slope?**

**Ans.** When they cleared the mountain, his mother was nineteen and his father was twenty-two.

**Q.23 What had the old man raised on the mountain slope in his youth?**

**Ans.** The old man had raised beans, corn and pumpkins on the mountain slope. The soil was so rich that he raised more than a barrel of corn to the shock.

**Q.24 How much corn had the old man raised when he worked the soil together with his wife?**

**Ans.** The old man raised more than a barrel of corn to the shock.

**Q.25 Why did the old man have so many paths to the top of the mountain?**

**Ans.** When the old man could not climb straight up the steep path, he made longer and easier paths so that he did not have to do much climbing.

**Q.26 How did the old man prove his doctor wrong in "Clearing in the Sky"?**

(Lahore Board 2019)

**Ans.** The old man lived a diligent life marked with courage, resolution and perseverance. With his iron-will and passion for work, he proved his doctor wrong who had warned him of an early death if he did any hard work, and thus lived a normal span of life.

## Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

why do you take the path straight up the point i asked look at these other paths what are they doing here

**Solved:**

"Why do you take the path straight up the point?" I asked. "Look at these other paths! What are they doing here?"

2) **Unsolved:**

now youre comin to something son he said as he pushed down the top wire so he could cross the fence this is something i want you to see who did this i asked who cleared this land and fenced it fenced it against what

**Solved:**

"Now, you're comin' to something, son," he said as he pushed down the top wire so he could cross the fence. "This is something I want you to see!" "Who did this?" I asked. "Who cleared this land and fenced it? Fenced it against what?"

3) **Unsolved:**

i dont see a weed in this patch i laughed wont they grow here i wont let em he said now this is what i ve been wanting you to see

**Solved:**

"I don't see a weed in this patch," I laughed. "Won't they grow here?" "I won't let 'em," he said. "Now this is what I've been wanting you to see!"

4) **Unsolved:**

this is the way jess said my father pointing with his cane across the deep valley below us i want to show you something you ve not seen for many years



**Solved:**

"This is the way, Jess," said my father, pointing with his cane across the deep valley below us.  
"I want to show you something you've not seen for many years!"

5) **Unsolved:**

isn't it too hot for you to do much walking i wiped the streams of sweat from my face to keep them from stinging my eyes

**Solved:**

"Isn't it too hot for you to do much walking?" I wiped the streams of sweat from my face to keep them from stinging my eyes.

6) **Unsolved:**

it's the best looking hay i've seen any place i said i've not seen better looking alfalfa even in the little sandy river bottoms

**Solved:**

"It's the best looking hay I've seen any place," I said. "I've not seen better looking alfalfa even in the Little Sandy River bottoms!"

7) **Unsolved:**

stray cattle if they ever get out of the pasture he answered me curtly i cleared this land and i fenced it

**Solved:**

"Stray cattle if they ever get out of the pasture," he answered me curtly. "I cleared this land. And I fenced it!"

8) **Unsolved:**

fertile he laughed as he reached down and picked up a double handful of leaf-rot loam this is the land son this is it i've tried all kinds of land

**Solved:**

"Fertile," he laughed as he reached down and picked up a double handful of leaf-rot loam. "This is the land, son! This is it. I've tried all kinds of land!"

9) **Unsolved:**

and Jess he bragged regardless of my threescore years and ten i ploughed it ploughed it with a mule i have with just a little help done all the work

**Solved:**

"And, Jess," he bragged, "regardless of my threescore years and ten, I ploughed it. Ploughed it with a mule! I have, with just a little help, done all the work."

10) **Unsolved:**

(Board 2016)

look at this Jess he bragged did you ever see better alfalfa grow out of the earth

**Solved:**

"Look at this, Jess!" he bragged. "Did you ever see better alfalfa grow out of the earth?"