THE HAPPY PRINCE (SYNOPSIS)

* The Happy Prince was a beautiful statue of a dead prince, decorated with gold leaves and precious stones.
* One night a little swallow took shelter between the feet of the Happy Prince. He was on his way to Egypt.
* He noticed that the Happy Prince was crying.  
  The prince was happy when he was alive.After his death they set him high above the city from where he could see the ugliness and all the misery of his people,
* The happy prince wanted to help the poor and so he sought the help of the swallow.Every night the Prince would request the swallow to take away one of his precious stone and give it to the needy.
* After the prince lost his sight, the swallow would narrate the sufferings of people.
* As commanded by the Prince he picked leaf after leaf of the fine gold and gave it to the poor.
* The intense cold killed the swallow. The swallow’s death broke the prince’s leaden heart.
* The statue looked shabby so they pulled it down.  
  God was very pleased by their act and said that “for in my garden of  
  Paradise this little bird shall sing for ever more and in my city  
  of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.”

THE HAPPY PRINCE

**Q1** **Why do the courtiers call the prince ‘the Happy Prince’? Is he really happy? What does he see all around him?  
Ans1** He was a prince when he was alive. Being a prince he never knew sorrow and suffering. So, the courtiers called him ‘the happy prince’. But he was not happy in real sense as his heart could feel the misery of needy people. He saw the miserable conditions of people around him.

**Q2 Why did the Swallow cry when the Happy Prince asked him to pluck out one of the sapphires** ?   
 **Ans 2** The swallow cried when the Prince asked him to pluck out one of the sapphires because the Prince would go blind. The Prince himself suffered too much so as to help the poor and needy people.

**Q 3.Describe the statue of the Happy Prince as described in the beginning of the story** ?  
**Ans 3**At the beginning of the story the statue was fixed on a tall column, full of thin leaves of gold on the body, and had two sapphires for eyes. It had a large red ruby fixed on the hilt of the sword.

**Q 4**.**How did the Happy Prince help the poor children in the city ?**  
**Ans 4**As per the orders of the Happy Prince, the gold leaves and the jewels on his boy were taken out by the swallow and distributed among the poor. Thus, the Happy Prince was able to help the poor children in the city.

**Q5  
In the story “The Happy Prince” what are the two most precious things ? What makes them so precious** ?   
**Ans 5**The two most precious things were the leaden heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow. The former wept for the poor and helped them by giving sapphires, gold leave and ruby. While the latter helped the prince in his noble cause and sacrificed her life while staying with him.

**EXTRA QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE**

Q1.How did the Happy Prince help the seamstress ?

Q2.How did the prince and the swallow enable the playwright to finish his work ?

Q3.What were the drops of the rain actually ? Why did they fall ?

Q4 Why did the swallow not leave the prince and go to Egypt ?

Q 5 What does the swallow see when it was flying over the city?

**Read the below extracts and answer the questions that follow**

**I *“As he is no longer beautiful he is no longer useful”***

Q1. Who spoke the above line and what did he order to do?

Q2 why was the statue no longer beautiful and useful?

***II. “Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying”***

Q1 . Who is she in the above line &why was she crying?

Q2. How did the Happy Prince help her?