**MEG OF MYSTERY MOUNTAIN**

As Jane walked up the circling gravelled path which led to the picturesque, rambling, low-built brown house that she called home her heart was filled with conflicting emotions. She brushed away the tears that quivered on her eyelashes. She knew that they were prompted only by self-pity. She struggled to awaken the nobler self that her brother was so confident still slumbered in her soul. She felt cold, hard, and indignant every time she recalled that her father had sacrificed his children’s comfort for a Quixotic ideal. They passed the rose garden, a riot of fragrant, colourful bloom. How tenderly her father cared for that garden, for every bush in it had been planted by the loved one who was gone.

The tall lad carrying her satchels walked silently at Jane’s side. He knew the conflict raging in the heart of the girl he had always loved, despite her ever-increasing selfishness, with a tenderness akin to that which he had given his mother, but he said no word to try to help.

They were ascending the broad front steps when the door of the house was flung open, and a little girl of ten leapt out with a cry. “Oh, my wonderful big sister Janey.” Two arms were held out, and in another moment, as the older girl knew, she would be in one of those crushing embraces that the younger children called “bear hugs.” She frowned slightly. “Don’t, Julie!” she implored. “My suit has just been pressed. Won’t you ever grow up and greet people in a more dignified way?”

The glad expression on the freckled face of the little girl changed instantly. Her lips quivered. “Don’t be silly,” Jane said rebukingly. She almost tripped over the doorstep in her hurry to get past the little girl. Awkwardly she stooped and kissed the child indifferently on the forehead.

A dear old lady, wearing a pretty “afternoon apron,” appeared all a-flutter of happy excitement. She had not seen Jane for a decade. She took the girl’s hands in her own that trembled.

“Dear, dear Jenny! What a blessing ’tis that you have come home at last. It’ll mean more to your father to have you here than you think.” The old lady evidently did not notice the scornful curling of the girl’s lips. “You know, dearie, you’re the perfect image of that other Jane my Daniel loved so dearly, and she was just your age, Jenny, when they met.”

The girl’s impatience was ill-concealed. “Where is my father?” she said in a voice which gave Dan little hope that the nobler self in the girl had been awakened.

“He’s working in the garden, dearie, out beyond the apple orchard,” the old lady said tremulously. “He told me when you came to send you out. He wants to be alone with you just at first. And your little brother, Gerald; I s’pose you’re wondering where he is. Well, he’s got a place down in the village as an errand boy for Peterson’s grocery. They give him his pay every night, and he fetches it right home to his Dad. He thinks he’s helping, bless him. Money can buy material things, but real happiness must be truly earned”

Dan knew that Jane believed their gentle old grandmother was preaching at her. He feared that it was antagonising Jane, nor was he wrong.

“Well, I think the back orchard was a strange place for father to have me meet him,” she said, almost angrily, as she flung herself out of the house.

The proud, selfish girl, again rebellious, walked along the narrow path that led under the great, old, gnarled apple trees that the children had used for playhouses ever since they could climb. She felt like a deer caught in the headlights, or as though she were reading a tragic story and expected at every moment to be awakened to the joyful realisation that it was not true.

Her father saw her coming and dropped the hoe he had been plying between the long rows of beans. “How terribly he has changed,” Jane thought. He had indeed aged. He looked frail, and there was on his sensitive face the impression of sorrow. Without a word, he held out his arms, and suddenly Jane felt as she had when she was a little child, and things had gone wrong.

“Father! Father!” she sobbed, then clung to him while he held her in a yearning, strong embrace, saying, “It’s hard, my daughter, terribly hard for all of us.” He led her to a rustic bench under one of the trees, and removing her hat, he stroked her dark, glossy hair. “Jane, dear,” he implored, when her sobs grew less, “try to be brave, just for a time. Promise me!” Then, as the girl did not speak, the man continued, “We have tried so hard, all of us together, to make it possible for you to finish at Highacres. I feared that I would have to send for you to come home, perhaps only for this term, but Dan wrote, ‘Father, use my wages for Jane’s tuition. I’ll work my way through for the rest of this year.’ Notwithstanding the fact that he had to study until long after midnight, he worked during the day, nor did he stop when he took a turn for the worse. He struggled and finished the year, but, oh, my daughter, you can see how worn he is. Dr Sanders tells me that Dan must go to the Colorado mountains for the summer, and I have been waiting, dear, to talk it over with you. You will want to go with Dan to take care of him, won’t you, Jane?”

Almost before the girl knew she would say it, she heard her self-pitying voice expostulating, “Oh, Dad! Marion wanted me to go with her to Newport. They’re going to one of those adorable cottage hotels. It would only cost me one hundred dollars a month. That isn’t so very much, is it, Dad?”

Mr Abbott sighed. “Jane,” and there was infinite reproach in his tone, “am I to believe that you are willing that Dan should go alone to the mountains to try to find the health he lost in his endeavour to help you?”

ACCD

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# Questions:

## Types

| **Comprehension (Multiple-choice) Question Type** | **Questions (17 multiple choice - 3H, 12M, 2E)** |
| --- | --- |
| Understanding: Factual Recall  He had black hair <- what colour is his hair | 5, 11, 12, 28 |
| Understanding: Inference/ structure  E.g. she smiled <- how did she feel | 3, 6, 8, 18, 21, 22, 26 |
| True or False | 9, 13, 24 |
| 1-2 Phrases/ writing techniques | 14, 17, 20, 29 |

| **SPaG Question Type** | **Total Questions (11)** |
| --- | --- |
| 7 Grammar/ Punctuation | 1, 10, 16, 19, 25 |
| 6 Vocabulary | 2, 4, 7, 15, 23, 27, 30 |

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## MCQ Questions

| **#** | **Type** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Grammar | How many adjectives are in the first sentence?   1. Six 2. Seven 3. Eight 4. Nine | circling, gravelled, picturesque,  Rambling, low-built, brown |
| 2 | Vocabulary | The use of ‘indignant’ in line 6 shows that Jane feels...   1. Confused 2. Stressed 3. Annoyed 4. Tired | ‘She felt cold, hard, indignant every time she recalled that her father had sacrificed’ |
| 3 | Comprehension - Understanding, Inference | Why is Jane crying in the first paragraph?   1. She has been walking for a while 2. Her brother made her cry 3. She feels sorry for herself 4. She thinks her father cares more for the garden than her. | ‘they were prompted only by self-pity’ |
| 4 | Vocabulary | ‘...her father had sacrificed his children’s comfort for a Quixotic ideal..’ (lines 6-7).  This means that her father is:   1. Bold and brave 2. Selfish and secretive 3. Unpredictable and erratic 4. Unrealistic and Impractical | The word Quixotic means extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical. |
| 5 | Understanding: Factual Recall | Why does Jane’s father take care of the garden?   1. He loves colourful roses 2. He enjoys the fragrance of the roses 3. To preserve the memory of a loved one 4. Because Jane is coming to visit | How tenderly her father cared for that garden, for every bush in it had been planted by the loved one who was gone |
| 6 | Understanding: Inference/ structure | How does Jane’s companion feel about her?   1. Conflicted 2. Affectionate 3. Resentment 4. Ambivalent. | He well knew the conflict that was raging in the heart of the girl he had always loved, despite her ever-increasing selfishness, with a tenderness akin to that which he had given his mother |
| 7 | Vocabulary | Which word or phrase can replace the word ‘ascending’ in the line ‘They were ascending the wide front steps when the door of the house…’   1. Going down 2. Moving 3. Climbing 4. Looking at | Ascending means leading upwards. |
| 8 | Understanding: Inference/ structure | Which statement best describes how Jane reacts to her little sister?   1. She feels uncomfortable and doesn't want a hug 2. She is overwhelmed and begins to cry 3. She runs to give her sister a “bear hug” immediately 4. She greets her sister in a dignified way. | She frowned slightly. “Don’t, Julie!” she implored. “My suit has just been pressed. Won’t you ever grow up and greet people in a more dignified way?” |
| 9 | True or False | Which of the following statements is false?   1. Jane has not returned home in a long time 2. Everyone in the house is happy to see Jane 3. Jane’s little sister is concerned about where she has been 4. Jane immediately upsets her sister | a little girl of ten leapt out with a cry. “Oh, my wonderful big sister Janey.”  The glad expression on the freckled face of the little girl changed instantly  Dear, dear Jenny! What a blessing ’tis that you have come home at last |
| 10 | Grammar | How many adverbs does the author use in the lines  *“Don’t be silly,” Jane said rebukingly. She almost tripped over the doorstep in her hurry to get past the little girl. Awkwardly she stooped and kissed the child indifferently on the forehead.*   1. Three 2. Four 3. Five 4. six | “Don’t be silly,” Jane said rebukingly. She almost tripped over the doorstep in her hurry to get past the little girl. Awkwardly she stooped and kissed the child indifferently on the forehead. |
| 11 | Understanding: Factual Recall | How long has it been since the old lady has seen Jane?   1. Half a year 2. Two years 3. Five years 4. Ten years | She had not seen Jane for a decade. |
| 12 | Understanding: Factual Recall | How many people live in the house?   1. Two 2. Three 3. Four 4. Five | The old lady, a little girl of 10, Gerald the brother |
| 13 | True or False | Which of the following statements is correct?   1. The old lady does not want to speak to Jane. 2. The old lady and Jane are happy to speak to each other. 3. The old lady knows Jane needs to talk to her. 4. The old lady is eager to speak to Jane. | “Dear, dear Jenny! What a blessing ’tis that you have come home at last.  The old lady evidently did not notice the scornful curling of the girl’s lips.  “You know, dearie, you’re the perfect image of that other Jane |
| 14 | Phrases/ writing techniques | What does the line ‘The girl’s impatience was ill concealed’ mean?   1. Jane is frustrated with the conversation 2. Jane is angry at the old lady's comments 3. Jane is hiding her true feelings 4. Jane is concerned about the other Jane | The girl’s impatience was ill-concealed.  Impatience means not wanting to put up with or wait for something or someone |
| 15 | Vocabulary | The word ‘tremulously’ in line 39 means   1. Matter of fact 2. Shaking 3. Steadily 4. Angrily | Tremulous means shaking or quivering slightly |
| 16 | Punctuation | The apostrophes in *’tis* and *s’pose* denote a:   1. Conjunction 2. Preposition 3. Contraction 4. Parenthesis | ’tis  S’pose |
| 17 | 1-2 Phrases/ writing techniques | What does the old lady mean when she says ‘Money can buy material things, but real happiness must be truly earned’?   1. Money has been important to the family 2. The family is rich and does not need material things 3. Money cannot fix their problems 4. Money is more important than happiness | Money can buy material things, but real happiness must be truly earned |
| 18 | Understanding: Inference/ structure | What impression do we get of Jane?   1. She feels calm and composed 2. She feels relaxed and confident 3. She is agitated and impatient 4. She is callous and antagonistic | she said, almost angrily, as she flung herself out of the house. |
| 19 | Grammar | How many adjectives are used in the sentence:  *‘The proud, selfish girl, again rebellious, walked along the narrow path that led under the great, old, gnarled apple trees which the children had used for playhouses ever since they could climb’*   1. Six 2. Seven 3. Eight 4. Nine | proud, selfish, rebellious, narrow, great, old, gnarled |
| 20 | Phrases/ writing techniques | In line \_ the term ‘she felt like a deer caught in the headlights is the use of   1. Hyperbole 2. Onomatopoeia 3. Idiom 4. Metaphor | she felt like a deer caught in the headlights  Idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words |
| 21 | Understanding: Inference/ structure | How does Jane’s father appear to her?   1. Tired and thoughtful 2. Weak and sombre 3. Keen and nervous 4. Distant and indifferent. | He had indeed aged. He looked frail, and there was on his sensitive face the impression of sorrow |
| 22 | Understanding: Inference/ structure | When Jane’s father sees her, he:   1. Feels angry that she has returned home. 2. He is sad and starts to cry. 3. He stops working to give her a hug. 4. He continues with his work in the orchard | without a word, he held out his arms |
| 23 | Vocabulary | The word ‘yearning’ in line \_ suggests that   1. They are both in pain 2. They have missed each other 3. There is still resentment between them 4. The reunion has made them both miserable | while he held her in a yearning, strong embrace |
| 24 | True or false | Which of the following statements is true?   1. Both Jane and Dan attend Highacres 2. Highacres is where Jane works 3. The fees at Highacres are very high 4. Jane had to leave Highacres because it was too expensive | We have tried so hard, all of us together, to make it possible for you to finish at Highacres. I feared that I would have to send for you to come home, perhaps only for this term, but Dan wrote, ‘Father, use my wages for Jane’s tuition. |
| 25 | Grammar / vocabulary | Which of the following is a synonym for ‘Notwithstanding’   1. Furthermore 2. In spite of 3. Therefore 4. Subsequently | Notwithstanding the fact that he had to study until long after midnight, he worked during the day, |
| 26 | Understanding: Inference/ structure | Why must Dan go to the Colorado mountains?   1. Because his house is in the mountains. 2. Because the father has asked him to go 3. Because he is unwell 4. Because he has to work in the mountains | nor did he stop when he took a turn for the worse. He struggled and finished the year with high honours, but, oh, my daughter, you can see how worn he is. Dr Sanders tells me that Dan must go to the Colorado mountains for the summer |
| 27 | Vocabulary | The word ‘expostulating’ in line \_ shows that Jane is   1. Apologetic 2. Disapproving 3. Sorrowful 4. Regretful | she heard her self-pitying voice expostulating  Expostulate means expressing strong disapproval or disagreement |
| 28 | Understanding: Factual Recall | How does Jane reply to her father’s request?   1. She accepts immediately 2. She argues that she does not want to go 3. She says it will cost one hundred pounds which is too much 4. She responds that she has already made plans | Marion wanted me to go with her to Newport. |
| 29 | Phrases/ writing techniques | The words ‘infinite reproach’ demonstrate that:   1. Jane’s father is not surprised at Jane’s response 2. He is extremely offended by Jane’s response 3. He is critical of Jane’s response 4. He approves of Jane’s response | Mr Abbott sighed. “Jane,” and there was infinite reproach in his tone.  Reproach is an expression of disappointment. |
| 30 | Vocabulary | Which of the following words can replace the word ‘endeavor’ in the sentence ‘... Dan should go alone to the mountains to try to find there the health he lost in his endeavor to help you’   1. Battle 2. Attempt 3. Motivation 4. Failure | An endeavour is an attempt or effort to achieve a goal. |