

04. A Truly Beautiful Mind

Question 1. Here are some headings for paragraphs in the text. Write the number(s) of the paragraph(s) for each title against the heading. The first one is done for you.

- (i) Einstein's equation – 9
- (ii) Einstein meets his future wife
- (iii) The making of a violinist
- (iv) Mileva and Einstein's mother
- (v) A letter that launched the arms race
- (vi) A desk drawer full of ideas
- (vii) Marriage and divorce

Answer:

- (i) Einstein's equation – 9
- (ii) Einstein meets his future wife – 7
- (iii) The making of a violinist – 3
- (iv) Mileva and Einstein's mother – 10
- (v) A letter that launched the arms race – 15
- (vi) A desk drawer full of ideas – 8
- (vii) Marriage and divorce – 11

Question 2. Who had these opinions about Einstein?

- (i) He was boring.
- (ii) He was stupid and would never succeed in life.
- (iii) He was a freak.

Answer:

- (i) He was boring – Einstein's playmates
- (ii) He was stupid and would never succeed in life – Einstein's headmaster
- (iii) He was a freak – Einstein's mother

Question 3. Explain what the reasons for the following are.

- (i) Einstein leaving the school in Munich for good.
- (ii) Einstein wanting to study in Switzerland rather than in Munich.

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(iii) Einstein seeing in Mileva an ally.

(iv) What do these tell you about Einstein?

Answer:

(i) Einstein left the school in Munich for good because he disliked the school's regimentation and often had arguments with his school teachers.

(ii) Einstein wanted to study in Switzerland rather than in Munich because Switzerland was a city that was much more liberal than Munich.

(iii) Einstein saw an ally in Mileva because just like him, she too was against 'Philistines', i.e., the people in Einstein's family and at the university with whom he was constantly at odds.

(iv) The above things tell us that Einstein was a very liberal person who liked freedom. He was a person who had his own views about life.

Question 4. What did Einstein call his desk drawer at the patent office? Why?

Answer: Einstein called his desk drawer at the patent office the 'bureau of theoretical physics'. He called it so because he was secretly developing his own ideas and inventions related to physics.

Question 5. Why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt?

Answer: Einstein wrote a letter to Franklin Roosevelt because he wanted to warn America that Germany had the ability to build and use an atomic bomb, which if exploded in a port, would destroy the entire port as well as some of the surrounding territory.

Question 6. How did Einstein react to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Answer: He was deeply shaken by the extent of destruction due to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He wrote a public missive to the United Nations and proposed the formation of a world government.

Question 7. Why does the world remember Einstein as a "world citizen"?

Answer: The world remembers Einstein as a "world citizen" because he agitated for an end to the arms buildup and campaigned for peace and democracy in the world.

Question 8. Here are some facts from Einstein's life. Arrange them in chronological order.

[] Einstein publishes his special theory of relativity.

[] He is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

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- [] Einstein writes a letter to U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and warns against Germany's building of an atomic bomb.
- [] Einstein attends a high school in Munich.
- [] Einstein's family moves to Milan.
- [] Einstein is born in the German city of Ulm.
- [] Einstein joins a university in Zurich, where he meets Mileva.
- [] Einstein dies.
- [] He provides a new interpretation of gravity.
- [] Tired of the school's regimentation, Einstein withdraws from school.
- [] He works in a patent office as a technical expert.
- [] When Hitler comes to power, Einstein leaves Germany for the United States.

Answer:

- [7] Einstein publishes his special theory of relativity.
- [9] He is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.
- [11] Einstein writes a letter to U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and warns against Germany's building of an atomic bomb.
- [2] Einstein attends a high school in Munich.
- [3] Einstein's family moves to Milan.
- [1] Einstein is born in the German city of Ulm.
- [5] Einstein joins a university in Zurich, where he meets Mileva.
- [12] Einstein dies.
- [8] He provides a new interpretation of gravity.
- [4] Tired of the school's regimentation, Einstein withdraws from school.
- [6] He works in a patent office as a technical expert.
- [10] When Hitler comes to power, Einstein leaves Germany for the United States.

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The Lake Isle of Innisfree

I.

Question 1. What kind of place is Innisfree? Think about:

- (i) the three things the poet wants to do when he goes back there (stanza I);
- (ii) what he hears and sees there and its effect on him (stanza II);
- (iii) what he hears in his “heart’s core” even when he is far away from Innisfree (stanza III).

Answer: Innisfree is a beautiful place where poet has spent a lot of time as a boy.

(i) The three things the poet wants to do when he goes back to Innisfree are:

- he wants to build a small cabin of clay and wattles.
- he wants to have nine bean-rows there
- he wants to have a hive for the honeybee

(ii) He hears the cricket sing and sees the midnight glimmer with beauty. He sees the sky glowing purple at noon. He watches the evenings full of the linnet’s wings.

All of these have a positive effect on him and he feels very peaceful.

(iii) He hears the lake water lapping by the shore at low sounds in his “heart’s core” even when he is far away from Innisfree.

Question 2. By now you may have concluded that Innisfree is a simple, natural place, full of beauty and peace. How does the poet contrast it with where he now stands? (Read stanza III.)

Answer: The poet contrasts the natural beauty of Innisfree with the roadways and grey pavements of the city he now lives in. “Grey” pavements show the lack of colours and liveliness of the place.

Question 3. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

Answer: Yes, I think Innisfree is a place in reality. The poet actually misses the place of his boyhood days spent in the natural beauty of Innisfree. He gets reminded of the low sounds of the lake water lapping by the shore. He misses both the place and the peace and contentment the place used to give him.

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II.

Question 1. Look at the words the poet uses to describe what he sees and hears at Innisfree

(i) bee-loud glade

(ii) evenings full of the linnet's wings

(iii) lake water lapping with low sounds

What pictures do these words create in your mind?

Answer: (i) bee-loud glade creates a picture of a place in a forest that is filled with the soft buzzing sound of honeybees.

(ii) evenings full of the linnet's wings creates an image of a red-orange sky that is full of linnets. Linnets are beautiful birds that add up to the scenic beauty of a place when they flutter their wings and fly.

(iii) lake water lapping with low sounds lets us take a dive into the peaceful scenario where the water of the lake is flowing and producing soothing sound.

Question 2. Look at these words;

... peace comes dropping slow

Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings

What do these words mean to you? What do you think "comes dropping slow...from the veils of the morning"? What does "to where the cricket sings" mean?

Answer: These words mean that one can attain peace slowly and gradually.

Peace is what comes dropping slow from the veils of the morning.

The poet says that peace and serenity spread gradually from the rising morning sky to the ground where the cricket sings.

- THE END -

Sources : Byju's notes