

# The Fun They Had

## Thinking about the Text

I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

Question 1. How old are Margie and Tommy?

**Answer:** Margie is eleven and Tommy is thirteen years old.

Question 2. What did Margie write in her diary?

Answer: Margie wrote in her diary "Today Tommy found a real book!"

Question 3. Had Margie ever seen a book before?

Answer: No, Margie had never seen a book before.

Question 4. What things about the book did she find strange?

**Answer:** The things about the book that she found strange were the following:

i) The pages of the book were yellow and crinkly.

ii) The words stood still instead of moving.

iii) When they turned back to the previous page, it still had the same words on it that it had when they first read it.

**Question 5**. What do you think a telebook is?

**Answer:** I think the telebook must be a book that gets displayed on the screen of the television.

**Question 6**. Where was Margie's school? Did she have any classmates?

**Answer:** Margie's school was next to her bedroom. No, she did not have any classmates.

**Question 7**. What subjects did Margie and Tommy learn?

**Answer:** Margie and Tommy learnt Geography, History and Arithmetic.

II. Answer the following with reference to the story.

Question 1. "I wouldn't throw it away."

- (i) Who says these words?
- (ii) What does 'it' refer to?
- (iii) What is it being compared with by the speaker?

**Answer:** (i) Tommy says these words.

- (ii) "It" refers to the books.
- (iii) The paperback book is being compared with the telebooks by the speaker.

Question 2. "Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher. It was a man."

- (i) Who does 'they' refer to?
- (ii) What does 'regular' mean here?



(iii) What is it contrasted with?

**Answer:** (i) "They" refers to the students centuries ago.

- (ii) "Regular" means the usual for the people in 2157. Here, regular teacher means the mechanical teacher.
- (iii) The mechanical teacher is contrasted with humans as teachers of earlier times.

### III. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).

**Question 1.** What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have?

**Answer:** Margie and Tommy had mechanical teachers. The mechanical teachers had big screens on which all the lessons were shown and questions were asked. The children were taught through computer and television screens. They did not have humans as teachers.

Question 2. Why did Margie's mother send for the County Inspector?

**Answer:** Margie's mother sent for the County Inspector because the mechanical teacher of Margie was not functioning properly. It kept giving Margie Geography tests and Margie was performing worse every time. Margie's mother was concerned and thus sent for the County Inspector.

**Question 3.** What did he do?

**Answer:** The County Inspector smiled at Margie and gave her an apple. He took the mechanical teacher away from her. Then he fixed the mechanical teacher. He told Margie's mother that the geography sector of the mechanical teacher was geared a little too quick and that he has slowed it up to an average ten-year level.

Question 4. Why was Margie doing badly in geography? What did the County Inspector do to help her?

**Answer:** Margie was doing badly in geography because the questions that were displayed on the screen of the mechanical teacher were too quick for her age.

The County Inspector slowed its speed to an average ten-year level so that Margie would be able to perform satisfactorily.

Question 5. What had once happened to Tommy's teacher?

**Answer:** Tommy's teacher had to be taken away altogether for a month as the history sector had blanked out completely.

Question 6. Did Margie have regular days and hours for school? If so, why?

**Answer:** Yes, Margie had regular days and hours for school because Margie's mother believed that little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

Question 7. How does Tommy describe the old kind of school?

**Answer:** Tommy says that the old kind of school had special buildings. All the kids went to that building for studying.

Question 8. How does he describe the old kind of teachers?

**Answer:** He tells Margie that the old kind of teachers were humans instead of machines. The human teacher would educate the boys and girls and give them homework and ask questions.

IV. Answer each of these questions in two or three paragraphs (100 –150 words).

**Question 1:** What are the main features of the mechanical teachers and the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have in the story?



**Answer:** The main features of the mechanical teachers that Margie and Tommy have are as follows:

The mechanical teachers have big black screens on which lessons are displayed and questions are asked. The students need to put their homework and test papers in a slot that is present in the mechanical teacher. The students write answers in punch code and the mechanical teacher calculates the results right away.

The main features of the schoolrooms that Margie and Tommy have are given below:

In the story, the schools are there in the homes. For instance, Margie's school was right next to her bedroom. The students do not have classmates. They study subjects like arithmetic, history, geography, etc. The mechanical teacher would turn on at the same time every day except on the weekends.

Question 2: Why did Margie hate school? Why did she think the old kind of school must have been fun?

**Answer:** Margie hated school because she felt it boring. The mechanical teacher started the class at the same time regularly. Margie's mechanical teacher was giving her test after test on Geography and she was performing badly.

Margie also did not like inserting homework and test papers in the slot on the mechanical teacher.

She thought that the old kind of school must have been fun because it would have had kids from various places of the neighbourhood. It would have been so interesting to sit together in the classroom and leave the school together at the end of the day. All the kids learned the same things so they could help each other in studies and homework.

**Question 3:** Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer.

**Answer:** Yes, I agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story. In the story, the schools are in the students' homes. This gives no space for interaction between students. Studying from screen and taking up tests sounds boring. Inserting homework and test papers in a slot on a mechanical teacher every day is monotonous. Writing answers in punch codes is even more draining.

Learning together in a class gives students a wider view of the people. Students also get familiar with others and learn how to interact and socialize. Getting taught by human teachers is way more dynamic than being taught by a machine. If there is any issue with any lesson or concept, the student can ask the human teacher then and there. But, mechanical teachers are programmed with a certain lesson and concept for a particular day. When the student solves homework, he/she can get help from classmates. That's how the schools today are more fun than the school in the story.

## Thinking about Language

#### I. Adverbs

Read this sentence taken from the story:

They had once taken Tommy's teacher away for nearly a month because the history sector had blanked out completely.

The word complete is an adjective. When you add –ly to it, it becomes an adverb.

Question 1. Find the sentences in the lesson which have the adverbs given in the box below.

awfully sorrowfully completely loftily carefully differently quickly nonchalantly



awfully:

They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to — on a screen, you know.

sorrowfully:

The mechanical teacher had been giving her test after	test in geography and she had been doing worse and
worse until her mother had shaken her head sorrowfull	y and sent for the County Inspector.

completely:

They had once taken	Tommy's teacher	away for nearly a	a month because	the history sector	had blanked out
completely.					

loftily:

He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, "Centuries ago".

carefully:

He added loftily, pronouncing the word carefully, "Centuries ago".

differently:

"But my mother says a teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently."

quickly:

"I didn't say I didn't like it," Margie said quickly. She wanted to read about those funny schools.

nonchalantly:

"Maybe," he said nonchalantly.

Question 2. Now	use these	adverbs to	fill in the	blanks	in t	he sentences	be	low.
-----------------	-----------	------------	-------------	--------	------	--------------	----	------

(i) The report must be read	so that performance of	an be improved.
(ii) At the interview, Sameer a	nswered our questions	, shrugging his shoulders.
(iii) We all behave	when we are tired or hungry.	

(iv) The teacher shook her head when Ravi lied to her.

(v) I	forgot about it.	
(V) I	וטועטו מטטעו וו.	

(vi) When I complimented Revathi on her success, she just smiled and turned away.

(vii) The President of the Company is \_\_\_\_\_ busy and will not be able to meet you.

(viii) I finished my work \_\_\_\_\_ so that I could go out to play.

- (i) The report must be read **carefully** so that performance can be improved.
- (ii) At the interview, Sameer answered our questions loftily, shrugging his shoulders.
- (iii) We all behave differently when we are tired or hungry.
- (iv) The teacher shook her head **sorrowfully** when Ravi lied to her.



- (v) I completely forgot about it.
- (vi) When I complimented Revathi on her success, she just smiled **nonchalantly** and turned away.
- (vii) The President of the Company is awfully busy and will not be able to meet you.
- (viii) I finished my work quickly so that I could go out to play.

Question 3. Make adverbs from these adjectives.

- (i) angry (ii) happy
- (iii) merry (iv) sleepy
- (v) easy (vi) noisy
- (vii) tidy (viii) gloomy

#### Answer:

- (i) angry angrily (ii) happy happily
- (iii) merry merrily (iv) sleepy sleepily
- (v) easy easily (vi) noisy noisily
- (vii) tidy tidily (viii) gloomy gloomily

## II. If Not and Unless

Complete the following conditional sentences. Use the correct form of the verb.

- 1. If I don't go to Anu's party tonight, . .
- 2. If you don't telephone the hotel to order food, \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Unless you promise to write back, I \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. If she doesn't play any games, . . .
- 5. Unless that little bird flies away quickly, the cat \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer:

- 1. If I don't go to Anu's party tonight, she will get irritated.
- 2. If you don't telephone the hotel to order food, you will miss your meal.
- 3. Unless you promise to write back, I will not write you another letter.
- 4. If she doesn't play any games, she will become lazy.
- 5. Unless that little bird flies away quickly, the cat will pounce on it and kill it.

#### Writing

Question: A new revised volume of Issac Asimov's short stories has just been released.

Order one set. Write a letter to the publisher, Mindfame Private Limited, 1632 Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi, requesting that a set be sent to you by Value Payable Post (VPP), and giving your address. Your letter will have the following parts.

Addresses of the sender and receiver



- The salutation
- The body of the letter
- · The closing phrases and signature

#### Answer:

416, Sector 18 Nagpur, Maharashtra

04/08/2020

Mindfame Private Limited, 1632 Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently came to know that a new revised volume of Issac Asimov's short stories has been released. This is to request you to send me a set of the same by Value Payable Post (VPP) on my mailing address given above. I shall be highly obliged if you could send me the book at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,

Adwait Tiwari

## **Speaking**

In groups of four discuss the following topic.

'The Schools of the Future Will Have No Books and No Teachers!'

Your group can decide to speak for or against the motion. After this, each group will select a speaker to present its views to the entire class.

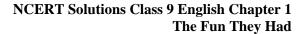
You may find the following phrases useful to present your argument in the debate.

- In my opinion . . .
- I/we fail to understand why . . .
- I wholeheartedly support/oppose the view that . . .
- At the outset let me say . . .
- I'd/we'd like to raise the issue of/argue against . . .
- I should like to draw attention to . . .
- My/our worthy opponent has submitted that . . .
- On the contrary . . .
- I firmly reject . . .

### Answer:

For the motion

I would like to put forth my views in favour of the motion "The Schools of the Future Will Have No Books and No Teachers!"





The emergence of digital technologies like computers, laptops, mobile phones, etc. has brought about a lot of changes in the way education is imparted and received. Now itself, we can see how important the electronic gadgets and internet have become. We learn so many things through Google, YouTube and other platforms. The concept of online classes is getting more acknowledgement than ever. The internet speed is improving with time and usage. More and more people are being drawn towards the limitless possibilities of learning online. Gradually, we might see the schools teaching the students online with soft copies of books.

When the robots become a part of our lives, we shall see the time when the schools will have no real books and no human teachers. Instead, we will have online books and robots as teachers!





# The Road Not Taken

## Thinking about the Poem

I.

Question 1. Where does the traveler find himself? What problem does he face?

**Answer:** The traveler finds himself at a point in the woods where two roads diverge. The problem is that he cannot travel both the roads and thus he has to choose one between them.

Question 2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

- (i) a yellow wood
- (ii) it was grassy and wanted wear
- (iii) the passing there
- (iv) leaves no step had trodden black
- (v) how way leads on to way

#### Answer:

- (i) The phrase "a yellow wood" indicates a forest during the autumn season.
- (ii) The phrase "it was grassy and wanted wear" means that the road was full of grass as it has been less travelled. As people haven't walked on it, it is yet to wear out.
- (iii) The phrase "the passing there" refers to people walking on that road.
- (iv) "Leaves no step had trodden black" indicates that the fallen leaves had not been crushed under the feet of the travelers.
- (v) The phrase "how way leads on to way" means that one road leads to another. So once the poet has made a choice between the two roads, he wonders if he will ever be able return to the same spot and choose the other road.

Question 3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them:

- (i) in stanzas two and three?
- (ii) in the last two lines of the poem?

## Answer:

- (i) No, there is no difference between the two roads as the poet describes them in stanzas two and three as he says "the passing there had worn them really about the same" and that "equally lay in leaves no step had trodden black..."
- (ii) In the last two lines of the poem, the poet indicates a difference between the two roads as he says that he took the road that was less travelled by and that has made a huge difference in his journey.

**Question 4**. What do you think the last two lines of the poem mean? (Looking back, does the poet regret his choice or accept it?)

**Answer:** The last two lines of the poem talk about taking a decision and accepting its consequences- good or bad. The poet chose the road that was less travelled by, which indicates he took a decision that people would not take generally.



## NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 1 Poem The Road Not Taken

He says in the last line of the poem that his choice of taking the road less travelled by has made all the difference. He does not seem to regret his choice.

II.

**Question 1.** Have you ever had to make a difficult choice (or do you think you will have difficult choices to make)? How will you make the choice (for what reasons)?

Answer: We all make choices on a daily basis. But I have not had to make a difficult choice till date.

I will have to face challenges in the years to come as I grow up. Then, I will have to make difficult choices. I will have to choose my profession, my area of interest, etc.

I think when such a situation comes, I will not just follow the herd. I will think it through and just like the poet, if required, I will take up the unexplored paths.

**Question 2.** After you have made a choice do you always think about what might have been, or do you accept the reality?

**Answer:** There is no point in regretting or thinking about what might have been. Such thoughts will always keep us in the hold of the past and never let us see the benefits of the choices we made. Accepting reality is the best way to overcome any situation.





# The Sound of Music

# Thinking about the Text

**I.** Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

Question 1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?

Answer: Evelyn was sixteen years old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music.

Question 2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

**Answer:** Her deafness was first noticed when she was just eight years old. It was confirmed by the time she was eleven.

**II.** Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30–40 words).

Question 1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?

**Answer:** Ron Forbes who was a percussionist, helped her to continue with music. He asked Evelyn not to listen through ears but to try to sense it some other way.

**Question 2.** Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

**Answer:** Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn performs in prisons and hospitals. She also takes classes for young musicians.

III. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100–150 words).

Question 1. How does Evelyn hear music?

**Answer:** Evelyn hears music through different parts of her body. Ron Forbes asked her to try to sense the music some other way instead of ears. He started by tuning two big drums to varied notes.

Evelyn realized that she could feel the higher drum from her waist up and the lower drum from her waist down. Forbes kept repeating the same exercise, and then Evelyn realized that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body.

She says that when she plays the xylophone, she can feel the music passing up the stick into her fingertips. When she leans against the drums, she could sense the resonances flowing into her body. When she performs on a wooden platform, she removes her footwear so that the vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs.



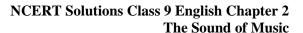
### Part II

## The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

- I. Tick the right answer.
- 1. The (shehnai, pungi ) was a 'reeded noisemaker.'
- 2. (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
- 3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).
- 4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaaz Khan).
- 5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A., Canada).

- 1. The pungi was a 'reeded noisemaker.'
- 2. A barber transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
- 3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were professional musicians.
- 4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from Ali Bux.
- 5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.
- **II.** Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. teaching children music			
2. the film world			
3. migrating to the U.S.A.			
4. playing at temples			
5. getting the Bharat Ratna			
6. the banks of the Ganga			





7. leaving Benaras and Dumraon		

#### Answer:

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. teaching children music	<b>✓</b>		
2. the film world		<b>✓</b>	
3. migrating to the U.S.A.		<b>✓</b>	
4. playing at temples			✓
5. getting the Bharat Ratna	<b>✓</b>		
6. the banks of the Ganga	<b>✓</b>		
7. leaving Benaras and Dumraon		<b>✓</b>	

III. Answer these questions in 30–40 words.

Question 1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

**Answer:** Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because of the shrill unpleasant sound of the instrument.

Question 2. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

**Answer:** A shehnai's stem is hollow, longer and broader than that of a pungi. Shehnai has holes in its body.

Question 3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

**Answer:** Traditionally, shehnai was a part of the naubat or traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. It was played in temples and at marriages.

Bismillah Khan took it onto the classical stage.

Question 4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?



**Answer:** Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He became an often-heard shehnai player on radio.

Question 5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

**Answer:** Bismillah Khan played the shehnai from the Red Fort on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his Shehnai. The event was historic because that is the day when India got independence. Bismillah Khan played Raag Kafi to an audience that included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Question 6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

**Answer:** Bismillah Khan refused to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A because he did not want to leave his country. He felt an unbreakable bond with his towns – Dumraon and Benaras, and with River Ganga.

**Question 7.** Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

**Answer:** Two instances in the text which tell us that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras are given below:

- He says that whenever he is in a foreign country, he keeps yearning to see Hindustan.
- He also says that when he is in Mumbai, he thinks of only Benaras and the holy Ganga.

## Thinking about Language

- I. Look at these sentences.
- Evelyn was determined to live a normal life.
- Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers.

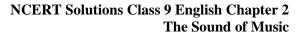
The italicised parts answer the questions: "What was Evelyn determined to do?" and "What did Evelyn manage to do?" They begin with a to-verb (to live, to conceal).

Complete the following sentences.

Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

- 1. The school sports team hopes (What does it hope to do?)
- 2. We all want (What do we all want to do?)
- 3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother (What did they advise her to do?)
- 4. The authorities permitted us to (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
- 5. A musician decided to (What did the musician decide to do?)

- 1. The school sports team hopes to win the competition.
- 2. We all want to succeed in our lives.
- 3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take care of the child.
- 4. The authorities permitted us to perform the dance in the stadium.
- 5. A musician decided to play the music in front of an audience.





**II.** From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. the home of royal people (1)
2. the state of being alone (5)
3. a part which is absolutely necessary (2)
4. to do something not done before (5)
5. without much effort (13)
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) and

#### Answer:

- 1. the home of royal people (1) royal residence
- 2. the state of being alone (5) solitude
- 3. a part which is absolutely necessary (2) indispensable
- 4. to do something not done before (5) invent
- 5. without much effort (13) effortlessly
- 6. quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast
- **III.** Tick the right answer.
- 1. When something is revived, it (remains dead/lives again).
- 2. When a government bans something, it wants it (stopped/started).
- 3. When something is considered auspicious, (welcome it/avoid it).
- 4. When we take to something, we find it (boring/interesting).
- 5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful/find it of no use).
- 6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time/for the second time).
- 7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting/no longer upsetting).

- 1. When something is revived, it lives again.
- 2. When a government bans something, it wants it stopped.
- 3. When something is considered auspicious, welcome it.
- 4. When we take to something, we find it interesting.
- 5. When you appreciate something, you find it good and useful.
- 6. When you replicate something, you do it for the second time.
- 7. When we come to terms with something, it is no longer upsetting.
- IV. Dictionary work



- The sound of the shehnai is auspicious.
- The auspicious sound of the shehnai is usually heard at marriages.

The adjective auspicious can occur after the verb be as in the first sentence, or before a noun as in the second. But there are some adjectives which can be used after the verb be and not before a noun. For example:

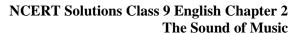
· Ustad Faiyaz Khan was overjoyed.

We cannot say: \*the overjoyed man.

Consult your dictionary and complete the following table. The first one has been done for you.

adjective	Only before noun	Not before noun	Both before and after the verb 'be'
Indispensable			<b>✓</b>
Impressed			
Afraid			
Outdoor			
Paternal			
Countless			
Priceless			

adjective	Only before noun	Not before noun	Both before and after the verb 'be'
Indispensable			✓





Impressed		✓	<b>✓</b>
Afraid		✓	✓
Outdoor	<b>√</b>		
Paternal	<b>✓</b>		
Countless	<b>✓</b>		
Priceless	<b>✓</b>		<b>✓</b>

Indispensable: Electronic gadgets have become indispensable to modern life.

Impressed: He was impressed by his friend's speech.

Afraid: Raghav is afraid of dark.

Outdoor: Outdoor games are necessary for keeping yourself healthy.

Paternal: My paternal uncle lives in Mumbai.

Countless: There are countless stars in the sky.

Priceless: Children's smiles are priceless.

## **Speaking**

**I.** Imagine the famous singer Kishori Amonkar is going to visit your school. You have been asked to introduce her to the audience before her performance. How would you introduce her?

**Answer:** Do it yourself.

II. Use your notes on Kishori Amonkar to introduce her to an imaginary audience.

You may use one of the following phrases to introduce a guest:

I am honoured to introduce.../I feel privileged to introduce.../We welcome you...

**Answer:** I am honoured to introduce you to the finest female vocalist of her generation, Kishori Amonkar. She is a Padma Bhushan awardee who was born in 1931 to another great artist Smt. Mogubai Kurdikar. She is a singer besotted by the mysterious world of the ragas. She dissects them until the most subtle of shades emerge and re-emerge. She is highly inspired by the teachings of the Vedic sages. She has been bestowed with several significant awards – Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985), the Padma Bhushan (1987), and one of the most prestigious awards in Indian Classical Music- Sangeet Samradhini Award (1997).

## Writing



I. "If you work hard and know where you're going, you'll get there," says Evelyn Glennie.

You have now read about two musicians, Evelyn Glennie and Ustad Bismillah Khan. Do you think that they both worked hard? Where did they want to 'go'?

Answer these questions in two paragraphs, one on each of the two musicians.

#### Answer:

Yes, they both worked extremely hard. They wanted to pursue music as their career and achieve heights.

Evelyn Glennie is an inspiration to everyone. She became profoundly deaf by the time she was eleven years old. But, she did not let the disability become a hurdle in pursuing her career in music. She auditioned at the Royal Academy of Music in London when she was not even seventeen years old and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. In a field like music that's entirely linked to listening, she began to sense music through different parts of her body. She brought percussion to the front of the orchestra. She was awarded with the Royal Philharmonic Society's Soloist of the Year Award in the year 1991. She inspires people with her life and optimism.

Ustad Bismillah Khan belonged to a family of professional musicians. Shehnai was being used in temples and at marriages, but the credit of bringing the shehnai onto the classical stage goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan. He took to music in the early years of his life. At the age of three, he was quite fascinated watching his uncles play the shehnai. On the day of India's independence, he was the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. He was strongly bonded to Benaras and the holy Ganga. He was awarded India's highest civilian award – the Bharat Ratna.



# Wind

## Thinking about the Poem

I.

Question 1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

**Answer:** The wind breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, throws down the books on the shelf, tears the pages of the books and brings the rain.

**Question 2.** Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? What do people use for winnowing? (Give the words in your language, if you know them.)

**Answer:** Yes, I have seen my grandmother winnowing grain at home. "Fatakna" is the word in my language Hindi for 'winnowing'. A winnowing basket is used for winnowing.

Question 3. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

**Answer:** The poet says that the wind god winnows crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts and then crushes them all.

Question 4. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

**Answer:** To make friends with the wind, we should build strong homes and doors. We should strengthen our bodies and make the heart steadfast.

Question 5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

**Answer:** The last four lines give a very powerful message. They say that the wind that blows weak fires is the same wind that makes strong fires flourish.

This implies that the weak people are broken by forces but the people who are strong are strengthened by those forces. So, the friendship with the wind or a strong force is good. We have to just stay strong mentally as well as physically.

**Question 6.** How does the poet speak to the wind — in anger or with humor? You must also have seen or heard of the wind "crumbling lives". What is your response to this? Is it like the poet's?

**Answer:** The poet speaks to the wind with humor. He says that the wind destroys houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies and lives. He says that it breaks the shutters of the windows and scatters the papers. But at the same time, he also points out that the wind brings rain. He tells the readers that we must become powerful and build strong houses because the wind only damages weak things.

Yes, I too have seen the wind crumbling lives on the news channels. Winds bring massive destruction sometimes. It uproots weak trees and even claims the lives of people. But as the poet says, we must try to be more powerful and build powerful structures.

II. The poem you have just read is originally in Tamil. Do you know any such poems in your language?

Answer: Yes, I have read such a poem in my language Hindi by the name "Toofan".



# The Little Girl

# Thinking about the Text

**I.** Given below are some emotions that Kezia felt. Match the emotions in Column A with the items in Column B.

A	В
<ol> <li>fear or terror</li> <li>glad sense of relief</li> </ol>	(i) father comes into her room to give her a goodbye kiss (ii) noise of the carriage grows fainter
3. a "funny" feeling, perhaps of understanding	(iii) father comes home
	(iv) speaking to father
	(v) going to bed when alone at home
	(vi) father comforts her and falls asleep
	(vii) father stretched out on the sofa, snoring

#### Answer:

A	В
<ol> <li>fear or terror</li> <li>glad sense of relief</li> </ol>	(iv) speaking to father (iii) father comes home
•	
3. a "funny" feeling, perhaps of understanding	(v) going to bed when alone at home
	(vii) father stretched out on the sofa, snoring
	(i) father comes into her room to give her a goodbye kiss
	(ii) noise of the carriage grows fainter
	(vi) father comforts her and falls asleep

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

**Question 1**. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

**Answer:** Kezia was afraid of her father because he was extremely strict and commanding. He never played with her. He used to give her a terrifying look over his spectacles.

Question 2. Who were the people in Kezia's family?

Answer: Kezia's family comprised her father, mother and grandmother and herself.

Question 3. What was Kezia's father's routine?

- (i) before going to his office?
- (ii) after coming back from his office?
- (iii) on Sundays?



Answer: i) Before going to office, Kezia's father would come to Kezia's room and give her a goodbye kiss.

- ii) After coming back from his office, he would order his tea to be brought to the drawing room and would ask his mother to get his papers and slippers. He would then order Kezia to take off his boots.
- iii) On Sundays, he would stretch out on the sofa with his handkerchief on his face, his feet on one of the best cushions, sleep and snore.

Question 4. In what ways did Kezia's grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

**Answer:** Kezia's grandmother would encourage her to know her father better by asking her to go down to the drawing room and have a nice talk with her father. She also asked Kezia to stitch a pin-cushion out of a beautiful yellow silk piece and give it to her father as a birthday present.

II. Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

**Question 1.** Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much. How did this happen?

**Answer:** Kezia stitched three sides of the pin-cushion. She was confused about what to fill the cushion with. Grandmother was not around. So, Kezia went to her parents' room to ask her mother for some scrap. But, her mother wasn't there in the room.

Kezia then saw some sheets of papers on the bed table. She collected them all, tore them into small pieces and stuffed the cushion with those pieces.

Her efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much when at night her father searched for those sheets of paper on the bed table. The sheets of paper had the speech for Port Authority. Her father scolded and beat her with a ruler for touching things that did not belong to her.

**Question 2.** Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of fathers". What kind of father was Mr Macdonald, and how was he different from Kezia's father?

**Answer:** Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of fathers". Mr Macdonald was a loving father. He was very gentle and forgiving. He used to play and laugh with his children. He was friendly with them. He was quite different from Kezia's father. Her father was very strict and unfriendly.

Question 3. How does Kezia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy?

**Answer:** One day, when her mother and grandmother were at the hospital, Kezia was left at home with Alice, their cook. At night, she had a nightmare. Shivering with fear, she called for her grandmother but saw her father near her bed. He took her in his arms and carefully tucked her on his bed. He then lay down beside her. Half asleep, she went close to him, snuggled her head under his arm and held onto his shirt tightly.

She saw her father go off to sleep before her. She understood that he had to work so hard every day which made him too tired to behave like Mr Macdonald. She told her father that he had a big heart.

#### Thinking about Language

**I.** Look at the following sentence.

There was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter...

Here, glad means happy about something.

Glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled and overjoyed are synonyms (words or expressions that have the same or nearly the same meaning.) However, they express happiness in certain ways.



Read the sentences below.

- She was glad when the meeting was over.
- The chief guest was pleased to announce the name of the winner.

given in brackets.	
(i) She was	by the news of her brother's wedding. (very pleased)
(ii) I was	_ to be invited to the party. (extremely pleased and excited about)
(iii) She was	at the birth of her granddaughter. (extremely happy)
(iv) The coach was _	with his performance. (satisfied about)
(v) She was very	with her results. (happy about something that has happened)
Answer:	
(i) She was <b>thrilled</b>	by the news of her brother's wedding. (very pleased)
(ii) I was <b>delighted</b> t	o be invited to the party. (extremely pleased and excited about)
(iii) She was overjoy	yed at the birth of her granddaughter. (extremely happy)
(iv) The coach was p	pleased with his performance. (satisfied about)
(v) She was very <b>ha</b>	ppy with her results. (happy about something that has happened)
Question 2. Study the	he use of the word big in the following sentence.
He was so big — his	s hands and his neck, especially his mouth
Here, big means larg	ge in size.
Now, consult a diction done for you.	onary and find out the meaning of big in the following sentences. The first one has been
(i) You are a big girl	now. <b>older</b>
(ii) Today you are go	oing to take the biggest decision of your career
(iii) Their project is fu	ull of big ideas
(iv) Cricket is a big g	ame in our country
(v) I am a big fan of	Lata Mangeshkar
(vi) You have to coo	k a bit more as my friend is a big eater
(vii) What a big hear	t you've got, Father dear
Answer:	
(i) You are a big girl	now. <b>older</b>
(ii) Today you are go	oing to take the biggest decision of your career. most crucial
(iii) Their project is fu	ull of big ideas. amazing
(iv) Cricket is a big g	ame in our country. <b>popular</b>

Question 1. Use an appropriate word from the synonyms given above in the following sentences. Clues are



- (v) I am a big fan of Lata Mangeskar. great
- (vi) You have to cook a bit more as my friend is a big eater. glutton
- (vii) What a big heart you've got, Father dear. magnanimous
- II. Verbs of Reporting

Study the following sentences.

- "What!" screamed Mother.
- "N-n-no", she whispered.
- "Sit up," he ordered.

The italicised words are verbs of reporting. We quote or report what someone has said or thought by using a reporting verb. Every reporting clause contains a reporting verb. For example:

- He promised to help in my project.
- "How are you doing?" Seema asked.

We use verbs of reporting to advise, order, report statements, thoughts, intentions, questions, requests, apologies, manner of speaking and so on.

**Question 1**. Underline the verbs of reporting in the following sentences.

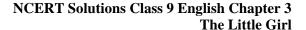
- (i) He says he will enjoy the ride.
- (ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.
- (iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.
- (iv) He answered that the price would go up.
- (v) I wondered why he was screaming.
- (vi) Ben told her to wake him up.
- (vii) Ratan apologised for coming late to the party.

#### Answer:

- (i) He says he will enjoy the ride.
- (ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.
- (iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.
- (iv) He answered that the price would go up.
- (v) I wondered why he was screaming.
- (vi) Ben told her to wake him up.
- (vii) Ratan apologised for coming late to the party.

**Question 2:** Some verbs of reporting are given in the box. Choose the appropriate verbs and fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

were complaining, shouted, replied, remarked, ordered, suggested (i) "I am not afraid," \_\_\_\_\_ the woman.





(ii) "Leave me alone,"	my mother .	
(iii) The children	that the roads were crowd	ded and noisy.
(iv) "Perhaps he isn't a bad	l sort of a chap after all,"	the master.
(v) "Let's go and look at the	e school ground,"	_ the sports teacher.
(vi) The traffic police	all the passers-by to	keep off the road.
Answer:		
(i) "I am not afraid," <b>declared</b> the woman.		
(ii) "Leave me alone," <b>shouted</b> my mother .		
(iii) The children <b>complained</b> that the roads were crowded and noisy.		
(iv) "Perhaps he isn't a bad sort of a chap after all," <b>remarked</b> the master.		
(v) "Let's go and look at the school ground," <b>suggested</b> the sports teacher.		
(vi) The traffic police order	ed all the passers-by to keep	o off the road.

### **Speaking**

Form pairs or groups and discuss the following questions.

**Question 1**. This story is not an Indian story. But do you think there are fathers, mothers and grandmothers like the ones portrayed in the story in our own country?

**Answer:** Yes, there are fathers, mothers and grandmothers like the ones portrayed in the story in our own country. In their efforts to make their children disciplined, parents sometimes forget that their children need their love and care too. They forget that their child is yet to learn and accept their environment. Giving the kid time, compassion and care is very necessary so that the kid grows up having good bond with their parents. Punishing and creating an extremely strict image of oneself only makes children slip away from their parents' hands emotionally.

Question 2: Was Kezia's father right to punish her? What kind of a person was he?

You might find some of these words useful in describing him:

Undemonstrative, loving, strict, hard-working, responsible, unkind, disciplinarian, short-tempered, affectionate, caring, indifferent

**Answer:** No, Kezia's father was not right to punish her. He should have understood that Kezia is a child and that it is okay for her to make mistakes. He could have explained her how important those papers were to him and that she should never do such a thing again.

He is a father who is undemonstrative, strict and short-tempered. He also has a loving and affectionate heart but he lets his disciplinarian behaviour get the better of him. He does unkind actions like beating her with a ruler, but then he is also a caring dad who pacifies her when she wakes up from a bad dream.

#### Writing

Has your life been different from or similar to that of Kezia when you were a child? Has your perception about your parents changed now? Do you find any change in your parents' behaviour vis-à-vis yours? Who has become more understanding? What steps would you like to take to build a relationship based on understanding? Write three or four paragraphs (150–200 words) discussing these issues from your own experience.



Answer: Do it yourself.





# Rain on the Roof

## Thinking about the Poem

I.

Question 1. What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

- (i) humid shadows
- (ii) starry spheres
- (iii) what a bliss
- (iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start
- (v) a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof

#### Answer:

- (i) humid shadows: humid shadows refer to the dark clouds that cover the sky and bring rain
- (ii) starry spheres: it refers to the sky that is usually full of stars
- (iii) what a bliss: bliss means happiness. Here the poet says that it is such a happy moment when one listens to the patter of the rain overhead.
- (iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start: It refers to the several thoughts and fantasies that surround the poet when he listens to the patter of the rain.
- (v) a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof- it means that poet feels as if his old memories are being woven in front of him.

**Question 2**. What does the poet like to do when it rains?

**Answer:** The poet likes to press his head into the pillow of his cottage chamber bed and listen to the patter of the soft rain overhead.

**Question 3.** What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the "darling dreamers" he refers to?

Answer: The single major memory that comes to the poet is of his mother and her fond look on the poet.

Darling dreamers that the poet refers to are the poet and his siblings who were sent to sleep by the poet's mother every day.

**Question 4**. Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

**Answer:** No, the poet is now a grown up man. His mother is not alive anymore.

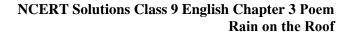
II.

Question 1. When you were a young child, did your mother tuck you in, as the poet's did?

**Answer:** Yes, when I was a young child, my mother tucked me in. She would sing me lullabies and send me to sleep.

Question 2. Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily as described in the poem?

**Answer:** Yes, I like when it rains. When it rains heavily, I like to listen to the patter of the rain on the roof overhead and to look at the drops falling on the leaves of the plants.





**Question 3.** Does everybody have a cozy bed to lie in when it rains? Look around you and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter etc. during rain.

**Answer:** No, not everyone is fortunate enough to have a cozy bed to lie in when it rains. Poor people who do not have a shelter to protect themselves from the rain. They wander here and there to find a place where they can stand under the tin roofs or trees. People who were out of their homes try to rush back towards their homes as soon as possible. Animals try to find places to save themselves from getting wet during rain.





# **A Truly Beautiful Mind**

# Thinking about the Text

**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?

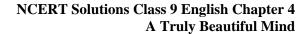
- (i) He was boring.
- (ii) He was stupid and would never succeed in life.
- (iii) He was a freak.

#### 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.
- (iii) Einstein seeing in Mileva an ally.
- (iv) What do these tell you about Einstein?





- (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. [] 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.

# Thinking about Language

- **I.** Here are some sentences from the story. Choose the word from the brackets which can be substituted for the italicised words in the sentences.
- 1. A few years later, the marriage *faltered*. (failed, broke, became weak).
- 2. Einstein was constantly at odds with people at the university. (on bad terms, in disagreement, unhappy)



# NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 4 A Truly Beautiful Mind

- 3. The newspapers proclaimed his work as "a scientific revolution." (declared, praised, showed)
- 4. Einstein got ever more involved in politics, *agitating* for an end to the arms build-up. (campaigning, fighting, supporting)
- 5. At the age of 15, Einstein felt so stifled that he left the school *for good*. (permanently, for his benefit, for a short time)
- 6. Five years later, the discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin had American physicists *in an uproar*. (in a state of commotion, full of criticism, in a desperate state)
- 7. Science wasn't the only thing that *appealed* to the dashing young man with the walrus moustache. (interested, challenged, worried)

#### Answer:

- 1. A few years later, the marriage became weak. (failed, broke, became weak).
- 2. Einstein was constantly in disagreement with people at the university. (on bad terms, in disagreement, unhappy)
- 3. The newspapers declared his work as "a scientific revolution." (declared, praised, showed)
- 4. Einstein got ever more involved in politics, campaigning for an end to the arms build-up. (campaigning, fighting, supporting)
- 5. At the age of 15, Einstein felt so stifled that he left the school permanently. (permanently, for his benefit, for a short time)
- 6. Five years later, the discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin had American physicists in a state of commotion. (in a state of commotion, full of criticism, in a desperate state)
- 7. Science wasn't the only thing that interested to the dashing young man with the walrus moustache. (interested, challenged, worried)
- **II.** Study the following sentences.
- Einstein became a gifted amateur violinist, maintaining this skill throughout his life.
- Letters survive in which they put their affection into words, mixing science with tenderness.

The parts in italics in the above sentences begin with –ing verbs, and are called participial phrases. Participial phrases say something more about the person or thing talked about or the idea expressed by the sentence as a whole. For example:

- Einstein became a gifted amateur violinist. He maintained this skill throughout his life.

Complete the sentences below by filling in the blanks with suitable participial clauses. The information that has to be used in the phrases is provided as a sentence in brackets.

1, the firefighters f	inally put out the fire. (They	worked round the clock.)
<ol><li>She watched the sunset abovone another.)</li></ol>	e the mountain,	_ (She noticed the colours blending softly into
3. The excited horse pawed the	ground rapidly,	(While it neighed continually.)
4, I found myself ir	n Bangalore, instead of Bena	aras. (I had taken the wrong train.)
5, I was desperate	to get to the bathroom. (I ha	ad not bathed for two days)
6. The stone stens	needed to be replaced. (Th	ev were worn down)



# NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 4 A Truly Beautiful Mind

7. The actor received hundreds of letters from his fans, \_\_\_\_\_ (They asked him to send them his photograph.)

#### Answer:

- 1. Working round the clock, the firefighters finally put out the fire. (They worked round the clock.)
- 2. She watched the sunset above the mountain, noticing the colours blending softly into one another. (She noticed the colours blending softly into one another.)
- 3. The excited horse pawed the ground rapidly, neighing continually. (While it neighed continually.)
- 4. Having taken the wrong train, I found myself in Bangalore, instead of Benaras. (I had taken the wrong train.)
- 5. Having not bathed for two days, I was desperate to get to the bathroom. (I had not bathed for two days)
- 6. The stone steps, being worn down, needed to be replaced. (They were worn down).
- 7. The actor received hundreds of letters from his fans, asking him to send them his photograph. (They asked him to send them his photograph.)

## **Writing Newspaper Reports**

Here are some notes which you could use to write a report.

21 August 2005 — original handwritten manuscript of Albert Einstein unearthed — by student Rowdy Boeynik in the University of the Netherlands — Boeynik researching papers — papers belonging to an old friend of Einstein — fingerprints of Einstein on these papers — 16-page document dated 1924 — Einstein's work on this last theory — behaviour of atoms at low temperature — now known as the Bose-Einstein condensation — the manuscript to be kept at Leyden University where Einstein got the Nobel Prize.

Write a report which has four paragraphs, one each on:

- · What was unearthed.
- · Who unearthed it and when.
- · What the document contained.
- Where it will be kept.

Your report could begin like this:

#### Student Unearths Einstein Manuscript

21 AUGUST 2005. An original handwritten Albert Einstein manuscript has been unearthed at a university in the Netherlands...

#### Answer:

#### Student Unearths Einstein Manuscript

21 AUGUST 2005. An original handwritten Albert Einstein manuscript has been unearthed at a university in the Netherlands.

It was unearthed by a student Rowdy Boeynik while researching papers belonging to an old friend of Einstein.

The 16-page document dated 1924 contained fingerprints of Albert Einstein. It has Einstein's work on this last theory, i.e., the behaviour of atoms at low temperature which is now known as the Bose-Einstein condensation.



The manuscript will be kept at Leyden University where Einstein got the Nobel Prize.

## **Dictation**

Your teacher will dictate these paragraphs to you. Write down the paragraphs with correct punctuation marks.

Answer: Do it yourself.





# The Lake Isle of Innisfree

## Thinking about the Poem

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.

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.



## NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 4 Poem The Lake Isle of Innisfree

(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 Snake and the Mirror

## Thinking about the Text

I. Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30–40 words).

**Question 1.** "The sound was a familiar one." What sound did the doctor hear? What did he think it was? How many times did he hear it? (Find the places in the text.) When and why did the sounds stop?

**Answer:** The doctor heard some noise from above when he opened the door. He thought that the sound was of rats. He heard it four times, including the sound he heard when he opened the door:

"Again I heard that sound from above."

"Again came that noise from above."

"Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground..."

The sounds stopped when the snake appeared in front of the doctor.

**Question 2**. What two "important" and "earth-shaking" decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror?

**Answer:** The two important and earth-shaking decisions that the doctor took while he was looking into the mirror are the following:

- i. He would shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome.
- ii. He would always keep that attractive smile on his face.

**Question 3**. "I looked into the mirror and smiled," says the doctor. A little later he says, "I forgot my danger and smiled feebly at myself."

What is the doctor's opinion about himself when: (i) he first smiles, and (ii) he smiles again? In what way do his thoughts change in between, and why?

**Answer:** (i) When the doctor smiled first, he was thinking that his smile was very attractive.

(ii) When he smiled again, he was thinking that he was a poor and stupid doctor.

His thoughts changed from being a handsome doctor to being a stupid doctor between the two situations. His thoughts changed because his life was now in danger.

**II.** This story about a frightening incident is narrated in a humorous way. What makes it humorous? (Think of the contrasts it presents between dreams and reality. Some of them are listed below.)

Question 1. (i) The kind of person the doctor is (money, possessions)

(ii) The kind of person he wants to be (appearance, ambition)

**Answer:** (i) The doctor is a person whose earnings were meagre. His house was a small rented room. He only had 60 rupees, some shirts, dhotis and a black coat.

(ii) He believes in making himself look handsome. He decides that he would shave daily and grow a thin moustache.

Question 2. (i) The person he wants to marry

(ii) The person he actually marries

**Answer:** (i) He wants to marry a fat woman doctor who had plenty of money.



(ii) He marries a thin reedy person with the gift of a sprinter.

Question 3. (i) His thoughts when he looks into the mirror

(ii) His thoughts when the snake is coiled around his arm

Write short paragraphs on each of these to get your answer.

**Answer:** (i) When he looks into the mirror, he thinks that he has a very attractive smile. He decides to keep that smile on his face always and to shave daily. He seems contented when he looks into the mirror.

(ii) When the snake is coiled around his arm, he keeps sitting there holding his breath. He thinks that he is a poor and stupid doctor. He is terrified by the snake's presence.

# Thinking about Language

- **I.** Here are some sentences from the text. Say which of them tell you that the author: (a) was afraid of the snake, (b) was proud of his appearance, (c) had a sense of humour, (d) was no longer afraid of the snake.
- 1. I was turned to stone.
- 2. I was no mere image cut in granite.
- 3. The arm was beginning to be drained of strength.
- 4. I tried in my imagination to write in bright letters outside my little heart the words, 'O God'.
- 5. I didn't tremble. I didn't cry out.
- 6. I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile.
- 7. I was suddenly a man of flesh and blood.
- 8. I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor too on top of it!
- 9. The fellow had such a sense of cleanliness...! The rascal could have taken it and used it after washing it with soap and water.
- 10. Was it trying to make an important decision about growing a moustache or using eye shadow and mascara or wearing a vermilion spot on its forehead.

#### Answer:

(a)	Was afraid of	the snake:	Sentences 1	, 3, 4,	, 5.
-----	---------------	------------	-------------	---------	------

- (b) Was proud of his appearance: Sentences 6, 8.
- (c) Had a sense of humour: Sentences 9, 10.
- (d) Was no longer afraid of the snake: Sentence 2, 7.
- II. Expressions used to show fear

Can you find the expressions in the story that tell you that the author was frightened? Read the story and complete the following sentences.

1. I was turned	
2. I sat there holding	
3. In the light of the lamp I sat there like _	



- 1. I was turned to stone.
- 2. I sat there holding my breath.
- 3. In the light of the lamp I sat there like a stone image in the flesh.
- III. In the sentences given below some words and expressions are italicised. They variously mean that one
- is very frightened.
- is too scared to move.
- is frightened by something that happens suddenly.
- makes another feel frightened.

Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the appropriate meaning next to the sentence. The first one has been done for you.

- 1. I knew a man was following me, I was scared out of my wits. (very frightened)
- 2. I got a fright when I realised how close I was to the cliff edge.
- 3. He nearly jumped out of his skin when he saw the bull coming towards him.
- 4. You really *gave me a fright* when you crept up behind me like that.
- 5. Wait until I tell his story it will make your hair stand on end.
- 6. Paralysed with fear, the boy faced his abductors.
- 7. The boy hid behind the door, not moving a muscle.

#### Answer:

- 1. I knew a man was following me, I was scared out of my wits. (very frightened)
- 2. I got a fright when I realised how close I was to the cliff edge. (very frightened)
- 3. He *nearly jumped out of his skin* when he saw the bull coming towards him. (to be suddenly surprised or frightened by something)
- 4. You really gave me a fright when you crept up behind me like that. (too scared/ frightened)
- 5. Wait until I tell his story it will make your hair stand on end. (feel shocked or scared)
- 6. Paralysed with fear, the boy faced his abductors. (too horrified to move)
- 7. The boy hid behind the door, not moving a muscle. (too frightened to move)
- IV. Reported questions

Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what.

Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense.

- 1. Meena asked her friend, "Do you think your teacher will come today?"
- 2. David asked his colleague, "Where will you go this summer?"
- 3. He asked the little boy, "Why are you studying English?"
- 4. She asked me, "When are we going to leave?"



- 5. Pran asked me, "Have you finished reading the newspaper?"
- 6. Seema asked her, "How long have you lived here?"
- 7. Sheila asked the children, "Are you ready to do the work?"

- 1. Meena asked her friend if he/she thought his/her teacher would come that day.
- 2. David asked his colleague where he would go that summer.
- 3. He asked the little boy why he was studying English.
- 4. She asked me when we were going to leave.
- 5. Pran asked me if I had finished reading the newspaper.
- 6. Seema asked her how long she had lived there.
- 7. Sheila asked the children if they were ready to do the work.

## **Speaking**

Using some of the expressions given above in exercise III, talk about an incident when you were very scared. You may have a competition to decide whose story was the most frightening.

**Answer:** Students are advised to try answering this question themselves.

#### **Dictation**

The following paragraph is about the Indian cobra. Read it twice and close your book. Your teacher will then dictate the paragraph to you. Write it down with appropriate punctuation marks.

The Indian cobra is the common name for members of the family of venomous snakes, known for their intimidating looks and deadly bite. Cobras are recognised by the hoods that they flare when angry or disturbed; the hoods are created by the extension of the ribs behind the cobras' heads. Obviously the best prevention is to avoid getting bitten. This is facilitated by the fact that humans are not the natural prey of any venomous snake. We are a bit large for them to swallow whole and they have no means of chopping us up into bite-size pieces. Nearly all snakebites in humans are the result of a snake defending itself when it feels threatened. In general snakes are shy and will simply leave if you give them a chance.

Answer: Do it yourself.

#### Writing

**Question 1:** Try to rewrite the story without its humour, merely as a frightening incident. What details or parts of the story would you leave out?

Answer: Do it yourself.

**Question 2:** Read the description given alongside this sketch from a photograph in a newspaper (Times of India, 4 September 1999). Make up a story about what the monkey is thinking, or why it is looking into a mirror. Write a paragraph about it.

**Answer: THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL** 

On a bright day, a monkey was having fun climbing and jumping across trees. Suddenly he saw a shining piece of mirror on the ground. He jumped down and had a close look at the mirror. At first, he could not understand what it was. After some time, he realised that the thing in his hand showed him his reflection. He looked at his face in the mirror. He removed twigs and dust that were stuck on his face. He made several



faces and kept looking at his reflection. He touched his head and rubbed his hair. He preened himself for long. Then he threw the mirror back on the ground and took a leap onto the next tree.

#### **Translation**

**Question 1:** The text you read is a translation of a story by a well-known Malayalam writer, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer.

In translating a story from one language to another, a translator must keep the content intact. However, the language and the style differ in different translations of the same text.

Here are two translations of the opening paragraphs of a novel by the Japanese writer, Haruki Murakami. Read them and answer the questions given below.

## Α

When the phone rang I was in the kitchen, boiling a potful of spaghetti and whistling along with an FM broadcast of the overture to Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie*, which has to be the perfect music for cooking pasta.

I wanted to ignore the phone, not only because the spaghetti was nearly done, but because Claudio Abbado was bringing the London Symphony to its musical climax. В

I'm in the kitchen cooking spaghetti when the woman calls. Another moment until the spaghetti is done; there I am, whistling the prelude to Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra* along with the FM radio. Perfect spaghetti-cooking music! I hear the telephone ring but tell myself, Ignore it. Let the spaghetti finish cooking. It's almost done, and besides, Claudio Abbado and the London Symphony Orchestra are coming to a crescendo.

Compare the two translations on the basis of the following points.

- the tense of narration (past and present tense)
- short, incomplete sentences
- · sentence length

Which of these translations do you like? Give reasons for your choice.

#### Answer:

Tense of narration:

In translation A, the narration is in past tense.

In translation B, the narration is in simple present tense.

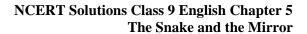
Short, incomplete sentences:

Sentences in translation A are long and there are no incomplete sentences.

Sentences in translation B are short and we find some incomplete sentences too.

Sentence Length:

Sentence length is more in translation A as compared to the translation B.





I like translation B more in comparison to translation A. This is because translation B is in the present tense and thus gives a sense of immediacy. It also gives a clearer understanding to the reader. Sentences are crisp and short.





# A Legend of the Northland

## Thinking about the Poem

I.

Question 1. Which country or countries do you think "the Northland" refers to?

**Answer:** The "Northland" may refer to any of the countries among Greenland, Norway, Russia, Canada, etc.

Question 2. What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady's reaction?

**Answer:** Saint Peter asked the old lady for a piece of cake. She was very selfish and kept reducing the size of the cake as to her it seemed too big to give away.

Question 3. How did he punish her?

**Answer:** He cursed her and changed her into a woodpecker as a punishment for being so selfish.

**Question 4**. How does the woodpecker get her food?

Answer: The woodpecker needs to bore all day in the hard, dry wood to get itself some food.

**Question 5**. Do you think that the old lady would have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was? What would she have done then?

**Answer:** I don't think the old lady would have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was. She would have given him as large a piece of cake so that she could please him in order to get rewarded.

Question 6. Is this a true story? Which part of this poem do you feel is the most important?

**Answer:** No, this is not a true story. It is a legend.

The part of the poem that, according to me, is the most important is:

And he said, "You are far too selfish

To dwell in a human form,

To have both food and shelter,

And fire to keep you warm.

This shows that we must do go things for humanity as we are capable of doing so in our human form. We should have gratitude for having food, shelter and fire. We should be generous to people.

**Question 7**. What is a legend? Why is this poem called a legend?

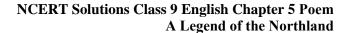
**Answer:** A legend is a folklore that is believed to be true by tellers and listeners but it has not been proven to have happened. It usually imparts some morals or a message.

This poem is called a legend because it also imparts the message of generosity.

**Question 8**. Write the story of 'A Legend of the Northland' in about ten sentences.

Answer: A Legend of the Northland

Once, Saint Peter was feeling very hungry and he asked for alms from an old lady. He asked if she could give him a piece of cake to eat. The lady was very selfish. She kept reducing the size of the cake as she felt that the size of the cake was too big to be given away as alms. At last she did not give him any cake.





Saint Peter grew angry and cursed her to become a woodpecker. He said that from now on, she will have to bore dry, hard wood in order to get food. All her clothes got burnt in the chimney and till this day, woodpeckers bore all day long for food and water.

II.

**Question 1.** Let's look at the words at the end of the second and fourth lines, viz., 'snows' and 'clothes', 'true' and 'you', 'below' and 'know.' We find that 'snows' rhymes with 'clothes', 'true' rhymes with 'you' and 'below' rhymes with 'know'.

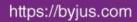
Find more such rhyming words.

**Answer:** Here are more such rhyming words from the poem:

earth-hearth, done-one, lay-away, flat-that, myself-shelf, faint-saint, form-warm, food-wood, word-bird and same-flame.

**Question 2.** Go to the local library or talk to older persons in your locality and find legends in your own language. Tell the class these legends.

Answer: Do it yourself.





# My Childhood

## Thinking about the Text

**I.** Answer these questions in one or two sentences each.

Question 1. Where was Abdul Kalam's house?

**Answer:** Abdul Kalam's house was on Mosque Street in Rameswaram.

Question 2. What do you think Dinamani is the name of? Give a reason for your answer.

**Answer:** I think Dinamani is the name of a newspaper because Kalam says that when his brother-in-law would tell his stories of the War, he would later try to trace it in the 'headlines' of Dinamani. This implies that Dinamani would have been a newspaper.

Question 3. Who were Abdul Kalam's school friends? What did they later become?

Answer: Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan were Abdul Kalam's school friends.

Ramanadha Sastry took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father. Aravindan went into the business of arranging transport for visiting pilgrims. Sivaprakasan became a catering contractor for Southern Railways.

Question 4. How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages?

**Answer:** Abdul Kalam earned his first wages by catching bundles of newspapers thrown out from the moving train on the Rameswaram Road between Rameswaram and Dhanuskodi and distributing them.

Question 5. Had he earned any money before that? In what way?

**Answer:** Yes, he had earned money before that too. He used to collect tamarind seeds and sell them to a provision shop on Mosque Street. A day's collection would let him earn one anna.

**II.** Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words)

Question 1. How does the author describe: (i) his father (ii) his mother (iii) himself?

**Answer:** i) The author describes his father as honest and self-disciplined. His father used to avoid inessential comforts and luxuries. The author tells that his father never had a formal education or much wealth, but he possessed great wisdom and was very generous.

- ii) The author describes his mother as an ideal helpmate to his father. She used to feed a lot of outsiders along with her family members.
- iii) The author describes himself as a short boy with undistinguished looks born to tall and handsome parents.

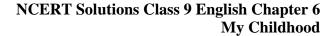
Question 2. What characteristics does he say he inherited from his parents?

**Answer:** He says that he inherited honesty and self-discipline from his father; and faith in goodness and deep kindness from his mother.

**III.** Discuss these questions in class with your teacher, and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

**Question 1:** "On the whole, the small society of Rameswaram was very rigid in terms of the segregation of different social groups," says the author.

(i) Which social groups does he mention? Were these groups easily identifiable (for example, by the way they dressed)?





- (ii) Were they aware only of their differences or did they also naturally share friendships and experiences? (Think of the bedtime stories in Kalam's house; of who his friends were; and of what used to take place in the pond near his house.)
- (iii) The author speaks both of people who were very aware of the differences among them and those who tried to bridge these differences. Can you identify such people in the text?
- (iv) Narrate two incidents that show how differences can be created, and also how they can be resolved. How can people change their attitudes?

- (i) The social groups that he mentions are Hindus and Muslims. Yes, these groups were easily identifiable by their dressing, tradition, culture, etc. For instance, Kalam used to wear a cap on his head which identified him as a Muslim. Ramanadha Sastry wore a sacred thread.
- (ii) They were not aware only of their differences. They also naturally share friendships and experiences. Kalam's mother and grandmother would tell events from the Ramayana and from the life of the Prophet as bedtime stories. All his friends belonged to orthodox Hindu families. During the annual Sita Rama Kalyanam Ceremony, his family would arrange boats with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to the marriage site situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha, which was near his house.
- (iii) The author speaks both of people who were very aware of the differences among them and those who tried to bridge these differences. Yes, we can identify such people in the text.

The new school teacher and Sivasubramania lyer's wife were very aware of the differences among the social groups, but Sivasubramania lyer and Lakshamana Sastry tried to bridge these differences.

(iv) Two incidents that show how differences can be created, and also how they can be resolved are explained below:

When Lakshamana Sastry got to know about the way the new school teacher had made Kalam sit on the back bench because he was a Muslim, he asked the teacher to apologize or quit the school. The new teacher not only regretted his behaviour but also was reformed by Lakshamana Sastry's strong sense of conviction.

Kalam's science teacher, Sivasubramania Iyer, asked Kalam to his home for a meal. His wife was horrified at the idea of a Muslim boy being invited to her pure kitchen. Sivasubramania Iyer served Kalam food with his own hands and sat down beside him to eat his meal.

The next time he invited Kalam to his home, Sivasubramania lyer's wife served him food with her own hands inside the kitchen.

**Question 2:** (i) Why did Abdul Kalam want to leave Rameswaram?

- (ii) What did his father say to this?
- (iii) What do you think his words mean? Why do you think he spoke those words?

**Answer:** (i) Abdul Kalam wanted to leave Rameswaram because he wanted to study at the district headquarters in Ramanathapuram.

- (ii) His father said, ""Abul! I know you have to go away to grow. Does the seagull not fly across the sun, alone and without a nest?"
- (iii) His words meant he understood that Kalam had to leave his house and get a good higher education to grow. He spoke these words because he knew the harsh reality of life that the children needed to move away from their home and parents to make a career and earn.



## Thinking about Language

**I.** Find the sentences in the text where these words occur:

Erupt, surge, trace, undistinguished, casualty

Look these words up in a dictionary which gives examples of how they are used.

Now answer the following questions.

**Answer:** Sentences in the text where these words occur are:

Erupt: "For reasons I have never been able to understand, a sudden demand for tamarind seeds erupted in the market."

Surge: "Half a century later, I can still feel the surge of pride in earning my own money for the first time."

Trace: "My brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell me stories about the War which I would later attempt to trace in the headlines in Dinamani."

Undistinguished: "I was one of many children — a short boy with rather undistinguished looks, born to tall and handsome parents."

Casualty: "The first casualty came in the form of the suspension of the train halt at Rameswaram station."

**Question 1:** What are the things that can erupt? Use examples to explain the various meanings of erupt. Now do the same for the word surge. What things can surge?

**Answer:** Things that can erupt are: volcanoes, emotions, anger.

- A volcano erupted in the Mauna Kea last night.
- Ranjan's anger erupted as a result of Ashima's continuous nagging.

Things that can surge are: prices, wave, crowd, storm, etc.

**Question 2:** What are the meanings of the word trace and which of the meanings is closest to the word in the text?

**Answer:** The meanings of the word 'trace' are:

- to draw an outline
- to copy
- to find out

The meaning that is closest to the word in the text is 'finding out'.

**Question 3:** Can you find the word undistinguished in your dictionary? (If not, look up the word distinguished and say what undistinguished must mean.)

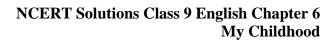
**Answer:** No, I cannot find the word undistinguished in my dictionary.

The meaning of the word distinguished as given in the dictionary is specific, distinct.

Thus, undistinguished must mean 'not specific', 'not distinct'.

II.

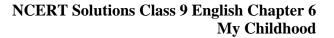
Question 1. Match the phrases in Column A with their meanings in Column B.





A	В
(i) broke out	(a) an attitude of kindness, a readiness to give freely
(ii) in accordance with	(b) was not able to tolerate
(iii) a helping hand	(c) began suddenly in a violent way
(iv) could not stomach	(d) assistance
(v) generosity of spirit	(e) persons with power to make decisions
(vi) figures of authority	(f) according to a particular rule, principle, or system

A	В
(i) broke out	(c) began suddenly in a violent way
(ii) in accordance with	(f) according to a particular rule, principle, or system
(iii) a helping hand	(d) assistance
(iv) could not stomach	(b) was not able to tolerate
(v) generosity of spirit	(a) an attitude of kindness, a readiness to give freely
(vi) figures of authority	(e) persons with power to make decisions





**Question 2:** Study the words in italics in the sentences below. They are formed by prefixing un - or in - to their antonyms (words opposite in meaning).

- I was a short boy with rather *undistinguished* looks. (un + distinguished)
- My austere father used to avoid all inessential comforts.(in + essential)
- The area was completely *unaffected* by the war.(un + affected)
- He should not spread the poison of social *inequality* and communal *intolerance*. (in + equality, in + tolerance)

Now form the opposites of the words below by prefixing un- or in-. The prefix in-can also have the forms il-, ir-, or im- (for example: *illiterate*—il + literate, *impractical*—im + practical, *irrational*—ir + rational). You may consult a dictionary if you wish.

adequate	acceptable	regular	tolerant
demanding	active	true	permanent
patriotic	disputed	accessible	coherent
logical	legal	responsible	possible

## Answer:

inadequate	unacceptable	irregular	intolerant
undemanding	inactive	untrue	impermanent
unpatriotic	undisputed	inaccessible	incoherent
illogical	illegal	irresponsible	impossible

## III. Passive Voice

Study these sentences:

- My parents were regarded as an ideal couple.
- I was asked to go and sit on the back bench.
- Such problems have to be confronted.



The italicised verbs in these sentences are made up of a form of the verb be and a past participle. (For example: were + regarded, was + asked, be + confronted)

These sentences focus on what happens, rather than who does what. Notice that the doer of the action is not included in the sentences.

If necessary, we can mention the doer of the action in a by-phrase. For example:

- The tree was struck by lightning.
- The flag was unfurled by the Chief Guest.

IV. Rewrite the sentences below, changing the verbs in brackets into the passive form.

- 1. In yesterday's competition the prizes (give away) by the Principal.
- 2. In spite of financial difficulties, the labourers (pay) on time.
- 3. On Republic Day, vehicles (not allow) beyond this point.
- 4. Second-hand books (buy and sell) on the pavement every Saturday.
- 5. Elections to the Lok Sabha (hold) every five years.
- 6. Our National Anthem (compose) Rabindranath Tagore.

#### Answer:

- 1. In yesterday's competition the prizes were given away by the Principal.
- 2. In spite of financial difficulties, the labourers were paid on time.
- 3. On Republic Day, vehicles were not allowed beyond this point.
- 4. Second-hand books were bought and sold on the pavement every Saturday.
- 5. Elections to the Lok Sabha are held every five years.
- 6. Our National Anthem was composed by Rabindranath Tagore.
- **V.** Rewrite the paragraphs below, using the correct form of the verb given in brackets.

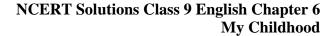
#### Question 1. How Helmets Came To Be Used in Cricket

Nari Contractor was the Captain and an opening batsman for India in the 1960s. The Indian cricket team went on a tour to the West Indies in 1962. In a match against Barbados in Bridgetown, Nari Contractor (seriously injure and collapse). In those days helmets (not wear). Contractor (hit) on the head by a bouncer from Charlie Griffith. Contractor's skull (fracture). The entire team (deeply concern). The West Indies players (worry). Contractor (rush) to hospital. He (accompany) by Frank Worrell, the Captain of the West Indies Team. Blood (donate) by the West Indies players. Thanks to the timely help, Contractor (save). Nowadays helmets (routinely use) against bowlers.

#### Answer:

How Helmets Came To Be Used in Cricket

Nari Contractor was the Captain and an opening batsman for India in the 1960s. The Indian cricket team went on a tour to the West Indies in 1962. In a match against Barbados in Bridgetown, Nari Contractor was seriously injured and collapsed. In those days helmets were not worn. Contractor was hit on the head by a bouncer from Charlie Griffith. Contractor's skull was fractured. The entire team was deeply concerned. The West Indies players were worried. Contractor was rushed to hospital. He was accompanied by Frank





Worrell, the Captain of the West Indies Team. Blood was donated by the West Indies players. Thanks to the timely help, Contractor was saved. Nowadays helmets are routinely used against bowlers.

## Question 2. Oil from Seeds

Vegetable oils (make) from seeds and fruits of many plants growing all over the world, from tiny sesame seeds to big, juicy coconuts. Oil (produce) from cotton seeds, groundnuts, soya beans and sunflower seeds. Olive oil (use) for cooking, salad dressing etc. Olives (shake) from the trees and (gather) up, usually by hand. The olives (ground) to a thick paste which is spread onto special mats. Then the mats (layer) up on the pressing machine which will gently squeeze them to produce olive oil.

#### Answer:

#### Oil from Seeds

Vegetable oils are made from seeds and fruits of many plants growing all over the world, from tiny sesame seeds to big, juicy coconuts. Oil is produced from cotton seeds, groundnuts, soya beans and sunflower seeds. Olive oil is used for cooking, salad dressing etc. Olives are shaken from the trees and gathered up, usually by hand. The olives are ground to a thick paste which is spread onto special mats. Then the mats are layered up on the pressing machine which will gently squeeze them to produce olive oil.

#### **Dictation**

Let the class divide itself into three groups. Let each group take down one passage that the teacher dictates. Then put the passages together in the right order.

To Sir, with Love

1. From Rameswaram to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, it's been a long journey. Talking to Nona Walia on the eve of Teacher's Day, President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam talks about life's toughest lessons learnt and his mission — being a teacher to the Indian youth. "A proper education would help nurture a sense of dignity and self-respect among our youth," says President Kalam.

There's still a child in him though, and he's still curious about learning new things. Life's a mission for President Kalam.

- 2. Nonetheless, he remembers his first lesson in life and how it changed his destiny. "I was studying in Standard V, and must have been all of 10. My teacher, Sri Sivasubramania Iyer was telling us how birds fly. He drew a diagram of a bird on the blackboard, depicting the wings, tail and the body with the head and then explained how birds soar to the sky. At the end of the class, I said I didn't understand. Then he asked the other students if they had understood, but nobody had understood how birds fly," he recalls.
- 3. "That evening, the entire class was taken to Rameswarm shore," the President continues. "My teacher showed us sea birds. We saw marvellous formations of them flying and how their wings flapped. Then my teacher asked us, 'Where is the birds' engine and how is it powered?' I knew then that birds are powered by their own life and motivation. I understood all about birds' dynamics. This was real teaching a theoretical lesson coupled with a live practical example. Sri Siva Subramania Iyer was a great teacher."

That day, my future was decided. My destiny was changed. I knew my future had to be about flight and flight systems.

#### Answer:

To Sir, with Love

From Rameswaram to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, it's been a long journey. Talking to Nona Walia on the eve of Teacher's Day, President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam talks about life's toughest lessons learnt and his mission — being a teacher to the Indian youth. "A proper education would help nurture a sense of dignity and self-respect among our youth," says President Kalam.

## NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 6 My Childhood



There's still a child in him though, and he's still curious about learning new things. Life's a mission for President Kalam.

Nonetheless, he remembers his first lesson in life and how it changed his destiny. "I was studying in Standard V, and must have been all of 10. My teacher, Sri Sivasubramania Iyer was telling us how birds fly. He drew a diagram of a bird on the blackboard, depicting the wings, tail and the body with the head and then explained how birds soar to the sky. At the end of the class, I said I didn't understand. Then he asked the other students if they had understood, but nobody had understood how birds fly," he recalls.

"That evening, the entire class was taken to Rameswaram shore," the President continues. "My teacher showed us sea birds. We saw marvellous formations of them flying and how their wings flapped. Then my teacher asked us, 'Where is the birds' engine and how is it powered?' I knew then that birds are powered by their own life and motivation. I understood all about birds' dynamics. This was real teaching — a theoretical lesson coupled with a live practical example. Sri Siva Subramania lyer was a great teacher."

That day, my future was decided. My destiny was changed. I knew my future had to be about flight and flight systems.

## **Speaking**

Here is a topic for you to

- 1. think about:
- 2. give your opinion on.

Find out what other people think about it. Ask your friends/seniors/parents to give you their opinion.

'Career Building Is the Only Goal of Education.'

or

'Getting a Good Job Is More Important than Being a Good Human Being.'

You can use the following phrases

- (i) while giving your opinion:
- I think that...
- In my opinion...
- It seems to me that...
- I am of the view that...
- As far as I know...
- If you ask me...
- (ii) saying what other people think:
- · According to some...
- · Quite a few think...
- · Some others favour...
- Thirty per cent of the people disagree...
- Fifty per cent of them strongly feel...



(iii) asking for others' opinions:

- What do you think about...
- · What do you think of...
- What is your opinion about...
- Do you agree...
- · Does this make you believe...

Answer: Do it yourself.

## Writing

**Question 1:** Think and write a short account of what life in Rameswaram in the 1940s must have been like. (Were people rich or poor? Hard working or lazy? Hopeful of change, or resistant to it?).

**Answer:** I think that life in Rameswaram in the 1940s must have been very different from how it must be today. People were orthodox and did not accept changes in their way of living. They would have been hard working and poor. Some people at Rameswaram used to differentiate among various social groups. They were more religious.



# No Men Are Foreign

## Thinking about the Poem

Question 1. (i) "Beneath all uniforms..." What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?

(ii) How does the poet suggest that all people on earth are the same?

**Answer:** (i) The poet is speaking about the various kinds of dresses and outfits people wear.

(ii) The poet says that the uniforms (outfits) must be different but there is a human body beneath those uniforms and all of us will lie in the same earth when we die.

Question 2. In stanza 1, find five ways in which we all are alike. Pick out the words.

**Answer:** The poet points out five ways in which we are all alike. Here are the words from the poem:

- no men are strange
- no countries foreign
- a single body breathes
- the land our brothers walk upon (the same planet)
- (the same earth) in which we all shall lie

Question 3. How many common features can you find in stanza 2? Pick out the words.

**Answer:** Following are the common features which we can find in stanza 2:

- aware of sun and air and water which means all humans have the need and awareness of the sun, water and air)
- fed by peaceful harvests all humans are fed by peacefully harvested food and grains
- Their hands are ours, they too have hands similar to ours
- in their lines we read a labour not different from our own their hands also show the hard work and labor they perform

**Question 4**. "...whenever we are told to hate our brothers..." When do you think this happens? Why? Who 'tells' us? Should we do as we are told at such times? What does the poet say?

**Answer:** We are told to hate other humans from different countries, religions or social groups during wars and fights. These are told by selfish people who want wars and revenge instead of peace. They instil bad thoughts and feelings for other humans for their own benefit and cause riots. No, we should not do as told at such times. We should try to make the world more peaceful.

The poet says that we should always remember that the people we are told to fight against are also human beings like us. We are all the same. There is no foreign land and there are no 'foreign' men.



# Reach for the Top

## Thinking about the Text

**I.** Answer these questions in one or two sentences each. (The paragraph numbers within brackets provide clues to the answers.)

Question 1. Why was the 'holy man' who gave Santosh's mother his blessings surprised? (1)

**Answer:** The 'holy man' who gave Santosh's mother his blessings was surprised because Santosh's grandmother sought that Santosh's mother be blessed with a daughter. This was quite astonishing for the holy man because people mostly seek blessings for having a son.

**Question 2**. Give an example to show that even as a young girl, Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable. (2)

**Answer:** Even as a young girl, Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable. She was not content with her place in the traditional way of life and began living life on her own terms from the start. While other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh used to wear shorts.

Question 3. Why was Santosh sent to the local school? (3)

**Answer:** Although Santosh's parents were rich landowners and could have sent her to the best schools, Santosh was sent to the local school because of the prevailing custom in the family.

Question 4. When did she leave home for Delhi, and why? (4)

**Answer:** She left home for Delhi when she was sixteen because she wanted to get a proper education.

**Question 5**. Why did Santosh's parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought to light by this incident? (4)

**Answer:** Santosh's parents agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi when she informed them about her plans to earn money by working part-time to pay for her education.

Through this incident, we get to know that Santosh had a very clear goal of getting properly educated no matter what.

II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words)

Question 1. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

**Answer:** Kasturba Hostel, where Santosh used to stay during her college days, faced Aravalli Hills. She used to watch the villagers go up the hill and vanish after a while. She decided to check out the mountains herself. She asked the villagers if she could join them, to which they agreed. This is how Santosh began to climb mountains.

Question 2. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh's concern for her team-mates?

**Answer:** During the Everest expedition in 1992, Santosh provided special care to a climber who was dying at the South Col. She could not save him, but she managed to save another climber, Mohan Singh, by sharing her oxygen with him.

Question 3. What shows her concern for the environment?

**Answer:** Santosh collected and brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas on her way back from the 1992 Everest expedition. This shows her concern for the environment.

Question 4. How does she describe her feelings at the summit of Everest?

## NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 8 Reach for the Top



**Answer:** She says that it took her some time for the enormity of the moment to sink in. She unfurled the Indian tricolor and held it aloft on the roof of the world.

She tells that the feeling is indescribable to watch the Indian flag flying on top of the world. She felt proud as an Indian.

**Question 5.** Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. What were the reasons for this?

**Answer:** Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. The first time she climbed Mt Everest, she got the record of the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. The second time she climbed Mt Everest, she became the only woman to climb Everest twice.

III. Complete the following statements.	
From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to	
2. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because	1
During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her endeared her to fellow climbers.	while

#### Answer:

- 1. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to watch villagers from her room, going up the hill and suddenly vanishing after a while.
- 2. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because she had got herself enrolled at Uttarkashi without his permission.
- 3. During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her climbing skills, physical fitness and mental strength, while her concern for others and desire to work together with them endeared her to fellow climbers.
- **IV.** Pick out words from the text that mean the same as the following words or expressions. (Look in the paragraphs indicated.)
- 1. took to be true without proof (1):
- 2. based on reason; sensible; reasonable (2):
- 3. the usual way of doing things (3):
- 4. a strong desire arising from within (5):
- 5. the power to endure, without falling ill (7):

## Answer:

- 1. took to be true without proof: assumed
- 2. based on reason; sensible; reasonable: rational
- 3. the usual way of doing things: custom
- 4. a strong desire arising from within: urge
- 5. the power to endure, without falling ill: resistance

## Part II



## Maria Sharapova

## Thinking about the Text

Working in small groups of 4–5 students, go back over the two passages on Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova and complete the table given below with relevant phrases or sentences.

Points of Comparison/Contrast	Santosh Yadav	Maria Sharapova
1. Their humble beginning		
2. Their parents' approach		
3. Their will power and strong desire to succeed		
4. Evidence of their mental toughness		
5. Their patriotism		

## Answer:

Points of Comparison/Contrast	Santosh Yadav	Maria Sharapova
1. Their humble beginning	She was born in the small village of Joniyawas of Rewari District in Haryana.	"My father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis training going."
2. Their parents' approach	But, in line with the prevailing custom in the family, Santosh had to make do with the local village school.	"My father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis training going."
3. Their will power and strong desire to succeed	"And I was supposed to be in Uttarkashi on the twenty-first. So, I did not go back home; instead, I headed straight for the training."	"When you come from nothing and you have nothing, then it makes you very hungry and



		determined"
4. Evidence of their mental toughness	Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness, she proved herself repeatedly.	"Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough."
5. Their patriotism	"Then I unfurled the Indian tricolour and held it aloft on the roof of the world. The feeling is indescribable. The Indian flag was flying on top of the world. It was truly a spiritual moment. I felt proud as an Indian."	"My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me."

## Thinking about Language

Look at the following sentences. They each have two clauses, or two parts each with their own subject and verb or verb phrase. Often, one part (italicised) tells us when or why something happened.

- I reached the market when most of the shops had closed. (Tells us when I reached.)
- When Rahul Dravid walked back towards the pavilion, everyone stood up. (Tells us when everyone stood up.)
- The telephone rang and Ganga picked it up. (Tells us what happened next.)
- Gunjan has been with us ever since the school began. (Tells us for how long he has been with us.)
- **I.** Identify the two parts in the sentences below by underlining the part that gives us the information in brackets, as shown above.
- 1. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts. (Contrasts her dress with that of others)
- 2. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. (Tells us what happened after the first action.)
- 3. She decided to fight the system when the right moment arrived. (Tells us when she was going to fight the system.)
- 4. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed off to train in the United States. (Tells us when Maria was sent to the U.S.)

#### Answer:

- 1. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts. (Contrasts her dress with that of others)
- 2. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. (Tells us what happened after the first action.)
- 3. She decided to fight the system when the right moment arrived. (Tells us when she was going to fight the system.)



- 4. <u>Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday</u> when she was packed off to train in the United States. (Tells us when Maria was sent to the U.S.)
- **II.** Now rewrite the pairs of sentences given below as one sentence.
- 1. Grandfather told me about the old days. All books were printed on paper then.
- 2. What do you do after you finish the book? Perhaps you just throw it away.
- 3. He gave the little girl an apple. He took the computer apart.
- 4. You have nothing. That makes you very determined.
- 5. I never thought of quitting. I knew what I wanted.

- 1. Grandfather told me about the old days when all books were printed on paper.
- 2. After you finish the book, perhaps you just throw it away.
- 3. He gave the little girl an apple and took the computer apart.
- 4. When you have nothing, that makes you very determined.
- 5. I never thought of quitting as I knew what I wanted.

#### **Dictation**

Read the passage once. Then close your books. Your teacher will dictate the story to you. Write it down with the correct punctuation and paragraphing.

## The Raincoat

After four years of drought in a small town in the Northeast, the Vicar gathered everyone together for a pilgrimage to the mountain, where they would pray together and ask for the rain to return.

The priest noticed a boy in the group wearing a raincoat.

"Have you gone mad?" he asked. "It hasn't rained in this region for five years, the heat will kill you climbing the mountain."

"I have a cold, father. If we are going to ask God for rain, can you imagine the way back from the mountain? It's going to be such a downpour that I need to be prepared."

At that moment a great crash was heard in the sky and the first drops began to fall. A boy's faith was enough to bring about a miracle that not even those most prepared truly believed in.

(translated by JAMES MULHOLLAND)

Answer: Do it yourself.

#### **Speaking**

Imagine that you are Santosh Yadav, or Maria Sharapova. You have been invited to speak at an All India Girls' Athletic Meet, as chief guest. Prepare a short speech to motivate the girls to think and dream big and make an effort to fulfil their dreams, not allowing difficulties or defeat to discourage them. The following words and phrases may help you.

- self confident/confidence/sure of yourself
- self assured/assurance/belief in yourself



- morale/boost morale/raise morale
- · giving somebody a boost/fillip/lift
- · demoralising/unsure of yourself/insecure/lack confidence

#### **Good Morning Girls!**

It is an honor to address you all from this stage. You definitely have sheer will and determination. That is what has brought you this far. As you proceed with the same passion, I want to iterate that everything you have and all that you will achieve in life will solely depend on your confidence. Believe in yourself and your dreams. Do whatever it takes to accomplish your goals. Never ever doubt your skills. Never let the difficulties discourage you. Never lose trust in yourself just because you had to face a defeat. Whenever you fail, remember to rise and chase your passion.

Thank you.

## Writing

Working in pairs, go through the table below that gives you information about the top women tennis players since 1975. Write a short article for your school magazine comparing and contrasting the players in terms of their duration at the top. Mention some qualities that you think may be responsible for their brief or long stay at the top spot.

## **Top-Ranked Women Players**

**I.** The roll of honour of women who enjoyed life at the summit since everybody's favourite player, Chris Evert, took her place in 1975.



Name	Ranked on	Weeks as No. 1
Maria Sharapova (Russia)	22 August 2005	1
Lindsay Davenport (U.S.)	October 2004	82
Amelie Mauresmo (France)	13 September 2004	5
Justine Henin-Hardenne (Belgium)	20 October 2003	45
Kim Clijsters (Belgium)	11 August 2003	12
Serena Williams (U.S.)	8 July 2002	57
Venus Williams (U.S.)	25 February 2002	11
Jennifer Capriati (U.S.)	15 October 2001	17
Lindsay Davenport (U.S.)	12 October 1998	82
Martina Hingis (Switzerland)	31 March 1997	209
Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)	6 February 1995	12
Monica Seles (U.S.)	11 March 1991	178
Steffi Graf (Germany)	17 August 1987	377
Tracy Austin (U.S.)	7 April 1980	22
Martina Navratilova (U.S.)	10 July 1978	331
Chris Evert (U.S.)	3 November 1975	362

Do it yourself.

**II.** Which of these words would you use to describe Santosh Yadav? Find reasons in the text to support your choices, and write a couple of paragraphs describing Santosh's character.

contented, determined, resourceful, polite, adventurous, considerate, weak-willed, fearful, independent, pessimistic, patient, persevering

**Answer:** Santosh Yadav is determined and polite. She is adventurous as she gets fascinated by the mountaineers climbing Everest and approaches them to ask if she could join them. She is a considerate person who helps her fellow climbers in their journey. She has determination and a strong will to achieve her goals. She is a patriot and says that the feeling of watching the Indian flag on top of the world is an indescribable feeling.



# On Killing a Tree

## Thinking about the Poem

Question 1. Can a "simple jab of the knife" kill a tree? Why not?

**Answer:** No, a simple jab of the knife cannot kill a tree because the tree grows with a lot of nutrients and resources. Even if one cuts it, it will sprout again.

Question 2. How has the tree grown to its full size? List the words suggestive of its life and activity.

**Answer:** The tree has grown to its full size by consuming the earth, feeding upon its crust, absorbing years of sunlight, air and water.

The words suggestive of its life and activity are: absorbing, feeding, rising, consuming and sprouting.

Question 3. What is the meaning of "bleeding bark"? What makes it bleed?

**Answer:** The "bleeding bark" indicates the idea that the tree has been cut. Just like humans bleed blood when they get wounded, trees release a liquid at the place where they are cut. So, the tree bleeds.

Question 4. The poet says "No" in the beginning of the third stanza. What does he mean by this?

**Answer:** The poet says "No" in the beginning of the third stanza. It emphasizes that only cutting or chopping the tree will not cease its existence.

Question 5. What is the meaning of "anchoring earth" and "earth cave"?

**Answer:** The "anchoring earth" means that the earth works as an anchor to protect the tree and saves it from getting uprooted.

"Earth cave" implies the depth of the mother earth where the tree spreads its roots and gets nurtured.

Question 6. What does he mean by "the strength of the tree exposed"?

**Answer:** He means to say that when one tries to pull out the tree along with its roots which are spread deep inside the earth, one will understand the strength of the tree.

Question 7. What finally kills the tree?

**Answer:** When the tree is pulled out along with its roots and separated from mother earth, one has to subject it to the scorching sun and let it wither. This will finally kill the tree.



# Kathmandu

## Thinking about the Text

## **Activity**

1. On the following map mark out the route, which the author thought of but did not take, to Delhi.

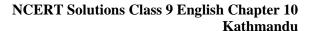


Answer: The route which the author thought of but did not take to Delhi was:

Bihar (Patna)- U.P. (Benaras - Allahabad-Agra)-Delhi



2. Find out the possible routes (by rail, road or air) from Kathmandu to New Delhi/Mumbai/Kolkata/Chennai.





Answer: Do it yourself.

**I.** Answer these questions in one or two words or in short phrases.

Question 1. Name the two temples the author visited in Kathmandu.

**Answer:** Pashupatinath temple and Baudhnath temple are the two temples that the author visited in Kathmandu.

Question 2. The writer says, "All this I wash down with Coca-Cola." What does 'all this' refer to?

**Answer:** All this refers to a bar of marzipan, a corn on- the-cob roasted in a charcoal brazier on the pavement (rubbed with salt, chilli powder and lemon); a couple of love story comics, and even a Reader's Digest.

Question 3. What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine?

**Answer:** Vikram Seth sees a flute seller with a pole in his hands with an attachment at the top from which fifty or sixty bansuris protrude in all directions. He compares it to the quills of a porcupine.

Question 4. Name five kinds of flutes.

Answer: The five kinds of flutes are:

- the reed neh
- the Japanese shakuhachi
- the deep bansuri of Hindustani classical music
- the clear or breathy flutes of South America
- the high-pitched Chinese flutes

**II.** Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph

Question 1. What difference does the author note between the flute seller and the other hawkers?

**Answer:** The author says that, unlike other hawkers, the flute seller plays slowly without excessive display. He does not shout out his wares. Occasionally he makes a sale, but in a curiously offhanded way as if this were incidental to his enterprise.

Question 2. What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug?

**Answer:** A small shrine half protrudes from the stone platform on the river Bagmati's bank. It is believed that when it emerges fully, the goddess inside will escape, and the evil period of the Kaliyug will end on earth.

Question 3. The author has drawn powerful images and pictures. Pick out three examples each of:

- (i) the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath (for example: some people trying to get the priest's attention are elbowed aside...)
- (ii) the things he sees
- (iii) the sounds he hears

**Answer:** The author has drawn powerful images and pictures.

(i) the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath: Priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roam through the grounds. We offer a few flowers. A party of saffron-clad Westerners struggle for permission to enter the temple as the gate says that only Hindus are allowed in the temple.



- (ii) the things he sees: Kathmandu is vivid, mercenary, religious, with small shrines to flower-adorned deities along the narrowest and busiest streets; with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards; shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls and chocolate; or copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.
- (iii) the sounds he hears: Film songs blare out from the radios, car horns sound, bicycle bells ring, stray cows low questioningly at motorcycles, vendors shout out their wares.
- **III.** Answer the following questions in not more than 100–150 words each.

**Question 1:** Compare and contrast the atmosphere in and around the Baudhnath shrine with the Pashupatinath temple.

**Answer:** The author says that the atmosphere in Pashupatinath temple was an atmosphere of 'febrile confusion'. He says that priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs can be seen roaming through the grounds. There are so many worshippers that people are elbowed aside by others pushing their way to the front.

At Baudhnath temple, the Buddhist shrine, there was a sense of stillness. There is no crowd. It is a safe place of quietness in the busy streets around.

Question 2: How does the author describe Kathmandu's busiest streets?

**Answer:** The author describes Kathmandu's busiest streets as vivid, mercenary and religious, with small shrines to flower-adorned deities along the narrowest and busiest streets. The streets are full of fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards; shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls and chocolate; or copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.

Film songs blare out from the radios, car horns sound, bicycle bells ring, stray cows look questioningly at motorcycles, vendors shout out their wares.

**Question 3:** "To hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind." Why does the author say this?

Answer: "To hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind."

The poet says this when he talks about five types of flutes—the reed neh, the Japanese shakuhachi, the deep bansuri of Hindustani classical music, the clear or breathy flutes of South America and the high-pitched Chinese flutes. He says that a flute is at once the most universal and most particular of sounds. It is found in every culture. He says that flute links to our common characteristics. Just like every human being, the motive force is living breath. It too, needs to pause and breathe before it can go on.

## Thinking about Language

- **I.** Read the following sentences carefully to understand the meaning of the italicised phrases. Then match the phrasal verbs in Column A with their meanings in Column B.
- 1. A communal war *broke out* when the princess was abducted by the neighbouring prince.
- 2. The cockpit *broke off* from the plane during the plane crash.
- 3. The car *broke down* on the way and we were left stranded in the jungle.
- 4. The dacoit *broke away* from the police as they took him to court.
- 5. The brothers *broke up* after the death of the father.
- 6. The thief broke into our house when we were away.



A	В
(i) break out	(a) to come apart due to force
(ii) break off	(b) end a relationship
(iii) break down	(c) break and enter illegally; unlawful trespassing
(iv) break away (from someone)	(d) to start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(v) break up	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(vi) break into	(f) stop working

## **Answer:**

A	В
(i) break out	(d) to start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(ii) break off	(a) to come apart due to force
(iii) break down	(f) stop working
(iv) break away (from someone)	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(v) break up	(b) end a relationship
(vi) break into	(c) break and enter illegally; unlawful trespassing



**II. Question 1:** Use the suffixes -ion or -tion to form nouns from the following verbs. Make the necessary changes in the spellings of the words.

Example: proclaim	<ul><li>proclamation</li></ul>		
cremate	act	exhaust	
invent	_ tempt	immigrate	
direct	_ meditate	imagine	
dislocate	associate	dedicat	e
Answer:			
cremate cremation	; act action; exhaus	st <b>exhaustion</b>	
invent invention; to	empt <b>temptation</b> ; im	nmigrate <b>immigr</b> a	ation
direct direction; me	editate <b>meditation</b> ;	imagine <b>imagina</b>	ation
dislocate <b>dislocati</b>	on; associate assoc	ciation; dedicate	dedication
Question 2: Now fi	II in the blanks with	suitable words fro	om the ones that you have formed.
(i) Mass literacy wa	s possible only after	the	_ of the printing machine.
(ii) Ramesh is unab	le to tackle the situa	tion as he lacks	·
(iii) I could not resis	t the	to open the letter	
(iv) Hardwork and _	are the	e main keys to su	iccess.
(v) The children we	re almost fainting wi	th	_after being made to stand in the sun.
Answer:			
(i) Mass literacy wa	s possible only after	the invention of	the printing machine.
(ii) Ramesh is unab	le to tackle the situa	tion as he lacks	imagination.
(iii) I could not resis	t the temptation to o	pen the letter.	
(iv) Hardwork and c	dedication are the ma	ain keys to succe	ess.
(v) The children we	re almost fainting wi	th exhaustion aft	er being made to stand in the sun.

#### III. Punctuation

Use capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas and inverted commas wherever necessary in the following paragraph.

an arrogant lion was wandering through the jungle one day he asked the tiger who is stronger than you you O lion replied the tiger who is more fierce than a leopard asked the lion you sir replied the leopard he marched upto an elephant and asked the same question the elephant picked him up in his trunk swung him in the air and threw him down look said the lion there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer

## Answer:

An arrogant lion was wandering through the jungle one day. He asked the tiger, "Who is stronger than you?" "You, O! Lion," replied the tiger. "Who is fiercer than a leopard?" asked the lion. "You, sir," replied the leopard. He marched up to an elephant and asked the same question. The elephant picked him up in his



trunk, swung him in the air and threw him down. "Look", said the lion, "there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer."

IV: Simple Present Tense

Study these sentences from the lesson.

- · A fight breaks out between two monkeys.
- Film songs blare out from the radios.
- · I wash it down with Coca-Cola.

The italicised verbs are in the simple present tense. The writer is here describing what he saw and heard but he uses the present tense instead of the past tense.

A narration or a story can be made more dramatic or immediate by using the present tense in this way.

Now look at the following sentences.

- A small shrine half protrudes from the stone platform on the riverbank.
- Small shops stand on the outer edge of the Stupa.

We use the simple present tense to speak about what is usually or generally true. The sentences above describe facts. We also use the simple present tense in sentences depicting 'universal truths'. For example:

- · The sun rises in the east.
- The earth revolves round the sun.

We can also refer to habitual actions using the simple present tense.

- He usually takes a train instead of a bus to work.
- We often get fine drizzles in winter.

MAHESH: That's wonderful!

In these sentences words like every day, often, seldom, never, every month, generally, usually, etc. may be used.

on
a pi ıle



**Answer:** (i) The heart is a pump that sends (send) the blood circulating through our body. The pumping action takes place (take place) when the left ventricle of the heart contracts (contract). This forces (force) the blood out into the arteries, which expand (expand) to receive the oncoming blood.

(ii) The African lungfish can live without water for up to four years. During a drought it digs (dig) a pit and encloses (enclose) itself in a capsule of slime and earth, leaving a tiny opening for air. The capsule dries (dry) and hardens (harden), but when rain comes (come), the mud dissolves (dissolve) and the lungfish swims (swim) away.

(iii) MAHESH: We have to organise a class party for our teacher.

Does (Do) anyone play an instrument?

VIPUL: Rohit plays (play) the flute.

MAHESH: Does (Do) he also act?

VIPUL: No, he composes (compose) music.

MAHESH: That's wonderful!

## Speaking

Question 1. Discuss in class the shrines you have visited or know about. Speak about one of them.

Answer: Do it yourself.

Question 2. Imagine you are giving an eyewitness account or a running commentary of one of the following:

- (i) a game of football, cricket or hockey, or some sports event
- (ii) a parade (e.g. Republic Day) or some other national event

Speak a few sentences narrating what you see and hear. Use the simple present and the present continuous tenses. For example:

- · He passes the ball but Ben gets in the way...
- These brave soldiers guard our frontiers. They display their skills here...

Answer: Do it yourself.

#### Writing

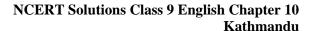
Diary entry for a travelogue

**I.** The text you read is a travelogue where the author, Vikram Seth, talks about his visit to two sacred places in Kathmandu.

Imagine that you were with Vikram Seth on his visit to Pashupatinath temple, and you were noting down all that you saw and did there, so that you could write a travelogue later.

Record in point form

- what you see when you reach the Pashupatinath temple
- what you see happening inside the temple
- · what you do when inside the temple
- · what you see outside the temple
- · what your impressions are about the place.





21-August-20xx

Dear Diary,

Today was a fabulous day. I went to the holy Pashupatinath temple with Vikram Seth. There was a huge crowd at the temple. I saw priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roaming in the ground. We both offered flowers and coconuts to God. We saw people getting elbowed by others pushing their way to the front.

At the gate of the temple, we saw saffron-clad westerners who were struggling for permission to enter the temple as only Hindus were allowed.

I felt peace and satisfaction by visiting the Pashupatinath temple.

#### Reyansh

**II.** Here is your diary entry when you visited Agra. Read the points and try to write a travelogue describing your visit to Agra and the Taj Mahal. You may add more details.

January 2003 — rise before dawn — take the Shatabdi Express at 6.15 a.m. from Delhi — meet a newly-married couple on train — talk about Himachal Pradesh — get off the train — enter the once-grand city, Agra — twisted alleys — traffic dense — rickshaws, cars, people — vendors selling religious artifacts, plastic toys, spices and sweets — go to the Taj Mahal — constructed entirely of white marble — magical quality — colour changes with varying of light and shadow — marble with gemstones inside — reflection of the Taj Mahal in the pond — school-children, tourists — tourist guides following people.

**Answer:** On January 2003, I woke up before dawn. I took the Shatabdi Express at 6.15 a.m. from Delhi. I met a newly-married couple on the train. We spoke about Himachal Pradesh. I got off the train and entered the once-grand city of Agra. I saw twisted alleys with dense traffic, rickshaws, cars, and people. There were vendors selling religious artefacts, plastic toys, spices and sweets. I went to the Taj Mahal. It is constructed entirely of white marble, which has a magical quality. The colour of the marble changes with varying light and shadow. The Taj Mahal has marble with gemstones engraved inside it. I saw the reflection of the Taj Mahal in the pond. There were many school-children, tourists and tourist guides.



# A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal

## Thinking about the Poem

**Question 1.** "A slumber did my spirit seal," says the poet. That is, a deep sleep 'closed off' his soul (or mind). How does the poet react to his loved one's death? Does he feel bitter grief? Or does he feel a great peace?

**Answer:** "A slumber did my spirit seal" says the poet. It is a little difficult to decide if the poet felt bitter grief or peace. He says that his soul has been sealed due to his loved one's death and that he does not have any human fears. He talks about how his loved one seemed now- motionless and beyond the passage of time.

Question 2. The passing of time will no longer affect her, says the poet. Which lines of the poem say this?

Answer: The lines of the poem that say this are:

"She seemed a thing that could not feel

The touch of earthly years."

**Question 3**. How does the poet imagine her to be, after death? Does he think of her as a person living in a very happy state (a 'heaven')? Or does he see her now as a part of nature? In which lines of the poem do you find your answer?

**Answer:** The poet imagines her to be immersed in the earth. He feels that she has become a part of the earth's daily course and rolled along with the rocks, stones and trees.

The lines of the poem that we find our answer in are:

"Rolled round in earth's diurnal course

With rocks and stones and trees."



# If I Were You

The following words and phrases occur in the play. Do you know their meanings? Match them with the meanings given, to find out.

cultured	an informal expression for a fashionable vehicle
count on	unnecessary and usually harmful
engaged	exaggerated
melodramatic	sophisticated; well mannered
to be smart	here, a tone of voice
inflection	Avoid
wise guy	an unexpected opportunity for success
a dandy bus	trap
tradespeople	a Christian religious teacher who teaches on Sundays in Church
gratuitous	(American English) a person who pretends to know a lot
dodge	depend on; rely on
lucky break	(American English) an informal way of saying that one is being too clever



Sunday-school teacher	occupied; busy			
frame	merchants			
Answer:				
cultured	sophisticated; well mannered			
count on	depend on; rely on			
engaged	occupied; busy			
melodramatic	exaggerated			
to be smart	(American English) a person who pretends to know a lot			
inflection	here, a tone of voice			
wise guy	(American English) an informal way of saying that one is being too clever			
a dandy bus	an informal expression for a fashionable vehicle			
tradespeople	merchants			
gratuitous	unnecessary and usually harmful			
dodge	Avoid			
lucky break	an unexpected opportunity for success			



Sunday-school teacher	a Christian religious teacher who teaches on Sundays in Church
frame	trap

## Thinking about the Text

I. Answer these questions.

Question 1. "At last, a sympathetic audience."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does he say it?
- (iii) Is he sarcastic or serious?

#### Answer:

- (i) Gerrard says the given statement.
- (ii) He says it when the intruder asks him to talk about himself.
- (iii) He is sarcastic.

Question 2. Why does the intruder choose Gerrard as the man whose identity he wants to take on?

**Answer:** The intruder chooses Gerrard as the man whose identity he wants to take on because Gerrard is a mystery man who phones his orders and sometimes goes away suddenly and comes back just the same.

Question 3. "I said it with bullets."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) What does it mean?
- (iii) Is it the truth? What is the speaker's reason for saying this?

#### Answer:

- (i) Gerrard says the given statement.
- (ii) It means that when he was in trouble, he shot someone to escape.
- (iii) No, it is not the truth. Gerrard says this to manipulate the intruder so that he does not kill him.

Question 4. What is Gerrard's profession? Quote the parts of the play that support your answer.

**Answer:** Gerrard's profession is that of a dramatist.

The parts of the play that support that implication are:

"In most melodramas, the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated".

"Sorry I can't let you have the props in time for rehearsal..."

"I think I'll put it in my next play."

"At last, a sympathetic audience!"



Question 5. "You'll soon stop being smart."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does the speaker say it?
- (iii) What according to the speaker will stop Gerrard from being smart?

#### Answer:

- (i) The intruder says the given statement.
- (ii) The intruder says this to scare Gerrard and know more about him.
- (iii) The speaker intends to kill Gerrard. According to the speaker, when Gerrard gets to know that he came to Gerrard to kill him and steal his identity, he would become scared and stop being smart.

Question 6. "They can't hang me twice."

- (i) Who says this?
- (ii) Why does the speaker say it?

#### Answer:

- (i) The intruder says the given statement.
- (ii) The speaker says this because he had already murdered someone. So, it is not a big deal for him to kill another man. He can't be hanged twice.

Question 7. "A mystery I propose to explain." What is the mystery the speaker proposes to explain?

**Answer:** The mystery that the speaker, Gerrard, proposes to explain is why he himself is a mystery man. He explains to the intruder that he himself is a criminal who is on the run. That is the reason why he does not meet tradespeople. He says that he murdered someone and got away with it. But now he was in a trouble and that's why his bag was all packed to escape again.

Question 8. "This is your big surprise."

- (i) Where has this been said in the play?
- (ii) What is the surprise?

#### **Answer:**

(i) This statement is said twice in the play.

Once when the intruder is trying to scare Gerrard and the second time when Gerrard is explaining to him why he won't kill him for a good reason.

(ii) The surprise in the first utterance of the statement is that the intruder expresses his intention to kill Gerrard.

The surprise in the second utterance of the statement is that Gerrard explains to him that he himself is a criminal on the run, which is why it won't do any good to the intruder to kill him and steal his identity.

## **Thinking about Language**

- I. Consult your dictionary and choose the correct word from the pairs given in brackets.
- 1. The (site, cite) of the accident was (ghastly/ghostly).



- 2. Our college (principle/principal) is very strict.
- 3. I studied (continuously/continually) for eight hours.
- 4. The fog had an adverse (affect/effect) on the traffic.
- 5. Cezanne, the famous French painter, was a brilliant (artist/artiste).
- 6. The book that you gave me yesterday is an extraordinary (collage/college) of science fiction and mystery.
- 7. Our school will (host/hoist) an exhibition on cruelty to animals and wildlife conservation.
- 8. Screw the lid tightly onto the top of the bottle and (shake/shape) well before using the contents.

- 1. The site of the accident was ghastly.
- 2. Our college principal is very strict.
- 3. I studied continuously for eight hours.
- 4. The fog had an adverse effect on the traffic.
- 5. Cezanne, the famous French painter, was a brilliant artist.
- 6. The book that you gave me yesterday is an extraordinary collage of science fiction and mystery.
- 7. Our school will host an exhibition on cruelty to animals and wildlife conservation.
- 8. Screw the lid tightly onto the top of the bottle and shake well before using the contents.
- II. Irony is when we say one thing but mean another, usually the opposite of what we say. When someone makes a mistake and you say, "Oh! that was clever!", that is irony. You're saying 'clever' to mean 'not clever'.

Expressions we often use in an ironic fashion are:

- · Oh, wasn't that clever!/Oh that was clever!
- · You have been a great help, I must say!
- · You've got yourself into a lovely mess, haven't you?
- Oh, very funny!/ How funny!

We use a slightly different tone of voice when we use these words ironically.

Read the play carefully and find the words and expressions Gerrard uses in an ironic way. Then say what these expressions really mean. Two examples have been given below. Write down three more such expressions along with what they really mean.

What the author says	What he means
Why, this is a surprise, Mr—er—	He pretends that the intruder is a social visitor whom he is welcoming.
	In this way he hides his fear.



At last a sympathetic audience!	He pretends that the intruder wants to listen to him, whereas actually the intruder wants to find out information for his own use.
---------------------------------	--

What the author says	What he means
You have been so modest.	Gerrard says this to express how immodest the intruder has been by not talking about himself at all.
At last a sympathetic audience!	Gerrard says this sarcastically as the intruder is asking about Gerrard while holding a gun.
You won't kill me for a very good reason.	Gerrard says this as if he has some 'very good reason' to be spared by the intruder. He says this so as to create a doubt in the intruder about killing him.

## **Dictionary Use**

A word can mean different things in different contexts. Look at these three sentences:

- The students are taught to respect different cultures.
- The school is organising a cultural show.
- · His voice is cultured.

In the first sentence, 'culture' (noun) means way of life; in the second, 'cultural' (adjective) means connected with art, literature and music; and in the third, 'cultured' (verb) means sophisticated, well mannered. Usually a dictionary helps you identify the right meaning by giving you signposts.

Look at the dictionary entry on 'culture' from Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2005.



cul-tural 0 / k∧lt∫ərəl/ adj. [usually before noun]
1 connected with the culture of a particular society of

1 connected with the culture of a particular society or group, its customs, beliefs, etc.: cultural differences between the two communities ○ economic, social and cultural factors 2 connected with art, literature, music, etc.: a cultural event ○ Europe's cultural heritage ○ The orchestra is very important for the cultural life of the city. ▶ cul-tural-ly /-rali/ adv.

## cul-ture Om /'kaltfə(r)/ noun, verb

- m noun
- WAY OF LIFE 1 [U] the customs and beliefs, art, way of life and social organization of a particular country or group: European/Islamic/African/American, etc. culture ○ working-class culture 2 [C] a country, group, etc. with its own beliefs, etc.: The children are taught to respect different cultures. ○ the effect of technology on traditional cultures
- ART/MUSIC/LITERATURE 3 [U] art, music, literature, etc., thought of as a group: Venice is a beautiful city full of culture and history. 

   oppular culture (= that is enjoyed by a lot of people) 
   other Minister for Culture

- BELIEFS/ATTITUDES 4 [C,U] the beliefs and attitudes about sth that people in a particular group or organization share: The political cultures of the United States and Europe are very different. A culture of failure exists in some schools. Company culture We are living in a consumer culture.
- GROWING/BREEDING 5 [U] (technical) the growing of plants or breeding of particular animals in order to get a particular substance or crop from them: the culture of silkworms (= for silk)
- CELLS/BACTERIA 6 [c] (biology, medical) a group of cells or bacteria, especially one taken from a person or an animal and grown for medical or scientific study, or to produce food; the process of obtaining and growing these cells: a culture of cells from the tumour o Yogurt is made from active cultures. o to do/take a throat culture
- verb [VN] (biology, medical) to grow a group of cells or bacteria for medical or scientific study
- cul-tured /'kalt[əd; NAmE-t[ərd/ adj. 1 (of people) well educated and able to understand and enjoy art, literature, etc. SYM CULTIVATED 2 (of cells or bacteria) grown for medical or scientific study 3 (of PEARLS) grown artificially

(Noun, verb, adjective, adverb, synonyms, etc. are signposts which help you locate the right meaning and usage, and give information about the part of speech that the word is.)

Look up the dictionary entries for the words sympathy, familiarity, comfort, care, and surprise. Use the information given in the dictionary and complete the table.

Noun	Adjective	Adverb	Verb	Meaning
Sympathy				
Familiarity				
Comfort				
Care				
Surprise				

Answer:



Noun	Adjective	Adverb	Verb	Meaning
Sympathy	sympathetic	sympathetically	sympathize	To feel pity for someone
Familiarity	familiar	familiarly	familiarize	To know someone/ something
Comfort	comfortable	comfortably	comfort	To make someone feel relaxed
Care	caring	carefully	care	To be concerned about someone
Surprise	surprising	surprisingly	surprise	To amaze someone

## Speaking

**Question 1.** Imagine you are Gerrard. Tell your friend what happened when the Intruder broke into your house. [Clues: Describe (i) the intruder — his appearance, the way he spoke, his plan, his movements, etc., (ii) how you outwitted him.]

Answer: Last night, while I was on the phone, an intruder broke into my cottage. He had a gun in his hand. He was a criminal on the run. He was planning to kill me and steal my identity. He kept threatening me with the gun and asked me to tell him everything about myself. I did not reveal my true profession and instead gave him a dodge. I told him that just like him, I too am a criminal and that is why killing me will not do any good to him. I told him that I was in trouble myself and had to escape. While trying to come out of the cottage, I locked him up in the cupboard and called the police. That's how I was able to outwit him and save myself.

**Question 2.** Enact the play in the class. Pay special attention to words given in italics before a dialogue. These words will tell you whether the dialogue has to be said in a happy, sarcastic or ironic tone and how the characters move and what they do as they speak. Read these carefully before you enact the play.

Answer: Do it yourself.

#### Writing

I. Which of the words below describe Gerrard and which describe the Intruder?

Smart; humorous; clever

Beautiful; cool; confident

Flashy; witty; nonchalant

Write a paragraph each about Gerrard and the Intruder to show what qualities they have. (You can use some of the words given above.)

#### Answer:



#### Gerrard:

Gerrard is a smart and humorous person. He is clever and confident. Even in a life-threatening situation, he is cool and handles the situation in an amazing way. Instead of losing his mind and getting killed by the intruder, he quickly cooks up a story of being an on-the-run criminal. He is a witty person who saves himself and gets the intruder behind bars.

#### Intruder:

The intruder is a flashy person who tries to be very smart from the very beginning. He believes the cookedup story of Gerrard and agrees to get out of the cottage with Gerrard. We see that the intruder is then locked up by Gerrard and the intruder even loses his gun to Gerrard.

**II.** Convert the play into a story (150–200 words). Your story should be as exciting and as witty as the play. Provide a suitable title to it.

Answer: Do it yourself.

