

**BHARATHI VIDYA BHAVAN MATRIC. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL ERODE– 12****STD: X****UNIT – II THE NIGHT THE GHOST GOT IN****- James Grover Thurber****I. Answer the Following**

1. When did the ghost get into the author's house?  
The ghost got into the author's house on the night of November 17, 1915 raised such a hullabaloo of misunderstandings.
2. What did its arrival cause?  
Its arrival caused the author's mother to throw a shoe through a window of the house next door and ended up with his grandfather shooting a patrol man.
3. What time did the narrator hear the footsteps? What was the pattern of the footsteps?  
He heard the footsteps about a quarter past one o' clock in the morning. It was rhythmic, quick – cadenced, walking around the dining room table.
4. What did the narrator first think about the footsteps?  
The narrator first thought about the footsteps as the steps of a man walking rapidly around the dining table.
5. What did Herman do when he was aroused by the narrator?  
When he was aroused by the narrator, Herman followed him upstairs.
6. Where was the author when he heard the noise?  
The author had just stepped out of the bathtub and was busily rubbing himself with a towel when he heard the noise.
7. What did the narrator think the unusual sound was?  
At first, the narrator thought the unusual sound was the footsteps of his father or his brother returning home. Then he suspected that it was a burglar.
8. What were the various sounds the brothers heard when they went downstairs?  
The brothers heard the footsteps of a man walking and running up the stairs, and as if two men were circling the dining table. .

9. What did the narrator's mother do?

First the narrator's mother tried to call the police but the phone was downstairs. Then she made a quick incomparable decision of throwing a shoe through a pane of glass, just to convey the news about a burglar in the house.

10. Who were the narrator's neighbours?

Mr. Bodwell, a retired engraver and his wife were the narrator's neighbours.

11. How was the health of Bodwell?

Bodwell's health was not good as he was affected by some kind of attacks.

12. How did the Bodwells react when a shoe was thrown into their house?

Bodwell was at the window in a minute, shouting a little, shaking his fist. Mrs. Bodwell said that they would sell the house and go back to Peoria.

13. What do the Bodwells think when they heard the mother shout?

The Bodwells at first thought that there were burglars in their house but finally called the police over the phone.

14. What did the mother do after Bodwells had disappeared from the window?

The narrator's mother suddenly felt as if to throw another shoe because the thrill of heaving a shoe through a window glass had enormously taken her fancy.

15. How many policemen turned out?

A Ford Sedan full of policemen, two on motor cycles and patrol wagon with about eight in it and a few reporters turned out.

16. What did the police men do after entering the house?

The policemen flashed lights all over the living room and crisscrossed nervously in the dining room, stabbed into hallways, shot up front stairs and finally went up the back.

17. What could the narrator hear from the downstairs by the tramping of the other police?

The police were all over the place, doors and drawers were yanked open, windows were shot up and pulled down and furniture felt with dull thumps.

18. What did the policemen do in the upstairs?  
The policemen began to ransack the floor; pulled the beds away from the walls, tore clothes off the hooks in the closets pulled suitcases and boxes off shelves.
19. What was the grandfather wearing?  
The grandfather was wearing a long flannel night gown over long woolen pants, a night cap and a leather jacket around his chest.
20. What conclusions did grandfather jump to when he saw the cop?  
Grandfather had evidently jumped to the conclusions that the police were deserters from Meade's army, trying to hide away in his attic. He grabbed a zither's gun and shot at them.
21. Were the policemen willing to leave the house?  
The policemen were reluctant to leave without getting their hand on somebody. They began to poke into things again.
22. What made the reporter gaze at the author?  
The narrator had put on one of mother's dresses, not being able to find anything else. The reporter looked at him with mingled suspicion and interest.
23. Why was the narrator sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps?  
The narrator was sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps because it was all a misunderstanding. There was no ghost moving but the grandfather. He could have averted all that hullabaloo.
24. Why did Herman and the author slam the doors?  
Herman and the author slammed the doors because they thought that someone was coming up their stairs. They were scared as they heard the steps of someone.
25. What wake up the mother?  
The slamming of the doors by Herman and the author had aroused the mother.
26. What do you understand by the mother's act of throwing the shoe?

The mother's act of throwing the shoe indicates that she was also frightened to go downstairs and call the police. She was very studious and quick in decision making. Hence she threw the shoe in order to catch the attention of the Bodwells to call the police.

27. Why do you think Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house?

Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house because she might have thought the house was haunted or constant nuisance to the neighbours.

28. How did the cops manage to enter the locked house?

The cops managed to enter the house by hitting their shoulders to the big heavy front door, with its thick bevelled of the glass narrator's house and broke into it.

29. Why were the policemen prevented from entering the grandfather's room?

The policemen were prevented from entering grandfather's room because the author believed that under steady hammering by Stonewall Jacksons on, were beginning to retreat and even desert.

30. Who used the zither and how?

The grandfather used the zither because he believed that the police were deserters from the army who were trying to hide away in his attic. Since he didn't like this, he fired on them with the zither's gun in the darkness.

31. Mention the things the grandfather imagined.

The grandfather first imagined that General Meade's men, under steady hammering by Stonewall Jackson were beginning to retreat and even desert. Secondly when they got to the attic, he thought the police were deserters from the army who were trying to hide away in his attic. Since he didn't like this, fired on them with the zither's gun in the darkness.

## **PARAGRAPH**

1. Describe the funny incident that caused the confusion in the house?

'The Night the ghost got in' is a short story, written by James Thurber. It is a fictionalized account of a night in his childhood.

On the night of November 17, 1915 the narrator was taking a bath and heard some footsteps. It was around 1.00 A.M. He thought that it was his father and brother Roy who had gone to Indiana and were expected back at any time. When, he stuck his head out the door, he didn't see anyone. He wrapped a towel around his waist and walked out into the hallway. He heard footsteps again. He woke his brother, Herman to help him find out what was going on. They didn't see anyone and didn't hear anything anymore. So they went back to their rooms and slammed the doors. Their mother was awakened by the slamming of the doors and wanted to know what was going on. She believed that there were burglars in the house and throws a shoe into the windows of the neighbour house. She asked them to call the police. The police arrived with a few reporters and things just went wild. The grandfather ended up shooting one of the policemen in the arm, thinking that he was a deserter. They found no evidence and left. The next morning at breakfast, the family didn't think that the grandfather would remember anything. But he asked why the cops came round the house the previous night.

The short story was a funny little tale. The commotion that the family went through was hilarious.

2. Narrate the extensive search operation made by the policemen in the house?

The policemen were on hand in a commendably short time. They began banging at the narrator's front door. When nobody responded, they broke into the house. They searched downstairs and upstairs messing up everything. They opened all the doors and windows. They pulled the drawers and furniture. They began to ransack the floor, pulled beds away from the walls, tore clothes off the hooks in the closets. They also pulled suitcases and boxes off the shelves. Later, they heard some creaking in the attic. They stepped into the attic. As his grandfather thought that they were the deserters from Meade's army, so he started shooting at them. Then he went back to bed. The cops were unwilling to leave

without getting their hand on somebody. They felt it was a defeat for them. They began to poke into things again and finally left the place.

### **ANTONYMS**

Despondent	x	cheerful
Suspected	x	trusted
Ceased	x	continued
Palely	x	powerfully
Intuitively	x	artificially
Cowardly	x	courageously
Reluctant	x	Willing
Distinctly	x	commonly
Obviously	x	unclearly
Deserter	x	loyalist
Wispy	x	strong
Gazed	x	glanced
Retreat	x	Advance
Obviously	x	unclearly
Nervously	x	calmly

### **POEM – 2**

#### **THE GRUMBLE FAMILY**

- Lucy Maud Montgomery

Appreciation Questions

1. **There's a family nobody like to meet**

**They live, it is said, on complaining street.**

- a. Where does the family live?

The family lives on the Complaining Street.

- b. Why do you think the street is named as 'Complaining Street'?

The street is named as 'Complaining Street' people who live there always grumble.

2. **They growl at that and they growl at this**

**Whatever comes, there is something amiss;**

- a. What does the word 'growl' mean here?

The word 'growl' literally means to make a low guttural sound in the throat. But here it means that they keep on complaining about this and that.

- b. Why do they find everything amiss?

They find everything amiss because they are unable to accept anything and dissatisfied with everything.

- c. Who does 'They' refer to?

'They' refers to the members of the Grumble family.

3. **Nothing goes right with folks you meet**

**Down on that gloomy complaining street**

- a. What is the opinion about the folks you meet down the street?

The folks have the habit of complaining all the things they come across, nothing is right.

- b. What does the word gloomy mean here?

The word 'gloomy' means to appear depressing or frightening.

4. **The worst thing is that if anyone stays**

**Among them too long, he will learn their way**

- a. What is the worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them?

The worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them is that he will learn their attitude, behaviour and mannerism.

- b. What are the ways of the Grumble family?

The Grumble family always complain about something or other. Nothing is right in front of their eyes.

- c. Who does 'he' refer to?

'He' refers to the neighbour.

- d. Explain 'their ways'

It means that they are grumbling against everything.

**5. And so it were wisest to keep our feet**

**From wandering into complaining Street**

- a. What is the wisest thing that the poet suggests?

The wisest thing the poet suggests is not to step into complaining street and to keep away from grumbling people.

- b. What does the phrase 'to keep our feet from wandering' refer to?

The phrase 'to keep our feet from wandering' refers to keep away from these grumbling people.

**6. Lest we be mistaken for Grumbles, too**

- a. Who does 'we' refer to?

'We' refers to the public (People)

- b. Why may we be mistaken?

If we join with the Grumble family, we may be mistaken by others.

**7. Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song**

**No matter if things do something go wrong**

- a. What does the poet expect everyone to learn?  
The poet expects everyone to learn to lead a life with joy and happiness.
- b. What should we do when things go wrong sometimes?  
We should not worry and should take life easy when things go wrong sometimes.

**8. And then, be our station high or humble**  
**We'll never belong to the family of Grumble**

- a. What does 'station' refer here?  
'Station' here refers to position or status in the society.
- b. Write down the words of alliteration.  
High, humble are the words of alliteration.

**Poem paraphrase**

Line No. 1 – 4

There's a family nobody likes to meet;  
They live, it is said, on Complaining Street  
In the city of Never-Are-Satisfied,  
The River of Discontent' beside.

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Grumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

A family lives in the street of complaining and nobody likes them. They don't talk to them and mingle with them. They live in the city of 'Never-Are-Satisfied' which is beside the river of Discontent.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 5 – 8

They growl at that and they growl at this;  
Whatever comes, there is something amiss;  
And whether their station be high or humble,  
They are all known by the name Grumble.

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

They go on complaining or grumbling about each and everything. Their first instinct is to find something to complain and murmur about everything. They growl at everything. They find wrong in whatever they see or act. Whether they are in a good position or not, they find fault in it and complain about it. They are known by the name of Grumble.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 9 – 12

The weather is always too hot or cold;  
Summer and winter alike they scold.  
Nothing goes right with the folks you meet,  
Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

Whether the weather is too hot or too cold, they complain about it. They scold alike if it is winter or summer everything goes wrong with the people living down on the sad complaining street.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 13 – 16

They growl at the rain and they growl at the sun;  
In fact, their growling is never done.  
And if everything pleased them, there isn't a doubt,  
They'd growl that they'd nothing to grumble about!

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

They grumble about the rain, if it rains heavily and growl about the sun, if it is hot. It is a fact that their growling never gets completed or stopped and if everything pleased them there is no doubt, that they will grumble, that there is nothing to grumble about.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 17 – 20

But the queerest thing is that not one of the same,  
Can be brought to acknowledge his family name;  
For never a Grumble will own that he  
Is connected with it at all, you see.

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

But the strange thing is that not one of the same can be brought to acknowledge his family name, as a grumbler never owns that he is connected with it at all.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 21 – 24

The worst thing is that if anyone stays,  
Among them too long, he will learn their ways;  
And before he dreams of the terrible jumble,  
He's adopted into the family of Grumble.

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

The worst thing to be known about the Grumbler's family is that if anyone stays too long with them, he will learn their ways before the person knows the truth of the terrible jumble, he's adopted into the family of Grumble.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 25 – 28

And so it were wisest to keep our feet  
From wandering into Complaining Street;  
And never to growl, whatever we do,  
Lest we be mistaken for Grumblers, too.

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

So the poet insists that it is wisest to keep our feet away from wandering into the complaining street. We should be mistaken as grumblers.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

Line No. 29 – 32

Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song,  
No matter if things do sometimes go wrong;  
And then, be our station high or humble,  
We'll never belong to the family of Grumble!

**Introduction:**

The given lines are taken from the poem 'The Gumble family' written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. This is a humorous poem about a grumble family, who always complain about silly matters.

**Explanation:**

Therefore, we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should not bother ourselves, no matter if things go wrong or if we are in a good or a low position. We should never belong to the family of grumble.

**Conclusion:**

Thus we should learn to walk with a smile and a song. We should never be a complainer, but always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good in everything.

**PARAGRAPH**

1. **Write a paragraph on “The Grumble Family” and their attitude towards other folks.**

L.M.Montgomery was a Canadian author and poetess. One of her works is ‘The Grumble Family’. The title of the poem itself tells about the nature of the family, she describes. The grumble family is a pessimistic family. It lives in ‘Complaining street’ in the city of ‘Never-Are-Satisfied’. It is beside the ‘River of Discontent’. The name of the street, city and the river are the fittest one. The members of the family are always discontented. Nobody wants to meet them. They are never happy with their lives. They are dissatisfied with everything. They complain about everything. Whatever happens in their lives, they complain about it. Rain or sun, summer or winter, high or humble, they never fail to grumble. They always growl at others. Even though everything in their life is pleased to them, they would growl for not having a grumble. They don’t have any positive attitude. They find fault at each and everything. They are well known with the name of Grumble. Nobody wants to be with them for a fear that they will also get affected by this habit. Thus no one likes the negative attitude of the grumble family. We should not grumble for everything that goes wrong. If we do so, we would also be listed in the ‘pessimistic grumble family’.

2. **If you were to live in the complaining street, how would you deal with the people who grumble?**

If I were in the complaining street, I would teach the values and ethics of life. I would never allow the pessimism of others to keep us from reaching the heights of victory. Many times we come into contact with people who have nothing positive to say. Their focus is only on the negative part of every aspect. I would not avoid them. Rather I would take it as a challenge to mend the ways of the members of the grumble family. I would always try my best to be an optimist. I would also make them understand that complaining or growling will cause serious health issues. I would give them psychological counseling, teach them how to deal with all the matters in a diplomatic way and to be happy with what they are blessed with.

**3. From the poem 'The Grumble Family' what kind of behaviour does the poet want the reader to possess?**

The poet Montgomery expects the reader to adopt a positive attitude in our daily life. It would bring constructive things in our life. It will make us an optimist and help us avoid worries and negative thoughts. This would help us see the brighter side of life and expect the best to happen. Positive attitude is certainly a state of mind that is well work developing. It guides us to look at life with a broader vision and find creative solutions. This makes us unique and helps us do things in a better way than others. Optimism is one of the vital virtues to develop hope which turns and improves the situation. When we believe in our abilities, we become motivated. A person with a positive attitude is usually happy and contented. Positive attitude influences our thoughts, actions and health. Successful people see the circumstances a challenge but not a difficulty. These people are the commoners to have the best attitude of this world.

**ZIGZAG**

Author Asha Nehemiah unfolds the delicate love a bird can exhibit to the astonishment of the inmates. Interesting facts about plants and animals will draw the attention of students. Let us read the family's reaction towards the wonder bird Zigzag. Dr. Ashok T Krishnan's family shelters Somu's new pet, ZigZag, a queer-looking African bird, who is known for talking and singing in twenty-one different languages brought in by Visu after a telephonic conversation which wasn't audible due to the variety of blood-curdling yells and ear-splitting sobs. Mr. Krishnan knows about Mrs. Krishnan's painting exhibition the next week and denies the plea of Somu to shelter the pet. Zigzag is the most harmless, unusual and lovable bird bred by a genuine African witch doctor, who gifted it to Somu when he, being a child specialist like Dr. Krishnan cured the witch doctor's son, while he was touring the deepest jungles of Africa a month ago. To Somu, the bird is an absolute treasure and a real help. However, Somu mistakes Krishnan to have agreed to the request. Their son Arvind and daughter Maya are keen in bringing the pet home. They both discuss about the unique gifts given by Uncle Somu such as the insect-eating plant, tiny pen knife with the genuine shark's tooth blade, the aboriginal boomerang and so on. But this strange guest turns out to be a disappointment for the Krishnan family. Zigzag does nothing but sleeps and snores all the time at home that even the neighbours complain about the noise in person and over the phone. All attempts to awaken the bird goes in vain. They finally feel a big escape to leave home and stay far away from the sound of snoring. The bird at first before resorting to a steadfast sleep eats the nuts and fruits, keeps them safe in the chandelier and the fan blades. The maid Lakshmi shrieks when she switches on the fan in an excited manner thinking she is blessed with papayas and bananas raining inside the room not knowing the bird's play. Mrs. Krishnan is annoyed at the slice of overripe papaya whizzing off the fan and splattering all over her unfinished masterpiece – sunset at Marina spreading streaks of gooey orange pulp and shiny black seeds all over it. Dr. Krishnan leaves an e-mail message for Somu, asking him for clear instructions on how to stop Zigzag from snoring. Six frantic days of checking their e-mail day and night make them dumbstruck by the reply from Somu on the seventh day that the bird never sleeps nor snores. Mrs. Krishnan wants it to be sent to Visu as her friends and experts will come home and choose her paintings for the exhibition. Krishnan takes Zigzag in the

car and hopes to find Visu so that Zigzag's snore doesn't add to the din of the sobs and shrieks produced by the tiny patients waiting for him. However, Ziggy-Zagga, King-of-the- Tonga was not familiar to being kept waiting and was already making his way to the clinic where he perched himself on the nurse's reception table. Dr. Krishnan warned Zigzag fiercely as he went towards his room. Dr. Krishnan had barely walked through the door that separated his clinic from the waiting room when he heard a strange voice say, 'You there in the blue T-shirt, don't jump on the sofa and you in the red dress, don't swing on the curtain.' It was Zigzag's voice, clear and commanding. There was pin-drop silence in the room as everyone waited for Zigzag's next sentence. Dr. Krishnan was amazed! Gone was Zigzag's bored and grumpy expression. Instead, the bird looked happy and alert as it went about the job it had been trained for, first with the African witch doctor and then with Dr. Somu. To top it all, Zigzag never slept nor snored. Zigzag was an absolute treasure and Dr. Krishnan never wanted Visu to take away Zigzag attracts Rnshnan's family after all the mess and irritating snores. It is interesting to watch the activities of a wild bird that belongs to the deepest jungles of Africa. The lesson has amazing facts about African animals and plants adding to the students delight.

= = = = =