



D. A poem for you to read

All but Blind

*All but blind
In his chambered hole
Gropes for worms
The four-clawed Mole.*

*All but blind
In the evening sky
The hooded Bat
Twirls softly by.*

*All but blind
In the burning day
The Barn Owl blunders
On her way.*

*And blind as are
These three to me,
So, blind to Someone
I must be.*

—WALTER DE LA MARE

Speaking and Writing (Page 66)

A. Make a short list of things you find difficult to do.

For example:

(i) turning a somersault.



(ii) threading a needle.



Compare your list with the others in the class. Can you explain why you find these things difficult to do?

Ans: Attempt yourself.

B. Look at your hands carefully. Now, write down for each finger one action for which that finger is particularly important. For example, the second (or index) finger helps to hold the knife down firmly when cutting.

1st finger

– to warn the child or to tell the direction to a traveller

Middle or the second finger

– to hold the knife down firmly when cutting.

Third finger

– for putting on the ring.

The last/little finger

– for making a fist.

MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

I. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Describe the appearance of Miss Beam.

Ans: Miss Beam was middle-aged, dominating, yet kindly. Her hair was turning grey and she was a little fat.

2. What did Miss Beam teach the children at her school?

Ans: The children were taught simple spelling, adding, subtracting, multiplying and writing.

3. What was the real aim of Miss Beam's school?

Ans: The real aim of Miss Beam's school was not to teach so many subjects to make them thoughtful. They were trained to be kind to others and become responsible citizens. The school aimed at teaching 'thoughtfulness'.

4. What did the author point out about the children in the playground?

Ans: The author complained that not all children were healthy and active-looking. Some were blind or lame and crippled.

5. What did Miss Beam tell the author about the game being played among the friends?

Ans: Miss Beam explained to the author that no child was lame, blind or crippled. They were, in fact, being made to understand misfortune. Every child had one blind day, one lame day and one dumb day. They were helped by other children.

6. How did the little bandaged girl make the author much more thoughtful than he ever thought?

Ans: The bandaged girl asked the author to describe things to her. The author had to observe places and persons very carefully. He noticed the colour of the hair or skirt. He discovered after a while that he had become thoughtful.

II. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. In what respect was Miss Beam's school different from others?

Ans: Miss Beam ran a school. But it was very different from others. The children were taught how to spell words, do sums and write. The teacher taught to them interesting lessons. But the real aim of the school was to make children sensitive and good citizens, kind and responsible. They were given practical training to develop such a character.

2. What did Beam's school aim to teach? Why?

Ans: Miss Beam's school was a training ground to turn out good citizens. Bookish knowledge intends to know what is right and what is wrong. But Miss Beam's school aimed at developing the habit to help the blind, the lame and the needy

3. Which incident made the visitor to the school ten times more thoughtful than ever?

Ans: The narrator had heard a lot about the unique method of teaching in Beam's school. At first he saw a blind girl being led out. Then he saw a lame boy. He thought that the students were not at all healthy and active. But soon he came to know that that they were just acting to be blind, lame, crippled etc. Meanwhile, he was asked to lead a blind girl around. The blind girl asked him many questions. And he had to apply his brain to describe people and things. He realised that he had become ten times more thoughtful than ever.

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