



Page No: 9

Language Work

1. Look at the following set of words and mention what is common to them both in form and meaning.

Snuffle, snort, sniffle, snore

Answer:

All the words given are different ways of breathing

Snuffle: To breathe noisily due to cold or because of crying

Snort: To breathe air out noisily through nose to show anger

Sniffle: To breathe air from nose in a way that makes a sound, especially while crying or on having cold

Snore: To breathe noisily through nose and mouth while sleeping

2. Look at the words given in the box below

snigger	wriggle	sneak	squeak
squawk	titter	pant	chuckle
giggle	jeer	chortle	guffaw
sigh	sidle	boo	shriek
scramble	croak	straggle	plod
gasp			

Now classify them according to their closeness in meaning to the words given below

A	B	C	D	E
snigger	wriggle	squeak	jeer	sigh

Answer:

giggle boo plod

snigger wriggle squeak jeer sigh titter

chortle

chuckle

guffaw sneak

straggle

scramble

sidle shriek

squawk

croak

gasp

pant

3. Explain the associations that the colour 'white' has in the story.

Answer: White is the colour of light. However, the irony in the story

The Lament is that it reflects the gloom portrayed in the story. In

the beginning to show the melancholy of Iona Potapov, the narrator says that he is so white that he looks like a phantom. His horse also appears quiet white. Actually white is the colour of snow. And snow reflects despondency and lethargy of the season of winter and how the whole environment and atmosphere appears to be thrown into utter despair. The evening is setting in and everything seems so white and withered. The street lamps' light is also white, replacing the brighter rays. The whole setting, while laying stress on the white

surroundings, project the solitude of the poor cab driver.

4. What does the phrase 'as if he were on needles' mean? Can you think of another phrase with a similar meaning substituting the word 'needless'?

Answer: The phrase actually is 'on pins and needles' which means to be nervously waiting to see what is going to happen.

Another phrase that has similar meaning is 'on tenterhooks'.

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