



মণিপুরৰ চৰকাৰ (মণি)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS IX
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER (POETRY)
CHAPTER-6
NIGHT MAIL
(W.H. AUDEN)

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL EXERCISE

(a) *Based on your understanding of the poem answer the following questions. Tick(✓) the correct answer.*

I. The night mail brings letters

- a. for the rich.
- b. for the poor.
- c. for the kings and queens.
- d. for everyone.

Ans: d) for everyone.

II. ‘.....fields of apparatus, the furnaces’

Here, the poet is describing that Glasgow is

- a. an agricultural city.
- b. an ancient city.
- c. an industrial city.
- d. a historical city.

Ans: c) an industrial city.

III. When the people hear the postman’s knock they feel

- a. excited.
- b. nervous.
- c. frightened.
- d. call us.

Ans: a) excited.



(b) Answer the following in a sentence each:

I. What does the night mail shovel over her shoulder?

Ans: The night mail shovel white steam over its shoulder.

II. Why does a jug in the bedroom gently shake?

Ans: A jug in the bedroom moves slightly by the vibration of the night mail, when it passes the farm.

III. What are the people doing as the night mail passes through the night?

Ans: The people are sleeping when the night mail passes through the night.

IV. Why is Aberdeen described as ‘granite Aberdeen’?

Ans: Aberdeen is a city of north east Scotland. Because of the Granite, which has been quarried in and around the city, Aberdeen is described as granite Aberdeen.

(c) Answer the following questions briefly:

I. Name the people for whom night mail carries letters.

Ans: The night mail carries letter for friends, associates, business partners, family members, and lovers. It also carries letter for the people of all the works of life, rich and poor people.

II. How does the night mail pass through cotton grass and moorland boulder?

Ans: The night mail passes through cotton grass and moorland boulder with a steady climb and travels in upward and downward slopes, but it is never late. It reaches its destination on time.

III. What do the birds do when the night mail comes?

Ans: When the night mail comes, the birds turn their heads to see the mail. They watch it passing but do not leave their nest in the bushes. They are not afraid at all.

IV. Describe Glasgow as the night mail turns towards it.

Ans: In the dawn, the mail descends into Glasgow an industrial city of Scotland. The landscape is a bit more industrial with “fields of apparatus” and furnaces, set on the dark plain like a gigantic chessman. Despite of thin atmosphere Scotland longs for its news in anticipation.



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V. Why does all Scotland wait for the night mail?

Ans: Scotland waits for the night mail with anticipation because it is the only means of communication at that time. People are longing for its news. It brings various types of postal material for each kind of people. It also serves rich and poor at the same time. As it helps people, it is welcome everywhere.

VI. Give an idea of the colours of the letters that the mail train carries.

Ans: People use different colours of paper of every hue. The idea of these letters is the catty, chatting, boring, adoring, cold, official, clever, stupid, short, long and heart's out pouring. Some are typed, some are printed and some are misspelled.

VII. What kinds of dreams do the people have in the early hours of the morning?

Ans: The local people asleep in their warm beds, dreaming of everything from tea to terrifying monsters. They dream on, but they hope that when they awake in the morning, they will have letters.



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