9TH SSRVM

Question 1

1. The speaker Bassanio says that Portia is a lady richly left. She is fairer than the word fair and of wondrous virtues. She is not undervalued to Cato’s daughter Portia who was Brutus’ wife.
2. Portia is compared to the Roman heroine Portia who was Cato’s daughter and Brutus’ wife. The wide world is aware of her worth. We know it because the four winds are blowing in renowned suitors from all directions.
3. Belmont is compared to Colchis’ strand. This is because many people like Jason went to the magical island in search of the golden fleece. Similarly many suitors( Jasons) are coming to Belmont for the girl with golden hair.
4. The speaker Bassanio assures Antonio that if he could hold a rival place among the other suitors his mind presages him a great thrift. He would be without doubt the fortunate one to be able to get married to Portia.
5. Antonio tells Bassanio that all his fortunes were att sea. He did not have money nor commodity to raise the present sum. Therefore he tells Bassanio to go forth and try what his credit could do in Venice. He could rack it to the uttermost to furnish himself to Belmont to fair Portia. He finally asks Bassanio to inquire where money is and he would not make any question to have the money on his trust or for his sake.

Question 2

1. The speaker is Portia. They are spoken to Nerissa. The scene is taking place in a room in Portia’s house in Belmont.
2. The speaker Portia claims confidently that the German lord would surely choose the casket which has the glass of wine over it. She was sure of it as the german lord was a sponge and if the devil be within and that temptation without he would surely choose it.
3. The listener Nerissa comforts the speaker by saying that he does not have to fear getting married to any of these lords. They had acquainted her with their determinations. They would not trouble Portia with any more suit and had decided to return without making a choice of caskets. 3
4. Portia says that she does not want to get married unless and until it is according her fathers imposition based onn the caskets. Even if she lives to be as old as sybilla she would die chaste as Diana unless she be obtained by the manner of hher father’s will
5. The forerunner of the prince of Morocco had come to give the message that the prince his master would arrive that night. Portia makes a racist comment at this. She says that even if he has the condition of a saint but a complexion of a devil she would rather he should shrive her rather than wive her. She says that she is bidding the other four farewell with a good heart but is not glad about the approach of the fifth one.

Question 3

1. ‘They’ mentioned in the poem here, are the six people who meet by happenstance or by chance. Their meeting was coincidental and had in no way been planned. They were ‘trapped’, that is, were caught in a difficult situation from which they could not escape.

2. Yes, the dying fire here is symbolic. Each one in the group of those six people was prejudiced against some other in the group and refused to give up their log. Eventually all of them die as the fire dies out. The ‘dying fire’ symbolises the warmth and love in their heart which is slowly dying due to the sins of prejudice and discrimination.

3. The first person noticed that there was a black among the people around her. She held on to her log as she did not want to help a black person. Her racist attitude stopped her from contributing to keep the fire burning.

4. The second person refused to give his log as he saw that in the group there is a person who does not belong to his community and so he does not want to help him. This person seems to be a fanatic who is intolerant of other religions or communities.

5. The poet has cleverly woven a story of six strangers trapped in biting cold. They had the opportunity to save themselves, if they had given their logs to the dying fire, the only chance of their survival. They refused to do so due to their irrational prejudices. Finally, it was the cold within their hearts and not without that spelt their doom. The poet has aptly titled his poem, ‘The Cold Within.’

Question 4

1. In the beginning of every stanza the poet asks ‘what does he plant who plants a tree’. He answers his own question by enlisting the several benefits of planting a tree. He repeatedly asks the question to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things along with it which have an everlasting positive effect on mankind.
2. The tree is a home to many birds which nest in the tree. These birds feel a sense of belongingness and protection in their abodes built in the tree. They give birth to their young ones, feed them and sing a lullaby in these nests. Thus, the tree is like a heavenly home for them.
3. The tree is towering high into the sky. Moreover, there is a lot of harmony and peace surrounding the tree. The birds nest in the tree and sing in twilight and this fills the atmosphere with music that is very soothing. All this makes the tree like a heaven close by.
4. The tree houses many birds which croon to their young ones. The high pitch of the mother bird heard in the hushed and happy twilight is like a harmonious blend of several notes creating divine music. The poet refers to this as ‘the treble of heaven’s harmony’.
5. Yes, this poem strongly conveys the message that planting of trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poet highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.

Question 5

1. ‘Our young men’ refers to the young Red Indians. The orator says that these young Red Indians, like youth, were very impulsive. Their anger which was sometimes based on reason but at times baseless led to aggression. When the Whites began to push their forefathers westward they rose against them and fought for their rights over their land.

2. Initially the speaker says that the Whites and the natives cannot be brothers as there is a vast disparity between them. Later he says that whatever comes to life has to perish. This is the order of nature. As the end of the Whites and the Red Indians is going to be the same, that is, they cannot be exempted from their common destiny, they are similar and may be brothers eventually.

3. The order of the nature is that there is life after death. Death is only transition from one form to another. If a tribe or a nation perishes, another one is sure to be born just like a wave which forms, swells and then ebbs to give way to another surge.

4. The young look at revenge as some gain or profit even if they have to die for the sake of revenge. But the people of the older generation who stay at home in times of war know that there is nothing to gain. They understand that revenge only takes away their sons destroying life and property.

5. The Red Indians are very attached to their descendants as well as their lands. Their spirits return from the heavens to their lands. They return to the beautiful valleys and mountains and lakes. These spirits also descend on their lands to visit, guide comfort and console the Red Indians who are alive and fighting for their lands.

Question 6

Old Man represents many civilians who have fallen victims due to war. War destroys and devastates everything- life as well as property- people are moving- men women and children- the old man sits at the side- doesn’t move- homeless- hopeless-without family- seventy six years old- travelled twelve kilometres- the narrator urges him to move- cross the bridge but he doesn’t- various animals- symbolism of animals- cat represents independent people- the pigeons are the refugees who will move when they get the opportunity- goats get killed- like innocent victims- nowhere to go- bridge symbolises transition- new life- those who cross are safe- those who don’t, they die- the man feels hopeless on Easter day- Easter ironically a day of new beginning and new hope-