1. Why does Charles Pooter think that he should publish his diary? What is the only regret that he has?

Ans: Charles Pooter thinks that he should publish his diary as he had often seen diaries of people he didn’t even know or heard of and so he failed to understand why his diary would be an uninteresting one. He only regrets not having started his diary in his youth.

1. Describe the house he lived in.

Ans: He lived with his wife in a nice six-roomed residence with a front breakfast parlour. There was a little front garden and a flight of ten steps up to the front door which they would keep locked. There was also a little back garden which ran down the railway.

1. What inconvenience did the Pooters have to put up with due to the railway track?

Ans: The Pooters had to put up with the noise of the trains at first but the landlord said that gradually they would not even notice it and reduced the rent by two dollars. Later the couple noticed a cracking at the bottom of the garden wall.

1. Is Mr Pooter a homely man?

Ans: Yes Mr Pooter is a homely man as he comes home by evening. He also believes in the motto ‘Home Sweet Home’. He is also able to pass evenings without friends and believes that there is a lot of work to be done at home.

1. How are responsibilities concerning the house divided between Mr Pooter and his wife?

Ans: Mr Pooter at times has to put a tin-tack at a place, Venetian blind to be put straight, a fan to nail up or a part of carpet to nail down. On the other hand, his wife doesn’t do more than putting a button on the shirt, mending a pillow case or practicing on their new cottage piano.

1. What is mentioned on the first day of the diary?

Ans: Pooter mentions how tradesmen were calling him in order to ask for some work. He promised Farmerson, an ironmonger, that he would buy things from his shop if needed. Next he mentions how their bedroom door has no key and the bells needed mending too.

1. What was the problem with the bell?

Ans: The parlour bell was broken and the front door bell would ring up in the servant’s bedroom.

1. What was Gowing’s eternal problem?

Ans: Gowing’s eternal problem was to find fault in everything and not see a brighter side. He would often complain about smell of paint which seemed like infernal.

1. What was the deal that Pooter made with Horwin? Who was Horwin?

Ans: Horwin was a butcher who seemed civil and he had a nice clean shop. He ordered a shoulder of mutton for the next day to give a trial.

1. Who came on the evening of April 4? Why? What happened while leaving?

Ans: Gowing came unexpectedly to show Pooter his clay pipe that he had won in a raffle. Gowing told Pooter to handle it carefully as it would spoil the colouring if the hand were moist. While leaving, Gowing fell over the scraper.

1. What happened on 5th April? Till when did the fight went on regarding this issue?

Ans: On 5th, two shoulders of mutton arrived instead of just one. It was because of Carrie, according to Pooter, who arranged for mutton without consulting him. The fight went on till Monday. When the butcher came to their house and fought with Pooter. Pooter blamed Carrie for the disgraceful scene.

1. Why had Sarah given away the umbrella?

Ans: Sarah, Pooter’s servant, thought that the stick i.e. the umbrella which was kept in the hall didn’t belong to anyone and so Gowing took it away by mistake.

1. What generally happens on Saturday? How was that Saturday different? What was the date?

Ans: It was 7th of April. Normally on Saturdays Pooter looks forward to being home early and put things straight. But that Saturday, two managers were absent and he didn’t reach home till seven.

1. What work was to be done on 7th April? What was Carrie’s suggestion?

Ans: The staircase needed new carpets as the old ones were not wide enough to meet the paint on either side. Carrie suggested that they could broaden the paint themselves.

1. Which colour was to be applied on the either side of the staircase? Did they get it?

Ans: Dark chocolate was the colour that was supposed to be applied on the either side of the staircase.

1. How did Monday commence?

Ans: Monday commenced badly. Pooter has an argument with one butcher with whom they decided not to trade with. The butcher comes and blackguards in the most uncalled-for manner. The butcher says that he doesn’t need his trade and kept shouting till the neighbours could hear it. Pooter responded back by saying that if he didn’t need trade then why make a hue and cry of everything.

1. Who kicked at the door violently? What happened to him?

Ans: The butcher was again at the door kicking the panels enough to break it. He came back as he had tripped over the scraper and had cut his foot. He threatened that he would take an immediate action.

1. Why did Pooter call at Farmerson?

Ans: Pooter called at Farmerson to get the scraper removed and to repair the bells. According to him, it would be scarcely worthwhile to disturb the landlord for a petty thing like this.

1. What happened when Pooter came home after work that day?

Ans: When Pooter reached home after work that day, Mr Putley said that he couldn’t match the colour on the staircase. He said that he spent almost an entire day calling at warehouses to see if he could get it.

1. What was Putley’s suggestion? What was his profession?

Ans: Putley was a painter and decorator. His suggestion was to entirely repaint the stairs. It would cost very little more. But if he tried to match it, he would only make a bad job out of it. And it would be indeed satisfactory to have the work done properly.

1. How was Farmerson according to Pooter?

Ans: According to Pooter, Farmerson was a very civil man to have come over personally. He said that he usually does not conduct such small jobs personally but for me he would do it.

1. What happened at the office?

Ans: Some of the young clerks disgracefully arrived late. Pooter had warned three of them that if Mr Perkupp, the principal, heard about them arriving late then they would be discharged.

1. Who was Pitt? How was Pooter’s experience with him?

Ans: Pitt was a boy of seventeen who has been working as a clerk in Pooter’s office since six weeks. He is called ‘monkey’ by Pooter due to his antics and a habit of teasing others. Pitt would tell Pooter ‘to keep his hair on’.

1. What honour did Pooter have in the firm? How did Pitt reply to this?

Ans: Pooter said used an expression ‘look!’ and said that he had the honour of being in the firm since twenty years. Pitt replied that ‘he looked it’ taking the term quite literally and in a mocking way.

1. Was Pitt respectful in his speech? Mention examples from the story.

Ans: No, Pitt was not respectful in his speech. On number of occasions, he had retorted very insultingly. Pitt told Pooter ‘to keep his hair on’. Also when Pooter said that he demanded respect Pitt told him to go on demanding then. Later Pitt also taunted Pooter about coming late.

1. When had Pooter planted mustard-and-cress and radishes?

Ans: Pooter had planted mustard-and-cress and radishes on April 9 and till April 12 he wondered why they haven’t grown up yet.

1. Why had Pooter missed his bus? What time was the bus?

Ans: The bus was at quarter to nine to the City. He had missed the bus because he had an argument with the grocer’s boy. The boy for the second time had the impertinence to bring his basket to the hall-door. He had left the marks of his dirty boots on the fresh-cleaned door-steps.

1. What was the grocer boy’s justification to the complaint that Pooter had?

Ans: The grocer boy justified by saying that he had knocked at the side door with his knuckles for a quarter of an hour. He continued saying that he didn’t ring the bell as the handle had come off in his hand.

1. Why was April 11 an unfortunate day for Pooter professionally?

Ans: On Aprill 11, Mr Perkupp their principal had chosen that day to pounce on all those who came late. Somehow others had got a tip and so they arrived early. Pooter was the only one late of the lot.

1. How did Buckling help Pooter?

Ans: Buckling who was one of the senior clerks was a brick and Pooter was saved by his intervention.

1. How did Pooter react to Pitt’s remark on coming late? Did he regret it?

Ans: Pooter was silent but gave him a look which later he regretted. As it just created an effect of making both the clerks laugh. Later Pooter regretted that it would have been more dignified if he had pretended not to have heard him at all.

1. What happened when Pooter came home? What was Farmerson doing there?

Ans: When Pooter came home he found three men working. He asked the meaning of it and Farmerson said that in making a fresh hole he had penetrated the gas-pipe. He said that it was a most ridiculous place to put the gas-pipe and the man who did it evidently knew nothing about his business.

1. How did Pooter give up to Gowings’ curt replies at the end of the story?

Ans: When Gowing began his usual sniffing, Pooter sarcastically said if he would not complain of the smell of pain again. Gowing replied that he wouldn’t this time as he distinctly smells dry rot. Pooter, who had a habit of joking, said that he was himself talking a lot of dry rot.

1. How had Mr and Mrs Pooter reacted to Pooter’s remark?

Ans: Mr Pooter couldn’t stop roaring at this and Carrie said her sides quite ached with laughter. Pooter himself was never so immensely tickled by anything ever before. Pooter also said that he woke up twice during the night and laughed till the bed shook.