

Unit - 2

The Night the Ghost Got in

Question (a)

Where was the author when he heard the noise?

Answer:

The author had just stepped out of the bathtub when he heard the noise.

Question (b)

What did the narrator think the unusual sound was?

Answer:

At first, he thought it was a burglar. Then he felt it was a ghost.

Question (c)

What were the various sounds the brothers heard when they went downstairs?

Answer:

The brothers heard like a man running and started up the stairs towards them. They thought that they were coming two at a time. They saw nothing, but only heard the steps.

Question (d)

Who were the narrator's neighbours?

Answer:

Mr. Bodwell and his wife were the narrator's neighbours.

Question (e)

How did the Bodwells react, when a shoe was thrown into their house?

Answer:

Mr. Bodwell was shouting, frothing a little and shaking his fist. Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell their house and go back to Peoria. For some years, he had been in a bad way and was subjected to mild attacks.

Question (f)

What did the Bodwells think when they heard the mother shout?

Answer:

The Bodwells thought that there was a burglar in their house.

Question (g)

What was the grandfather wearing?

Answer:

The narrator's grandfather was wearing a long flannel nightgown over long woollen pants, a nightcap and a leather jacket around his chest.

Question (h)

What conclusions did grandfather jump to when he saw the cops?

Answer:

When the grandfather saw the cops he jumped to the conclusion that they were the deserters from General Meade's army.

Question (i)

Were the policemen willing to leave the house?

Answer:

No, the policemen were not willing to leave without getting their hand on somebody besides grandfather.

Question (j)

What made the reporter gaze at the author?

Answer:

The reporter considered the author as if he were a slot machine into which he had dropped a coin without results. So he gazed at the author.

10th English Guide The Night the Ghost Got in Textbook Questions and Answers

A. Answer the following Questions in a sentence or two.

Question 1.

Why was the narrator sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps?

Answer:

The imagination of the ghost getting into his house led to a commotion. It caused his mother to throw a shoe through a window of the neighbouring house. It ended with his grandfather shooting a policeman. So the narrator was sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps.

Question 2.

Why did Herman and the author slam the doors?

Answer:

They heard the footsteps coming towards them. They were afraid. So they slammed the door.

Question 3.

What woke up the mother?

Answer:

The slamming of the doors woke up the mother.

Question 4.

What do you understand by the mother's act of throwing the shoe?

Answer:

His mother enormously fancied the thrill of throwing a shoe through a glass window of her neighbour. She is a highly excitable woman.

Question 5.

Why do you think Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house?

Answer:

Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house because she wanted to go back to Peoria.

Question 6.

How did the cops manage to enter the locked house?

Answer:

The cops managed to enter the locked house by breaking the glass of the front door.

Question 7.

Why was the policeman prevented from entering the grandfather's room?

Answer:

The narrator did not like the policemen to enter the grandfather's room. So they were prevented from entering there.

Question 8.

Who used the zither and how?

Answer:

Zither was used by the guinea pig to sleep on it. It would never sleep anywhere except on the zither.

Question 9.

Mention the events that the grandfather imagined?

Answer:

Grandfather thought that the cops were General Meade's men. He thought that they were beginning to retreat and even deserters.

B. Answer the following Questions in about 100-150 words.

Question 1.

Describe the funny incidents that caused confusion in the house.

Answer:

James, the author comes out of the bathroom, drying him the dining table. He wakes up his brother Herman. They both listen to the footsteps and get scared. Their mother wakes up. When she comes to know it. At that moment, he hears the footsteps of someone walking downstairs near she alerts her neighbour to call the police. The police arrive with some reporters.

They search all over, upstairs, and downstairs. When they find nothing, they rush to the attic. The narrator's grandfather believes that he is still in the war. He thinks that the

policemen are deserters. So he starts shooting at them. The policemen leave their house immediately, creating a lot of confusion everywhere.

(OR)

Title: The night the Ghost got in

Poet: James Grover Thurber

Character: No ghosts are ever seen

The author came out of the bath. He heard the footsteps of someone. He woke up his brother Herman. Both of them heard the noise and were afraid. Their mother woke upon hearing the sound. She believed that there were burglars in the house. She threw a shoe at her neighbour's door. The policemen arrived with reporters.

They searched all over the house but found nothing. Then they rushed to the attic. The narrator's grandfather thought that the cops were deserters, so he started shooting at them. The policemen left their house. Finally, they came to know it was the grandfather who came to the dining room to drink water.

(OR)

1. The narrator came out of the bath
2. He heard the footsteps of someone
3. He woke up his brother Herman
4. He and his brother slammed the door
5. The sound of the door woke up their mother
6. She threw a shoe at her neighbour's door for help.
7. She called the police
8. The cops came and searched the house.
9. But they found nothing.
10. Only Grandfather had gone to the dining room to drink water.

Question 2.

Narrate the extensive search operation made by the policemen in the house.

Answer:

Introduction:

James Grover Thurber was an American cartoonist, story writer, journalist, etc. The story "The Night the ghost got in" is extracted from his autobiography.

Unusual things:

The incident took place in the narrator's house. He heard strange sound as he takes a bath. He heard footsteps circling the dining room table. He thought that it was a burglar or ghost. He rushed to his brother's room. They both looked down. There were none but they heard footsteps.

Arrival of Police:

The brothers slammed the doors. The mother woke up. She called the police by throwing a shoe into neighbour's house. The neighbour called the police. The police arrived. They broke open the door. They ransacked the floor. They gleamed flashlights. They told me that there were none. The police returned home empty-handed.

The screen behind the confusion:

The next morning the grandfather of the narrator told that he only came to the dining room for water. Then only the narrator came to know all the confusions.

Conclusion:

The narrator realised that it was his mistake. The imagination of thinking his grandfather as a ghost created a lot of confusion in the house.

Paragraph for average students:

The policeman arrived at the narrator's house shortly. They began to bang at the door. When nobody came out they broke into the house. They searched downstairs and upwards. They pulled the drawers and furniture. They ransacked the floor, pulled beds away from the walls and tore the clothes off the hooks in the closets.

They pulled the suitcases and boxes of the shelves. They messed up everything. Then they heard some creaking in the attic. They went to the attic. Their grandfather thought that they were the deserters from the army. So he began to shoot at them. Later he went back to bed. The cops were not ready to leave the house unless they caught some one. At last they left the place.

(OR)

1. The Police reached the narrator's house.
2. They banged at the door
3. They broke into the house.
4. They searched downstairs and upstairs
5. They pulled the drawers and furniture
6. They tore the clothes
7. They messed up everything.
8. They heard the creaking in the attic.
9. So he began to shoot at them.
10. The cops were not willing to leave the house.
11. Lastly, they left the house.

Vocabulary:

C. Look at the following expression it's from the text. With the help of your teacher rewrite them in standard English. One has been done for you.

1. 'Musta got away - - whatt'd he like?'	Must got away - what was he like?'
2. 'Looky here, Joe	
3. 'No sign o' nothing'	
4. 'Back t' the lines ye goodaam'	
5. 'What was the idee of all them cops tarryhootin' round the house last night.'	

Answer:

1.	'Musta got away - whatt'd he like?'	Must got away What was he like?'
2.	Looky here, Joe	Look here, Joe.
3.	'No, sign O' nothing'	No sign of nothing
4.	'Back t' the lines ye goodaam'	Back to the lines you good Sam.
5.	'What was the idee of all them cops tarryhootin' round the house last night.'	What was the idea of all the cops carry shooting round the house last night.

D. Complete the given tabular column with the suitable plural forms.

chair	-	
box	-	
eskimo	-	
lady	-	

radius	-	
formula	-	
child	-	
deer	-	
loaf	-	
hero	-	

Answer:

chair - chairs
box - boxes
eskimo - eskimo/eskimos
lady - ladies
radius - radii
formula - formulae
child - children
deer - deer
loaf - loaves
hero - heroes

Listening:

E. Listen to the story and Answer the following.

Question 1.

The rich man was from

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Finland

Answer:

- (b) Thailand

Question 2.

Where did Chulong catch the bird?

Answer:

Chulong caught the bird in a garden.

Question 3.

Why did Chulong catch the bird?

Answer:

Chulong caught the bird because it was strange and small and would surely fetch him good money.

Question 4.

What will happen to the bird in imprisonment?

Answer:

The bird will lose its beauty and its sweet voice.

Question 5.

What did the bird suggest Chulong, in exchange for its freedom?

Answer:

The bird in exchange for its freedom suggested to Chulong three simple, yet useful rules.

Question 6.

Does Chulong want to earn money honestly?

Answer:

No, Chulong doesn't want to earn money honestly.

Question 7.

What were Chulong's plans for the bird?

Answer:

Chulong wanted to sell the bird and earn good money.

Question 8.

Who is wise according to you?

Answer:

According to me, the bird is wise.

Question 9.

Was the bird a crow?

Answer:

No, the bird was not a crow.

Question 10.

What are the three rules given by the bird?

Answer:

1. Never believe everything others say.
2. Never be sad about something you do not have.
3. Never throw away what you have in your hand.

Speaking:

F. Quiz: Who am I?

Let us play this game Sample Questions to ask. Answer must be 'yes' or 'no' only.

Question 1.

Are you a male (female)?

Answer:

Yes

Question 2.

Are you a famous personality?

Answer:

No

Question 3.

Are you a dancer?

Answer:

No

Question 4.

Are you an actor?

Answer:

Yes

Question 5.

Are you a historical figure?

Answer:

No

Question 6.

Are you young (old)?

Answer:

No

Question 7.

Are you alive now?

Answer:

Yes

Question 8.

Does your name begin with C?

Answer:

Yes

Question 9.

Is your father a teacher?

Answer:

Yes

Question 10.

Is your mother a nurse?

Answer:

No

Question 11.

Is she rich?

Answer:

Yes

Question 12.

Is he poor?

Answer:

No

Question 13.

Do you like Quiz?

Answer:

No

Question 14.

Do you speak English fluently?

Answer:

Yes / No

Question 15.

Do you go to the gym daily?

Answer:

Yes / No

Question 16.

Are you an orator?

Answer:

Yes / No

Question 17.

Are you a singer?

Answer:

Yes / No

Question 18.

Do you have a car?

Answer:
Yes / No

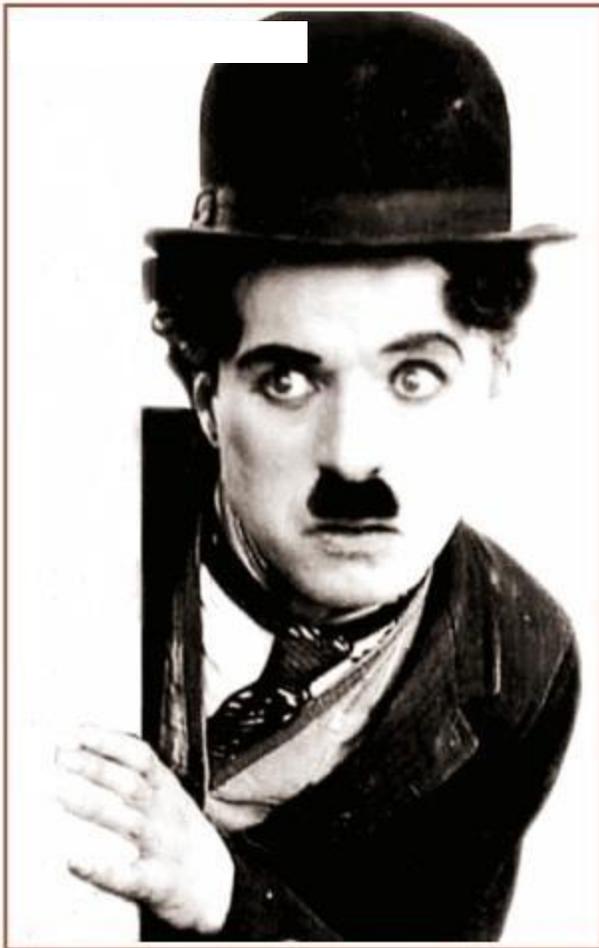
Question 19.
Do you swim in the pool?

Answer:
Yes / No

Question 20.
Do you go to the cinema?

Answer:
Yes / No

G. Use this passage to play the game. You can collect information on other famous personalities and play too.



Charlie Chaplin was born on April 16, 1889, in London England. His birth name was Charles Spencer Chaplin, though he had many nicknames growing up such as Charlie, Charlot, and The Little Tramp.

His father, Charles Chaplin, and his mother, Hannah Chaplin, were inducted into the music hall of fame, leading the way to his exposure even as a young boy. His first onstage moment was when he was 5 years old; he sang a song that was intended to be sung by his own mother; she had become ill at the time of the performance, so little Charlie Chaplin stood instead and performed for his mother.

Charlie Chaplin came to the United States in 1910, at the age of 21. He was brought to New York, which was known to be a great place to start out for anyone trying to become a professional actor. Two years later, in 1913, Chaplin signed his very first contract at Keystone and it was no time before he headed to Hollywood.

His first movie premiered in 1914, "Making a Living," and went on to make over 35 movies total in that year alone. Charlie Chaplin grew to become one of the most popular and successful actors of all time. The moment that really kicked off his long career was in 1921 when he starred in, and produced, his first full length film called "The Kid." From then on, most people all over the world knew Charlie Chaplin and loved his movies. He had a great career and life, dying on December 25, 1977, in Vevey, Switzerland. He had apparently died of natural causes in his sleep from old age.

Sample Questions:

1. Was Charlie born in India?
2. Do you know his birth name?
3. Do you know his nicknames?
4. Did Charlie Chaplin come to Russia in 1910?
5. Did Chaplin sign his first contract at Keystone in 1913?
6. Was the film 'The Kid' produced by Charlie Chaplin?
7. Did people love his movies?
8. Did his first movie premiere in 1915?
9. Had he a great career and life?
10. Did he die at his young age?

Reading:

H. Read the incident again and Answer the following Questions.

The tie that does not bind

"Oh, so you're going abroad? Can you bring me back?" I've been asked to bring back a vaccine for a course. Once I searched the suburbs of Paris for two days for a special brand of ceramic paint. Having spent a lot of money for Cartier lighter refills, I had them confiscated at the airport just before boarding because the gas might be dangerous in the air.

Now, two months before a trip, I stop talking to people so they won't suspect I'm about to travel. But someone always catches me." I've heard you're going to New York, and I want you to get something for me. It's just a little thing you can find anywhere. I don't know exactly how much it costs, but it shouldn't be much. We'll settle up when you get back".

What Gilson asked me to buy was, in fact, a little thing: a tie. But not just any tie. He wanted a tie with a small embroidered G. Any colour would do, as long as it had his initials. Look, this is a special flight, I explained. We are only staying Saturday through Tuesday. On the day we arrived I didn't have time to think about the tie, but strolling around on Sunday I did see ties bearing various letters in more than one shop window. They were cheap, just a dollar, but all the shops were closed.

On Monday, lunch lasted the whole afternoon. Then it was Tuesday morning, time to leave. It was only when I saw our airport bus waiting outside the hotel that I remembered the tie.

I told the group to go on. I would get a taxi to the airport. And so I went in search of a nearby shop where I had seen ties.

But I couldn't find it. I walked further down the street – one, two, three blocks – all in vain. Back at the hotel, a bit anxious now, I took my suitcase, got a taxi and asked the driver to rush to the street where I had seen them.

The driver stopped at each shop we passed so I could look from the window. The stores had all sorts of ties, but not the kind I was looking for.

When I finally thought I had located the right shop, I decided to go in and check. The driver refused to wait. Parking was prohibited, he said. I promised to double the fare, jumped out, and ran into the shop. Was I going to miss the plane just for a damned tie?

The salesman was unbearably slow. When I realized that the smallest change I had was a ten-dollar note, I grabbed ten ties of different colours so I wouldn't have to wait for change. I rushed out with the ties in a paper bag.

On the street, I looked around. The taxi had vanished, taking my suitcase. What is more, I was going to miss the plane.

I ran to the corner, and hope flared up again: the taxi was waiting in the next street. Quick to the airport! As I settled down inside the taxi. I sighed with relief. Gilson was going to have enough initialized ties to last him a lifetime.

When I reached the airport, I paid the taxi driver the double fare and grabbed my suitcase. Panting, I boarded the plane under the reproachful gaze of the other passengers, all primly seated with their seat belts fastened. Ready to take off. Departure had been delayed because of me.

“At least I hope you found your tie”, said one who knew the story. “I did”, I answered triumphantly. After making myself comfortable, I reached for the paper bag to show the ties. I had left it behind; in the taxi.

Question 1.

What was the writer always asked to do whenever he planned to go abroad?

Answer:

Whenever the writer planned to go abroad, he was always asked to buy something or the other like a vaccine for a course, a special brand of ceramic paint, Cartier lighter refills and so on.

Question 2.

What did Gilson want the writer to bring for him?

Answer:

Gilson wanted the writer to bring a tie with a small embroidered G.

Question 3.

When did the writer remember the fact that he had to buy something for Mr. Gilson?

Answer:

The writer remembered the fact that he had to buy something for Mr. Gilson only on Tuesday when it was time to leave.

Question 4.

Why were the other passengers in the flight gazing at the writer?

Answer:

The other passengers on the flight were gazing at the writer because he was delayed because of him.

Question 5.

What is the humour element in the above incident?

Answer:

The humour element in the above incident is that after all the frantic search for the tie and purchasing ten of them to avoid the trouble of getting back the change, the writer had left it – behind in the taxi for which he had also paid double the fare.

I. Suggesting titles:

The title summarises the story. Each paragraph is a part of the story. Look at the following expressions and find out the paragraphs that best suit these expressions.

1. Oh, No! But it happens – Paragraph 1
2. Don't let out your traveling dates – Paragraph 2
3. Anyway, people will be happy – Paragraph 3
4. The search begins – Paragraph 4
5. Things are not that easy – Paragraph 5

6. Hurry invites worry – Paragraph 6

J. Look at the following situations the writer was in. He could have avoided the situation and saved himself. Glance through the write up again and comment on what the writer should have done in the following situations.

1. Gilson asked the writer to bring a tie?

He should have politely refused to state it was a business trip.

2. On the day of arrival, the writer had no time to think about the tie?

The next day he saw the ties bearing various letters. But the shop was closed, the day being Sunday. He should have tried on Monday.

3. The writer remembered about the tie when the bus was leaving for the airport.

He should have stopped being courteous and proceeded to the airport with others.

4. The writer walked down in search of the shop.

It was unwise to go in search of the shop when it was time for him to report at the airport.

5. The writer rushed out with the tie in a paper bag.

The writer should have kept the paper bag inside his suitcase as soon as he got into the taxi.

K. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. The narrator searched for three days to buy ceramic paint. (False)

2. The author was going to New York. (True)

3. Gilson asked the narrator to buy a tie. (True)

4. The taxi driver took away the narrator's suitcase. (False)

5. Departure was delayed because of the author (False)

6. The author left the ties in the taxi (True)

M. Write a speech for your school Literary Association celebration with the given lead.

1) Opening	
2) Purpose	
3) Audience	
4) Language – Some Good Describing Words (Adverbs And Adjectives), Emotive Words, Imagery etc.	
5) Ending	

Distinguished Chief Guest, respected Headmaster, beloved Teachers, Parents and my dear Students. Good evening to each one who has gathered here on this auspicious occasion. I stand before you with extreme pleasure on behalf of English Literary Association of St. Loyola school. First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to you all for selecting me as the President of ELA.

It has been a very prestigious Association in our school since its inception. It has been functioning well during the last ten years focusing on the improvement of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills of the students in our school.

Our vision is to make St. Loyola school a full-fledged school where each student will converse and communicate in English effectively and easily. We know that it is a Hillarian task but we still aspire and labour for it. A Chinese proverb says, “If you are planning for a year, sow corns, if you are planning for a decade plant trees and if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people!

The ELA has been conducting various activities and competitions to improve the language skills of the students. The ELA in our school has constituted an executive committee with our English teacher as in charge, a President, a vice president, and a secretary.

We are planning to conduct a number of activities and competitions throughout the year to improve the study skills and language skills of the students. This year we conduct an English week and every student will get an opportunity to participate and bring forth their talents and potentials.

Before I conclude, I wish to extend my heart-felt gratitude to the management, our Head master, teachers, and students for their involvement to make the programme a grand success. I thank you one and all.

Grammar:

A. Nagarajan and Dhanalakshmi want to buy a new house. They have come to see a house for sale. Complete the conversation below by adding a, an, or the.

Nagarjan: Well, here we are, No.8, Kaveri Street. I think this is (a) house we saw online What do you think of (b) location?

Dhanalakshmi: It is in (c) nice neighbourhood. And it's close to the railway station.

Nagarjan: And (d) bus stop is not too far away.

Dhanalakshmi: How many rooms are there?

Nagarjan: There are three rooms, (e) living room, (f) kitchen, and (g) balcony.

Dhanalakshmi: There is (h) lawn behind the house, right?

Nagarjan: That's right (i) lawn is actually quite large. Did you see any photos of (j) living room, online? What does it look like?

Dhanalakshmi: (k) living room looks great. It looks bright and airy. It has (l) nice view of (m) hills. But the kitchen looks (n) little small.

Nagarjan: And I remember you said there isn't (o) storeroom, right?

Dhanalakshmi: No, but there is (p) attic, where we can store things.

Nagarjan: I hope this house is (q) better option.

Dhanalakshmi: Let's wait for (r) real estate agent. She said, she would be here at 3 o'clock.

Nagarjan : Look there she is!

Answers:

(a) the, (b) the, (c) a, (d) the, (e) a, (f) a, (g) a, (h) a, (i) the, (j) the, (k) The, (l) a, (m) The, (n) the, (o) a, (p) a, (q) an, (r) a, (s) the

B. Few articles are missing in the given passage. Edit the passage given below by adding suitable articles wherever necessary.

My neighbourhood is very interesting place. My house is located in apartment building. downtown near many stores and offices. There is small supermarket across the street, where my family likes to go shopping. There is also post office and a bank near our home.

In our neighbourhood there is small, Green Park where my friends and I like to play on weekends and holidays. There is small pond near the park and there are many ducks in park. We always have great time. In addition, there is elementary school close to our home where my little brother studies in third grade. There are so many things to see and do in my neighbourhood that's why I like it. It's really great place.

Answer:

My neighbourhood is a very interesting place. My house is located in an apartment building downtown near many stores and offices. There is a small supermarket across the street, where my family likes to go shopping. There is also a post office and a bank near our home.

In our neighbourhood there is a small, Green Park where my friends and I like to play on weekends and holidays. There is a small pond near the park and there are many ducks in the park. We always have a great time. In addition, there is an elementary school close to

our home where my little brother studies in third grade. There are so many things to see and do in my neighbourhood that's why I like it. It's really a great place.

C. Refer to the dictionary to find out the meaning of the following prepositions and match them with the correct meaning.

Preposition	Meaning
due to	as a substitute for
except for	in the interest of
with reference to	irrespective of
in spite of	added to
in addition to	because of
in place of	referring to
regardless of	with the exception of
for the sake of	disregarding the difficulty

D. Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate prepositional phrase from the given options.

Question 1.

Everything falls to the ground earth's gravitational pull.

- (a) in addition to
- (b) because of
- (c) cause of

Answer:

- (b) because of

Question 2.

The trial was conducted the procedure of law.

- (a) in accordance with
- (b) due to
- (c) despite of

Answer:

- (a) in accordance with

Question 3.

There is a temple right my house.

- (a) in back of
- (b) apart from
- (c) in front of

Answer:

- (c) in front of

Question 4.

As a of his hard work, he achieved the target.

- (a) instead of
- (b) result of
- (c) apart from

Answer:

- (b) result of

Question 5.

Failure is often negligence.

- (a) effect of
- (b) consequence of
- (c) reason for

Answer:

- (b) consequence of

Question 6.

Children are given toys sweets on Children's day.

- (a) on top of
- (b) In addition to
- (c) due to

Answer:

- (b) In addition to

Question 7.

The parents must be informed any indiscipline conduct of their wards.

- (a) because of
- (b) in case of
- (c) in spite of

Answer:

- (b) in case of

Question 8.

He didn't turn up his busy schedule.

- (a) consequence of
- (b) due to
- (c) except for

Answer:

- (b) due to

Question 9.

Global warming is green house emission.

- (a) an effect of
- (b) in spite of
- (c) in addition to

Answer:

- (a) an effect of

Question 10.

..... several warnings, he continued to swim.

- (a) due to
- (b) in spite of
- (c) because of

Answer:

- (b) In spite of

E. Edit the following passage by replacing the underlined incorrect words with correct prepositional phrases.

Question 1.

Janu is studying in Class X. In the event of the teachers

Answer:

According to

Question 2.

She is a disciplined student. In addition to her poverty, she

Answer:

In spite of

Question 3.

is always neat. Many students like her in case of

Answer:

because of

Question 4.

her simplicity. According to her studies, she also

Answer:

In addition to

Question 5.

participates in sports. She gets on with everyone in case of

Answer:

regardless of

Question 6.

age and gender in the school. In opposition to taking leave, she ensures

Answer:

In the event of

Question 7.

that she completes the work given before she goes to school the next day.

Poem

The Grumble Family

A. Read the following lines from the poem and Answer the Questions given below.

1. There's a family nobody likes to meet;
They live, it is said, on Complaining Street

- (a) Where does the family live?
- (b) Why do you think the street is named 'Complaining Street'?

Answer:

- (a) The family lives on Complaining street.
- (b) I think the street is named 'Complaining Street' because there is a family which is always complaining and no one likes to meet them.

2. They growl at that and they growl at this;
Whatever comes, there is something amiss;

- (a) What does the word 'growl' mean here?
- (b) Why do they find everything amiss?

Answer:

- (a) The word growl here means 'grumbling'.
- (b) They find everything amiss since they are not satisfied or contented with anything.

3. Nothing goes right with the folks you meet
Down on that gloomy Complaining Street

- (a) What is the opinion about the folks you meet down the street?
- (b) What does the word 'gloomy' mean here?

Answer:

- (a) The folks you meet down the street are always in trouble and are complaining.
- (b) Here 'gloomy' means 'depressing'.

4. The worst thing is that if anyone stays
Among them too long, he will learn their ways;

- (a) What is the worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them?
- (b) What are the ways of the Grumble family?

Answer:

- (a) The worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them is that they too will start complaining and become one with them.
- (b) The 'Grumble Family' growls at anything and everything so much that they sometimes growl that they have nothing to grumble about.

5. And so it was wisest to keep our feet
From wandering into Complaining Street;

- (a) What is the wisest thing that the poet suggests?

(b) What does the phrase 'to keep our feet from wandering' refer to?

Answer:

(a) The wisest thing is to avoid wandering into the complaining street.

(b) The phrase, 'to keep our feet from wandering' refer to restricting your path from strolling.

6. Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song,

No matter if things do sometimes go wrong;

(a) What does the poet expect everyone to learn?

(b) What should we do when things go wrong sometimes?

Answer:

(a) The poetess expects everyone to learn to walk with a smile and a song even when things go wrong.

(b) Even when things go wrong, we need to feel happy and be cheerful.

B. Answer the following Questions in about 80-120 words.

Question 1.

Write a paragraph on 'The Grumble Family' and their attitude towards other folks.

Answer:

The Grumble family lives on Complaining street in the city called 'Never-are-Satisfied' where River Discontent runs beside it. They growl at anything and everything and whatever – happens, there is something that goes wrong. They scold at each other at all seasons be it winter or summer.

They never stop growling at any weather conditions be it during monsoon or summer. Anyone who is associated with them even as an acquaintance gets adapted to their ways easily. They are moaning, grumbling and never satisfied. A feeling of pessimism is strongly embedded in them and they are so contagious that they pass on the nature of grumbling and complaining to all who converse with them.

"To do nothing but grumble and not to act – that is throwing away one's life."

(OR)

Title: The Grumble family

Poet: Lucy Maud Montgomery

Moral: Complaining is an insult to God

The Grumble family lives on complaining street. No one likes to meet them since they are unique from others. They are never satisfied with their life. They grumble at everything.

They approach everything with a negative aspect they find fault in everything. They are always gloomy in nature. They never stop grumbling. Even if something good happens they grumble. Nobody wish to be with them since they may also get affected by this attitude. Live life with a smile and a song don't grumble for everything.

(OR)

1. The grumble family lives in complaining street.
2. They growl and find fault for everything in life.
3. They are not happy with anything in life.
4. They complain about the weather rain and the Sun.
5. They approach everything with a negative aspect.
6. We should keep away from the grumble family.
7. We should not worry when things go wrong.
8. Live life with a smile and song.
9. Don't grumble for everything.

Question 2.

If you were to live in Complainant Street how would you deal with the people who grumble?

Answer:

Introduction:

“The Grumble Family” by L.M. Montgomery tells us about a pessimistic family. They live in a complaining street. The poem tells about their attitude.

Pessimistic family:

The Grumble family is a pessimistic family. They live in a complaining street. The members of the family are always discontented. They complain about everything and anything.

Their complaints and attitude:

They are dissatisfied always. They complain even about little things. They approach everything with a negative aspect. Nobody wanted to see them and live with them.

My solution:

If I were to live in the street. I would advise them to be optimistic. I would teach them patience and work hard to meet their needs. They are always gloomy in nature. I would encourage them to be positive always. I would make them live a worry-free life and make them an optimist.

Conclusion:

We should not grumble at everything that happens in life. I would make them an optimist regardless of their status high or humble.

(OR)

If I were living in complaining Street with the grumbling people, I would be happy. I would show them my attitude towards life. I would be cheerful and try to attract them towards me by my benign behaviour. I would teach them the goodness of life and its value. I would inculcate good habits in them.

I would make them love others and be loved by others. I would try my best to eliminate anxiety and hatred from their minds. I would discourage them from being idle and keeping pessimistic attitudes in their hearts. I would help them not to worry on silly and useless things. If they could bury their worries, they would cherish in their lives. My main idea would be to make them happy and lead a very successful life.

“Happiness depends upon ourselves”

(OR)

1. If I were to live with people who grumble.
2. I would be optimistic
3. I would tell them to be contented in life.
4. I would teach not to worry,
5. I would try to help them to love
6. I would try to eliminate the negative attitude.
7. I would help them live a happy life with love and peace with social harmony.

Question 3.

From the poem ‘The Grumble Family’ – what kind of behaviour does the poet want the readers to possess?

Answer:

L.M. Montgomery, from the poem, ‘The Grumble Family’ wants the readers to possess optimistic behavior. The poet wants us to focus on the bright side of life and avoid the negativity around us. She wants us to learn to appreciate the beauty around us and avoid criticism.

The poetess wants us to always try our best to be an optimist who sees the good and not the bad. Hence, she opines that it is wise to keep our feet from roaming into the Complaining Street and never growl at anything we do even if we are mistaken to be a complainer. Therefore, the poetess wants us to learn to walk with a smile and a song even when things go against our likes.

“A complainer is just an ex-plainer of problems.”

(OR)

Title: “The Grumble Family”

Poet: Lucy Maud Montgomery.

Characters: Author and readers.

Theme: “Never belong to the family of Grumble”

The poet wants the readers to possess optimism and we must not allow pessimism of others to prevent the heights of our victory. Many a time we meet people who have nothing good to say. Mostly their comments are negative and critical. Moreover, their focus is only bad. The poet wants all of us to be good always and try our best to be an optimist, seeing the good alone.

We must communicate with words which will bring honour to both man and God. We should become the victims of our enemy who will encourage us to murmur and complain. The poet wants us never to belong to the Grumble Family. We are expected to lead a cur life with a smile and a song. No matter even if things go wrong.

1. The poet wants the readers to possess optimism.
2. We must not allow the pessimism of others to affect our victory.
3. Many times we meet people who have nothing good or positive to say.
4. Their comments are only negative and bad.
5. The poet wants us to be good and optimistic.
6. We must communicate with words which will honour man and God.
7. We, must not fall for the lies of the enemy and murmur or complain about others later.
8. The poet wants us not to join the Grumble family but lead a happy life.

C. Answer the following.

Question 1.

“And whether their station be high or humble”

Pick out the alliteration from the above line.

Answer:

high, humble are the alliterated words here.

Question 2.

Pick out the other examples of alliteration from the poem.

Answer:

They'd growl that they'd nothing to grumble about!

In the above line, growl and grumble are the alliterated words.

Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song,

In the above line, Let and learn, walk and with, and smile and song are the alliterated words.

Among them too long, he will learn their ways;

In the above line, Jong and learn are the alliterated words.

Question 3.

The weather is always too hot or cold;

Summer and winter alike they scold.

Nothing goes right with the folks you meet

Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

Pick out the rhyming words and identify the rhyme scheme of the above lines.

Answer:

The rhyming words are 'cold and scold' as well as 'meet and street'.

The rhyme scheme for the above are, 'aabb' pattern.

The Grumble Family (Lucy Maud Montgomery) Literary Devices At A Glance (Figures of Speech)

The Grumble Family Summary of the poem



The poem 'The Grumble family' tells about a pessimistic family. For humans now at present complaining has become a hobby. The people live in complaining street. For the folks nothing goes right in their life. The poet advises the readers to stay away from them. And not to get together with them. The poet warns us not to enter their region. If we enter, we will also become a grumbler. The poet with hope says a pessimist can't lead a happy life but an optimist, always leads a happy life.

Glossary:

discontent (adj) – dissatisfaction with one's circumstances
amiss (adj) – not quite right
growl (y) – make a low guttural sound in the throat
grumble (n) – a complaint about something in a bad-tempered way
gloomy (adj) – to appear depressing or frightening
queerest (adj) – the strangest or the most unusual
acknowledge – accept or admit the existence or truth of
terrible (adj) – extremely bad or serious
wandering (y) – walking or moving in a leisurely or aimless way

Supplementary Zigzag

A. Identify the speaker / character.

Question 1.

Even though I clearly said “no”!

Answer:

Dr. Krishnan

Question 2.

The one that spits deadly poison straight into its opponent’s eyes.

Answer:

Maya

Question 3.

Remember the tiny penknife he gave me last year.

Answer:

Maya

Question 4.

It’s Somu’s thoughtless ways that reduce me to tears.

Answer:

Mrs. Krishnan

Question 5.

‘Come in, zigzag, come in dear!’

Answer:

Visu, the old cook

B. Read the story again and write how these characters reacted in these situations.

Question 1.

“You’re both quite mistaken”.

Answer:

Dr. Krishnan hastened to explain

Mrs. Krishnan was horrified on hearing about zigzag.

Question 2.

“It’s Somu’s thoughtless ways that reduce me to tears”.

Answer:

Mrs. Krishnan spoke irritably.
 Dr. Krishnan was hurrying to his clinic.

Question 3.

“Just wait till zigzag settles down in this new home”.

Answer:

Visu comforted everyone.
 Aravind and Maya were disappointed as the bird didn’t talk.

Question 4.

“Zigzag hardly ever sleeps”.

Answer:

Somu sent an e-mail to Dr.Krishnan about Zigzag.
 Dr.Krishnan predicted it as ridiculously simple.

Question 5.

“You are an absolute treasure...”

Answer:

Dr. Krishnan sighed and spoke to zigzag Zigzag didn’t bother to reply.

C. Complete the given tabular columns.

Arrival of Zigzag	Somu requested Dr. Krishnan to take care of his pet.	Mrs.Krishnan was not.....	She was worried about her
Life of Zigzag at Dr. Krishnan’s residence	Zigzag perched on the curtain rod and	When their maid switched on the fan.....	Mrs. Krishnan was annoyed and called Mr. Krishnan to.....
The email about Zigzag	Dr. Krishnan	Somu’s reply surprised the Krishnans.	The reply was.....
Zigzag at the clinic	When Zigzag entered the clinic he.....	Gone was Zigzag’s bored and grumpy expression. The bird looked happy and alert.	After the family knew that zigzag must be kept busy they.....

Answer:

Arrival of zigzag	Somu requested Dr. Krishnan to take care of his pet.	Mrs. Krishnan was not interested	She was worried about her painting
Life of zigzag at Dr. Krishnan's residence	Zigzag perched on the curtain rod and left some nuts and fruits on the fan.	When their maid switched on the fan papayas and bananas were raining	Mrs. Krishnan was annoyed and called Mr. Krishnan to contact Somu.
The e-mail about zigzag	Dr. Krishnan sent an email to Somu about zigzag.	Somu's reply surprised the Krishnans.	The reply was ridiculously simple.
Zigzag at the clinic	When Zigzag entered the clinic he commanded the tiny patients	Gone was Zigzag's bored and grumpy expression. The bird looked happy and alert	After the family knew that zigzag must be kept busy they felt that they were not fair to zigzag.

D. Answer the following Questions in one or two sentences.

Question 1.

Why did Dr. Ashok's cousin call him?

Answer:

Dr. Ashok Krishnans cousin Somu called him to shelter Zigzag, his pet bird, when he left for Alaska.

Question 2.

Mention atleast zigzag at home?

Answer:

1. I'm going crazy with the sound of zigzag snoring, plus all these telephone calls.
2. "And my beautiful painting..."

Question 3.

What are pets did Somu have?

Answer:

Somu had a giant green and gold fighting beetle and an African snake.

Question 4.

What was Mrs. Krishnan busy with?

Answer:

Mrs. Krishnan was busy with her paintings to be displayed for sale the following week.

Question 5.

What commotion did the boomerang cause in the neighbourhood?

Answer:

Boomerang sliced through all the TV aerials in the neighborhood. It caused permanent damage to several cars in the parking lot. It also knocked out their watchman cold with the force thrown by Arvind.

Question 6.

What happened when Somu left zigzag with the Krishnan's?

Answer:

Zigzag deposited the walnuts and fruits to the Chandelier and transferred them all the blades of the ceiling fan. Then it perched on the curtain rod and went off to sleep.

Question 7.

How did zigzag communicate with the Krishnan's?

Answer:

Zigzag did not communicate with the Krishnan's although everyone tried several times and in several languages to speak to him, he only slept and snored.

Question 8.

What was the e-mail message sent to Somu by Dr. Krishnan?

Answer:

Dr. Krishnan sent an email to Somu, asking for instructions on how to stop zigzag from snoring.

Question 9.

What did Aravind confess?

Answer:

Arvind confessed that for the first time in his life, he was actually looking forward to go to school. The school was as calm as a monastery compared to their house.

Question 10.

Why did Mrs. Jhunjhunwala buy the painting?

Answer:

Mrs. jhunjhunwala bought the painting because she liked the new technique of- painting.

E. Answer the following Questions in about 100-150 words:

Question 1.

Write a passage in your own words the various commotions caused by zigzag at Dr. Krishnan's

Answer:

When Visu, the old cook of Dr. Somu brought Zigzag to Dr. Krishnan's house, all were surprised to see such a strange and weird bird. It was a foot and a half tall. It was a multilingual talking- singing bird. It could talk and sing in twenty-one languages.

When it refused to say a word, Arvind brought some juicy fruits and nuts for the bird. It did not eat them but transferred one ' by one to the chandelier and on to the blades of the ceiling fan. Then it perched on a curtain rod, it sank his beak into plumpy guava and then went off to sleep. Then he began to snore. The snore became louder and very louder.

His snoring pounded their eardrums till their heads ached. When the fan was switched on by their maid, the painting of Mrs. Krishnan got spoilt by streaks of orange pulp spreading on it. His snoring troubled all the neighbors and they were complaining about it.

(OR)

Title: Zigzag

Author: Asha Nehemiah

Characters: Zigzag, Dr. Krishnan, Mrs. Krishnan, Dr. Somu, Aravind, the old-cook Visu and Lakshmi.

Theme: Things are not always as we think.

Dr. Somu left for Alaska. He had a pet bird. He sent it to Dr. Krishnan's house through his old cook Visu. His name was Zigzag. All were surprised to see the strange bird. He was one and a half foot tall. He could talk and sing in 21 languages. But he did not speak a word. Aravind brought juicy fruits and nuts for zigzag.

He transferred them to the chandelier and on to the fan plates. He perched on the curtain rod and started sleeping and snoring. The snore became louder. It pounded their eardrums causing headaches. When the fan was switched on, the streaks of orange pulp spread on Mrs. Krishnan's painting. It was spoilt. His snoring troubled all the neighbours and they were complaining about it.

(OR)

1. The cook of Dr. Somu brought Zigzag to Dr. Krishnan's house.
2. All were surprised to see him
3. He was a strange and wierd bird
4. He could talk and sing in 21 languages
5. But he did not say a word
6. Aravind gave juicy fruits and nuts to him
7. He did not eat but transferred them to the chandelier and fan plate
8. He perched on the curtain rod and slept with snoring.
9. When the maid Lakshmi switched on the fan the painting of Mrs. Krishnan got spoilt by the streaks of orange pulp
10. The neighbours complained about the loud snoring of the bird as they were troubled.

Question 2.

What happened when zigzag was taken to the clinic?

Answer:

Introduction:

Zigzag created lot of misunderstandings in Dr. Krishnan's house. So he wanted to take zigzag to his clinic. Let us see below what happens in the clinic.

Zigzag's arrival to clinic:

Dr. Krishnan took zigzag to the clinic. He warned him not to sleep. Zigzag went to the clinic and perched on the reception table. Dr. Krishnan heard some strange sound in the clinic.

Zigzag's behaviour:

The strange sound was zigzag's clear and commanding voice. There was complete silence in the clinic. Dr, Krishnan was amazed. Zigzag's bored and grumpy expression was gone. He went about the job.

Conclusion:

Thus zigzag made the clinic completely silent. Zigzag efficiently comforted the frightened y patients. Dr. Krishnan thought that zigzag was an absolute treasure.

(OR)

Title: Zigzag

Author: Asha Nehemiah

Characters: Dr. Krishnan and Zigzag.

Theme: Change is the law of life.

Dr. Krishnan took Zigzag to the clinic. He asked him to wait in the car. He warned him not to sleep. But he was not used to being kept waiting. So he went into the clinic and perched on the reception table. Dr. Krishnan heard a voice when he hardly walked into his clinic. It was Zigzag's clear and commanding voice.

There was silence in the room. Everyone waited, open mouth for his next sentence. Dr. Krishnan was amazed. Zigzag's bored and grumpy expression was gone. Instead he looked happy and alert. He went about the job. He had been trained for the job with the doctors. The clinic became a calm and orderly place without any confusion. Zigzag efficiently comforted the frightened patients.

(OR)

1. Dr. Krishnan took Zigzag to the clinic.
2. He asked zigzag to wait in the car.
3. But he went into the clinic and perched on the reception table.
4. Dr. Krishnan heard a voice even before he went into his room
5. There was a silence and everyone waited for Zigzag's next sentence.
6. Dr. Krishnan was amazed
7. Zigzag's bored and grumpy expression was gone
8. Instead Zigzag looked happy and alert to do his job
9. He comforted the frightened patients.

10. Dr. Krishnan's clinic became a calm place without confusion.

Question 3.

Narrate the story zigzag in your own words.

Answer:

This story is about a multilingual weird bird, named Zigzag. Dr. Krishnan's clinic usually sounded noisy because of the shouting and crying of children. His friend Dr. Somu requested him to shelter Zigzag, his pet as he was about to leave for Alaska.

When Zigzag was brought to his house, it did not speak to anyone. It could sing and talk in 21 different languages. But it did not speak any word to them. Instead, he transferred the fruits and nuts given to him to a Chandelier and to the blades of the ceiling fan. It perched on a curtain rod and went off to sleep. When the fan was switched on, all the fruits and nuts fell down.

The papaya slice splattered on the painting of Mrs. Krishnan and spoiled it. Mrs. Krishnan was irritated and persuaded Dr. Krishnan to send the bird away to Visu's house. So Dr. Krishnan took the bird to his clinic. There it commanded everyone in an orderly way. He brought peace, calmness and a disciplined atmosphere in the clinic. The painting which had been spoiled by Zigzag was sold out for ₹ 5,000. It was bought because the new technique in painting was liked by the buyer. Thus Mr. Krishnan's family invited Zigzag to stay with them for another week.

(OR)

This is a story about Zigzag, a multilingual bird. Dr. Somu who left for Alaska asked Dr. Krishnan to shelter him. Visu brought him to Dr. Krishnan's house. He did not speak to anyone though he could talk and sing in 21 languages. Instead, he transferred the fruits and nuts to a chandelier and the fan plates.

Then he perched on a curtain rod and went to sleep. When the fan was switched on the fruit slices fell off spoiling the painting of Mrs. Krishnan. She got irritated and told her husband to send Zigzag to Visu's house. Dr. Krishnan took him to his clinic.

Zigzag commanded the patients and the clinic became a calm and orderly place. The spoiled painting was sold for Rs. 5000. The buyer considered it as a new technique of painting. Mrs. Krishnan wanted to keep Zigzag for another week.

(OR)

1. Zigzag was a bird.
2. Dr. Krishnan was a child specialist.
3. Vishu brought zigzag to Dr. Krishnan's house.
4. Zigzag could speak 21 languages.
5. But the bird didn't speak a word.
6. Zigzag fell asleep and began to snore.

7. Its loud snore disturbed everyone.
8. Mrs. Krishnan's painting was spoiled
9. Mrs. Krishnan was very angry.
10. Dr. Krishnan took zigzag to the clinic.
11. At the clinic it helped to maintain calmness.
12. It made the children laugh.
13. It recited the French poetry.
14. So the family decided to keep him with them.
15. Everyone is happy now.