

Key points:

- (i) The story is written and narrated by Zan Gaudioso.
- (ii) After graduating from junior high school, he joined a new high school, bigger than the previous one.
- (iii) The story depicts the importance of love, care and affection in one's life.
- (iv) The story also reflects the challenges and problems faced by a teenager.
- (v) The difference between the two words, a house and a home, is clearly shown.
- (vi) The narrator's house gets destroyed by fire and he loses everything ---- his house and his cat, his constant companion and source of entertainment.
- (vii) Surprisingly he receives everything that he needed from such sources which he had never dreamt of.
- (viii) His house was rebuilt and his missing cat was found---- all because of his new friends.

Very Short Answer Questions :

Q1. Who is the author of the story "A House is not a Home"?

Ans. Zan Gaudioso is the author of the story.

Q2. How was the author's first year in high school?

Ans. The author's first year in high school was marked by an awkward transition.

Q 3. What did the author notice one Sunday afternoon?

Ans. One Sunday afternoon, the author noticed smoke seeping in through the ceiling seams.

Q 4. What did the author's mother carry out of the house first?

Ans. In the midst of the chaos, the author's mother rushed out of the house with a small metal box containing important documents.

Q 5 What had happened to the author's father?

Ans The author's father had passed away when he was young.

Q 6. Why did the author's mother run into the house for the second time?

Ans. The author's mother went back inside the burning house to bring her husband's letters and pictures.

Q 7. What was the author worried about after the fire tragedy?

Ans After the fire tragedy, the author's greatest concern was the whereabouts of his missing cat.

Q 8. Why did they have to borrow money?

Ans. They had to borrow money since their credit cards, cash and identification were destroyed in the fire.

Q 9. How did the students help the author at school?

Ans. The author's classmates showed support by collecting money to help him purchase school supplies, clothing and other necessities.

Q 10. Did the author get his cat back?

Ans. Yes, the author was eventually reunited with his beloved cat.

Short Answer Questions :

Q 1. Why did Zan feel awkward and isolated during his first year of high school?

Ans Zan's position during his first year of high school as the junior most class made him feel awkward. The big size of the new school and the separation from his closest friends made him feel isolated.

Q 2. What happened to the narrator's mother when she had run into the burning house?

Ans. The author's mother inhaled a little smoke when she ran into the burning house. She was rescued by the fireman who put an oxygen mask on her after bringing her out. However she was fine soon.

Q 3. When did the author realise that his cat was missing?

Ans After five hours of a raging fire that burnt down the author's house almost completely, he realised that his cat was missing. He had not seen her all this time and realised to his honour that she was not to be found.

Q 4. Why did the author dislike growing up?

Ans. The author disliked growing up because he felt that growing up had brought so many losses with it. He had lost his old school, his friends, his house and most of all his dear pet cat.

Q 5. When does the author say " It was like Christmas " ? Why ?

Ans. The author says this when he gets inside the gym to see the surprise load of school supplies and different clothes on the big table only for him. This seemed like Christmas because these assorted gifts were similar to the surprise gifts that one gets from loved ones on Christmas.

Long Answer Questions :

Q 1. What role did Zan's school play in normalising his life after the fire accident?

Ans. After losing all his belongings Zan started feeling depressed and embarrassed. At this time, the friendly and helpful actions of his school mates changed his understanding of people and life. They brought him supplies, notebooks and clothes. People introduced themselves to him and invited him to their houses. He stopped feeling insecure and opened up to all. The company of his new friends and sharing joys with them made his loneliness vanish and reconnected him to life.

Q 2. How is a Home different from a House? Explain with reference to the lesson " A House is not a Home " ?

Ans. Life without love is no life. Human relationship is based on love. The title itself indicates it clearly that a house is not a home without love. Author faced adverse circumstances but led a satisfactory life with his old friends and teachers. In the new environment he felt like a stranger. And when his house caught fire he felt dejected and isolated. Although he started building a new house, he was not happy. His reunion with his cat, his new friends and the new house made his house a home.

Q 3. The lady who handed over Zan's cat to him did a noble deed. Write a few reasons to appreciate her deed.

Ans. The author loved his cat very much but lost it when his house caught fire. A month later, a woman came to him with his cat. He was glad. He grabbed it and started jumping. She was able to find the owner of the cat by seeing its collar and the phone number written on it. She was a good lady and understood the feeling of the owner of the cat. The author called her wonderful as getting his cat back

was no less than a wonder for him. Really, she did a noble deed.

MCQ

- Who is the author of the story "A House is not a Home"?**
 - Oscar Wilde
 - Ruskin Bond
 - Zan Gaudioso
 - William Wordsworth
- What does the story reflect?**
 - challenges of teenagers
 - problems of teenagers
 - insecurity of teenagers
 - all the above
- How does the author feel in his first year of high school?**
 - awkward
 - happy
 - lonely
 - sad
- How big was his new school?**
 - as big as his old school
 - smaller than his old school
 - very small compared to his old school
 - twice as big as his old school
- Why was the matter worse?**
 - his closest friends had gone for a party
 - his closest friends had a fight with him
 - his closest friends were sent to a different high school
 - his closest friends had decided not to continue their studies
- What was the feeling of the author?**
 - isolated
 - embarrassed
 - depressed
 - all the above
- What did the author wish to do?**
 - run away
 - go back and visit his old teachers
 - buy new clothes
 - none of the above
- What did the old teachers do to help him?**
 - encourage
 - get involved in school activities
 - meet new people
 - all the above

9. **What would happen when he adjusts in his new school?**
 a. loving his new school more than his old school
 b. hating his new school
 c. loving his new friends
 d. hating his friends
10. **What promise they made him make?**
 a. he should not come to meet them
 b. he should spend more time outside the school
 c. he should go out on trips
 d. he should come to meet them time to time
11. **" I understood the ----- in what they were saying."**
 a. biology b. psychology
 c. zoology d. morphology
12. **What was the author doing one sunday afternoon?**
 a. watching TV b. sitting idle
 c. doing homework d. sleeping
13. **What type of day was it?**
 a. cold and windy fall day
 b. bright and sunny day
 c. warm and cozy day
 d. none of the above
14. **"My red ----- cat was lying on top of my papers.**
 a. witty b. tabby
 c. naughty d. all the above
15. **The cat was ----- loudly.**
 a. barking b. chirping
 c. neighing d. purring
16. **The author had rescued her when she was a ----- .**
 a. kitten b. puppy
 c. duckling d. kid
17. **The cat knew that he was responsible for giving her ----- .**
 a. the good life b. the best life
 c. the worst life d. the better life
18. **What did the mother do to keep the house nice and warm?**
 a. cutting the woods b. boiling water
 c. stroking the fire d. none of the above
19. **I smelled something ----- .**
 a. strange b. funny
 c. tingy d. all the above
20. **What was pouring through the seams of the ceiling?**
 a. rain b. smoke
 c. creepers d. all the above
21. **Why did the narrator run to the neighbours?**
 a. to call the fire department
 b. to call the doctor
 c. to bring a glass of water
 d. to bring a basket of fruits
22. **Why did the mother run back into the house the first time ?**
 a. to bring a bottle
 b. to bring a bowl
 c. to bring out a metal box
 d. all the above
23. **What did the metal box contain?**
 a. important documents
 b. important tablets
 c. important clothes
 d. none of the above
24. **Why did mother run into the house for the second time?**
 a. to bring some grocery
 b. to bring out pictures and letters of father
 c. to bring some cold drink bottles
 d. none of the above
25. **Why were the letters and pictures so important for mother?**
 a. only things she had to remember him
 b. she wanted to keep it somewhere else
 c. she had to hand it over to someone else
 d. none of the above
26. **Who stopped the narrator from running after his mother?**
 a. a postmaster b. a doctor
 c. a cobbler d. a fireman
27. **What did the fireman wrap around the narrator?**
 a. jacket b. blanket
 c. sheet d. all the above

28. **What was put around mother soon after she was brought out of the house?**
 a. oxygen mask b. head phone
 c. stethoscope d. all of the above
29. **"A fireman emerged from our house with my mom in ----".**
 a. two b. tow
 c. too d. none of the above
30. **Where did the narrator and his mother spend the night?**
 a. at a friend's house
 b. at a school
 c. at a hotel
 d. at grandparent's house
31. **Why did the narrator feel embarrassed?**
 a. he had to borrow tennis shoes from his aunt
 b. he had to spend the night at grandparent's house
 c. his house had turned into ash
 d. none of the above
32. **"I walked around school like a ----."**
 a. zombie b. puppet
 c. barbie d. none of the above
33. **What all had been ripped away?**
 a. old school and house
 b. old friends
 c. cat
 d. all the above
34. **What all things were responsible for the damage?**
 a. fire b. water
 c. chemicals d. all the above
35. **Why did the narrator's heart ache?**
 a. the house was destroyed
 b. the cat was missing
 c. the books were destroyed
 d. all the above
36. **"We had rented an ---- nearby".**
 a. flat b. apartment
 c. tent d. none of the above
37. **What did the cat do with the narrator?**
 a. tag along with him
 b. crawl into his pocket
 c. climb up his robe
 d. all the above
38. **"Everyone was aware of my ----".**
 a. fight b. right
 c. plight d. height
39. **The next day at school people acted even more ---- than usual.**
 a. strange b. common
 c. great d. all the above
40. **What all things were bought by the students?**
 a. school supplies
 b. notebooks
 c. all kinds of different clothes
 d. all the above
41. **Why did the narrator breathe a sigh of relief?**
 a. he received invitations to their house
 b. people spoke who had never spoken
 c. people came to introduce themselves
 d. all the above
42. **"I was---- my house rebuild".**
 a. smelling b. touching
 c. watching d. none of the above
43. **This time the narrator was not alone. Who was with him?**
 a. his mother b. his aunt
 c. his grandparents d. two of his friends
44. **Who walked up to the narrator?**
 a. a woman b. a fireman
 c. a gentleman d. a doctor
45. **What was the woman holding in her hand?**
 a. a balloon b. a dog
 c. a lollipop d. a cat
46. **What was the reaction of the narrator on seeing his cat ?**
 a. he grabbed it
 b. he held her close to himself
 c. he cried into his beautiful orange fur
 d. all the above
47. **What was the reaction of the friends on seeing the cat?**
 a. they were hugging him
 b. they were hugging the cat
 c. they were jumping around
 d. all the above

48. **What made it possible for the woman to bring the cat to the narrator?**
- his phone number on her collar
 - his address on her collar
 - his house location on the collar
 - all the above
49. **"All the overwhelming feelings of loss and tragedy seemed to ----".**
- fail
 - diminish
 - glow
 - none of the above
50. **What is the message of the story "A House is not a Home"?**
- life without affection is useless
 - life is full of sorrows and joys
 - life is full of challenges
 - all the above

Answer Key

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| 1. (c) Zan Gaudioso | 26. (d) a fireman |
| 2. (d) all the above | 27. (b) blanket |
| 3. (a) awkward | 28. (a) oxygen mask |
| 4. (d) twice as big as his old school | 29. (b) tow |
| 5. (c) his closet friends were sent to a different high school. isolated | 30. (d) grandparent's house |
| 6. (a) isolated | 31. (a) he had to borrow tennis shoes from his aunt. |
| 7. (b) go back and visit his old teachers. | 32. (a) zombie |
| 8. (d) all the above. | 33. (a) all the above |
| 9. (a) loving his new school more than his old school. | 34. (d) all the above |
| 10. (d) he should come to meet them time to time. | 35. (b) the cat was missing. |
| 11. (b) psychology | 36. (b) apartment |
| 12. (c) doing homework. | 37. (d) all the above |
| 13. (a) cold and windy fall day | 38. (c) plight |
| 14. (b) tabby | 39. (a) strange |
| 15. (d) purring | 40. (d) all the above |
| 16. (a) kitten | 41. (d) all the above |
| 17. (a) the good life. | 42. (c) watching |
| 18. (c) stroking the fire | 43. (d) two of his friends |
| 19. (a) strange | 44. (a) a woman |
| 20. (b) smoke | 45. (d) a cat |
| 21. (a) to call the fire department | 46. (d) all the above |
| 22. (c) to bring out a metal box | 47. (d) all the above |
| 23. (a) important documents | 48. (a) his phone number on her collar |
| 24. (b) bring out pictures and letters of father | 49. (b) diminish |
| 25. (a) only things she had to remember him | 50. (d) all the above. |