

- Q.1** Who was 'Zitkala' ?
- Q.2** What does Zitkala-Sa remember about her 'first day in the land of apples'?
- Q.3** Who was Bama ?
- Q.4** What happened when Zitkala-Sa reached the hall for breakfast for the first time?
- Q.5** What does 'eating by the formula' mean ?
- Q.6** What was Zitkala's first reaction to the missionary boarding school in the east ?
- Q.7** What warning was given by Judewing to Zitkala?
- Q.8** What efforts did Zitkala-Sa make to save her hair from being cut?
- Q.9** What happened after Zitkala-Sa was tied to a chair?
- Q.10** Why do you think Zitkala was so opposed to cutting of her hair?

SOLUTION

(ENGLISH)

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

DPP – 01

CLASS – 12th

TOPIC – MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

- Sol.1** Zitkala Sa is the pen-name of Gertrude Simmons Bonnin. She was an American-Indian born in the late nineteenth century who suffered racial discrimination at the hands of Christians.
- Sol.2** Zitkala recalls that it was a bitterly cold day and there was snow on the ground. The trees were bare. There was a large bell that rang for breakfast and its loud metallic sound crashed through the belfry overhead and penetrated through her sensitive ears.
- Sol.3** Bama is the pen-name of a Tamil Dalit woman from a Roman Catholic family. She published three main works, Kurukku, an autobiography, Sangati a novel and Kisumbukkaaran a collection of short stories. Kurukku is an account of the discrimination faced by Tamil Dalit women.
- Sol.4** Zitkala-Sa did not know how to conduct herself in the dining hall. As the bell was tapped, all the pupils pulled out their chairs and kept standing. Zitkala also pulled out hers but sat on it. When a second bell rang and all the students were seated, she had to crawl back to her chair. A man's voice was heard and she noticed that all the pupils had bent their heads over their plates. The third bell they picked up their forks and began eating. Zitkala felt extremely embarrassed and started crying.
- Sol.5** The ringing of the large bell was an indication on for all students to assemble in the dining room. Then as the first bell was tapped, they drew out chairs from under the table. As the second bell sounded loud, Everyone was all seated. A man's voice and mutterings were heard at the end of the table. Everyone had to bend their heads over the plates. Then a third bell tapped. Everyone picked up the knives and forks and started eating.
- Sol.6** Zitkala-Sa saw a line of Indian girls wearing closely clinging dresses and stiff shoes. The crashing of the bell and the noise of shoes and voices were like a harsh bedlam for her in which she was tied. The blanket had been taken off from her shoulders and bells were used as instructions for students.
- Sol.7** Judewin, her friend, who 'mew a few words of English, told her that she had overheard the pale-faced woman talk about cutting their long, heavy hair. Her mother had told her that shingled hair was worn by cowards. This was a big blow to her.
- Sol.8** As soon as Zitkala came to know about the decision of cutting her long hair, she decided to struggle. Quietly, she crept up the stairs into a large empty room which was dim due to the dark green curtains. She moved to the farthest corner from the door and then crawled under a bed. She did not come out even when she heard Judewin calling her name. They found her and dragged her out. Although she resented by kicking and scratching wildly and shaking her head, they cut her long hair.

Sol.9 Zitkala-Sa was dragged out and she was carried down kicking and scratching and then tied to a chair. She cried a lot shaking her head until she felt the scissors had `gnawed' off her thick braids. She then lost her spirit and moaned for her mother but nobody came to comfort her. From then on she experienced extreme indignities.

Sol.10 Zitkala-Sa had been made to believe by her mother that only unskilled warriors, who had been captured, had their hair shingled by the enemy. Among their own native people, only mourners kept short hair and shingled hair was kept by cowards. She was, therefore, dead against cutting of her hair as she didn't belong to any of the categories.