

The Portrait of a Lady

Case Study Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayer in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would listen and get to know it by heart; I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it.

(A) The phrase "get to know by heart" suggests:

- (a) to memorise
- (b) to read
- (c) to write wholeheartedly
- (d) none of these

(B) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

The sensory detail present in the given extract.....

(C) Pick out one evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the author and his grandmother were good friends.

Ans. (A) (a) to memorise

Explanation: The phrase "get to know by heart" suggests to memorise the morning prayers. If you know something such as a poem by heart, you have learned it so well that you can remember it without having to read it.

(B) the morning prayers sung by the grand-mother.

Explanation: The author's grandmother used to say her prayers aloud as she got him ready to go to school. This adds to the sensory details of sound.

(C) The author and his grandmother shared a relationship which was very strong. The author had a lot of respect and admiration for his grandmother and her love for the author was limitless. She used to wake him up daily and get him ready for school and he enjoyed listening to her voice while singing. This closeness strengthened their bond of friendship.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. We felt sorry for the birds and my mother fetched some bread for them. She broke it into little crumbs, the way my grandmother used to, and threw it to them. The sparrows took no notice of the bread.

(A) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

The author was feeling..... in the given extract.

(B) Why did the sparrows took no notice of the bread?

(C) The phrase "took no notice" used in the given extract means:

- (a) didn't worry.
- (b) it did not matter.
- (c) didn't pay any attention.
- (d) none of these.

Ans. (A) sad

Explanation: The author felt sad as his grandmother whom he loved and appreciated dearly had died. He also felt bad for the birds who had come to meet his grandmother for the last time.

(B) The sparrows took no notice of the bread because they were sad on seeing the grandmother lay lifeless on the floor. The sparrows scattered around the grandmother. They did not chirp, it seemed as if they were giving their silent regards to her.

(C) (c) didn't pay any attention

Explanation: The sparrows took no notice of the bread. This means that they didn't pay attention to the bread crumbs. Hence, (c) is correct.