

Grandma Climbs a Tree

- Ruskin Bond

Previous Years' Questions Solved

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Multiple Choice Questions - Solved

1. Grandma learnt to climb trees from her

- A) trainer
- B) father
- C) son
- D) brother

(2021)

Answer: D) brother

2. The family members of Grandma told her that one should grow old

- A) bravely
- B) disgracefully
- C) gracefully
- D) slowly

(MQP 2021)

Answer: C) gracefully

3. When Grandma was confined to bed she felt

- A) relieved
- B) miserable
- C) happy
- D) rested

(MQP 2021)

Answer: B) miserable

2 Mark Questions - Solved

1. What qualities of grandma do you appreciate?

(April 2015)

Answer: I appreciate grandma's ability and dedication to tree climbing even at the age of sixty-two. I also like that she didn't care about what others thought of her hobby and her perseverance because of which she got to live in a tree house in the end.

2. In the poem "Grandma Climbs a Tree" the speaker says that his Grandma is not childish. What else is she then? Why is she considered to be so?

(June 2015)

Answer: According to the speaker, the grandmother is a genius and not childish. From childhood to the age of sixty-two she can climb trees quickly, she doesn't care about people asking her to grow old gracefully. She is considered childish by some people as climbing trees is an activity commonly undertaken by children.

4 Mark Questions - Solved

1. Summarize in your own words the substance of the poem "Grandma Climbs a Tree".
(March 2016); (MQP 2017)

OR

Summarize the poem "Grandma Climbs a Tree" in your own words.
(April 2018) (MQP 2021)

Answer: In Ruskin Bond's poem 'Grandma Climbs a Tree' the speaker describes the grandmother's unique interest and skill. The grandmother learned to climb trees at the age of six from her brother and continued to climb till the age of sixty-two. People around her would tell her that it wasn't graceful behaviour but she wasn't bothered. Her family was worried that she would fall and get hurt. One day she climbed a tree and couldn't climb back down. She was miserable at being told to rest for a week in her bed by the doctor and asked her son to build her a tree house. Once the treehouse was complete, the grandmother lived happily in the tree house and the speaker often visited her.

2. "My grandmother was a genius," says the poet. Justify your answer.
(June 2016)

OR

According to the poet his grandmother was a genius. Elaborate.
(April 2022) (MQP 2022)

OR

According to the poet Ruskin Bond, his grandmother was 'unique'. Write a paragraph to support this statement.
(April 2017)

OR

The behaviour of Ruskin Bond's grandmother is unusual. Explain. (June 2018)

OR

Ruskin Bond, the poet says that his grandmother was very clever. Justify.
(MQP 2023)

Answer: The poem "Grandma Climbs a Tree" by Ruskin Bond describes a grandmother with a unique and peculiar interest. The speaker's grandmother had an unusual love for climbing trees! She had been doing it since her childhood and she learnt the skill from her older brother. The speaker thought that their grandmother was a genius as she's able to climb trees very quickly even at the age of sixty-two. When people criticised the grandmother and ask her to age gracefully, she laughed them off and declared that she'd age disgracefully. Although everyone was afraid that she'd hurt herself, the grandmother never gave up her love for climbing trees. Even after she got stuck once and was advised bed rest by the doctor, she asked her son to build her a tree house. Once it was ready, she moved into the tree house and lived happily. The speaker even visited her regularly.

3. Ruskin Bond's grandmother had an unusual habit of climbing trees. How was she successful in fulfilling her desire to live in a tree house?
(April 2019)

OR

Write in your own words how passionate the poet's grandma was in climbing trees. (June 2019)

OR

How was the grandmother successful in fulfilling her desire to live with the trees? (April 2024)

Answer: In Ruskin Bond's poem *Grandma Climbs a Tree*, the speaker describes their grandmother's unique interest in climbing trees since childhood. The grandmother had learnt the skill from her brother and her love for it continued even at the age of sixty-two. People would warn her against climbing trees as she could hurt herself and because they thought it was improper behaviour for an elderly lady. The grandmother was least bothered by these opinions, and she left no tree in the garden un-climbed. One day she climbed a tree when her family was away and got stuck, unable to come down. The doctor advised her a week's rest in bed. The grandmother was so miserable having to stay put that she asked her son to build tree house. The son did so with the speaker's help. As soon as the tree house was ready, the grandmother moved in and lived happily. The speaker visited her often. She was thus able to fulfil her desire of being on trees by living in a tree house.

4. Both the narrator and his father were very considerate towards grandma. Justify. (April 2020)

OR

The poet and his father were dutiful and considerate towards grandma. Justify. (June 2022)

Answer: In Ruskin Bond's poem *Grandma Climbs a Tree*, the poet illustrates how the speaker and his father were considerate and supportive of the grandmother. The speaker's grandmother had an unusual love for climbing trees. Although several people disapproved and told the grandmother to stop the improper behaviour, the speaker is appreciative and calls their grandmother a genius. They admire her quick climbing skills even at the age of sixty-two! Her family was worried about her getting hurt, but didn't actively try to stop her from climbing. When she got stuck on a tree and was advised bed rest, they were relieved that she didn't hurt herself. However, they also knew that the grandmother was miserable having to stay in one place. When the grandmother asked the speaker's father to build her a tree house, he readily agreed and immediately got to work. The speaker also helped and soon the tree house was ready. Once the grandmother moved in, the speaker would visit her often to drink sherry and spend time together.

5. Why do you think that Ruskin Bond's grandmother was a grown-up woman with childish habits and desires? Substantiate. (September 2020)

Answer: The poem *Grandma Climbs a Tree* by Ruskin Bond is about a grandmother who loved to climb trees. Climbing trees is often seen as an activity done by children. Also, the factor of old age also meant the grandmother had higher chances of getting hurt. She was also quite stubborn and stuck to her wishes regardless of other people telling her to stop continuing the practice. When people told her to age gracefully, she retorted that she'd age disgracefully. This response can also be interpreted as child-like. When she was advised bed rest for a week after being stuck

on a tree, she was miserable and being cooped up felt like hell. Children are generally very energetic and want to spend more time outside. The grandmother then asks her son to build her a tree house and moves into it. Tree houses are generally seen as play structures for children. From all these instances, it is possible to connect the likes and dislikes of the speaker's grandmother to childish habits and desires. This made it unusual and unique for her.
