

# TARGET 80/80: ENGLISH CONQUEST

TOPPER'S SECRET LEXICON • 2026 EDITION

**The "Extract" Hack:** For 5-mark value-based questions, don't just narrate. Use the **C-Q-P Formula** : Character trait + Quote/Instance + Philosophical takeaway.

## SECTION A: FIRST FLIGHT (PROSE)

Chapter	Value Points for Long Answers	Mark-Magnet Keywords
<b>Letter to God</b>	Lencho's faith vs. the irony of the post-office employees' kindness.	<b>Unquestioning/Naïve faith, Irony, Amiable, Contentment, Oxymoron (New coins).</b>
<b>Nelson Mandela</b>	The dual obligations of a man; nature of true courage.	<b>Apartheid, Emancipation, Indomitable spirit, Resilience, Rainbow gathering, Dignity.</b>
<b>Two Stories: Seagull</b>	Mother's strategic "cruelty" to teach self-reliance.	<b>Precipice, Plunge, Monstrous terror, Necessity is the mother of invention.</b>
<b>Two Stories: Pilot</b>	Inner strength/intuition personified as a mystery.	<b>Risky decision, Guidance, Hallucination vs. Reality, Supernatural intervention.</b>
<b>Anne Frank</b>	The diary as an emotional outlet for a misunderstood teen.	<b>Introspective, Confide, Chatterbox, Inherited trait, Soulmate (Kitty).</b>
<b>Glimpses of India</b>	Unity in diversity; preservation of ancestral traditions.	<b>Ancestral, Pader (Baker), Hospitality (Coorg), Vigour, Legend/Folklore.</b>
<b>Madam Rides Bus</b>	Valli's transition from childhood curiosity to life's reality.	<b>Meticulous planning, Self-respect, Sobering experience, Gap between knowing and doing.</b>
<b>Sermon at Benares</b>	The inevitability of death; letting go of "I and Mine".	<b>Vicissitudes, Inevitability, Lamentation, Enlightenment, Mortals, Peace of mind.</b>
<b>The Proposal</b>	Satire on the rich; marriage as a business deal.	<b>Hypochondriac, Economic sense, Petty arguments, Palpitations, Social farce.</b>

**Topper Tip:** Use the word "**Juxtaposition**" when comparing two characters (like Kisa Gotami vs. common mortals).

## SECTION B: POETRY (THE EXTRACT GOLDMINE)

Poem	Core Philosophical Concept	Poetic Devices (MUST Mention)
<b>Fire and Ice</b>	Destructive power of unbridled Desire and Hatred.	<b>Symbolism, Anaphora, Imagery.</b>
<b>Tiger in the Zoo</b>	The contrast between natural wildness and captivity.	<b>Personification, Oxymoron (Quiet rage).</b>
<b>The Ball Poem</b>	"Epistemology of Loss" - learning to bear loss with dignity.	<b>Alliteration, Metaphor, Symbolism.</b>
<b>Amanda!</b>	The mental escapism of a child under constant nagging.	<b>Metaphor (Mermaid/Orphan), Alliteration.</b>
<b>The Trees</b>	Symbolic of women breaking free from domesticity.	<b>Extended Metaphor, Personification.</b>
<b>Tale of Custard</b>	Appearance vs. Reality; real bravery shows in crises.	<b>Simile, Onomatopoeia, Irony.</b>
<b>For Anne Gregory</b>	The superficiality of physical beauty vs. inner soul.	<b>Contrast, Paradox (God loves soul).</b>

## SECTION C: FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET (PSYCHOLOGY)

Chapter	Character/Psychological Value Point	Keywords
<b>Triumph of Surgery</b>	Mrs. Pumphrey's "blind love" as a form of cruelty.	<b>Pampered, Listless, Convalescing, Silly luxury, Regimen, Tactical surgery.</b>
<b>The Thief's Story</b>	Education and kindness as tools for reformation.	<b>Transformative power, Remorse, Trust, Heart of the thief, Unassuming nature.</b>
<b>Midnight Visitor</b>	The triumph of mental agility over physical stereotype.	<b>Strategic fabrication, Outsmart, Resourceful, Wit, Prosaic appearance.</b>
<b>A Question of Trust</b>	The irony of a thief being outmaneuvered by another.	<b>Meticulous planner, Professional courtesy, Deceived, Honor among thieves.</b>
<b>Footprints...Feet</b>	Misuse of science; a brilliant mind turned lawless.	<b>Eccentric, Anarchy, Callous, Invisibility, Misuse of discovery, Vengeance.</b>

## SECTION C: FOOTPRINTS (CONTINUED...)

Chapter	Critical Analysis Points	Keywords
<b>Making of a Scientist</b>	The confluence of curiosity, hard work, and support.	<b>Scientific temperament, Tenacity, Catalyst, Competitive spirit, Data-driven research.</b>
<b>The Necklace</b>	The heavy price of petty vanity and social pretension.	<b>Materialistic ambition, Drudgery, Fatal mistake, Relentless debt, Superficiality.</b>
<b>Bholi</b>	Teacher as a sculptor; education as empowerment.	<b>Stammering, Pock-marked, Nurturing teacher, Contemplation, Self-respect, Masterpiece.</b>
<b>Book Saved Earth</b>	How cultural ignorance leads to hilarious failure.	<b>Misinterpretation, Martian invasion, Humiliated, Nursery rhymes, Ridiculous.</b>

## BONUS: THE "GRAMMAR SIEGE" (COMMON TRAPS)

- The "Time Sense" (Tenses):** If the sentence starts in Past Tense (e.g., "He said that..."), the rest MUST usually follow in past (e.g., "...he **was** going" NOT "is").
- Modals of Obligation:** 'Must' is for internal compulsion; 'Have to' is for external rules. Use 'Ought to' for moral duty in your long answers!
- Subject-Verb Agreement:** "Everyone," "Each," "Neither" are ALWAYS SINGULAR. (e.g., Everyone **has** a book.)
- Reported Speech Trap:** Questions in indirect speech forget "?" and use 'statement' order. (e.g., He asked me **where I was** going. NOT "where was I").

### Comparison Question Formula:

"While Character A displays [Keyword], Character B acts as a [Keyword]. This highlights the theme of..."

### Concluding Statement:

"In essence, the chapter serves as a [Keyword] reminder that [Theme] is essential for [Outcome]."