

## VISTAS

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### 1. THE THIRD LEVEL

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*–By Jack Finney*

Charlie : 31 year old, office goer, claims visiting the third level

☐ Description of the Third level

- Small room, few ticket windows and train gates, wooden and old looking information booth.
- Men had beards, side burns, fancy moustaches
- Women wore skirts, high buttoned shoes and leg of muttons sleeves.
- A man looking at a pocket watch
- Old style locomotive with funnel shaped stack
- Open gaslights being used
- Brass spittoons on floor
- Wants to visit his home town, Galesburg
- Past is quiet and peaceful
- Tries to buy two tickets to Galesburg (one ticket for his wife Louisa)
- Clerk grows suspicious as Charlie doesn't have old style currency.
- Back to present day world

☐ People's reaction to Charlie's experience

- Presidents of NY rail roads swear on the existence of two levels.
- Psychiatrist friend Sam refuses to believe
- Interprets it as an escape from insecurity fear, war and worry of the modern world.
- Louisa too disbelieves Charlie

☐ Charlie's determination to find the Third Level

- Withdraws money, buys old currency worth 300 dollars.
- Fails to find the Third Level
- Louisa and Psychiatrist worried.

❑ Unexpected Ending

- Sam disappears
- Charlie finds a first day cover, never seen before
- Note from Sam dated 18th July 1894 from Galesburg
- Sam asks Charlie and Louisa to come to Gelesburg and enjoy quiet and peaceful life.
- Charlie discovers Sam had bought old currency worth 800 dollars.
- Enough to help him start hay and grain business in 1894 at Galesburg.

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (2 Marks each)**

1. How does the psychiatrist friend interpret Charley's visit to the Third Level?
2. Why did the psychiatrist's interpretation upset Charley's wife? How did the psychiatrist pacify her?
3. How did Charley defend himself from being accused as an escapist?
4. Why did Charley decide to take the subway from Grand Central?
5. Why did Charley make a quick escape from the platform on the third level after the clerk at the ticket counter refused to accept the money?
6. Why does Charley say "it is easy to get lost at the grand central station"?
7. Why did Charley want to visit Galesburg of 1894?
8. What preparations did Charley make to go to Galesburg?
9. Why was Charley not worried even though he got two hundred dollars in exchange of three hundred dollars?
10. What do you know about a first-day cover?
11. How did Louisa react to Charley's quest for the Third Level? How did her attitude change later?
12. How were Charley and Louisa convinced about the existence of the third level?
13. Do you think the third level was there? Why/Why not?

## Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following in about 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)

1. What differences did Charley observe at the third level of the Grand Central?
2. Hobbies provide a refuge from reality from our otherwise monotonous lives. Elaborate the statement in the light of the lesson.
3. Charley is so engrossed with fiction that he loses touch with reality. Do you agree. Give reason.
4. How does one cope with the stress and tension of the modern world? Discuss with special reference to the chapter, "The Third Level."

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## 2. THE TIGER KING

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*–By Kalki*

- ☐ Maharaja's Childhood and Prophecy
  - Jung Bahadur born, astrologers predict death due to a tiger
  - Royal upbringing, everything had an English stamp-nanny, food, milk, tutor and entertainment
- ☐ Maharaja's vow to kill tigers
  - vowed to kill 100 tigers
  - faced risks in tiger hunting
  - heavy fine if anybody except the king hunted tigers
  - risked his throne by not allowing British officer to hunt tigers.
- ☐ Obstacles in fulfilling his Vow
  - Tiger population depleted
  - Married a princess whose state had large tiger population
  - killed ninety nine tigers, hundredth tiger refused to show up
  - Feels frustrated at his inability to kill the 100th tiger.
  - Officers lose jobs, revenue of a village increased as punishment for not finding a tiger.
- ☐ The Resourceful Diwan

- King shoots the tiger, misses the shot, tiger faints, taken for dead.
- Afraid to reveal this fact to the king
- 100th tiger actually killed by a hunter.

❑ Ironical Ending

- Having killed 100 tigers king becomes complacent and careless
- Buys wooden tiger on son's birthday
- Wooden sliver pierces King's right hand
- Infection spreads, operated by best surgeons, doesn't survive.

Irony – King killed ninety nine tigers but death comes due to a toy tiger.

**Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (2 Markseach)**

1. What secret did the astrologer reveal at the birth of the prince?
2. What was incredible about the infant's reaction to the astrologer's prophecy?
3. How did the tiger pose a threat to the king?
4. What is the significance of the prince's utterance – "Let tigers beware"?
5. Bring out the humour in the upbringing of the prince.
6. Why was the Maharaja in danger of losing his throne?
7. How did the Maharaja manage to retain his throne?
8. What was the hurdle that came in the way of the Maharaja's ambition to kill hundred tigers?
9. Why and on what condition did the Maharaja want to marry?
10. What did the astrologer promise to do if the king killed the hundredth tiger?
11. Why didn't the Maharaja agree to the suggestion of the British officer's secretary?
12. Why wasn't the Maharaja informed that the hundredth tiger did not die from his shot?
13. How and why was the hundredth tiger honoured?
14. Why didn't the shopkeeper quote the real price of the wooden tiger?
15. How did the wooden tiger lead to the death of the Maharaja?
16. Why does the writer compare the new born prince's claim with the bulletins issued by war office?

### Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following in about 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)

1. What danger loomed over the Maharajah's throne? How did he succeed in dispelling it?
2. "The king spent a lifetime trying to kill hundred tigers but his death came due to a toy tiger." Comment
3. Bring out the element of humour, satire and irony in the story "The Tiger King."
4. Write the character sketch of 'Dewan'.

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### 3. JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH

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*–By Tishani Doshi*

☐ Antarctica's Past

- 650 million years ago part of Gondwana, a giant southern subcontinent existed
- higher temperatures
- huge landmass separated into countries

☐ Antarctica Today

- No human population
- No trees, bill boards, buildings
- Blue whales and icebergs as big as countries
- Silence everywhere

☐ Human Impact

- Man has disturbed balance in nature
- Dominated nature with villages, towns, cities megacities
- Burning of fossil fuels leads to increase in global temperature.
- Climate Change
- Activities of phytoplankton will be affected
- Marine birds and animals will be affected.

❑ Students on Ice Programme

- Aims at providing students educational opportunities to foster new understanding and respect for our planet.
- Hope for the Future
- Students can make a significant contribution in saving the earth

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (3 Markseach)**

1. How did the author feel after reaching Antarctica?
2. How is present day Antarctica different from GONDWANA?
3. Why does one lose all earthly perspective on reaching Antarctica?
4. How have human beings contributed to an increase in average global temperature?
5. Why does Tishani Doshi call herself a sun worshipping South Indian?
6. Why is Antarctica still pristine?
7. Why is Antarctica a crucial element in the debate on climate change?
8. Why did Geoff Green stop organizing tours for the rich and curiosity seekers?
9. Why is the involvement of students crucial in the “Students on Ice” Programme?
10. How have human beings created a ruckus in 12000 years of their existence on earth?

### Long Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following in 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)**

1. How are human beings posing a threat to the pristine purity of Antarctica?
2. By whom and with what objective was the “Students on Ice” Programme started? How far has it achieved its goals?
3. Why is Antarctica essential to understand the earth's past, present and future?
4. “A lot can happen in a million years but what a difference a day makes”. What is the relevance of this statement with reference to the lesson?

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#### 4. THE ENEMY

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*–Pearl S Buck*

- ❑ Character Sketch of Sadao
  - Dedicated surgeon and doctor, has fellow feeling and kindness for people in distress
  - Conflict between duty as a doctor and duty as a Japanese
  - prejudiced against the white man, afraid of being called a traitor
  - Shelters the enemy and saves his life.
  - Out of loyalty to his country, informs the General
  - helps the white man escape
- ❑ Character Sketch of Hana
  - Balanced woman, stands with her husband
  - Responsible - washes prisoner, treats him respectfully
  - Dignified and graceful about servants leaving the house
  - helped Sadao in the operation
  - administers anesthesia to the prisoner
- ❑ American Soldier – Tom
  - Hardly 17, taken prisoner
  - Escaped, but shot at the back
  - suffered torture and hunger
  - Wounded, bleeding was in great pain, lay unconscious
  - Strong will-power
  - Full of gratitude towards Dr. Sadao
- ❑ The General
  - Selfish, thinks of only his treatment
  - had faith in Sadao's skill as a doctor
  - Promises to send private assassins to get rid of the prisoner
  - Careless – forgot to send assassins

- ❑ Reaction of Servants
  - Don't agree with the idea of helping an enemy
  - Yumi refused to wash the white man
  - Gardener felt Sadao should have let the soldier die
  - Thought sea and gods would take revenge if Sadao saved the soldier
  - felt Sadao was proud of his skill and used it irresponsibly
  - left the house till the time the prisoner stayed there.
- ❑ How Sadao helped the soldier escape
  - Put food and extra clothing in the boat.
  - Directed him to row to an uninhabited island
  - Asked him to wait for a Korean fishing boat
  - Told him to catch fish but eat it raw
  - Gave him his flash light
  - Told him to flash the torch twice if food ran out and one flash if he was alright
  - Gave him Japanese clothes and covered his hair with a black cloth.

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (2 Markseach)**

1. Why did Sadao wait before falling in love with Hana?
2. Give two reasons why Sadao was not sent abroad with the troops.
3. What do you learn about Sadao's father from the story 'The Enemy'?
4. In which condition did Sadao and Hana find the man? How did they establish his identity?
5. What superstitious beliefs of the servants made them oppose Sadao's decision to give shelter to the injured man?
6. Why did Sadao decide to treat the injured man?
7. What did the servants think about Sadao's sheltering an enemy?
8. What message did the messenger from the palace deliver to Dr. Sadao?
9. How did Hana react to the servants leaving the house?



10. What plan did the General suggest to get rid of the prisoner?
11. Why couldn't the General's plan of eliminating the prisoner succeed?
12. What things did Sadao provide for the wounded prisoner on the boat?
13. What medical aid did Dr. Sadao give the man who had been washed ashore in front of his house?

### Long Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following in 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)**

1. Dr. Sadao and Hana rise above man made divisions to serve the nobler cause of humanity. Discuss with reference to the story.
2. What efforts were made by Dr. Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man?
3. Hana plays an instrumental role in saving the life of the injured prisoner. Give an account of her role in the light of this statement.
4. How did the servant's react to the efforts made by Sadao and Hana to save the prisoner's life?
5. What conflict of duties does Dr. Sadao face? How does he resolve them?

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### 5. SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY?

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*—By John Updike*

- ☐ Jack's Story Telling
  - Began two years ago
  - to tell stories in the evening for the Sunday naps
  - Story telling very tiresome
  - no longer takes everything as true
  - growing up and questions everything.
- ☐ The Story
  - a basic story line and a few characters
  - the main character — a small creature
  - usually named Roger

- when in trouble Roger goes to wise owl
- owl sends him to the wizard
- wizard finally solves the problem

❑ Roger Skunk's Story

- smelled very bad
- no one wants to play with him
- teased and called stinky skunk
- meets the owl and tells his story
- owl asks him to meet the wizard
- the wizard asks for 7 pennies
- he had 4 and took 3 from magic wall
- changed his smell like roses
- Friends were happy and want to play with
- But his mother didn't like his smell
- became angry and took him back to wizard
- ordered to change back to his original smell
- once again smelled very bad

❑ Jo's Opinion About the Ending

- not likes the end of the story
- wants to see her character happy
- not wants to smell bad once again
- not likes mommy's interference
- wants her dad to change the ending
- wants dad to make the wizard hit her
- not convinced at her father's saying that his mother loved him as he smelled like her baby
- Jo wants his mommy to understand how his friends used to tease him and not to play with.

### Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following in about 30-40 words each. (2 Marks each)

1. What made Jack realize that the custom of telling his daughter a story, had turned futile?
2. What was unique about the story that Jack told?
3. How did the wizard solve as well as create problem for Roger?
4. What was the cause of Roger Skunk's sadness?
5. What change occurred in the attitude of other animals when the smell of Roger Skunk changed.
6. How did Roger Skunk's mother react to his newly acquired smell?
7. Did Jo accept the violence of Roger Skunk's mother to the wizard? What did she want?
8. Jo is no longer a passive listener to Jack's stories. How?
9. How does Jack justify his ending of the story?
10. Why does Jo want a different ending to the story?

### Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following in 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)

1. Why does Jo want the wizard to hit mommy? Discuss with reference to the text.
2. Adults should not impose their perspective on kids. Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer.
3. Bring out the moral issues raised in the story.
4. Jack's handling of the ending of his story projects him in a poor light as a father. Do you agree? Why? Why not?
5. Write a detail account of the affinity between Jack and Roger skunk

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## 6. ON THE FACE OF IT

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*–By Susan Hill*

- ❑ Mr. Lamb Welcomes Derry
  - in his garden in spite of jumping over the wall
  - tries to make him comfortable
  - tells him to pick crab apples
  - talks to him, without considering his disability
  - Derry thinks, pretending not to be afraid of his burnt face
  - tells usually people afraid of his face
  - Mr. Lamb asks but doesn't probe
  - tells Derry that he has a tin leg
- ❑ Mr. Lamb's advice to Derry
  - tells that in Nature shapes differ but quality is the same
  - no difference among the plants whether they are weeds, flowers and others all grow
  - inside is important than outside
  - accept yourself, not to fear others' comments.
  - calling Lamey-Lamb not bother him
  - not to keep thinking of these things
  - life offers many more things
  - isolation not good
  - inspires to look at thing positively
- ❑ Derry's reaction to Mr. Lamb's advice
  - initially, very suspicious of Mr. Lamb
  - never had anybody to talk to and understand
  - not believe that he does not find him ugly
  - later, fascinated by Mr. Lamb's talk
  - motivated and drawn towards him

❑ Mr. Lamb

- an old man with a tin leg
- lives alone, lonely
- found ways to overcome his loneliness
- keeps his gate open
- never curtains his windows
- imagines kids and people walking all over
- spends time listening to the bees
- has a positive approach to life

❑ Derry's Transformation

- had bitter experience in the world
- tells Mr. Lamb about sarcastic comments about his looks
- Even his mother kisses on the other side of face
- not trust people and ignore their comments about his face
- sad that he will have only half a face
- Mr. Lamb's meeting changes his outlook towards life
- talks to Mr. Lamb about his likes, dislikes and fears
- wants to be loved and appreciated
- wants to break free from the stigma of being disabled
- his going back to Mr. Lamb's garden shows his changing personality.

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following in 30-40 words each. (2 Marks each)**

1. How does Derry enter the garden? What had he thought about it?
2. What had happened to Derry's face? How do people react when they look at it?
3. What does Mr. Lamb say about weeds and flowers?
4. What did Mr. Lamb tell Derry about his handicap?
5. Why did children call Mr. Lamb 'Lamey Lamb'?

6. How does Mr. Lamb convince Derry of the uselessness of being a recluse (Lonely Person)?
7. How does Mr. Lamb spend his time?
8. What did Derry overhear his parents talking about his future? How did this affect him?
9. Why does Mr. Lamb advise Derry to stop having feelings of hatred towards the people?
10. What draws Derry to Mr. Lamb?
11. What did Derry hear the woman at the bus stop say?
12. How is Mr. Lamb's concept of a 'friend' different from that of Derry's?
13. What, according to Derry, would happen if Mr. Lamb continued his friendship with him?
14. Why is not Mr. Lamb troubled by the people who stare at him?
15. Why were there no curtains in Mr. Lamb's house?
16. Why did Derry want to go back to Mr. Lamb's garden?
17. Why does Derry's mother object to his going to Mr. Lamb's house?
18. Give reasons to show that Derry is a changed person at the end of the play.
19. 'The world's got a whole face.....'. What does Mr. Lamb mean to suggest to derry with this remark.

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Answer the following in 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)**

1. The play ends on a tragic note but reaffirms hope. Discuss with reference to the text.
2. Despite his show of Bravado, Mr. Lamb is a lonely man. Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer.
3. How is Mr. Lamb successful in infusing Derry with a zest for living?
4. Derry suffers from a sense of insecurity and alienation. Comment.

5. "Derry is true successor of Mr. Lamb" Discuss.

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## 7. EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL

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*–By Colin Dexter*

- ❑ Evans tries an O-Level
  - James Roderick Evans – a prisoner
  - earlier escaped thrice from the prison
  - therefore titled 'Evans the Break'
  - started night classes in O-Level German
  - Govt. arranged to examine Evans for O-Level in his prison cell
  - On the exam day he was given time to smarten up
  - Unshaven and having a filthy looking hat
  - refused to remove the cap that's lucky
- ❑ Examination Arrangements
  - removal of razors and nail scissors
  - set tables opposite each other and placed two hard chairs in the cell
  - deputed Stephens on D-Wing and newly recruited to visit Evans' prison
  - invigilator Mc Leery left his house at 8:45 am as the exam was to begin at 9:15 am.
  - Mc Lerry came, having a brown suitcase, semi-inflated rubber ring, needed for haemorrhoids?
- ❑ The Exam Begins
  - asked Evans to write index No., centre No, 313 and 271
  - at 9:40 a.m. Mc Leery asked for correction slip
  - Evans hardly understood anything, kept his pen between lips and staring towards the door
  - at 10:15 Evans requested for a blanket
  - The exam got over at 11:20
  - Hearing the Governor's order at 11:22 a.m. accompanied McLeery to

the prison gate

- Stephens obeyed the orders
- On the way asked McLeery about Evans
- McLeery's answer made him feel, his broader scots accent, to be slimmer due to long black overcoat.

#### ❑ Evans Escapes

- After seeing McLeery off, wanted to go for coffee, must take one last look at Evans
- he saw McLeery sprawled in Evan's chair slipping the blanket and blood dripping through the beard.
- instead of calling ambulance McLeery low moaned and asked for police to call
- he knew where Evans was
- opened the German Q. Paper and found a photocopied sheet carefully and cleverly super imposed over the last page of Q. Paper
- instructions and the plan written in German as Make your way to Neugraben
- Governor was furious, not made any call to see off McLeery at the prison gate
- Governor wanted to know about the false bearded, spectacles and other things
- Later the Governor was puzzled Mcleery was not in the hospital
- The ambulance sent to Elsfield to pick, Mc Leery but just vanished
- after a quarter and half an hour they found McLeery bound and gagged
- Now they understood it was not Evans impersonating as McLeery who had walked out but it was Evans, impersonating Mc Leery who stayed in

#### ❑ Final Escape

- reached his hotel at Golden Lion
- very happy for his successful plan
- able to hide his closely cropped hair due to lucky hat



- as he reached the reception, found the receptionist not the same girl
- collected the keys, asked for early morning call at 6.45 am.
- as entered the room, shocked to see the Governor sitting on the narrow bed
- finally spoke that was the correction slip which he left behind, given the clue about
- Index No. 313, Centre No. 271 the six figures 313271 got him there
- Governor wanted to know where the blood came from, answered that was pig's blood in ring
- told about his German friend, helped him
- winked at receptionist and get back
- hand cuffed and clambered into the back seat of prison van, As he turned right, unlocked hand cuffs and asked to drive fast
- on the driver's query, suggested Newbury
- prison officer was Evans' own man and the Governor was fooled once again.

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each. (2 Marks each)**

1. What was unusual about the request received by the examination board?
2. How is Evans not a typical criminal?
3. What is the nickname that Evans has got and why?
4. The prison authorities were not taking any chances with Evans'. What precautions did they take?
5. How did Evans convince Jackson to allow him to wear his hat?
6. What reason did McLeery give for bringing the rubber ring with him?
7. What did the governor instruct Stephens to do after the exam got over?
8. What did Stephens discover in Evans' cell after McLeery had left?
9. Who had impersonated whom in the plan to escape?
10. Mention two changes that Stephens notices in McLeery when he was leaving after the exam?

11. How did Evans exploit the soft corner Jackson had for him?
12. How did Evans manage to procure the things that had helped him in his escape?
13. What was Evans actually doing when the pen was stuck in his mouth?
14. How did Evans manage to get blood? How was its clotting prevented?
15. How did the governor manage to track down Evans to the hotel where he was hiding?
16. How is Evans able to manage his escape in the absence of visitors and letters?
17. Why did Evans leave the question paper with German written on it in the cell?
18. How did Jackson check McLeery's suitcase? What two things did he find objectionable in it?
19. How did the correction slip help in Evan's escape?
20. What fate did the real McLeery meet?
21. How did Evans manage to give a slip to the governor at the end?
22. What reason did Evans give for asking for a blanket? What was the real reason?

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Answer the following in about 125-150 words. (7 Marks each)**

1. What steps were taken by the prison authorities to prevent any escape attempt by Evans?
2. How was Evans able to turn the table on his captors?
3. "The Governor was just another, good for a giggle, gullible governor." Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer.
4. What is more responsible for Evans escape. His smartness or the blunders of the prison staff? Give reason in support of your answer.

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## 8. MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

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*–Zitkala S.A. and Bama*

❑ Zitkala SA

- bitter cold first day in the land of apples
- discriminated against native American
- her appearance, moccasined feet and blanket
- Jude told her about the cutting of hair
- tried to hide, dragged, tied to a chair and long hair was cut off
- suffer tremendous trauma and losing her spirit
- unskilled captured warriors, mourners and cowards had short hair in her culture
- the cruelty makes her feel like a beast
- craves for comfort but nobody offered

### 2. We Too Are Human Beings

❑ Bama

- innocent childhood, used to walk back home from school, covered 10 min. of walk to ½ or 1 hour
- watched all the fun games such as street play, puppet show, a snake charmer, performing monkey
- experienced untouchability very early in life
- one day saw an elder by person carrying food packet with the help of strings
- her brother told the low caste of that man and that they belonged to a low caste
- got inspiration to fight back through hard work and studies
- He told to work hard to win honour and dignity
- studied hard and stood first in her class.

❑ Common Theme

- two accounts took place in two cultures different places and in different times but they explore a common universal theme

- auto biographical accounts deal with women of marginalized communities
- Both narrate prejudices and humiliation faced from mainstream culture
- Both are brave who use their talent, education to stand up for this own and community rights
- Both use the power of pen to fight oppression

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each (2 Markseach)**

1. Why was Zitkala-sa not feeling at home in her new surroundings?
2. Why was Zitkala-sa being keenly watched in the dining hall?
3. What embarrassing situation arose when Zitkala-sa sat on hearing the first bell?
4. What information did Judewin give Zitkala-sa?
5. Why was Zitkala-sa resisting the cutting of her hair?
6. When and how did Zitkala-sa lose her spirit?
7. What indignities did Zitkala-sa suffer after she was separated from her mother?
8. How did Zitkala-sa resist on being discovered under bed?
9. Why did Bama usually take long to reach home from school?
10. Why did Bama feel like shrieking with laughter at the sight of the elderly man?
11. What was the elderly man carrying and for whom?
12. Why did Annan not feel amused when Bama told him about the elderly man?
13. How did Bama react when she came to know why the elderly man was carrying the packet.
14. Why did the landlord's man ask Annan where he lived?
15. What reason did Annan give for not getting honour and dignity in society?
16. What impact did Annan's advice have on Bama and with what effect?

### Long Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following in 125-130 words (7 Marks each)**

1. What is common in the discrimination and injustice experienced by Zitkalasa and Bama? How do they react to their situations?
2. The cutting of my hair shows insensitivity of the mainstream culture towards marginalized communities. Discuss.
3. How did Zitkala-sa resist the cutting of her hair and why?
4. What was Bama's initial reaction to the incident on the street? How did her reaction change later on?
5. Zitkala-sa and Bama are rebels" Discuss
6. Describe the various sights and scenes Bama would see on her way to school in your own words.