

## THE TIGER KING

### Summary

The Maharaja Sir Jilani Jung JungBhadur was called “Tiger King”. When he was just 10 day old, he asked intelligent questions to the astrologers and was told that he would be killed by a tiger. He uttered “Let tigers beware!”

No other miracle took place, the child grew like any other Royal child drinking white cow’s milk. He was taught by an English tutor and looked after by an English nanny. He watched English films.

When he was 20, he was crowned as king. It was then the prediction of his death by the tiger reached the Maharaja’s ear and he in turn to safe guard himself killed a tiger and being thrilled he told the astrologer who replied that he can kill 99 tigers but should be careful with the 100th. He pledged that all other affairs of the state would be attended after killing the hundred tigers.

Then he started killing tigers. None except Maharaja was allowed to hunt tigers. A high-ranking British officer visited the state that was fond of hunting tigers and his wish was declined. The officer requested for getting a photograph with a tiger killed by Maharaja and this request was rejected. So to please the officer’s wife, he sent 50 diamond rings expecting that she would take one or two, instead she kept all the rings costing 3 lakh rupees and sent ‘thanks’ to the Maharaja. But his state was secured.

In 10 years, he killed 70 tiger and didn’t find any in Pratibandapuram so he decided to marry a girl from royal state which had more tigers to complete his target. Whenever he visited his in-laws, he killed 5-6 tigers. So he killed 99 tigers and was feverishly anxious to kill the 100th but couldn’t find. News about the presence of a tiger near a village proved disappointing. He asked his Dewan to find the tiger otherwise face his anger. Now the Dewan was afraid of losing his job so he visited ‘People’s Park in Madras’ and brought an old tiger and placed it in the forest and informed the Maharaja.

The Maharaja took great care and shot the tiger and left the place with great triumph. The bullet did not hit the tiger but out of fear the tiger had collapsed. Now the staff killed the tiger and brought it in grand procession.

It was the third birthday of the Maharaja’s son and he wanted to buy a present from the toyshop. He bought a wooden tiger which was poorly carved. While the Maharaja was playing with the prince, a tiny sliver of the wooden tiger pierced his right hand which later on caused his death. Thus the hundredth tiger takes his final revenge upon the “Tiger King”.

### **Main points**

1. When the Prince at 'Pratibandhpuram' was born – Astrologers predicted that he would be killed by 100<sup>th</sup> tiger, to prove the astrologer wrong he killed the first tiger and challenged the prediction.
2. The astrologer said that the 100<sup>th</sup> tiger would kill him. The Maharaj put all his Estate duties aside and set upon killing 100 Tigers.
3. When all the Tigers in his Estate were killed, he married a princess whose father had many Tigers his forests.
4. He even spent Rs. 3 lakhs to please a British officer who wanted to hunt tigers in his estate.
5. Finally, the hundredth tiger was killed, the Maharaja was very happy & then decided to spend time with his son.
6. He bought a wooden toy tiger on his son's third Birthday – toy was made up by an unskilled carpenter. One of slivers pierced his right hand – developed an infection – operated & died.
7. Irony – killed 99 tigers but wooden tiger took its revenge.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

#### **Q. 1. Who is the Tiger King?**

The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram is the Tiger King of the story. He was known in his kingdom by different names as His Highness Jamedar, General Khiledar-Major, Sata-Vyaghrasamhari, MaharajadhirajaVisvaBhuvanasamrat, Sir Jilani Jung Bahadur, M.A.D., A.C.T.C., or C.R.C.K.

#### **Q2. Why does the Tiger King get this name?**

Ans. Tigers dominate the life and even death of the king. So he is named the tiger king. The chief astrologer foretells that he is born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies. Therefore, his death will come from the Tiger. Ironically, the king who killed 99 tigers, his death was caused by a wooden toy tiger.

#### **Q3. What was the miracle that took place in the royal palace?**

Ans. When the Maharaja was a 10 day old baby, he spoke and asked intelligent questions about his death. After knowing that he would be killed by a tiger, he uttered saying "Let tigers beware."

#### **Q4. How did the chief astrologer react to the tiger king's question about the manner of his death? How did the tiger king take it?**

**Ans.** When the baby barely ten days old, opens its lips in speech. The chief astrologer was wonderstruck. He thought it to be incredible that the baby raised an intelligent question –to know about the manner of his death. The astrologer told that the prince was born in the hour of the bull. The bull and tiger are enemies. Therefore, death to him shall come from the Tiger. The tiger king growled, “Let tigers beware!”

**Q5. How was the Tiger King brought up?**

**Ans.** As a child the Tiger King was brought up by an English nanny and tutored by an Englishman. He was given the milk of an English cow. He watched only English movies.

**Q6. Why was it celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram?**

**Ans.** There was a celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram because the state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja and a proclamation was issued to the effect that if any one dared to fling a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be seized.

**Q7. What did the State astrologer say he would do ‘if the hundredth tiger were also killed’?**

**Ans.** The State astrologer was so sure of his prediction that he announced that he would cut off his ceremonial tuft, crop his hair short and become an insurance agent in case the king was able to kill the 100th tiger, too. He was sure that the Maharaja’s death would be caused by the 100th tiger.

**Q8. What did the high-ranking British officer wish to do? Was his wish fulfilled?**

**Ans.** The high-ranking British officer wanted to kill a tiger. When he was denied the permission for hunting, he sent a word to the king that he would be happy if he was allowed to get photographed with the dead body of a tiger killed by the king. However, his wish remained unfulfilled.

**Q9. How did the Maharaja manage to save his throne?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja had annoyed the visiting senior British officer over the issue of tiger-hunting and ‘stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself’. So, the Maharaja and the Dewan decided to please the officer through bribe by sending

gifts of expensive diamond rings to the **duraisani**, the wife of the British officer. Thus he managed to save his throne.

**Q10. What did the Maharaja do when he stood in danger of losing his kingdom?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja obtained some fifty expensive diamond rings of different designs from a British Jewellery Company in Calcutta and sent them to the British officer's good lady expecting her to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. But she kept all the rings and thanked the Maharaja for the gift. This cost the Maharaja three lakh rupees but his kingdom was saved.

**Q11. How did the 'duraisani' behave on receiving the gifts?**

**Ans.** Some fifty samples of expensive diamond rings were sent to the duraisani and it was expected that she would select one or two and return the rest. But the lady proved to be greedy as she retained all of them and merely sent a letter of thanks.

**Q12. Why did the Maharaja's tiger killing mission come to a sudden still?**

**Ans.** Within ten years Maharaja's tiger hunting had resulted in the killing of seventy tigers. However his tiger killing mission came to a sudden standstill because the tiger population became extinct in the forest of Pratibandapuram.

**Q13. What plan did the Maharaja think of to fulfill his vow to kill hundred tigers after the tiger population became extinct in his state?**

**Ans.** When the tiger population became extinct in his state the Maharaja planned to marry a girl of royal family of a native state with a large tiger population so that he would kill the remaining thirty tigers in the state of his father-in-law when he visits that.

**Q14. Why did Maharaja order the dewan to double the tax?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja called the dewan and ordered him to immediately double the tax of the villagers who had informed him of a tiger in the forest because despite his best efforts he was unable to locate the beast. This infuriated the Maharaja.

**Q15. What was the happy news which dispelled the Maharaja's gloom?**

**Ans.** Sheep began to disappear frequently from a hillside village. It was not the work of Khader Mian Saheb and Virasami Naicker who were famous for killing sheep. The Maharaja announced a three-year exemption from all taxes for that village. The Maharaja refused to leave the forest until the tiger was found.

**Q16. Why did the dewan warn the Maharaja not to double the land tax forthwith? What was the reaction of the Maharaja?**

**Ans.** The hundredth tiger was not located. The Maharaja's anger was at its height. He called the dewan and ordered him to double the land-tax forthwith. The dewan warned that the people would rise in revolt. Then their state too would fall a prey to the Indian National Congress. The king didn't relent. He told the dewan that in that case he might resign from his post.

**Q17. How did the tiger king celebrate his victory over the killing of the 100<sup>th</sup> tiger?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja thought that he had killed the hundredth tiger. He was overcome with elation. He ordered the tiger to be brought to the capital in grand procession. The dead tiger was taken in a procession through the town. It was buried and a tomb was erected over it.

**Q18. What was the Dewan's tiger like? How did he take it into the forest?**

**Ans.** Dewan's tiger was an old tiger. It was not ferocious and agile. It was passive and exhausted. He was pushed down to the ground. He wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication. The tiger was kept hidden in Dewan's house. At midnight when the town slept in peace, the Dewan and his wife dragged the tiger into the car and drove straight to the forest.

**Q19. Why did the Dewan decide to give up his own tiger to be killed by the Maharaja?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja's anxiety had reached a fever pitch. The hundredth tiger was yet to be killed. The Dewan could lose his job if he couldn't search the tiger. He had brought a tiger from the People's Park in Madras and kept hidden in his house. He dragged the tiger to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting.

**Q20. Why didn't the hunters tell the King that the tiger was not dead?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja thought that he had killed the hundredth tiger. He didn't know that his bullet had missed the mark. The beast was killed not by him but by one of the hunters. However, they kept it a secret. They feared losing their jobs if the Maharaja knew the truth.

**Q21. Why did the shopkeeper charge three hundred rupees from the Maharaja while the actual price of the wooden tiger was just two annas and a quarter?**

**Ans.** The wooden tiger cost only two annas and a quarter. But the shopkeeper feared to quote such a low price to the Maharaja. He could be punished under the rules of Emergency. So he presented it as a rare example of craftsmanship. He charged three hundred rupees as its Price.

**Q22. How did the hundredth tiger take its revenge upon the Tiger King?**

**Ans.** The king decided that a wooden toy-tiger was a perfect gift for his son's third birthday. One day he was playing with that wooden tiger. One of the slivers pierced the Maharaja's right hand. Infection spread all over the arm. Three surgeons performed an operation but couldn't save the King. Thus, the hundredth tiger took its revenge upon the King.

**Q23. What did the Maharaja buy as a birthday gift for his son?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja wished to give his son a very special gift on his birthday and he bought a wooden toy tiger as a perfect birthday gift for his son.

**Q24. How did the king's arm become seriously infected?**

**Ans.** The king's arm had got infected from a prick caused by one of the slivers on the wooden tiger. In one day, the infection got flared in the Maharaja's right hand and in four days it developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. Though he was operated yet he died.

**Q25. What caused the death of the Maharaja?**

**Ans.** The prophecy of the chief astrologer came true. A toy-wooden tiger-the hundredth tiger killed the Maharaja. The silver quill on the wooden tiger pierced his hand when he was playing with it on the crown prince's third birthday. It caused a suppurating sore that spread all over the arm. He was operated but died.

### **Long answer type questions**

**Q1. What impression do you form about the Tiger King after reading the story?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram, Sir Jilani Jung Jung Bahadur, had many titles and sub-names. But he was popular as the Tiger King. The chief astrologer predicted that his death would come from a tiger. Crown prince Jung Jung Bahadur grew taller and stronger day by day. When he grew to twenty he took the reign in his hands.

The Maharaja continued his campaign of tiger-hunting with rare singlemindedness. Within a span of ten years he killed 70 tigers. It was his master strategy to marry a girl of a state which had a large tiger population. So he was able to kill 99 tigers in all.

The Tiger King could pay any price to maintain his kingdom. He had to give a bribe worth three lakh rupees to a high ranking British official to retain his kingdom.

The Maharaja knew how to take work from his minions. He used the dewan to find out the suitable girl for his marriage. He could be hot-headed and doubled the tax on the people. He also threatened the dewan to dismiss him from his service. It is ironical that the King met his death by a wooden tiger. At last, the hundredth tiger took revenge upon him.

**Q2. How did his campaign of tiger hunting continue? How was he avenged by the hundredth tiger?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja was forced to start the campaign of killing a hundred tigers in self-defence. The chief astrologer had predicted that his death would be caused by a tiger. Particularly, he was advised to be careful with the hundredth tiger. The Maharaja's campaign was a great success. He could kill seventy tigers in ten years. Then an unseen obstacle brought his campaign to a halt. The tiger population in the forests of Pratibandapuram became extinct. The Maharaja adopted a new strategy. The Maharaja married a girl from a state with a large tiger population. Very soon his tally reached 99, just one short of the required hundred.

Ironically, the Tiger King's death came from the hundredth tiger. It was a toy-tiger made of wood. He had presented a wooden tiger to his son on his third birthday. One of the slivers pierced the Maharaja's right hand. Infection spread all over the arm. Three surgeons operated on him but couldn't save him from dying. At last the astrologer's prediction came true. The hundredth tiger took its revenge upon the king.

**Q3. The Tiger King is a satire on the pride and power of Maharaja of Pratibandapuram. Describe the use of dramatic irony leading to the death of the Tiger King.**

**Ans.** The Tiger King is a satire on the pride and stubbornness of those in power. The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram tried to belie what was written in his fate. The chief astrologer had predicted that the cause of his death would be a tiger. Not that the King didn't try his best to belie the prediction. His campaign of tiger-hunting was very successful. He was single minded and determined. But the satirical aspect of the whole story is the King's inability to kill the hundredth tiger. All his strategies and wise plans worked till he killed 99 tigers. But the hundredth tiger eluded him till his death.

The irony of fate brings quite an unexpected end of the Maharaja. The hero who killed ninety nine tigers couldn't kill the only one that was left. The last tiger he thought to be dead survived. The King's bullet had missed its mark. Ironically, the hundredth tiger which caused his death was not a ferocious beast of blood and flesh. It was a wooden tiger. One of the slivers of wood pierced his right hand and caused infection and a suppurating sore. It ultimately led to his death.

**Q4. Why did the Maharaja's anxiety reach a fever pitch? What steps were taken to hunt the hundredth tiger?**

**Ans.** The Maharaja's anxiety reached a fever pitch. One more tiger was to be killed to achieve his tally of a hundred. By this time the tiger farms had run dry even in his father-in-law's kingdom. But soon came the happy news that dispelled his gloom. There was a possibility of a tiger living in a hillside village. The Maharaja announced a three-year exemption from all taxes for that village. He set out for hunt at once. The tiger was not found but the Maharaja refused to leave the forest.

The dewan himself was in danger of losing his job. He got a tiger arranged from the People's Park in Madras. The tiger was left in the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. He took a careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell down on the ground in a heap. Then came the anti-climax. The tiger survived. The Maharaja's bullet missed its mark.

Unfortunately, the king didn't know that the hundredth tiger was not killed by him. So the hundredth tiger caused his death. Ironically, the hundredth tiger that caused his death was not a ferocious beast. The king died of the deadly infection. A wooden toy-tiger, was the cause of his death.



**Q. 5. How did the Tiger King come in the danger of losing his throne and how did he save his kingdom?**

**Ans.** The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the king. Once a high ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was fond of hunting tigers. He liked to be photographed with the tigers he had shot. The Maharaja was firm in his resolve. He refused permission. He was ready to organise any other hunt. The officer could go on a boar hunt but the tiger hunt was impossible.

The British officer's secretary sent word through the dewan. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. The officer only wanted to be photographed holding the gun near the dead tiger. The Maharaja didn't relent. He prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire. The Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. He held deliberations over the issue with the dewan. Samples of expensive diamond rings were ordered. A famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta sent fifty rings. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer's good lady. She was expected to choose one or two rings. The lady kept all the rings with her. She sent her thanks to the Maharaja for the gifts. The Maharaja was very happy. Though he had lost three lakh of rupees, he had managed to retain his kingdom.

Even the coteries who surround these power centers are interested in taking advantage of the proximity for their own welfare. This is a story about transience-of life, of power and reverberates the maxim: "Too many slips between a cup and a lip."

**Q6. Justify the title 'The Tiger King'.**

**Ans.** "The Tiger King" is a very appropriate title for the story for several reasons. First of all, the king is crazy about tiger hunting so much that he marries a princess whose father's kingdom has a sizeable tiger population. He kills one hundred tigers just to fulfill his vow. Secondly, the king with all his frenzy, anger and ruthlessness is as ferocious as a tiger. Thirdly, he dies of a silver prick received from a wooden toy tiger. Finally, the prediction that a tiger would cause the king's death also comes true. Since the story revolves round the king and the hundred tigers that he kills, it could not be better titled than "The Tiger King".

**Q7. Pick out the instances of satire in the story 'The Tiger King'.**

**Ans.** Satire employs irony, sarcasm, ridicule, etc. in exposing and criticizing follies and vices in men. The story uses humour to criticize self-seeking Kings who willfully exploit both nature and their subjects for selfish interests.

1. When the Maharaja of Pratibandhpuram was told that he would be killed by a tiger, he could never imagine the twist in fate where a toy tiger could be fatal. Because of his conceit, he was unprepared for such surprises flung by life at him.
2. The grandeur associated with a king's life proves a mockery. The news of the king's ailment invited not one, but three surgeons. They got so tied up in technicalities that they declared the operation successful even though the king died.
3. The story also satirizes the corrupting influence of power. Just because the Tiger King had power, he felt he could browbeat his subjects and even defeat fate. He neglected his responsibility as a ruler. He neglected the welfare of his subjects, his family, increased and reduced taxes at will and sacked his officers. They feared him or else he would have learnt the truth.
4. When we see the king gloating over his bravery after killing the hundredth old, weak tiger, we notice that Kalki is satirizing the notions of cowardice and bravery. There is no heroism in fighting an unequal battle. The King's cowardice was obvious when he justifies that one may kill even a cow in self-defence.
5. Kalki is also criticizing the King's men and subjects who pander to his whims out of fear or like the shopkeeper manipulate and fool him.

**Q8. Where do you find humour in the story 'Tiger King'?**

- Ans.**
1. The instance of the Stuka bomber
  2. The king's offer of mouse hunt.
  3. The incoherent blabbering by the Dewan and the Chief Astrologer
  4. The Dewan procuring an old tiger from people's park and its stubborn refusal to get off the car and the description of its waiting in humble supplication to be shot.
  5. The shopkeeper quoting three hundred rupees for a cheap two annas and a quarter toy tiger

**Q9. What is the author's indirect comment on subjecting innocent animals to the willfulness of human beings?**

**Ans.** Through this satirical story the author has rightly portrayed how human beings have subjected innocent animals to untold torture and death, merely to fulfill their own whims and fancies. The maharaja's indiscriminate killing of tigers led to their extinction in some states, but the maharaja was oblivious to the grave consequences his action was leading to. In order to prove an astrologer wrong the maharaja went on a killing spree proving his dominance over the hapless animals.

**Q10. How would you describe the behaviour of the Maharaja's minions towards him? Do you find them truly sincere towards him or are they driven by fear when they obey him?**

**Ans.** Maharaja's minions were subservient and sycophantic. Most of them were scared of Maharaja and tried to keep him in good humour by obeying his orders. They did not dare to disobey him as his displeasure could mean loss of their job or even loss of their lives.

The astrologer was afraid of predicting his death, till Maharaja told him to "speak without fear". Dewan who should have advised the king not to kill the tigers did not dare to go against his wishes and aided his marriage to a princess whose father's kingdom possessed a large number of tigers. Being afraid of losing his job, he presented an old tiger to satisfy the whims of his Maharaja. Likewise, the hunters chose not to inform him of the survival of the 100th tiger and instead killed it themselves fearing that they might lose their jobs. Even the shopkeeper, who sold the king a cheap wooden toy tiger, quoted a higher price lest he should be punished under the rules of emergency. So, it is evident that the king's minions were driven by fear rather than any feelings of sincerity towards their ruler.

## **THE ENEMY**

### **Summary**

Sadao was a Japanese surgeon. He studied in America and returned with Hana, a Japanese girl whom he met there, and married her in Japan and settled down comfortably. While most of the doctors were sent to serve the Japanese army in the World War II, Sadao was allowed to stay home because he was wanted by the old General who was dying.

But one night into his uneventful life came an American Navy-man, shot, wounded and dying. Though unwilling to help his enemy, Sadao took the young soldier into his house and provided him with medical aid. He was in danger from that moment. Soon his servants left him. Dr.Sadao saw that the soldier was getting well and absolutely alright.

Once his patient was no more in need of him, the doctor turned out to be his assassin, conspiring to kill him in his sleep. He informed the General of the American and the General promised, he would send his private men to kill the American. Sadao awaited the American's death every morning but to his gloom the man was still alive, healthier and posing danger to him.

At this point Sadao becomes the real man in him, a true human being who realizes the essential worth of human life and universal brotherhood. He thinks beyond countries and continents and races and wars. He finds no reason to believe that the American is his enemy. Sadao rescues the American. Thus Sadao rises above narrow prejudices and acts in a truly humanitarian way.

### **Main Points**

1. Dr.Sadao, a Japanese surgeon finds a wounded American soldier on the beach near his house.
2. He is unable to throw him back into sea though he was his enemy. Being a doctor, his first duty was to save a life.
3. Hana, his wife though initially reluctant joins her husband in operating and nursing the enemy soldier back to health.
4. It is dangerous to keep the enemy in the house so all the servants left. Hana does the housework alone.
5. The General did not send Sadao with the troops as he is an expert surgeon and the General might need him any time for an emergency operation.
6. Even General comes to know that Sadao is harbouring his enemy, he does not take any action and suggest that he would send his private assassins to kill the enemy and remove his body.
7. Dr.Sadao performs an emergency operation and succeeds.
8. The General promises a reward and saves the life of Dr.Sadao who in return helps the American soldier escape in his boat.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. What did Dr.Sadao and his wife see when they stood out looking at the sea?**

**Ans.**Dr.Sadao and Hana were standing out facing the sea. Mist had gathered around their house. Suddenly they saw something black coming out of the sea. He was crawling on his hands and knees. Then suddenly he fell down on his face and lay there motionless. They went to see him. When they turned his face, they were shocked to see a white soldier. They read the print writing on the cap. "U.S. Navy". The man was a prisoner of war.

**Q2. In what condition was the American sailor when Dr.Sadao found him?**

**Ans.** The American soldier was wounded. He was very weak and pale. He had a wound of a gun and had the bullet stuck in his wound. His face looked tortured and his back was stained with blood flowing from the wound. The wound was

black and was also stuck by the rocks. He was almost at the verge of death if Sadao had not saved him.

**Q3. What was the chief concern of Sadao's father and what did he do for it?**

**Ans.** Sadao's education was the chief concern of his father. He never joked or played with the boy. He worried about his education only. When Sadao was twenty-two, he was sent to America to learn all he could of surgery and medicine.

**Q4. Why was Sadao not sent to the battlefield?**

**Ans.** Sadao was a famous surgeon and scientist. He was perfecting a discovery that could make wounds entirely clean. Moreover, he was treating the old General medically, and the General could need an operation also. That was why Sadao was not sent abroad with the troops.

**Q5. Who was Hana and where did Sadao meet her?**

**Ans.** Hana was Sadao's wife. Sadao had met her in America at the house of a professor where some foreign students lived. But he had waited to fall in love with her until he was sure she was Japanese.

**Q6. How did foreign students feel at Professor Harley's house?**

**Ans.** Professor Harley and his wife were kind people. They were anxious to help their few foreign students. But the students felt bored there. The rooms there were very small and the food was also no good. And the professor's wife was very talkative.

**Q7. How did Sadao and Hana get married?**

**Ans.** Sadao met Hana in America. He liked her but he waited to fall in love with her. He wanted to be sure that she was a Japanese. His father, too, was very particular in such matters. Both Sadao and Hana came back to Japan after finishing their studies. Their marriage was arranged in the old Japanese way.

**Q8. Why do you think Dr.Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man?**

**Ans.** Like a traditional and conventional person, Sadao's father did all he could for the education of his son. Even in the marriage of his son, he was very

traditional and conventional. He accepted Hana as his daughter-in-law only when he found that she was of the pure Japanese race. He arranged the marriage in the old Japanese way.

**Q9. What did Sadao notice about the white wounded man? How did he stop its bleeding?**

**Ans.** Sadao noticed that it was a gun wound that had reopened. The man had been shot some days ago and had not been tended. Now a rock had struck the wound and it had started bleeding. Sadao took some sea moss lying on the beach. He packed the wound with it and thus stopped the bleeding.

**Q10. What did Sadao and his wife want to do with the white man after he had stopped his bleeding? Why?**

**Ans.** Japan was at war with America. Thus if Sadao and his wife sheltered the white man in their house, they would be arrested. But if they turned him over as a prisoner, he was sure to be killed. Therefore, they thought the best thing would be to put him back into the sea.

**Q11. Why did Yumi defy the orders of Hana?**

**Ans.** Hana asked the maid servant Yumi to wash the wounded dirty man with warm water. Finding a white man she became stubborn as she had never washed a white man. So she was determined not to wash him. Hana cried at her sternly but Yumi had a fierce look of resistance on her round face. Then Hana decided to do it with her own hands and asked her to return back.

**Q12. How did the gardener react about the wounded American soldier?**

**Ans.** The old gardener was a superstitious person. He said that the white man ought to die. First he was shot. Then the sea caught him and wounded him with her rocks. It showed the man was fated to die and they had no business to save him.

**Q13. Why did servants leave sadao's house?**

**Ans.** Dr. Sadao had given an enemy soldier shelter in his house. None of his servants liked it. They looked upon all white Americans as their enemies. When they saw that Dr. Sadao was not going to hand over the man to the police, they left his house.

**Q14. How did Hana help Dr.Sadao while he operated upon the enemy soldier?**

**Ans.** Hana was very much helpful while the operation was on. She dipped a small clean towel into the steaming hot water and washed his face. She was requested to give the anesthetic if needed. With the help of instruments from his emergency bag, Sadao made a clean and precise incision. The bullet was out and the doctor declared that the man would live.

**Q15. At what point of time does Sadao decide to get the enemy out of his house?**

**Ans.** The General had known about the presence of the enemy in Sadao's house. He had forgotten his promise to send his personal assassins to kill the enemy. The enemy had recovered. Sadao had given him a lease of life. He had no desire see the enemy killed. Therefore, he decided to get the enemy out of his house and reach the nearby island.

**Q16. Why did the messenger come to Dr.Sadao? What did Hana think about it?**

**Ans.** The General was very ill. He was in pain and required medical treatment immediately. He had faith only in Sadao's medical capabilities. With his orders, the messenger came to Dr.Sadao. Hana thought that the General would penalise her husband for giving shelter to an enemy.

**Q17. In what context does Hana remember the cruel nature of General Takima?**

**Ans.** Hana remembers General Takima in the context of the sufferings of the prisoners of war. Moreover she knew that he was a ruthless despot. At home he beat his wife very cruelly. But no one mentioned it then because he had won a victory in the battle of Manchuria.

**Q18. Why did the General spare the American soldier?**

**Ans.** The General was in great pain and had to be operated on. In his own pain, he forgot all about the American soldier. So we can't say that he spared the American soldier. He had only forgotten about him.

**Q19. How did the old General offer to help sadao in getting rid of the white man?**

**Ans.** The General said that he had his private assassins. He would send two of them any night. He said, “They are very capable assassins — they make no noise and they know the trick of inward bleeding. If you like, I can even have them remove the body.”

**Q20. What instructions were given by Dr.Sadao to the American before he left for the sea?**

**Ans.**Sadao instructed him to row and stay on the island for the arrival of a Korean fishing boat. He advised him not to bum any fire for fear of being caught. He gave him his flash light and told to signal two flashes. In case he ran short of food or still he was on the island, one flash would suffice. He sternly warned him to flash the light only at the sunset and never during the darkness.

**Q21. What message does ‘The Enemy’ give?**

**Ans.** ‘The Enemy’ gives the message that humanism transcends all man made prejudices and barriers. Here Dr.Sadao upholds the ethics of medical profession in treating an enemy. The story is a great lesson of peace, love, sympathy, fellow feeling and humanism.

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. There are moments in life when we have to make hard choices between our roles as private individuals and as citizens with a sense of national loyalty. Discuss.**

**Ans.** As private individuals, we have our own ideas. We have our own likes and dislikes. But as citizens of a state, we have a duty to be loyal and law-abiding. But sometimes a conflict arises in our mind. There is one thing we want to do as an individual. But our national loyalty demands from us quite the opposite. The choice becomes hard to make on such occasions. This is what happens with Sadao in the story, ‘The Enemy. As a doctor, he has been trained not to let a man die if he can help it. A doctor is not supposed to kill a patient even if the patient happens to be his enemy. But as a loyal citizen of Japan, he must not give shelter to an enemy. He must hand him over to the police at once. All through the story, Sadao struggles with this conflict. He himself admits, “In fact, I do not know why I am doing it.”

**Q2. How would you explain the reluctance of the soldier to leave the shelter of the doctor’s home even when he knew he couldn’t stay there without risk to the doctor and himself?**

**Ans.** Though the Doctor and his wife were Japanese, they had displayed extreme kindness towards him. He was an American prisoner of war who had



escaped and was given refuge by the kind doctor and his wife even though this act was fraught with danger for the two of them. He had obviously suffered at the hands of the Japanese while in prison and the scars on his neck were the evidence of the torture that he had undergone. He was afraid that if he left their house he would be discovered and would have to face the dire consequences, possibly further and even worse torture.

**Q3. What explains the attitude of the General in the matter of the enemy soldier? Was it human consideration, lack of national loyalty, dereliction of duty or simply self-absorption?**

### **Human Consideration**

In the matter of the enemy soldier, the General had taken a soft stand and spared his life as well as imprisonment for treason in the case of Dr.Sadao on account of human consideration.

(a) The General's humanitarian instincts made him identify with the wounded soldier, who too, needed Dr Sadao's medical intervention to survive.

(b) He favoured being treated by Dr.Sadao because this doctor, a humanitarian, unlike the other two Japanese surgeons, placed saving of human life above the technical perfection of their skill.

(c) Having been to Princeton, the General had imbibed American values for human life and unlike most Japanese who could turn over a prisoner to execution, showed his leanings towards human consideration in making decisions.

(d) He did not gloat over his victories in battle but rather felt weighed down by the added responsibilities that each victory brought alongside, showing his deeply human instincts.

(e) Instead of outright action he suggests that the prisoner is killed by assassins so that both he and Dr.Sadao are spared the agony of killing a fellow human being in cold blood.

### **Lack of national loyalty**

There is no lack of national loyalty as the General contemplates ways of getting rid of the enemy under all circumstances. Though educated in Princeton, he is at heart Japanese and decides on getting rid of the prisoner by using hired assassins who know the native technique of internal bleeding. A true loyalist, he knew that serving his country did not mean taking lives of enemies unnecessarily. Thus despite proclaiming to Sadao that he would arrange for assassins he trusted Sadao's judgement in finding an alternative and effective way out of the problem. The General makes a self-confession explaining that he had not sent the assassins because he was preoccupied with his own health condition instead. This was a face saving answer as both the men knew that no true patriot kills an enemy in cold blood. The General rewards the doctor for his

kindness indicating that true patriotism is not about taking advantage of a fallen and defeated enemy.

### **Dereliction of duty**

The General is a cool strategist who plans actions like a professional soldier. While trusting his medical needs in his surgeon's hands, he goes ahead and secures victories for his country. For him, his victories in battle are not occasions of personal success but moments of introspection and planning for the duties thrust upon him by additional victories. He knew of every move within his command and thus was aware of the presence of the enemy and Dr. Sadao's medical intervention to save his life, in the spirit of humanity. His duty as an officer and a gentleman required that he find a way that would not jeopardize his surgeon as also not give his enemy undue advantage. He helped Dr. Sadao find a solution to the problem by goading him into action by suggesting that he was taking the extreme measure of sending hired assassins, without actually meaning to do so.

### **Self-absorption**

- (a) Though the General glibly says that he forgot to order the assassins to kill the prisoner, taking cover under self-absorption with his medical condition, the following events distinctly prove contrary to this statement.
- (b) Having ascertained Dr. Sadao's capabilities as a doctor who is both humane and technically skilled, he carries out his actions without further thought about his health.
- (c) He is concerned about protecting the doctor facing the complexity of an enemy arriving at his doorstep instead of being absorbed with the repercussions of such a matter on his own career prospects.
- (d) Even in the thick of his own illness he spares a thought about his doctor's plight showing his utmost concern for Dr. Sadao's welfare instead of his own.
- (e) The self-absorption was a perfect ruse to make Dr. Sadao devise an escape route for his patient an enemy soldier.

**Q4. While hatred against a member of the enemy race is justifiable, especially during wartime, what makes a human being rise above narrow prejudices?**

**Ans.** Though the Doctor hated all Americans and felt superior to them, he felt that he had to do his best to save the life of the American prisoner of war who had got washed ashore, close to his house. The open resentment of his domestic servants and the obvious danger of giving refuge to an American prisoner of war did not deter him from carrying out his duties as a doctor. In this way, he rose above the narrow prejudices of race.

**Q5. Do you think the doctor's final solution to the problem was the best possible one in the circumstances?**

**Ans.** It was indeed the best solution to the problem as in this way the American could finally escape the Japanese at whose hands he had already suffered, the Doctor could assuage his conscience which would have bothered him had the General's plan of having the American murdered, been carried out and his wife, Hana, could feel relieved at the enemy's departure.

**SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY?**

**SUMMARY:**

Jack was the father of two little kids – Jo and Bobby. His wife Clare was carrying their third child. Jack would tell a story to his daughter **Jo** out of his head in the evenings and for Saturday naps. This custom of story-telling began when Jo was two-year-old and it was continuing for the last two years. Each new story only differed a bit from the basic tale. There always was a small creature, usually named Roger, for example, Roger Fish, Roger Squirrel, Roger Chipmunk etc. He always had some problem and he would go to the wise old owl. The owl would tell him to go to the Wizard, who would perform a magic spell that solved the problem. The Wizard in turn would demand in payment a number of pennies greater than the number Roger creature had. But at the same time he would direct the animal to a place where the extra pennies could be found. Then Roger would become so happy that he played many games with other creatures. Roger then would go home to his mother just in time to hear the train whistle that brought his daddy home from Boston. Jack then would describe their supper, and the story was over.

Jack found this story-telling session especially tiring on Saturday, because Jo never fell asleep in naps any more. One Saturday Jack asked Jo about whom the story should be today. Roger Skunk, she said firmly. A new animal; they must talk about Skunk at nursery school. Jack started the story of the tiny creature Skunk, who lived in the dark deep woods. His name was Roger Skunk and he smelled very bad. He smelled so bad that other animals of the jungle would not play with him. They would run away and Roger Skunk would stand there all alone.

Roger Skunk went to the wise old owl and told his problem. The owl asked the Skunk why he did not see the Wizard. Then he went to the Wizard and told that he smelled very bad and all the little animals used to run away from him. The wise owl had told wizard that he could help in that manner. The Wizard took his

magic wand and asked Roger Skunk what he wanted to smell like. Roger Skunk told him that he would like to smell like roses. The Wizard chanted and Roger Skunk started smelling like roses.

The Wizard asked Roger Skunk to pay seven pennies. Roger Skunk said that he had four pennies only and he began to cry. The Wizard directed Roger to go to the nearby magic well and he would find three pennies there. Roger Skunk took out three pennies from the well and gave them to the Wizard. Now all the other animals gathered around him because he smelled so good. They played various games and laughed. It began to get dark so they all ran home to their mummies. Jo thought that the story was all over.

When Roger Skunk went home his mummy said that the smell was awful. She asked who made him smell like that. Roger Skunk said that the Wizard did so. She said that they were going right back to that Wizard. He said that all the other animals would run away with his bad smell. But his mummy said she did not care. He should smell the way a little Skunk should have smelled. So she took Roger with her and went to the Wizard. When the wizard opened door, she hit him with her umbrella and explained how the wizard's magic infuriated her. The wizard spelled another magic and Roger smelled as foul as he did earlier. But she was displeased with this new ending and wanted her father to make the wizard hit Roger's mommy. But Jack was not ready to make any change as he thought Joe should accept him without questioning. Jo protested but Jack said that it was daddy's story. He said then Roger Skunk and her mummy went home. They had supper and when Roger Skunk was in bed, Mommy Skunk came up and hugged him and said she loved him very much. He told her that the story ends there.

Jo asked her daddy if the other animals ran away from Roger Skunk. Jack said no, they finally got used to the way Roger Skunk was and did not mind it at all. Jo commented that she was a stupid mummy. He asked her to have a long nap as her brother Bobby was also sleeping. Jo told him that she wanted him to tell her the story the next day that Wizard took that magic wand and hit that mummy, right over the head. Jack said that it was not the story. The point is that the little Skunk loved his mummy more than he loved all the other little animals. Moreover, she knew what was right. But Jo insisted that tomorrow he should say that the Wizard hit that mummy. Jack said that he would see and asked her to sleep.

He closed the door and went downstairs. Clare was striking the chair rail with a dipped brush. Above him footsteps vibrated. These were Jo's footsteps. He threatened to beat her and then the footsteps slowed down.

Clare observed that it was a long story. He simply said “the poor kid”. He watched his wife working hard on the wood-work. She was doing painting work. Thus the writer displays adult authority on one hand and the child’s inquisitiveness on the other.

### **Main Points**

1. Jo was Jack’s four year old daughter. Every evening for Saturday’s naps, Jack told his daughter a self-composed story.
2. The story always has a character Roger with other animal name & each new story is a slight variation of basic tale.
3. In one story Roger Skunk was having bad smell. No animals played with him. He changed his smell with the help of wizard.
4. The wizard was hit by Skunk’s mother as he had changed his smell. Jo didn’t like the end as she wanted that wizard should hit mommy.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. What was usually the basic storyline of the tale that Jack told Jo almost daily?**

**Ans.** The stories that Jack used to tell Joe were the slight variation of the basic tale about a small creature usually named Roger. Roger would go to the wise owl whenever in trouble. The wise owl would ask him to go to the wizard who would finally solve Roger’s problem.

**Q2. How was the Skunk’s story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?**

**Ans.** Jack was a perfect story teller and could change his subject at the spur of the moment to keep the interests of the listener. All his stories revolved round an animal Roger. He changed them with a slight variation but the basic tale remained the same. This time it was about a baby Skunk who smelt very badly whenever he went to play with others. They used to tease him and never cooperated with him. He could feel racial segregation.

**Q3. What new phase has started in the custom of the story telling?**

**Ans.** A new phase has started in the custom of story-telling. In the beginning Jo used to listen to the story quietly and used to sleep after that, but from sometime she had started listening to the story cautiously and started showing curiosity to know about many things she did not know. She had also started asking some moral questions like: Does God really exist? Are magic spells real? Now she

wants to know everything and has even started stressing upon her own point of view.

**Q4. Why did Roger Skunk go to see the old owl?**

**Ans.** Roger Skunk would go first to the wise owl for help. He had sad expressions on his face. The owl lived on the tip-top of the tree. Roger Skunk would complain to him that the other animals had left him alone because of his bad smell. None was ready to side with him rather they remarked “Stinky Skunk.” The wise owl listened to him carefully and gave a deep thought over it. At last he advised Roger to go and meet the Wizard.

**Q5. Describe the wizard’s room.**

**Ans.** The wizard’s room is a white house over the creek. Inside it are all magic things. All jumbled together in a big dusty heap as the wizard did not have any cleaning lady.

**Q6. How did Roger Skunk’s mommy react when he smelled like roses?**

**Ans.** When Roger Skunk smelled like roses, his mommy asked what that awful smell was. Roger Skunk replied that the wizard had made him smell like that. She got angry and with Roger went to the wizard and hit his head with an umbrella.

**Q7. How did Jo react to Jack’s storyline?**

**Ans.** Jo did not agree with Jack’s version of the story in which Roger Skunk’s mommy hit that wizard right over his head for changing Roger Skunk’s smell. Instead she wanted that the wizard hit Skunk’s mommy.

**Q8. What does Jack actually want Jo to know and understand in the story?**

**Ans.** Jack actually wants Jo to know and understand that parents always love their children as they are. Smelling good or bad is immaterial against the natural biological bond. But this thing is Jo’s beyond understanding. She understands what she sees around; but not beyond that.

**Q9. Who is Jo? How does she respond to her father’s story-telling?**

**Ans.** Jo is Jack’s four-year-old daughter. Every evening and for Saturday naps, Jack tells his daughter a self-composed story. Each story is a slight variation of

the original. Jo is captivated by each story and gets so involved in it that she asks questions on it and even predicts the next move or development in the tale.

**Q10. What do you think was Jo's problem?**

**Ans.** Jo was mainly concerned that Roger Skunk should be accepted by other animals. She was annoyed that the mother had not understood Skunk's misery. So, she wanted the wizard to teach his mother a lesson. She wanted her father to change the story to suit her taste.

**Q11. Why was Roger Skunk's mother angry? What did she finally tell him?**

**Ans.** Roger Skunk was very happy on having the rose smell. His mother got perplexed at that awful smell. She asked who had done that. Roger told about the Wizard. She grew angry on both Roger Skunk and the Wizard. She finally told him to go back to the Wizard and ask him to convert him to his original smell. She told him that she would hit the Wizard with an umbrella. She hit the wizard and the later changed Roger Skunk into its foul smell. Now, Roger Skunk had no smell of roses and he began to smell very bad again.

**Q12. Why does Jo call the Skunk's mummy stupid?**

**Ans.** Roger skunk had an ugly smell. He met the Wizard and got it changed but his Mommy did not like it. She visited the Wizard and urged Skunk to the original position. Thus mummy was unable to understand the problems of Skunk. Thus Jo calls Skunk's mummy stupid.

**Q13. How did Jo want the story to end?**

**Ans.** Roger Skunk's Mommy hit the Wizard hard on the head. She did not wish the stinky Skunk to smell like a rose. Jo did not approve of her mother's silly action. She wanted the Wizard to hit Mommy Skunk back on her head to end the story. He should not have restored Roger Skunk's stinky smell.

**Q14. Why does Jack insist that it was the Wizard that was hit and not the mother?**

**Ans.** In reality Jack wants that the children should obey their parents since the elders are always right. Jack thinks that the only mother Skunk knows what is good or bad for her son. Since, the baby Skunk loves his mother more than anything else so it is correct that Wizard should not hit the mommy.

**Q15. How did the ‘mommy’ behave when Roger Skunk got the usual smell?**

**Ans.** The Wizard turned Roger Skunk in his original condition. The mother was much elated and they returned home. They heard the sound of the train bringing Daddy Skunk home from Boston. Then they had lima beans, pork chops, celery, mashed potatoes and Pie-oh-My for Dessert. She hugged Skunk time and again and showered affection. Now Skunk smelled like her little baby again.

**Q16. What makes you ascertain that Roger suffered “racial segregation?”**

**Ans.** A Skunk is a small black and white American animal. Here Roger Skunk smelled very badly. Due to his foul smell, no other animal was ready to play or mix with him. They teased him and called him ‘Stinky Skunk’. He would stand alone and weep with tears in his eyes. Thus he was deeply pained at the segregation and indifferent attitude of other animals.

**Q17. What makes Jack feel caught in an ugly middle position?**

**Ans.** Jack feels caught in an ugly middle position as Jo’s non-acceptance of the ending of his story has taken him by surprise. To him, this is almost like an act of defiance and he feels that Jo is questioning his authority. This causes confusion in his mind and he does not really know how to react to his little daughter who has suddenly started asserting her opinions, most contrary to her behaviour in the past.

**Q18. Why does Jack insist that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother?**

**Ans.** Jack insists that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother for he wants Jo to understand that the Skunk’s mother knew what was best for him. Also, Jack is taken aback a little to find that Jo has actually dared to question him. This appears like an act of defiance to him and he suddenly feels that he is on shaky ground, and needs to re-establish his authority. When he had started this story about the poor stinky Skunk, he had been reminded of all the humiliations of his own childhood and in a way the stand that he takes regarding the Skunk’s mother is in defence of his own mother.

**Q19. Which do you think is a better ending of Roger Skunk’s story, Jo’s or her father’s? Why?**

**Ans.** Jack presents a decent as well as appropriate ending since a child cannot think as a mother. Skunk’s mother wanted that Skunk should have originality.



In this context Jack tries to make Jo understand his view-point. He has no desire that Jo should form a negative opinion about Mommy. He tries to explain that she should be loved, respected and well behaved by her child.

### **Long answer type questions**

#### **Q1. What is the moral issue that the story raises?**

**Ans.** The story examines adult attitude to growing children. The issue that it raises is whether children should be allowed to use their abilities to reason and question or be forced to remain mere shadows of adult influence and thought. Jo dared to question her father's interpretation of how the story of the stinky Skunk should end. This came as a shock to Jack who was used to a complacent Jo who always enjoyed the story session designed by her father. Jack had failed to appreciate the fact that Jo was growing up and was bound to have thoughts of her own and may not always agree with the way he viewed things. Jack found it hard to come to terms with this.

#### **Q2. What is your stance regarding the two endings to the Roger Skunk story?**

**Ans.** Children see facts as they are, as did Jo. She thought it was unfair that the Skunk's mother should go back to the wizard and force him to change the Skunk back into his stinky old self. This way he would lose all his friends and be lonely and sad. When he smelt of roses, he was more acceptable and had friends.

Adults, on the other hand, are coloured by biases or sometimes base their conclusions on the wisdom of their experiences, as did Jack. He felt that the Skunk's mother knew what was best for him. This can be translated to mean either that adults know what is best for their children or that adults are in the habit of imposing their will on children. Thus, how the story should end would depend largely on how each one interprets the facts of the story and their underlying implications.

#### **Q3. Why did Jo think Roger Skunk was better off with the new smell?**

**Ans.** Roger Skunk was very happy on having the rose smell. His mother got annoyed. She thought that a Skunk was a Skunk and he must smell like a Skunk. She decided to make the Wizard give him back his original smell. Jo thought Roger Skunk was better off with the new smell. He could play and have the company of other animals.

Jack wants to stress that for a mother her son has got more prominence than anything else. She views that Skunk never smells bad. Other animals may keep away from the stinky Skunk but for the mother, the rose smell becomes a distinct mark of recognition. She finds it strange to see Skunk in an awful smell

of roses since she has the same bad smell of Roger Skunk. She feels elated when good smelling Roger becomes a stinky Skunk again. Thus, Jack insists that the Wizard should not hit the Mommy.

**Q4. Why does Jo want that the Wizard should hit the mommy? Does her stand reflect a child's perspective on life?**

**Ans.** It is an acceptable fact that adults have refined and mature view than that of a child. They are the better judges to form a very judicious view on every matter. On the other hand children are ignorant, innocent, unexperienced and immature. They rather wander in the romantic world of their own. Accordingly we can say that a child symbolizes innocence and spontaneity while an adult has a practical approach.

In this story Jo wants Wizard to hit Mommy as she has forced the Wizard to change the foul smell in Skunk rather than the rose smell. The girl does not think appropriate that the Mommy should hit the Wizard from her perspective, it has been worthy if the Wizard Hits Mommy since Skunk too needs the company for playing.

**Q5. How does Jo want the story to end and why?**

**Ans.** It is very important to note that the children have different view on life than that of the adults. They live and dream in their own their imaginative world. They have no malice and remain away from petty differences. Here in the story, Jo is a very sensible girl. She does not like the ending that Mommy should hit the wizard. Rather she wants that the Wizard should hit the mommy for her failure to realize the problems of Skunk. She calls her "Stupid Mommy" and insists for a change in the story. Since Roger Skunk is the hero of the story, Jo does not want her hero to face any complications. She does not imagine Skunk roughly and stinky. She has got every sympathy for Skunk. She thinks it unfair on the part of Skunk's mommy to go and get Roger's smell bad again. She wants the ending must be changed.

## **ON THE FACE OF IT**

### **Summary**

This play deals with the problem of the disabled people and depicts that merely the encouraging words may change our tensed feelings. It is for us to see and understand life in every organism. It does not matter what we look like but it matters how we can uplift a disabled man. It is not the actual pain or inconvenience caused by a physical impairment that troubles a disabled man but the behaviour of the people around him. People discard him as a useless limb

and refuse to accept him in the mainstream of life. So he feels alienated from the society and wants to live in seclusion. In a way Derry suffers from inferiority complex. Mr. Lamb motivates him to think positively about life, people and things.

It is a fine day and Mr. Lamb is in his garden. He is an old man with a tin leg. He leads a lonely life and is always ready to accept any visitor who comes in his garden. One day Derry, a young boy of fourteen sneaks into Mr. Lamb's garden. He has a burnt face with acid so he looks very ugly. He has become defiant and withdrawn due to his disfigured face. He does not want to face the world with his ugly and disfigured face.

Derry climbs over the wall and cautiously walks through the long grass. He is quite close to Lamb. He is scared when Lamb speaks to him. Lamb asks him to tread carefully because the long grass is littered with wild apples dropped by wind. Derry is utterly confused as he has come there considering the place empty. Having been detected by Lamb, Derry panicks and wants to go. Lamb asks him not to leave as he does not mind anybody's coming into his garden. He keeps the gate always open. He advises to enter through the gate rather than by climbing over the garden wall. Lamb tells that all who come to his garden, are welcome. But Derry says that he has not come to steal but he wants only to come into garden. He rather tells Derry not to be afraid of anything but Derry points out that the people are afraid of him because of his ugly and disfigured face. Derry adds that he is afraid of himself when he sees his face in the mirror.

Lamb tries to console him. He asks him to face the harsh realities of life bravely. He tries to divert the views of Derry from his burnt face to the fruits in the garden, but Derry keeps on talking about his ugly face. Lamb tries to make him understand that it is the inner beauty of a person that matters, not his outer beauty. Derry does not agree with it. He tells Lamb that it is important to be handsome from outside also. He says that even his mother kisses him on the other side of his face. He says that he has to spend whole of his life with his half face. Mr. Lamb points out that there is no difference between a flower plant and a weed since both are living and growing plants. Derry remarks that Mr. Lamb can put on trousers and cover up his tin-leg. Then Mr. Lamb reminds Derry of a fairy tale of Beauty and The Beast in which the princess kisses the Beast who in turn changes into a handsome prince. This makes Derry understand that ugliness is only skin deep. A man is not what he looks like but what he really is. Handsome is that handsome does. This story is to inspire Derry and he should not care for his burnt face. But Derry tells that people stare at his face and they are afraid of him.

Derry tells Lamb that women talk of his ugly face. They say that none will kiss except his mother. Mr. Lamb tells him that he must have heard so many other things also. The best thing is to keep his ears shut and need not pay attention to such talks. Mr. Lamb talks about the bees in his garden. Some people like their buzzing while others hate. But Lamb calls it a sweet music. It is only the difference of attitude.

Derry tells that people stare at his face so he avoids them. But Mr. Lamb tells that keeping alone is not a fine thing. He tells a story about a man who was always afraid of being run over or getting infected or meeting with some accident. So he locked himself in a room. There a picture fell on his head and killed him.

Derry says that his family often talks about him downstairs when he is not there. They are worried to think what is going to happen to him when they are gone and how he will get on in this world. Mr. Lamb does not agree with him. Lamb encourages him that he has got two arms, legs, eyes, ears, a tongue and a brain. He can achieve whatever he likes. He can be better than others. He tells Derry that he has got a full body. He can do anything like other people or may do better than others.

He asks Lamb several questions to know more about him. Mr. Lamb says that he sits in the sun and reads the books. He likes the windows open to hear the wind. Lamb tells that he has a lot of friends everywhere. Everybody who comes in his garden is his friend. Derry wonders how a person can be his friend about whom he knows nothing. Derry says that there are some people he hates. But Lamb remarks that hatred would do him more harm than any bottle of acid. Acid only burns our face or so but hatred can burn us away inside.

Lamb asks him to be a friend. Derry asks how they can be friends only in one meeting. But Lamb tells him that he can come there at any time even if he is out. Derry thinks to help him. He tells Lamb that with one leg he can fall off a ladder and die. Derry offers to help him but he wants to inform his mother where he is since she will be worried. Lamb doubts if he would come back. Derry assures him to return but Lamb says to himself that people never come back though they say that they will come back.

Derry goes back to his house and tells everything to his mother. Derry says that he wants to go there, sit and listen to things and look. Nobody else has ever said the things the old man has said. His mother stops him from going to the old man's house. She tells that she has heard strange stories about the old man. She urges him not to go there again. Derry insists that he must go there otherwise he

will never go anywhere in this world. In spite of his mother's strong resistance, Derry slams the door and runs away to help Lamb in collecting crab apples.

In the meantime Mr. Lamb climbs on the ladder for the apples. The ladder falls back and Mr. Lamb is killed. Derry opens the gate and says excitedly that he has come back. Suddenly he catches sight of Mr. Lamb. He runs through the long grass and says, "I came back Lamey-Lamb. I did come back." But there is no response. Derry kneels by him and weeps and realizes that he has lost his only friend in this world.

### **Main Points**

1. Derry was a teenager, highly pessimistic and withdrawn from the mainstream society.
2. He developed this attitude after one side of his face was disfigured by acid. He avoided company of others and remained lonely lest he be noticed by other people.
3. He believed that no one loved him and his mother loved him because she was supposed to.
4. Once he heard two women commenting about his monstrous appearance. They said only a mother could love a face like his.
5. On another day Derry heard his parents conversing that he would not survive after their death because he was deformed.
6. The shock he received from these words was big.
7. On another occasion Derry heard his relatives saying that in their opinion a deformed boy like Derry could accommodate himself with other deformed boys and girls. Derry had his ears always open for such comments and used to respond to them in his silent way.
8. He concluded that the world altogether didn't need a boy like him.
9. One day Derry accidentally met a man called Mr. Lamb.
10. Mr. Lamb was an old man with a lame leg. After he became lame, Mr. Lamb began to develop a positive attitude with his deformity.
11. He worked hard to defeat this impairment and learnt to walk and climb ladders. He was happy to be alive and ignored his lameness.
12. He made everyone his friend and had a house with no curtains and open doors. He welcomed anyone who came to him.
13. While Mr. Lamb took his impairment as a challenge and tried to overcome it, Derry believed that he was unwanted and lost. His pain was physical and mental. Being a child he was not as strong as Mr. Lamb about suffering.
14. He couldn't take the sneering and sympathizing world as taken by Mr. Lamb. Mr. Lamb was able to sit smart and unaffected as long as he wore trousers and sat but Derry had no way to hide his face.

15. After meeting Mr. Lamb Derry realized how foolish he had been to believe his parents.

16. For him Lamb was a man who opened the doors of his closed world in an hour's time the same of which were shut on him by his parents and therefore believed that his company with Lamb would make him a perfect person.

17. At the end Derry goes back to his house where his mother cross questioned him. She had instructed him not to step out of the house.

18. Derry tried to convince his mother that Mr. Lamb was an extremely good man but she was not ready to listen.

19. Ignoring his mother's thoughtless restrictions, Derry left his home and ran to Mr. Lamb's garden.

20. On reaching, Derry found a motionless Mr. Lamb fallen from the ladder. He had fallen while pulling the crab apples down from the tree.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. Who is Mr. Lamb? How does Derry get into his garden?**

**Ans.** Mr. Lamb is an old man who has lost his leg in the war. He lives by himself in a big house, tending to his apples and enjoying his garden. Derry does not know that the gate of the house is wide open, and climbs over the wall into Mr. Lamb's garden hoping for some solitude.

**Q2. What is the attitude of Mr. Lamb to the small boy who comes to his garden?**

**Ans.** Mr. Lamb's attitude to the small boy is quite gentle, protective and accommodating. Like an elder in the family, Mr. Lamb advises the young boy to mind the apples lest he should trip and not to feel afraid.

**Q3. What is it that draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb in spite of himself?**

**Ans.** Mr. Lamb is a good inspirer, a motivator and a patient listener. He holds a positive attitude to life. On seeing Derry he neither asks anything about his face nor does he look disgusted rather he makes Derry feel comfortable with his burnt face. He instills confidence in Derry. He wants him to understand the world and see the difference by watching and listening. Due to these qualities, Derry is drawn towards Lamb.

**Q4. "I'm, not afraid. People are afraid of me," says Derry. What do people think on seeing his face? How do they react then?**

**Ans.** People think that it is the ugliest thing they have ever seen. They call him a poor boy as one side of his face has been burnt by acid. Some of them are afraid of his ugly and horrible face.

**Q5. How does Mr. Lamb change the subject from ugly face to ripe apples?**

**Ans.** There is a momentary pause in the conversation. Then Mr. Lamb changes the subject. He says that when it is a bit cooler, he will get the ladder and a stick. Then he will pull down those ripe crab apples. He makes jelly. He calls these orange coloured and golden apples magic fruit. September is a good time to make jelly. He tells the boy that he could help him.

**Q6. What does Mr. Lamb tell about himself?**

**Ans.** Lamb tells that he is old and has a tin leg. Children tease him calling Lamey-Lamb but still they come to his garden. They are not afraid of him because he is not afraid of them. He is never bothered about his old age or tin leg as life has many more things to offer.

**Q7. It's all relative, beauty and beast. Justify the statement.**

**Ans.** Mr. Lamb means to say that different people have different view points to look at the same thing. Some find one thing beautiful, others find it ugly. It all depends on outlook and attitude. It is, therefore, important to adopt a positive attitude towards everything just like the Princess Beauty who loved the monstrous Beast in the fairy tale. Mr. Lamb tells Derry there are plenty of things to stare at and if people look at their handicap they should not mind, as they will be tired of soon. Beauty or ugly depends upon individual's perceptions.

**Q8. How does Derry's attitude change?**

**Ans.** Due to his burnt face Derry had withdrawing attitude. He curses his handicap and is afraid of people's stare at him. But Lamb changed his attitude. Lamb instilled courage in him to live life as it is. He cited his own example. Children call him Lamey Lamb but he does not mind. He has a tin leg but that does not stop him from making friends.

**Q9. Why do these arguments fail to console Derry?**

**Ans.** Derry says all these consolations will not make his face change. He feels more hurt and pained by the comments of persons or what he overhears. Once he heard a woman in the street whispering to another, "Look at that, that's a

terrible things. That's a face only a mother could love." Derry calls it cruel of them.

**Q10. What peculiar things does Derry notice about the old man?**

**Ans.** Derry thinks that the old man is peculiar. He says peculiar things. He asks questions which Derry does not understand. There are no curtains at the windows in his house. He likes the light and darkness and hears the wind with the windows open.

**Q11. How should people be judged?**

**Ans.** People should not be judged by what they look like. They must be judged by their actions. Appearances may be deceptive. On the other hand, people with physical impairments overcome their disabilities and perform wonderful feats in different spheres.

**Q12. "There's plenty of other things to stare at." Which 'things' are worth staring at and why?**

**Ans.** According to the old man there are plenty of things to stare at. These include crab apples or the weeds or a spider climbing up a silken ladder, or his tall sun-flowers. All of them are beautiful and growing. Derry is surprised at the mention of 'things'. Mr. Lamb tries to convince him that it is all relative. Then he mentions 'Beauty and the Beast'.

**Q13. How does Derry convince his mother for going to the old man's garden?**

**Ans.** Derry says that the old man has a tin leg. He lives in a huge house without curtains. He has a garden. Derry wants to be there and listen to things that matter. Things nobody else has ever said. Things he wants to think about. They are not about his face and how he looks.

**Q14. What makes Derry resolve to go to the old man?**

**Ans.** He no longer cares about his face and looks. He is more concerned with what he thinks and feels, what he wants to see and find out and hear. He knows that if he does not go back there, he will never go anywhere in that world again.

**Q15. Comment on the moral value of the play.**



**Ans.** The moral of the play is very loud and clear. The physically disabled should focus on the brighter side of life and not to brood over the shortcomings. The society should accept them as they are and expand their social interactions. In this way they can fight out the loneliness, depression and disappointment.

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. What is the bond that unites the two—Mr. Lamb and Derry? How does the old man inspire the small boy?**

**Ans.** It is the bond of physical impairment that unites old Mr. Lamb and the small boy, Derry. He got his leg blown off during the war and since then he has a tin leg. Derry got one side of his face burnt by acid. Their respective disabilities have not only caused pain and suffering to the body but to their mind and soul as well. They have to live with their physical impairment. Mr. Lamb has adjusted himself to the ways of the world and stopped bothering about what people call him. He keeps himself busy in meaningful activities like picking apples, making jelly, bee-keeping and preparing toffee from honey. He loves reading books, hearing music, observing beautiful things and thinking about them. He inspires the small boy by saying that he has all the God-given organs intact. He has to decide what to do. He must work for it and then he can outshine even the others. Derry admits that ‘Handsome is he as handsome does.’ For him his face or how he looks does not matter now.

**Q2. Compare and contrast the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry.**

**Ans.** Both Mr. Lamb and the young boy Derry have one thing in common—their physical impairment. Both are victims of these disabilities after birth. The leg of Mr. Lamb was blown off during the war. Derry’s face was burnt by acid. One side of his face looked very ugly and frightful.

Apart from this, they have nothing in common. Mr. Lamb is old, Derry is a young boy of fourteen. Mr. Lamb enjoys company and wants to talk. Derry is very withdrawn and defiant. He does not want to come in contact with people.

Mr. Lamb does not bother about his lameness. He has developed love for reading books, hearing music, seeing beautiful things and thinking about them. He is calm and patient. He asks peculiar questions. He forces Derry to see that actions are more important than mere looks. In spite of his lameness he picks apples, makes jelly, maintains a beehive and makes toffees from honey. The gate of his garden is always open. Derry develops a new vision of life under his guidance.

**Q3. What impression do you form of Derry?**

**Ans.** Derry is a fourteen year old boy who is very withdrawn and defiant. One side of his face has been burnt by acid and it looks very ugly and frightful. This incident has made him a victim of inferiority complex. He is highly sensitive to what others say about him. Their anxiety, concern, fear and revulsion pains him most.

Derry is quite intelligent. When Mr. Lamb mentions the story 'Beauty and the Beast', Derry at once comes out with its moral: 'Handsome is as handsome does.' He, however, evokes self-pity by saying, "I won't change... and no one'll kiss me ever."

Derry is sensitive to the sufferings of others. He arouses sympathy for himself by making enquiries about the old man's leg, pain and how he passes his life alone. Derry has the capacity to learn. He is impressed by the old man's way of life in spite of physical handicap. In the end, he does not bother about his face or looks and wants to see, hear, learn and think and do what no one else has done.

#### **Q4. What impression do you form about Mr. Lamb?**

**Ans.** Mr. Lamb is the protagonist in the play. He dominates the play from beginning to end. He impresses us as a sensitive, watchful, kind, considerate and sympathetic person. He is quite gentle, accommodating and protective. He is more concerned about the boy's well-being than the apples.

He is a victim of alienation due to his physical impairment. Though he keeps his gates open and says he has many friends, actually he lives alone and is quite miserable. He loves company and wants to talk. He shares his thoughts even with the young boy.

Mr. Lamb is like a modern communicator and a psychologist who believes in drawing out the best of an individual. His tactful handling and peculiar questions make Derry shed some of his firmly fixed notions and respond to the things of the world around him. Thus he is a source of inspiration to Derry.

#### **Q5. How far do you find the ending of the play quite effective and meaningful?**

**Ans.** The ending is quite dramatic and stage worthy. Mr. Lamb, who has been picking apples, falls down along with the ladder. As Derry reaches the garden, he finds Mr. Lamb lying on the ground. He kneels by Lamb and cries that he has come back. He implores the old man to get up and talk. As the old man does not respond, he begins to weep. Mr. Lamb is dead.

It is a pathetic ending, no doubt, but it does not spread gloom. It is like a soldier making an exit with the satisfaction of mission accomplished. The old man has handed over his philosophy of life to Derry and inspired him to find out what he wants to be. Thus, though the old man expires physically, his ideas inspire

Derry to pursue higher goals and achieve them. In this sense, the ending is quite effective and meaningful.

**Q6. Mr. Lamb displays signs of loneliness and disappointment. What are the ways in which Mr. Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?**

**Ans.** Mr. Lamb displays signs of loneliness and disappointment and tries to overcome these feelings by doing different things. He says that when it is a bit cooler, he will get the ladder and a stick, and pull down those crab apples. He makes jelly. Derry could help him. Then he says he is interested in anybody or anything that God made. It may be a person, flower, fruit, grass, weeds or rubbish. There are plenty of things to look at. Some of them are his crab apples or the weeds or a spider climbing up a silken ladder or his tall sun-flowers. He also likes to talk and have a company. He has a hive of bees. He hears them singing. He sits in the sun and reads books. He likes the light and the darkness. He hears the wind coming through open windows. There aren't any curtains at the windows as they either shut things out or shut things in.

## **EVAN TRIES AN O-LEVEL**

### **Summary**

It is the month of early March. The secretary of the Examination Board receives a call from the Governor of the H.M. Prison, Oxford. He tells that a prisoner named Evans has started night classes in O Level German. Now he wants to attain some academic qualification. The Secretary replies that there is no need to worry. All the necessary forms and other requisite material will be sent. They will give him a chance. He enquires about Evans. The Governor tells him that Evans has no record of violence. Rather he is an amusing fellow. He is one of the stars at the Christmas concert.

The Secretary asks him if they can arrange a room where Evans can sit in for the examination. The Governor tells that the room of Evans can be used for this purpose.

The Secretary agrees and tells that they could get a parson from St. Mary Mags to invigilate.

The Governor takes utmost care to see that he would not be fooled. Every care was taken to make Evans prepare for the exam. He was tutored by a German teacher for 6 months. The day before the exam the teacher wishes good luck but makes it clear that he had hardly any 'chance of getting through.' But Evans gives an ironical twist to the tutor's observation by saying "I may surprise everybody."

On the day of the exam Jackson and Stephens visited Evan's cell and took away everything that may help him injure himself. Evans was insisted to take away the hat but he refused saying that it was lucky charm.

Evan's cell was bugged so that the Governor could himself listen to each and every conversation in the cell. The invigilator Rev. S. Mc Leery too was searched and left him to complete the task. Stephen sitting outside the cell every now and then peeped into the cell.

The exam went on smoothly. Stephen escorted the invigilator to the main gate and looked into Evan's cell and found the invigilator (actually Evans) wounded, informed the Governor. The latter was to be hospitalized but informed that he was alright and asked them to follow Evans. Thus he escaped the prison.

When the invigilator was not found in the hospital they went to the residence of Rev. S. Mc Leery only to find him 'bound and gagged in his study in Broad Street'. He has been there, since 8.15 a.m. Now everything was clear to the Governor.

Evan escaped the prison the fourth time. But by taking the hint from the question paper the Governor reached the hotel where Evans was staying. He captured him and came to know how he planned his escape. The Governor said that his game was over. Evans surrendered himself to the Governor.

Evans was handcuffed and sent away with a prison officer in the prison van. But here again he befools the Governor. Both the prison officer and the prison van were part of the plan devised by Evan's friends. Once again he was a free bird.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. Who was James Roderick Evans? Why was he put in the Oxford Prison?**

**Ans.** Evans was a congenital kleptomaniac. He was often caught and sent to jail but he was very clever and managed to escape every time. He had a gang of friends who helped him in it.

**Q2. How was Evan's presence in the prison felt by the authorities?**

**Ans.** Evans was a smart, tricky, intelligent and the most popular prisoner at Oxford jail. Even the jail authorities admired his skills but were worried about

the possibility of his escape. He had many good friends among the prisoners. The Governor himself was concerned for him and at times behaved to be Evans' fan.

**Q3. Why did the Governor apply for an examination for Evans?**

**Ans.** Evans was a prisoner in the Oxford Prison. He convinced the authorities that he was genuinely interested in learning German. He was taught by a German teacher for about six months. When the teacher said that Evans was prepared for an O' Level exam, the Governor of the prison applied to the Examination Board for his exam.

**Q4. Who met Evans on the eve of the examination? What did he say?**

**Ans.** It was Evans' German teacher who shook him by the hand at 8.30 p.m. on Monday, 7 June. They met in the heavily guarded Recreational Block, just across from D Wing. The teacher wished him good luck in German, which Evans failed to understand. The teacher observed that he had a remote chance of getting through. Evans remarked that he might surprise everybody. These remarks prove quite meaningful and prophetic.

**Q5. What were the precautions taken for the smooth conduct of the examination?**

**Ans.** For smooth conduct examination various precautionary measures were taken. All sharp instruments like razor nail scissors were removed. The Governor, senior prison officer Jackson and officer Stephen were put on duty. A special invigilator was arranged. A microphone was fitted in the prison cell where the examination was to be conducted.

**Q6. Who was Mc Leery?**

**Ans.** Rev. Mc Leery was a parson at St. Mary Mags, a monastery. He was supposed to invigilate Evan's examination at the Oxford Prison. He was about to leave his residence for the prison when two of Evans' friends entered his room and gagged him until Evans had escaped from the prison.

**Q7. Why was Evans particular about keeping his hat on his head during his exam?**

**Ans.** Evans wore a bobble hat at the time of his examination. When he was asked to remove the hat, Evans pleaded to let stay it because he believed it was

his lucky charm. In fact he had hidden some of the makeup materials in his hat which was the reason he didn't want to remove it.

**Q8. What instructions did the invigilator issue to the examinee before the examination?**

**Ans.** He asked the examinee if he had got a watch. He would tell him when to start and again when he had five minutes left. He asked him to write the name of the paper, 021-1 in the top left-hand corner, and his index number-313 in the top right-hand corner. Just below that he was to write his centre number-271.

**Q9. The examination was scheduled to begin at 9.15 a.m. but it started at 9.25 a.m. Why was there the delay in starting the examination?**

**Ans.** The examination started ten minutes late due to security reasons. The Governor wanted to search Mr. McLeery and his belongings. He had doubts that Mr. McLeery could have taken something dangerous with him innocently like a paper knife or that sort. Evans could take advantage of any such thing and keep McLeery as a hostage. He might try to run away from the prison.

**Q10. Why did the Governor think of frisking Mc Leery?**

**Ans.** Mc Leery was the invigilator of the examination and he was to sit inside Evan's cell while the latter wrote the exam. The Governor had made sure that Evans had been thoroughly frisked and there was nothing to fear about that. But when he thought about the possibility of Mc Leery carrying a paper-knife or that sort, he feared Evans would make use of that and escape by holding the parson his hostage.

**Q11. What were the contents of the small brown suitcase McLeery carried'?**

**Ans.** It had a sealed question paper envelope, a yellow invigilation form, a special 'authentication' card from the Examination Board, a paper knife, a Bible, and a current copy of 'The Church Times'. Except the last two articles, the rest were related to his morning duties as invigilator.

**Q12. What was the intention behind the call from the Examinations Board?**

**Ans.** It was one of Evans' friends who made the call from the Examination Board. This call was primarily meant for confirming the beginning time of the exam in order to calculate the end of the exam. The equally important reason

behind this call was to misguide the Governor into Hotel Golden Lion to arrest Evans from there and thereby to make the escape altogether safer.

**Q13. What had Mc Leery brought with him to the prison to help Evans' escape?**

**Ans.** Evans' friend dressed up like Mc Leery had brought some very useful articles for Evans' escape. He had worn an extra clerical collar and a clerical front. In his bag he had carried a semi inflated rubber tube filled with blood. He had also carried a paper scissors even though it was frisked by the prison authorities.

**Q14. What request did Evans make about half an hour before the end of the examination?**

**Ans.** Evans made a polite request if he could put a blanket round his shoulders as it was a bit chilly there. McLeery told Evans to be quick about it. A minute later, Stephens was surprised to see a grey blanket draped round Evans shoulders.

**Q15. What made Governor aware that someone from the examination board was involved in the escape of Evans?**

**Ans.** The question paper had the instructions that he had to move from Elsfield way to the Headington round about. The examination board was situated at Elsfield Way. Then he remembered the call and the correction slip. All these things verified that someone from the examination board was involved in the escape plan.

**Q16. What information did the Governor get from the hospital about McLeery?**

**Ans.** The Governor was aware that McLeery was admitted in the Red Cliffe Hospital. In order to know about his well-being, he rang-up the hospital authorities. It was told that an ambulance did go to Elsfield Way but they did not find him there. The Governor concluded that it was Evans who ran away from the cell and not McLeery.

**Q17. Why the Governor was angry with the prison officers after Evans had escaped?**

**Ans.** The Governor was angry with Stephens because it was he who saw Evans off safely out of the prison gate. Stephens told him that it was the Governor who

ordered him to do so. These words infuriated the Governor since he had not rang him at all. The Governor was angry with Jackson because he did not search Evans' cell properly and Evans had somehow concealed a beard, dog collar and other things to a clerk in his cell. It was his carelessness that helped Evans to escape.

**Q18. Why did the Governor doubt the phone call from the Examination?**

**Ans.** The Governor thought it might be a fake call. It might be a sort of signal for Evans. He thought the correction slip could be a kind of secret message sent for Evans. He tried to verify the call. He held the incoming call and from the other line called the Examination Board. But the number was continuously busy. This means the call was really from the Examination Board.

**Q19. What did Stephens see through the hole of the cell of Evans after leaving McLeery at the main gate of the prison?**

**Ans.** Stephens thought of looking at Evans once again after leaving Mr. McLeery at the main gate. He peeped through the hole and saw a terrible sight. A man was sitting on Evans' chair and blood was dripping from his head. He had the blanket dropped around his shoulders. His hair were smeared with blood. Blood had reached his clerical collars. It was a terrible sight. It came to his mind that it must be Evans. After a considered thought he concluded him McLeery. He raised an alarm and called for the police.

**Q20. What clues did the question-paper of Evans provide to the Governor?**

**Ans.** There was a photocopied sheet hidden in the German question paper. It was very cleverly pasted on the last blank sheet of the question paper. It had instructions written in German. It read: "Follow the plan. The vital point in time is three minutes before the end of the examination." It was also instructed not to hit the parson hard, he is a minister and not to overdo the Scot accent etc. It had also instruction to move towards the Headington round about and then to make way to Newbury. The Governor coded it for Newbury and the hunt for Evans started.

**Q21. How did Stephens feel when he was asked to accompany Mc Leery out of the prison?**

**Ans.** Stephens was a new officer at the Oxford Prison and was naturally apprehensive about his duties. He was already glad that he was in charge of the invigilator and the examinee. When he was asked by the Governor to



accompany the invigilator out of the prison, Stephens felt greatly flattered and proud of himself.

**Q22. Where did Evans go?**

**Ans.** Evans went to a hotel called 'The Golden Lion,' which was located in Chipping Norton.

**Q23. How did Evans escape from Detective Carter?**

**Ans.** Disguised as the invigilator, Evans misguided detective Carter in the pretext of helping the officer to find the escaped Evans. When they reached Radcliff Hospital, Evans pretended to be most critical and told the detective to admit him in the hospital. Carter wanted to drive the wounded invigilator into the hospital but Evans advised him to call the ambulance and drop him on the roadside to be picked by the ambulance so that the detective could continue his chase after Evans.

**Q24. How did Evans manage his final escape?**

**Ans.** Evans was almost rearrested by the Governor in the hotel. He was handcuffed and made to sit in a prison van. But the people sitting inside the van were the close friends of Evans. They opened his handcuff on Evans' instructions. They took the van towards Newbury and Evans had his final escape.

**Q25. In what way did the friends of Evan arrange his escape from the prison?**

**Ans.** Evans had some really efficient, cunning and smart friends. The tutor who came to give night classes was his friend. The person in the examination board who sent clue about the hotel in the correction slip, was his intimate and loyal friend. Even the invigilator was also his friend. The people in the prison van were also his friends.

**Long Answer Type questions**

**Q1. Give a character sketch of the Governor of Oxford Prison.**

**Ans.** The Governor of the H.M. Prison, Oxford seems to be a sympathetic fellow since he makes all the relevant arrangements for the examination of a run-out prisoner. He has a whim that Evans may escape but he ensures his stay in the cell. He is very proud, self-conscious and an enthusiastic fellow and tries his best to be saved from the disgrace lest Evans should escape from the prison.

He has a fine presence of mind as he cross-examines every call that is made to the prison on the examination day.

Being a man of over-confident nature, he fails to revoke the escape of Evans. On his escape, he gets infuriated with his officers and calls them “morns”. But he is a person who does not chide away from showing praise to a prisoner. When Evans reveals his secret plan, he does not fail to admire him. In reality the Governor proves to be just another good for-a-giggle-gullible when Evans tricks him again. It is his overconfidence, boasting and self-praise bring his disgrace.

## **Q2. How was injured McLeery able to befool the prison-officers?**

**Ans.** The injured McLeery was a fine actor. He befriended the invigilator in the jail who supplied him the fake blood in a rubber ring. It was pouring down from his head. With a feeble hand, he got his handkerchief and held it to his bleeding head. In this process he was able to hide his face from the eyes of the prison officer. He expressed his unbearable pain and represented himself not to utter any word coherently. He concealed his voice and dodged the police officers.

When he heard the suggestion of bringing in an ambulance, he interrupted immediately and asked them to call the police. He offered himself to trace the run-away Evans. Thus he trapped the police officers very accurately. This acting of a seriously injured person, bleeding, bending, limping and using door as a help while walking, assured the police officers that he was helping them in all possible ways even in this pitiable condition. They believed that injured McLeery was helping them but his superb acting was successful in befooling and confusing the prison-officers.

## **Q3. How did Evans outwit the Governor and his staff?**

**Ans.** James Evans was imprisoned in the Oxford Prison but he had a group of cunning, clever and smart friends outside. They made a plan to get him out of the prison. Evans started night classes in ‘O’ Level German. The services of a German teacher were made available to him and he was from the technical college but he was Evans’ friend. The prison authorities never thought to check him. At the Examination Board too they won over someone to act as an informer. They knew from Evans that McLeery would be put on invigilation. They bound and gagged McLeery in his flat and sent someone else to impersonate McLeery. Evans cut his hair short and hid under a bobbly hat. Mr. Jackson did not insist to take off the hat lest he should hide something under it. McLeery’s semi-inflated rubber ring was not examined since it contained pig’s blood. Thinking him as a bonafide person, they did not search him properly.

The Governor allowed Stephens to stay outside the examination room and it provided a chance for Evans to work out his plan. The Governor did not check

whether the prison van was appropriately needed by the magistrate or not. Evans dodged Carter when they took him to search for Evans and escaped. At the Golden Lion Hotel, he was nabbed by the Governor. When the Governor asked for police van and the prison officers, Evans' men succeeded in duping the Governor. Despite all precautions, Evans escaped from a high security jail.

**Q4. How did Evans manage to escape on the examination day?**

**Ans.** Evans was a very smart and clever prisoner in the H.M. Oxford Prison. He had no record of violence and used to participate in Christmas concerts. He was good at imitations but he had escaped from the prison three times. So he was kept on high and tight security. In the jail, Evans started 'O' Level German classes. Now he wanted to appear for the examination.

Keeping in view his previous history, a tight security was alerted in his cell since he had to answer his paper in his room. Stephens was appointed to watch him till the paper was finished. The Governor too himself was much alert and microphone was attached in his room so that every word could be heard by the Governor himself. His room was too thoroughly searched and the objectionable items like the nail scissors and nail- file were taken away. The razor blade was also taken away after the shave. Even McLeery was searched and a knife was removed from his suitcase. Despite these precautions, Evans fooled the prison officials and escaped.

**Q5. Why do you think the prison authorities were responsible for the escape of Evans?**

**Ans.** From the very beginning to the end of the play, there are so many lacunas and laxities on the part of the prison authorities that made the escape of Evans. Adequate measures were adopted to prevent Evans' escape but there remained certain facts that were totally unheeded. When McLeery came for invigilation, his identity was never checked except signing in the visitors' book. Already the police officers were asked to search the room of Evans and they ensured complete availability of any unauthorised items, how Evans managed to conceal beard, dog collar, a pair of spectacles and other clerical things in his cell ? Apart from that he had got some sort of weapons with which he had given McLeery a terrible wound across the head. When Jackson asked to remove his bobble hat, Evans objected and called it "Good luck".

During the examination the correction-slip paved the way for Evans' escape. The prison authorities failed to confirm from the examination board about its sanctity. Not only this, they could not detect that Evans impersonating as McLeery became the imposter. McLeery walked out of the prison after the examination and Evans impersonating McLeery stayed in. The Governor nabbed Evans at the Golden Lions Hotel and called for the local police and the van. There the men of Evans' must have been tracking the Governor. They

impersonated as prison officers and helped Evans escape. The Governor did not ask for his own official van and officers. Thus we can say that the prison authorities were totally responsible for the escape of Evans.

**Q6. Why is the Governor called ‘good for a giggle’?**

**Ans.** The Governor was a very intelligent officer but his overconfidence was his weak point. He was successful in tracing Evans in the Hotel Golden Lion and in arresting him. But little did he know that it was Evans who wanted the Governor to arrest him. Evans raised the Governor’s confidence level sky high and let him fall from such a height of pride. When he caught Evans, the Governor thought that he was the most intelligent prison governor in the world and drove to the prison dreaming of the praises and ranks he would be given for his efficiency as a Governor. But in the prison he would know how he was made fool by Evans and the world would only giggle at him.

**Q7. How far was Stephens helpful for Evans’ escape?**

**Ans.** Stephens was a newly recruited officer in the prison. He was very particular about showing his efficiency in front of the higher authorities and was especially glad that he was in charge of Evans’ examination which was a risky job indeed. Evans complained of Stephens’ breathing and got him naturally out of the cell. Once out of the cell, Stephens kept peeping into the cell but soon found it childish. To show that he was very confident and efficient, he left the cell door to come after short intervals. The short intervals soon became longer and very longer giving time for Evans to dress himself up inside the cell. Stephens was taken to the highest joy when he received the fake call from the Governor to take the invigilator out of the prison. He in his pride took the invigilator out of the prison and made way for Evans’ escape in a wonderful way.

**Q8. Do you agree that between crime and punishment it is mainly a battle of wits?**

**Ans.** The story proves that the prison authorities were determined to prevent Evans from escaping and in their own way they had taken all the precautions against it. On the other hand, Evans had been planning his escape and had worked out all the details most meticulously. Evans made a good plan for his escape and the prison authorities then made a concerted effort to arrest him. He was arrested but managed to escape again thus proving that there exists a constant battle of wits between crime and punishment.

**MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD.**

## **I. The Cutting of My Long Hair**

### **Summary**

This extract is a painful revelation of a particular period of the life which the writer had to suffer during her hostel days. It was the first day of her boarding school situated in the land of apples. The children were given the task of apple picking in the bitter and biting cold. They were taken to the breakfast hall and the girl was feeling stressed. She did not know the table manners. She was being watched very carefully by a strange pale-faced woman. The girl felt very fearful and insulted.

Her friend who could understand some English, told her that the pale strange woman intended to cut her long hair. Zitkala-Sa learned from her mother that hair would be shingled only for the unskilled warrior, cowards and mourners. She decided to fight back and got herself hidden in a dim room under the bed. Everybody looked for her and called her name but eventually caught. Her long hair was cut, although she resisted a lot. She spent her rest of the life there like a small animal being a part of a herd, which was driven by a herder.

### **Main Points**

1. Zitkala-sa was a victim of social & cultural oppression by the victors who had overpowered them by their sheer strength. They were prejudiced towards Native American Culture & women.
2. Zitkala-sa was forced to cut her long hair compulsorily.
3. The cutting of the long hair of Zitkala-sa was a symbol of their oppression.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

#### **Q1. How were the Indian girls dressed?**

**Ans.** The Indian girls were in stiff shoes and closely clinging dresses. The small girls wore sleeved aprons and shingled hair. It was Zitkala-Sa's first day in school. She was not yet in the school dress. She was dressed in the modest dress of her tribe.

#### **Q2. How did Zitkala-Sa compare her own dress with that of the other girls?**

**Ans.** The other girls wore stiff shoes and closely clinging dresses. Zitkala-Sa thought it was immodest to dress like that. She was wearing soft flat shoes and

the loose clothes of her tribe. Even without her blanket on her shoulders, she was feeling very shy.

**Q3. “I felt like sinking to the floor,” says Zitkala-Sa. When did she feel so and why?**

**Ans.** native American girl traditionally wears a blanket on her shoulders. It is considered immodest if a girl is without a blanket on her shoulders. But when Zitkala-Sa was marching in a line to the dining room, her blanket was stripped from her shoulders. In her shame, Zitkala-Sa felt like sinking to the floor.

**Q4. What were the indignities that the new girls were subjected to at Carlisle Indian School?**

**Ans.** The girls were scrutinized thoroughly and supervised by a grey-haired woman. They were made to wear tight fitting immodest clothes and stiff shoes. During breakfast a systematic and regimental discipline was observed. The girls with long hair had to get them shingled and they had to submit to the authorities who were strong, unfeeling and cruel.

**Q5. Who was Judewin? What warning did she give to Zitkala-Sa?**

**Ans.** All the girls were placed in a line before entering the dining room. While the girls entered from one door, the boys came in from the opposite door. Zitkala-Sa watched for the three boys of her tribe who had come in the same group. They were feeling as uncomfortable as Zitkala-Sa was.

**Q6. What did Judewin tell Zitkala-Sa? How did she react to it?**

**Ans.** Judewin who could understand a little English informed the narrator that the strange woman intended to cut their long hair. But the narrator had learnt from her mother that the enemy cut the hair of the unskilled warrior when they are captured and among their people mourners wear short hair and cowards shingled hair. So, she decided to resist. She hid herself under a bed in a dark room.

**Q7. Why was Zitkala-Sa terrified When Judewin told her that her hair would be shingled?**

**Ans.** It was a tradition with Zitkala-Sa's tribe to keep long, heavy hair. Only unskilled warrior who were captured, had their hair shingled by the enemy. It was considered humiliating to have one's hair shingled. Naturally, Zitkala-Sa was terrified when she heard that her hair would be cut short.

**Q8. How did Zitkala-Sa try to prevent the shingling of her hair?**

**Ans.** She crept up the stairs when no one was noticing. She went into a room. The windows were covered with dark green curtains. It made the room very dim. Zitkala-Sa went down on her hands and knees and crawled under a bed. There she lay huddled in the dark corner.

**Q9. How was Zitkala-Sa found from her hiding place?**

**Ans.** Zitkala-Sa heard voices calling her name. She knew they were searching for her. Some women and girls entered her room. Someone threw back the curtains. The room was filled with light. She was found hiding under the bed. She was dragged out.

**Q10. How did Zitkala-Sa feel after her long hair had been shingled?**

**Ans.** Zitkala-Sa was terribly shocked. She was in tears. She moaned for her mother. But no one came to comfort her. No one came to reason with her as her mother used to do. Now she felt herself as one of many little animals driven by a herder.

**Q11. On learning that her long hair would be cut, the author decided to struggle first. What does this tell us about the author?**

**Ans.** The author knows that she could never prevail against the authorities, yet she struggles against the injustice. Her mother had told her that only cowards had their hair shingled and she firmly believed that she was not one. To prove her point as well as raise her voice against the indignity, she struggles.

**Q12. How had Zitkala -Sa been subjected to extreme indignities?**

**Ans.** Since the day she was taken from her mother Zitkala had suffered many indignities. She was stared at and tossed like a wooden puppet. Her long hair was shingled like a coward's. In her pain when she cried for her mother no one came forward to comfort her. She was just like one of animals driven by a herder.

**Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. Describe Zitkala-Sa's experience of 'eating by formula' on the first day of her school.**

**Ans.** There were tables and chairs arranged in the dining room. Boys and girls entered the hall from opposite doors. A small bell was tapped. Each of the pupils drew a chair from under the table. Zitkala-Sa, too, pulled her chair and slipped into it. But when she turned her head, all others were still standing. She shyly began to rise but then there was a second bell and all were seated. A man's voice was heard at one end of the hall. Zitkala-Sa looked around to see him. But all others hung their heads over their plates. When the man stopped his mutterings, a third bell was tapped. Everyone picked up their knife and fork and began eating. Zitkala-Sa began crying instead. This 'eating by formula' was too hard a trial for her.

**Q2. What did Zitkala-Sa do when she came to know that they were going to cut her hair?**

**Ans.** Zitkala-Sa crept up the stairs quietly when no one was noticing. There she found a large room with three white beds in it. The windows were covered with dark green curtains. It made the room very dim. Zitkala-Sa went down on her hands and knees. She crawled under the bed that was farthest from the door. There, she lay huddled in the dark corner. Soon, she heard voices calling her name. Women and girls entered the room. Someone threw up the curtains. The room was filled with light. Zitkala-Sa was found under the bed and dragged out. She was carried downstairs and tied fast in a chair. She cried aloud, shaking her head all the while. She felt the blades of scissors against her neck. She heard them cut off one of her thick braids. Now she lost her spirit and stopped struggling. When her long hair was shingled, she moaned for her mother. But no one came to comfort her.

## **II. We too are Human Beings**

### **Summary**

Bama was a student of third class. She never heard of the word untouchability during her childhood. Certain small events of her life made her feel that she was born in the marginalized caste. She was a happy peppy girl and once when she was in the third class, while going home she saw her people working hard for their land- lords. In spite of their hard work the landlords treated the workers very humiliatingly. She saw from the direction of the market an elder from their community was coming with a parcel in his hands. The manner he carried the poly bag, the manner he was carrying it with its strings, without touching the Vadas inside the parcel, really made him to be funny. He handed over the parcel to the landlord very sacredly too. She narrated the incident to her brother, taking the incident as humorous and funny. He told that it was not humorous but



humiliating as the elderly person was not supposed to touch the item inside the parcel. On hearing that Bama felt infuriated.

She saw her people bowing, to the upper caste people. She was enraged why her elders work so hard for those people who despised them so much. She wanted her people to stop paying undue respect and reverences to these upper caste people. Her brother told her that if they study hard and make progress in their lives, it would help them in throwing away the indignities. Education is their weapon with which they fight back the society. Bama did the same and got many friends in her life. Education made her as double- sided sword to fight very sharply against the unjustified caste system.

### **Main Points**

1. Bama was a victim of caste system, she had seen, felt & experienced the evils of untouchability.
2. She struggled hard against this social discrimination.
3. She studied hard & topped in her class & many students became her friends.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. Why was the narrator taking an hour or half to reach home instead of ten minute?**

**Ans.** The narrator was taking an hour or half to reach home as she used to watch the roadside fun and games. The entertaining novelties like the performing monkey, snake charmer's display of snake, marathon cycling, dried fish stall by the statue of Gandhi, street play or puppet show used to pull her stand still on her way back home.

**Q2. What was going on at the opposite corner when Bama came to her street one day?**

**Ans.** A threshing floor had been set up there. Some people of Bama's community were hard work. They were driving cattle round and round in pairs. They were treading out the grain from the straw.

**Q3. Why did Bama want to laugh on seeing an elder of her street?**

**Ans.** The elder was carrying a small packet by its string. He was holding it out so as not to touch it. There seemed to be Vadais in the packet because it was stained with oil. Bama wanted to laugh because that way the packet could get undone and the Vadais could fall out.

**Q4. How did Bama come to know about untouchability?**

**Ans.** Bama saw an elder of her community carrying a packet of vadais by its string. The packet was for the landlord. For Bama, it was a funny sight. But her brother told her that they were not supposed to touch the upper caste people. Their touch could pollute them. It was only then that Bama knew of the social discrimination faced by their community.

**Q5. How did Annan explain to Bama that there was nothing funny about the elder carrying the packet by its string?**

**Ans.** Annan told Bama that the landlord and his people were believed to be of upper caste. The Dalits were not supposed to touch them. By their touch, the upper caste people thought they were polluted. That was why the elder had to carry the packet by its string.

**Q6. What advice did Annan offer Bama?**

**Ans.** Annan advised Bama to study hard with care and learn all she could. He said that only by studying and by making progress, could they throw away their indignities.

**Q7. Why did Bama study so hard?**

**Ans.** Bama's brother who was studying at a University told her because they were born in a low caste they are deprived of honour and dignities. He advised her to study and make progress to throw away the indignities. The words of her brother left a deep impression in her mind and she studied hard.

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q1. What was the scene that first amused Bama but then filled her with anger and revolt?**

**Ans.** A threshing floor had been set up at a corner of the street. It was a street where the Dalits lived. Some men of the street were working hard to separate the grain from the straw. The landlord was sitting on a piece of sacking spread over a stone ledge. Bama saw an elder man of the street coming from the side of the bazaar. He was holding out a packet by its string. The packet was stained with oil. It had probably vadais in it. Bama thought it was funny to carry the packet in that manner, because the packet could get undone and the vadais could fall out. But Bama's elder brother explained to her that there was nothing comic about it. The landlord and his people were believed to be of upper caste. The Dalits were not supposed to touch them. It could pollute the upper caste people.

On hearing this, Bama was filled with anger and revolt. She said, “We too are human beings. Our people should never do these humiliating things for them. We should work in their fields, take home our wages, and leave it at that.”

**Q2. What oppression and discrimination did Zitkala-Sa and Bama experience during their childhood? How did they respond to their respective situations?**

**Ans.** Both Zitkala-Sa and Bama had a terrible experience of social oppression and discrimination during their childhood. Bama was filled with revolt when she saw how the elder of their community was humiliated by the village landlord. She said, “We too are human beings. We should never bow low before these fellows.” Zitkala-Sa was also a victim of social discrimination. She belonged to a tribe of native Americans. The white-skinned settlers from Europe looked down upon the local tribes. They treated them like animals. Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa refused to bow to the injustice they are subjected to. Both of them protested in their own way. Zitkala-Sa does not want her hair to be shingled. Among her tribe, shingled hair is considered to be a sign of cowardice. She struggled with all her might when she is tied in a chair. But at last the little one has to give herself up. Bama, on her part, decides to work hard at her studies so that others realise her worth and come to her as friends.

**Q3. What are the similarities in the lives Bama and Zitkala-Sa though they belong to different cultures?**

**Ans.** Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa were the victims of social discrimination. Both of them protested in their own way. Bama belonged to an oppressed community. One day, she saw an elder of her community holding a packet of vadais by its string. This packet was for the landlord. Bama thought it was a funny sight. But Bama’s brother explained to her that the landlord and his people belonged to the upper caste. The touch of one from an oppressed class could pollute them. It filled Bama with anger and revolt. The experience of Zitkala-Sa was also of a similar one. She belonged to a tribe of native Americans. The white-skinned settlers from Europe looked down upon the local tribes. They treated them like animals. Zitkala-Sa did not want her hair to be shingled. Among her tribe, shingled hair was considered to be a sign of cowardice. She struggled with all her might when she was tied in a chair. But at last, the little one had to give herself up. Thus both Bama and Zitkala-Sa protested in their own way.

**Q4. The two accounts that you read above are based in two distant cultures. What is the commonality of theme found in both of them?**

**Ans.** The first account is that of Zitkala-Sa. She is a native American. She belongs to a tribe of people who were the original inhabitants of America. The white-skinned European settlers had a bitter prejudice against the native Americans. They treated them like herds of animals. The second account is that of Bama who was a Tamil Indian. She belonged to the Dalit community. She was pained to see how the upper caste people treated the Dalits in a humiliating manner. They thought that even the touch of Dalit would pollute them. Thus we see that though Zitkala-Sa and Bama belonged to different cultures, there was much commonality in their sufferings. Both the communities suffered from the racial prejudice of those who considered themselves to be superior to them.

**Q5. It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life. Do you agree that injustice in any form cannot escape being noticed even by children?**

**Ans.** Elders become used to the kind of life they have been living. They stop grumbling or protesting because they take it as their destiny. But children are far more sensitive than elders. They acutely feel whatever they think is wrong or unjust. They may be physically weak but are emotionally quite awake. They feel quite disturbed when they see injustice being done to someone. Thus the seeds of rebellion are sown early in life. And when they grow up, they stand in open rebellion against the oppressor.

**Q6. Bama's experience is that of a victim of the caste system. What kind of discrimination does Zitkala-Sa's experience depict? What are their responses to their respective situations?**

**Ans.** Zitkala-Sa was a victim of social discrimination. She belonged to a tribe of native Americans. The white-skinned settlers from Europe looked down upon the local tribes. They treated them like animals. Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa refuse to bow to the injustice they are subjected to. Both of them protest in their own way. Zitkala-Sa does not want her hair to be shingled. Among her tribe, shingled hair is considered to be a sign of cowardice. She struggles with all her might when she is tied in a chair. But at last the little one has to give herself up. Bama, on her part, decides to work hard in her studies so that others realise her worth and come to her as friends.