

SSLC-2022 BOOST DOSE A+ SCORER

FOCUS AREA BASED TEST PAPER

ENGLISH

ADVENTURES IN A BANYAN TREE

ANSWER KEY

1 On the magnificent old banyan tree.

2. The spreading branches of the banyan tree which curved to the ground and took root again, forming a maze of arches gave the boy endless pleasure.

3. The banyan tree was older than the house, older than grandfather, as old as the town of Dehra nestling in a valley at the foot of the Himalayas.

4. Resent

5. I was not tired enough to climb to the Banyan tree.

6. In the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree', the author Ruskin Bond talks about nature's beauty and diversity. He is a lover of nature. His words and deeds very much prove that. Living with his grandparents, he spends most of his time out of the house especially near the banyan tree. The magnificent banyan tree, with its leaves and branches spread out, was his real kingdom. Everything in the banyan tree and the nature outside attracted him very much. He gets enormous pleasure befriending with a young squirrel. They become so friendly that the squirrel delved into the boy's pocket and took everything from there. The boy provided him with cakes and biscuits. During spring the tree would be full of small red figs and birds would flock

around to eat it. The boy listened to their squabbling with great attention. The rosy pastors, parrots and the crows enlightened the boy very much. In order to have a better view of nature all around, the boy had built a small platform on the tree. Though the story depicts the boy's harmony with nature, the main narrative of the story revolves around a disharmonious fight between a mongoose and a cobra. His own narration of the same clearly proves that he is a great nature lover and observer.

One day grandmother's knitting was missing. The boy found a hole in the banyan tree which was filled with her knitting. On further inspection three baby squirrels were found in the wool bed. All of them were white in colour. How can the grey squirrel have white babies? It was a puzzling question. According to grandfather the white rat may be their father which he bought from the bazaar. The kinship of white rat and the squirrel complements the main theme of the story; nature is a home to all and there is a relation among various species. Sitting upon the platform on the banyan tree, the boy also became a part of it. All these clearly testifies that the boy was a lover of nature and its influence affected him very

much. The story focuses on how to lead a life by knowing nature and its various shades.

7. Grandpa, now I witnessed a fierce fight between a cobra and mongoose. It was very hot outside. As usual I was sitting on the platform in the banyan tree. Suddenly I saw a huge black cobra gliding out of a clump of cactus. At the same time a mongoose also emerged from the bushes. They came face to face beneath the tree. It was a fight between two warriors. There were another two spectators, a myna and a crow.

Darting its forked tongue in and out the cobra raised its body three feet off the ground, and spread broad spectacled hood. The mongoose bushed his tail. Long hair on his spine stood up. Trying to mesmerize the mongoose, the cobra made a false move. The mongoose fixed his gaze at below the cobra's hood and moved forward quickly and made a feint to one side. Immediately the cobra struck. But the mongoose jumped to one side and darted in as swiftly as the cobra and bit it on the back. The moment the cobra struck, the two birds hurled themselves at him and collided heavily in mid - air. They returned to the cactus plant. The cobra struck again and missed. Again the mongoose sprang aside, jumped in and bit it. Again the birds dived at the snake, bumped into each other and returned. In the third round the myna flew on and reached its perch.

Grandpa, she is very clever. But the foolish crow was hit forcefully by the snake and lay still. The mongoose bit the snake by the snout. The snake lashed and coiled itself about the mongoose. The mongoose hung on the snake until it had ceased struggle. He then gripped the snake round the hood and dragged it into the bushes. Finally the fight was won by the mongoose. The myna peered into the bushes and flew away. I have heard about the enmity between snake and mongoose but never seen such a fierce fight. Grandpa, this vacation I had enough excitement to last me through the summer. Let's allow the mongoose stay in our garden, shall we? It will keep the snakes away from our garden.

8. 10 /01 /2022

Wednesday

An exciting thing happened this afternoon. When I was sitting in the banyan tree, happened to see a fight between a snake and a mongoose. It was a battle of two champions. Both of them were clever and superb fighters. During their battle two spectators, a myna and a jungle crow, tried to interfere in it. Unfortunately the crow was whipped by the cobra and dead. The myna escaped cleverly. Finally the cobra weakened and the mongoose killed it. I have heard about the enmity between cobra and mongoose. But today I witnessed such a battle. This vacation I had enough excitement to last me through the summer.

9.

NOTICE

XYZ High School

12 / 1 / 2022

Dear Friends,

The English Club of our school has decided to conduct a three day literary festival. The noted writer Ruskin Bond has consented to inaugurate the function.

Details are given below:

Date : 20 / 6 / 2021

Venue : School auditorium

Time : 2 pm

Inauguration : Ruskin Bond

Chief guest : M.T Vasudevan Nair

All teachers, parents and students are welcomed to make the festival successful.

Secretary

(Sd/-)

English Club

10. I : Goodmorning. Yesterday you saw a fight between a cobra and mongoose, didn't you?

Boy : Yes, I witnessed a battle between them.

I : It was a fierce battle, wasn't it?

Boy : Of course. It was a thrilling experience for me.

I : Weren't you afraid?

Boy : No. As usual I was on the banyan tree.

I : The mongoose might have won the battle, right?

Boy : Yes, after a long fight the mongoose killed the cobra. Both were vigorous fighters.

I : Did you drive away the mongoose from the garden?

Boy : No. Grandfather allowed it to stay in

the garden to keep the snakes away.

I : That's good.

11. (a) in (b) had (c) coming out of (d) slowly

12. The grandfather asked the boy why he looked very excited.

The boy replied that he had seen a thrilling fight between a snake and a mongoose.

**Prepared by,
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