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## CLASS -X ENGLISH -First Flight A Letter to God

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### Answer

#### Page No: 5 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Lencho hoped for rains as the only thing that his field of ripe corn needed was a shower.

**Answer2:** Lencho's crops were ready for harvest. As raindrops would have helped in getting a better harvest, resulting in more prosperity, so Lencho compared them with new coins.

**Answer3:** The rain was pouring down. But suddenly, a strong wind began to blow and very large hailstones began to fall along with the rain.  
All the crop in Lencho's fields destroyed.

**Answer4:** After hail stopped, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. He could see a bleak future for him and his family. Hew was worried about lack of food for the coming year.

#### Page No: 6 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Lencho had faith in God. He believed that God's eyes see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. He wrote a letter to God saying that he needed a hundred pesos to sow his field again.

**Answer2:** Postmaster read the letter.

**Answer3:** The Postmaster first laughed. But then he became serious. He was deeply moved by the writer's faith in God. He did not want to shake this faith. So he decided to collect the money and send it to Lencho.

#### Page No: 7 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** No. Lencho was not at all surprised to see the letter from God with money inside it. His confidence and faith in God was such that he had expected that reply from God.

**Answer2:** When he finished counting moneyhe found only seventy pesos. But he demanded hundred pesos. He was confident that God could neither make a mistake nor deny him what he had requested. Therefore, he concluded that the post office employees must have taken the remaining thirty pesos.

### Thinking about the Text

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**Answer1:** Lencho had complete faith in God. The sentences in the story that show this are as follows:

- (i) But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God.
- (ii) All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience.
- (iii) "God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year."
- (iv) He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town.
- (v) God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested. (vi) It said: "God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much."

**Answer2:** Postmaster was moved by Lencho's complete faith in the God. So, he decided to send money to Lencho. Moreover, the postmaster did not want to shake Lencho's faith in God. So, he signed the letter 'God'. It was a good ploy to convey a message that God had himself written the letter.

**Answer3:** No, Lencho does not try to find out who had sent the money to him. This is because he had great confidence in God and never suspected that it could be someone else other than God who would send him the money. His faith in God was so strong that he believed that God had sent him the money.

**Answer4:** Lencho thinks that the post office people have taken the money. It is the post office people who send the money to Lencho. But, on the other hand, Lencho thinks they have stolen his money. He calls them crooks. Thus there is an element of irony in this situation.

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**Answer5:** I don't think there can be any such people in the real world. Lencho is literate and yet he doesn't know how his letter will reach God without any address. He probably would be naïve and unquestioning.

**Answer6:** The conflict between humans and nature is shown by the destruction of Lencho's crops by the hailstorm. As the crops failed by hail, Lencho started feeling sad and gloomy after the storm appropriately projects the conflict of the nature and the man. The Story also shown another conflict, between humans themselves. The postmaster, along with the help of the other post office employees, sent Lencho the money that they could manage to collect. They were not related to Lencho in any manner. It was an act of kindness and selflessness on their part. Even though they did a good deed, Lencho blamed them for taking away some amount of money. This shows that man does not have faith in his fellow humans, thereby giving rise to this conflict.

### Thinking about the Language

**Answer1:**

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1. Cyclone
  2. Gale
  3. Typhoon
  4. Tornado
  5. Hurricane
  6. Whirlwind

**Answer2:**

	<b>A</b>		<b>B</b>
1.	Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? I <i>hope</i> so.	-	wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)
2.	I <i>hope</i> you don't mind my saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.	-	showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person: a way of being polite
3.	This discovery will give new <i>hope</i> to HIV/AIDS sufferers.	-	a feeling that something good will probably happen
4.	We were <i>hoping against hope</i> that the judges would not notice our mistakes.	-	wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely
5.	I called early <i>in the hope of</i> speaking to her before she went to school.	-	thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have happened.)
6.	Just when everybody had <i>given up hope</i> , the fisherman came back, seven days after the cyclone.	-	stopped believing that this good thing would happen

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**Answer3:**

1. I often go to Mumbai, which is the commercial capital of India.
2. My mother, who cooks very well, is going to host a TV show on cooking.
3. These sportspersons, whose performance has been excellent, are going to meet the President.
4. Lencho prayed to God, whose eyes see into our minds.
5. This man, whom I trusted, cheated me.

**Page No: 10**

**Answer4:**

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1. The trees lost all their leaves.

Not a leaf remained on the trees.

2. The letter was addressed to God himself. It was nothing less than a letter to God.

3. The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.

Never in his career as a postman had he known that address.

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**Answer5:**

<b>Object</b>	<b>Metaphor</b>	<b>Quality or Feature Compared</b>
Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
Raindrops	A curtain of rain	The draping or covering of an area by a curtain
Hailstones	The frozen pearls	The resemblance in colour and hardness of a pearl
Locusts	A plague of locusts	The consequences (destruction) of plague
Locusts	A plague of locusts	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
Man	An ox of a man	The working of an ox in the fields (hard work)

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH-First Flight Long Walk to Freedom**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 18 Comprehension Check**

**Answer1** The ceremonies took place in the campus of the Union Building of Pretoria. The Parliament House in New Delhi, the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi and Madras High Court in Chennai are some examples of Indian public buildings that are made of sandstone.

**Answer2:** 10 May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa because on this day there was the largest gathering of international leaders on South African soil for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

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**Answer3:** By human disaster Mandela means to say that coloured people have suffered a lot due to discrimination in the hands of whites. He considered it as great glorious human achievement that a black person became the president of a country where the blacks are not considered as human being and are treated badly.

**Answer4:** Mandela felt privileged to be the host to the nations of the world because not too long ago, the South Africans were considered outlaws. He thus thanked all the international leaders for having come to witness his investiture as President since this event could be considered as a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

**Answer5:** Mandela set out the ideals of poverty alleviation, removal of suffering of people. He also set the ideal for a society where there would be no discrimination based on gender or racial origins.

**Page No: 21 Oral Comprehension Check**

**Answer1:** The highest military generals of the South African defence force and police saluted Mandela and pledged their loyalty. Their attitude towards blacks had taken great change. Instead of arresting a black they saluted him.

**Answer2:** On the day of the inauguration, two national anthems were sung, one by the whites, and the other by the blacks. This symbolized the equality of blacks and whites.

**Answer3:** (i) In the first decade of the twentieth century, the white-skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land, thus creating the basis of one of the harshest and most inhumane societies the world had ever known.

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(ii) In the last decade of the twentieth century, the previous system had been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognized the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin.

**Answer4:** For Mandela courage does not mean the absence of fear but a victory over fear. According to him brave men need not be fearless but should be able to conquer fear.

**Answer5:** For Mandela, love comes more naturally to the human heart than hate.

### **Page No: 24 Oral Comprehension Check**

**Answer1:** Mandela mentions that every man has twin obligations. The first is to his family, parents, wife and children; the second obligation is to his people, his community and his country.

**Answer2:** Like any other kid for Mandela also the freedom meant a freedom to make merry and enjoy the blissful life. Once anybody becomes an adult then antics of childhood looks like transitory because most of the childish activity is wasteful from an adult's perspective. Once you are adult then someday you have to earn a livelihood to bring the bacon home, then only you get an honourable existence in the family and in the society.

**Answer3:** Mandela does not feel that the oppressor is free because according to him an oppressor is a prisoner of hatred, who is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. He feels that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity.

### **Thinking about the Text**

**Answer1:** The presence of large number of international leaders was a gesture of solidarity from international community to the idea of the end of apartheid. It signified the triumph of good over evil, the triumph of the idea of a tolerant society without any discrimination.

**Answer2:** Mandela wants to pay his tribute to all the people who had sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. he feels that he is the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before him because those heroes of yesterday years had paved the path of co-operation and unity for him. Therefore, he got the support of his people to be able to come to power to bring equality for his own people.

**Answer3:** Yes, I agree that the "depths of oppression" create "heights of character". Nelson Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of great heroes of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in the long freedom struggle. India is full of such examples. During our freedom struggle there was a galaxy of leaders of great characters. Probably the oppression of British rule created so many men of such characters. If we compare this with the quality of political leaders India is having today, then Nelson Mandela seems to be absolutely right.

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**Answer4:** With age Nelson Mandela realised that he had a lot of responsibilities of his people, his community and his country. As a boy, Mandela did not have a hunger for freedom because he thought that he was born free. He believed that as long as he obeyed his father and abided by the customs of his tribe, he was free in every possible manner. He had certain needs as a teenager and certain needs as a young man. Gradually, he realized that he was selfish during his boyhood. He slowly understands that it is not just his freedom that is being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. It is after attaining this understanding that he develops a hunger for the freedom of his people.

**Answer5:** Mandela realized in his youth that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. The hunger for his own freedom became the hunger for the freedom of his people. This desire of a non-racial society transformed him into a virtuous and self-sacrificing man. Thus, he joined the African National Congress and this changed him from a frightened young man into a bold man.

### Thinking about Language

**Answer1:**

Noun	Verb
Rebellion	Rebel
Constitution	Constitute
Formation	Form
Government	Govern
Obligation	Oblige
Transformation	Transform
Discrimination	Discriminate
Deprivation	Deprive
Demonstration	Demonstrate
Oppression	Oppress
Imagination	Imagine

**Answer2:** Martin Luther King's **contribution** (contribute) to our history as an outstanding leader began when he came to the **assistance** (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. In those days American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizenship by restrictive laws and customs. To break these laws would mean subjugation(subjugate) and **humiliation** (humiliate) by the police and the legal system. Beatings, **imprisonment**(imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who defied the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent **resistance** (resist) to racial injustice.

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**Answer2:**

1. This means that Mr Singh regularly invites famous personalities such as Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan to his parties.
2. This means that Madhuri Dixit is compared to a landmark in acting in the form of legendary actress Madhubala.
3. This means that history is not only the story of the great fighters and leaders such as Alexander, Napoleon and Hitler, but also of ordinary people.

**Answer3:**

<b>A</b>		<b>B</b>	
1.	I was not unmindful of the fact	1.	I was not unmindful of the fact
2.	When my comrades and I were pushed to our limits	2.	When my comrades and I were pushed to our limits
3.	To reassure me and keep me going	3.	To reassure me and keep me going
4.	The basic and honourable freedoms of ...earning my keep...	4.	The basic and honourable freedoms of ...earning my keep...

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## CLASS -X ENGLISH-First Flight Two stories about Flying

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### Answer

#### Page No: 36 Thinking about Text

**Answer1:** The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was its first flight. It is a well known fact that doing something for the first time is challenging. Therefore, all young birds must be afraid to make their first flights. Similarly, a human baby would also find it a challenge to take its first step.

**Answer2:** The young seagull was very hungry. It was this hunger that ultimately compelled it to fly. Its hunger only intensified when it saw its mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her feet. It cried to her, begging her to get some food. When its mother came towards it with food in her beak, it screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway. It wondered why she did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control its hunger any longer, it dived at the food in its mother's beak. At that moment, his hunger overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff. Finally, this plunge was followed by the natural reaction of its body, i.e., to fly.

**Answer3:** The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even when it saw its brothers and sisters flying, and its parents helping and teaching them, it could not gather enough courage to make that first flight. That is why its father and mother were calling to it shrilly and scolding it. They threatened to let it starve on its ledge if it did not fly. They did so because they wanted it to leave its fear behind and learn to fly.

#### Page No: 40 Thinking about the Text

**Answer1:** The risk was to fly through the black storm clouds. The narrator took the risk because he wanted to reach Paris to celebrate Christmas with his family.

**Answer2:** As he flew into the storm, everything went black. It was impossible to see anything outside the plane. It jumped and twisted in the air. When he looked at his compass, he saw that it was turning round and round. It was dead. Along with it, the other instruments, including the radio, were also dead. Suddenly, he saw another aeroplane. Its pilot waved at him, asking him to follow. He was glad to find a helper. He was using his last fuel tank and there was only enough fuel to fly five or ten minutes. Then, the other pilot started to go down and he followed. He suddenly came out of the clouds and saw the runway, on which he then landed his plane safely.

**Answer3:** He was delighted to land safely out of dark stormy clouds, therefore, he was not sorry to walk away for his plane. He felt bad, when he was no able to thank his guide, his mentor who saved him from from frightening situations, but he was so happy after landing that he didn't feel sorry for not being able to thank the guide pilot.

**Answer4:** The women in the control room was surprised when the narrator asked about the other aeroplane and its pilot. She said that there was no areoplane seen on the radar.

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**Answer5:** Probably, it was the narrator's own self that helped him through the storm. There was no other plane in the storm as the woman at the control centre could see only his plane on the radar. Also, no other plane was flying that night. In his fear, he might have been hallucinating. He was a good pilot, and it might have been his own self that came to his help.

### Thinking about the Language

**Answer1:**

1. The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the face and hands are dark with dust and heat.
2. Here, 'black' refers to an angry look.
3. Here, 'blackest' refers to the darkest and cruellest crime against humanity.
4. Here, 'black' refers to dark and gloomy comedy.
5. The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the shopkeepers sell the described goods 'at a higher price'.
6. Here, 'black' means that the criminal suffered excessive beating at the hands of the villagers.

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**Answer2:**

	A		B
1.	Fly a flag	-	Display a flag on a long pole
2.	Fly into rage	-	Become suddenly very angry
3.	Fly along	-	Move quickly/suddenly
4.	Fly high	-	Be successful
5.	Flv the coop	-	Escape from a place

**Answer3:** The words which have the same or nearly the same meaning as 'fly' are as follows: swoop, flit, float, dart, soar, hover, sail skim, glide, flutter



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**CLASS -X ENGLISH -First Flight From the Diary of Anne Frank**

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**Page No: 49 Activity**

**Answer1:**

A	B	
(i) Journal	-	(i) Journal
(ii) Diary	-	(ii) Diary
(iii) Log	-	(iii) Log
(iv) Memoir(s)	-	(iv) Memoir(s)

**Ans2. (i):** Diary

**Ans2. (ii):** Log

**Ans2. (iii):** Journal

**Ans2. (iv):** Memoir

**Page No: 51 Comprehension Check**

**Answer1:** First she had never written anything like this before and secondly she thought that nobody is going to read or would be interested in her diary.

**Answer2:** Anne wants to keep a diary as she didn't have friend.

**Answer3:** She could confide in her close friend but she didn't have one, the friends she had there were to have more fun and good times rather than the ones on whom she could confide. She also believes that a paper to have more patience than people, so she decided to write and confide in a diary.

**Answer1:** Anne provides a brief sketch of her life since no one would understand a word of her musings if she were to jump right in.

**Answer2:** Her statement, that no one could understand her intensity of love for her grandma tells that she loved her grandmother. Moreover, the touching gesture of lighting up one candle for grandmother during Anne's birthday is also a poignant reminder of the love for grandma.

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### Page No: 54 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Mr. Keesing was annoyed with Anne because she talked very much in the class. He assigned her extra homework, asking her to write an essay on the subject, 'A Chatterbox'.

**Answer2:** She gave two arguments to justify her 'Chatterbox', one that chatting in student's traits and other reason that nothing can be done about the inherited traits.

**Answer3:** Mr. Keesing was a strict teacher. However, he was not rigidly strict. He expected discipline and silence in his class while he was teaching, which is acceptable. He punished Anne by asking her to write an essay on 'A Chatterbox'. When Anne wrote a convincing essay on it, he received it with a good laugh. However, when Anne continued with her talking, he punished her again by asking her to write another essay; this time the topic was 'An Incurable Chatterbox'. Even after this when she kept talking, he asked her to write on the topic 'Quack Quack Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox". He was trying to play a joke on her. However, she came up with a brilliant poem, and he read this poem in the class, acknowledging its content. Therefore, in regard of these events, Mr. Keesing cannot be entirely labelled as a strict teacher. He was fun-loving too.

**Answer4:** Anne was able to justify her talkative nature every time she was punished by Mr. Keesing. On three occasions, as punishment, he gave her topics to write essays on. However, on each occasion he was impressed by the manner in which she presented her arguments. Finally, Mr. Keesing accepted the fact that Anne would always be that way. Hence, she was allowed to talk in class.

### Thinking about the Text

**Answer1:** No, Anne was not right when she said that the world would not be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old girl.

**Answer2:** Anne's diary was originally written in Dutch. Her diary is different from the others in many aspects. She had named her diary 'Kitty'. She thought of it as her only true friend whom she could confide in. She treated it as another person who was listening to her daily accounts. She wrote all her stories in it. She started by writing 'Dearest kitty' and ended the account by writing, 'Yours, Anne'. Her diary was a lot more personal than other diaries.

**Answer3:** Anne Frank claims that paper has more patience than people. She usually sits depressed and all alone. She claims of having no real friend. This lends the reader the perception that there isn't anybody to take care of Anne Frank. To clear the clouds of doubt, Anne Frank gives the sketch of her adorable father, compassionate mother, kind grandmother, and loving sister. She treated Kitty as an insider because she called it her best friend and was ready to confide in it.

**Answer4:** Anne felt that her father was the most adorable father she had ever seen. Anne remembered her grandmother even after her death. She wrote in her diary that no one knew how often she thought of her grandmother and still loved her.

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In the sixth form at the Montessori nursery school, her teacher was Mrs Kuperus, who was also the headmistress. At the end of the year, they were both in tears as they said a heartbreaking farewell. Mr Keesing was her Maths teacher. He was annoyed with her because she talked too much. However, Anne was able to justify her talkative nature every time she was punished by Mr. Keesing.

On each occasion he was impressed by the manner in which she presented her arguments. All these incidents show how lovable and smart Anne was. Everybody was attached to her, and even Mr Keesing could not help but laugh at her essays and acknowledge her smart mind.

**Answer5:** In her first essay, titled 'A Chatterbox', Anne wanted to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. She began thinking about the subject. She wrote three pages and was satisfied. She argued that talking was a student's trait and that she would do her best to keep it under control. She further wrote that she would never be able to cure herself of the habit since her mother talked as much as she did. There was not much that one could do about inherited traits. Mr Keesing too had a good laugh reading her arguments.

**Answer6:** Anne felt that a quarter of her class was dumb, and should be kept back and not promoted to the next class. However, she also felt that teachers were the most unpredictable creatures on earth. Mr Keesing could be termed as unpredictable. The way Anne always talked while the class was going on, any teacher would lose his temper. However, after several warnings, all Mr Keesing did was to assign her extra homework. She had to write an essay on 'A Chatterbox'. In this way, he tried to play a joke on her. Each time that he asked her to write such essays, she wrote very well. She kept countering his jokes. One could not have predicted that he would take all the jokes in the right spirit. Finally, when she wrote an entire essay in verse he accepted her talkative nature and actually allowed her to talk in class. He did not even assign her any more extra homework. That is why it can be said that Mr Keesing was unpredictable.

**Answer7:** (i) These lines show that Anne had no true friend whom she could confide in. She even put the blame on herself that the fault might be hers.

(ii) This line shows that Anne really considered her diary as a friend whom she could trust and narrate all her stories to. She did not want just a diary in which she could write down the facts like others did. She considered it as her friend and named her Kitty.

(iii) This statement shows that Anne was a fun-loving person. She was witty and knew how to present things in a funny way. She narrated this incident with a lot of fun. The use of 'plunked down' shows her sense of humour.

(iv) This statement shows that she had an opinion on everything. She thought that a quarter of her class was full of dummies, signifying that she herself was intelligent enough to make it to the next class. She thought of teachers as the most unpredictable creatures on earth because nobody could say which students they would fail and which students would be passed on to the next class.

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(v) This statement shows that Anne knew a lot about writing. She was given the task of writing an essay as a punishment. She took it on with full vigour. She did not want to write it like others who merely left big spaces between the words to make the essay look voluminous. She knew that the trick was to come up with a convincing argument to prove the necessity of talking. She was different in her approach from everybody else.

**Page No: 55 Thinking about Language**

**Answer1:**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1. Heartbreaking	- producing great sadness
2. Homesick	- missing home and family very much
3. Blockhead	- an informal word which means a very stupid person
4. Law-abiding	- obeying and respecting the law
5. Overdo	- do something to an excessive degree
6. Daydream	- think about pleasant things, forgetting about the present
7. Breakdown	- an occasion when vehicles/machines stop working
8. Output	- something produced by a person, machine or organisation

**Answer2. (II):** (i) plunge in – go straight to the topic

Since no one would understand a word of my stories to Kitty if I were to plunge right in, I'd better provide a brief sketch of my life, much as I dislike doing so.

(ii) kept back – not promoted

The reason, of course, is the forthcoming meeting in which the teachers decide who'll move up to the next form and who'll be kept back.

(iii) move up – go to the next grade

The reason, of course, is the forthcoming meeting in which the teachers decide who'll move up to the next form and who'll be kept back. (iv) ramble on – speak or write without focus

Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. (v) get along with – have a good relationship with I get along pretty well with all my teachers.

(vi) calm down – make (them) remain quite

Even G.'s pleading advances and my angry outbursts can't calm them down.

(vii) stay in – stay indoors

I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out.

(viii) make up for – compensate

This birthday celebration in 1942 was intended to make up for the other.

(ix) hand in – give an assignment (homework) to a person in authority (the teacher) I handed it in, and Mr Keesing had nothing to complain about for two whole lessons.

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**Page No: 56**

**Answer3. (i):** (i) Our entire class is *quaking in its boots*. Shaking with fear and nervousness  
(ii) Until then, we keep telling each other *not to lose heart*. Not to lose hope  
(iii) Mr. Keeping was annoyed with me *for ages* because I talked so much. Since a long time  
(iv) Mr. Keeping was trying to play a joke on me with this ridiculous subject, but I'd make sure *the joke was on him*. He was outwitted by her

**Answer3. (ii):** (i) caught my eye A small red car passing by caught my eye.  
(ii) he'd had enough  
Tom had a hard time raising enough money build the orphanage he'd promised to build.  
(iv) laugh ourselves silly  
One girl said something funny, and we laughed ourselves silly.  
(v) can't bring myself to  
I can't bring myself to eat anything but chocolates.

**Page No: 57**

**Answer4:** 1. break somebody's heart – to upset somebody deeply  
It has unfortunately become very easy these days to break somebody's heart.  
2. close/dear to heart – something or someone who is near and close to you  
The drawing given to me by my little daughter is very close to my heart.  
3. from the (bottom of your) heart – genuinely meaning or feeling something He loved his son from the bottom of his heart.  
4. have a heart – to evoke the feeling to help someone in distress  
The poor beggar asked the rich man to have a heart and give him something to eat.  
5. have a heart of stone – to not feel anything or any sentiment The cruel landlady has a heart of stone as she beats up her children.  
6. your heart goes out to somebody – to sympathies with someone else and understand his feelings and distress  
My heart goes out to the little girl who lost both her parents in a car accident.

**Page No: 58**

**Answer5:** (i) I've – I have  
(ii) Doesn't – does not  
(iii) Won't – would not  
(iv) I'm – I am  
(v) Don't – do not  
(vi) Can't – cannot

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- (vii) it's – it is
  - (viii) That's – that is
  - (ix) I'd – I would
  - (x) Didn't – did not
  - (xi) Who'll – who will
  - (xii) You're – You are
  - (xiii) We'll – We will
  - (xiv) There's – there is
  - (xv) He'd – he had
  - (xvi) Who's – who is
  - (xvii) Haven't – have not

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- (i) I'd – I had or I would
  - (ii) He'd – He had or he would
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## CLASS -X ENGLISH -First Flight The Hundred Dresses-I

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### Answers

#### Page No: 65 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Wanda used to sit in the seat next to the last seat, in the last row, in Room Thirteen. She sat there because her feet were normally caked with dry mud and very dirty. So in order to avoid being laughed at by her classmates, she sat there to hide her dirty feet.

**Answer2:** Wanda lived at Boggins Heights. It seems that it was a place far away from the school and also, where there was a lot of dry mud, thereby indicating that it was not a very rich locality.

**Answer3:** Peggie and Maddie noticed Wanda's absence after three days, i.e., on Wednesday because they wanted to be with her for a lot of fun. They waited for her for a long time but she didn't turn up.

**Answer4:** Wanda was a quiet and shy girl who was ashamed of dust laden feet. The girls used to make fun of her. This gave them a lot of pleasure therefore, they wanted to have fun with her.

#### Page No: 67 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Wanda was different from other children. She did not have any friends. She came to school alone and went home alone. She always wore a faded blue dress that did not fit her properly. Unlike other children, she did not talk to anybody.

**Answer2:** No, she did not have a hundred dresses because she was poor and wore the same faded dress to school everyday. She had an inferiority complex. In order to hide the complex and impress the other girls, she always said that she had a hundred dresses.

**Answer3:** Maddie was embarrassed by the questions Peggy asked Wanda because she was poor herself. She usually wore old clothes, which were handed down by someone else. She did not feel sorry for Wanda. She was worried that perhaps later, everyone would start teasing her too. She thought she was different from Wanda in the sense that she would never claim that she had a hundred dresses. She was not as poor as Wanda. Yet she was afraid that the others might mock her too.

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### Page No: 70 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Maddie couldn't ask Peggy to stop teasing Wanda because Peggy was her best friend and she had faith in Peggy that she would never do anything wrong. She was afraid of being laughed at for her poor dresses.

**Answer2:** Maddie thought that Peggy would win the drawing contest because Peggy drew better than anyone else. She could copy a picture in a magazine, or some film star's face so well that one could tell who it was.

**Answer3:** Wanda won the drawing contest. The winner of drawing contest was appreciated by the judges and applauded by her fellow classmates.

### Thinking about the Text

**Answer1:** Wanda is seen as different by the other girls. She is poor and lonely girl. The girls made fun of her poverty and teased her by commenting on her dress.

**Answer2:** Wanda did not show any feelings regarding the dresses game. It is most likely that she was deeply hurt. It could have been one of the reasons why her family left the place and moved to the city.

She was a girl who was very poor and came from a long distance which made her feet dirty. She wanted to draw attention of her friends. So, she felt very happy whenever she told her friend that she had hundred dresses without realising that they were making fun of her.

**Answer3:** Maddie always stood by and never did anything as she was afraid that if she did, she would be the next target of the children. She herself was poor and therefore, felt that if she spoke against the others, they would target her next. Unlike her, Peggy was a rich girl. This was also the reason why Maddie could think from Wanda's point of view, but Peggy could not. Maddie was Peggy's best friend. It seemed as if she was in awe of Peggy. She admired her quite a lot as she said that Peggy was the most liked girl in the room and that she drew better than anyone else. She did not have the courage to go against her. Some of the lines from the text which show that Peggy's friendship was important to Maddie are as follows.

- (i) Peggy, who had thought up this game, and Maddie, her inseparable friend, were always the last to leave.
- (ii) She was Peggy's best friend, and Peggy was the best-liked girl in the whole room.
- (iii) Peggy could not possibly do anything that was really wrong, she thought.
- (iv) Oh, Maddie was sure Peggy would win.

**Answer4:** Miss mason appreciated the paintings of Wanda. She was impressed at the creativity of the girl because she had painted hundred paintings which were in wide range of variety.

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The children also admired the drawings. Everybody stopped and whistled or murmured admiringly. After Miss Mason had announced that Wanda was the winner, they burst into applause, and even the boys were glad to have a chance to stamp on the floor and whistle. Also, just as Peggy and Maddie entered the room, they stopped short and gasped. Later they recognized the designs as those which Wanda had described to them. And in the end, Peggy exclaimed, "...and I thought I could draw." This shows that she also realized how good Wanda's drawings were.

**Page No: 71 Thinking about the Language**

**Answer:** 1. This is the bus which goes to Agra.

2. I would like to buy the shirt that is in the shop window.

3. You must break your fast when you see the moon in the sky.

4. Find a word which begins with the letter Z.

5. Now find a person whose name begins with the letter Z.

6. Then go to a place where there are no people whose name begins with Z.

**Answer(II). (i):** (i) In the given sentence, the italicised words express the point of view of Peggy and Maddie.

(ii) In the given sentence, the italicised words express the point of view of the narrator.

**Page No: 72**

**Answer(III):** 1. Surprisingly, he finished his work on time.

2. Hopefully, it will not rain on the day of the match.

3. Evidently, he had been stealing money from his employer.

4. Television is evidently to blame for the increase in violence in society.

5. The children will hopefully learn from their mistakes.

6. I can't possibly lend you that much money.

7. The thief had apparently been watching the house for many days.

8. The thief possibly escaped by bribing the jailor.

9. Surprisingly, no one had suggested this before.

10. The water was incredibly hot.

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## CLASS –X ENGLISH -First Flight The Hundred Dresses- II

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### Page No: 74 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Mr Pertronski's letter said that Wanda would not come to school anymore as they were shifting to another city. He also said that there, nobody would ask them why they had funny names because there were plenty of funny names in the city.

**Answer2:** Yes, Miss Mason was unhappy and upset as she was was disturbed by the ill treatment to Wanda by the students of her class. She didn't approve of the humiliation of a child just because of her name, dresses and house.

**Answer3:** After listening to the note from Wanda's father, Maddie had a very sick and guilty feeling in the bottom of her stomach. She could not concentrate when she tried to prepare her lessons. She had not enjoyed listening to Peggy ask Wanda how many dresses she had in her closet.

**Answer4:** Maddie wanted to tell Wanda that she didn't want to hurt her feelings.

### Page No: 76 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Peggy thought that she was satisfied that she never called Wanda a foreigner or made fun of her name. She also said that she never thought Wanda had even the sense to know that they were making fun of her. She realised her mistake of thinking that Wanda was not bright enough to understand her insult.

**Answer2:** Maddie is feeling bad about Wanda and herself. She is feeling very sad for not even getting a chance to say sorry to Wanda.

**Answer3:** Wanda's blue dress was old, faded but used to be neat and clean. Similarly her house was small and makeshift but clean. Therefore, it reminded Maddie of Wanda's blue dress

### Page No: 77 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer4:** Wanda thinks about not letting injustice happen to anyone. She makes vow that she would protest if anybody misbehaves with anybody. She won't be a mute spectator the way she did earlier. In a way the episode of Wanda's family leaving that city works as major change agent for Maddie's personality.

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### Page No: 79 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** The girls wrote a friendly letter to Wanda telling her that she had won the contest. They also wrote how pretty her drawings were. They asked her if she liked the place where she was living and if she liked her new teacher. They wanted to say that they were sorry. However, they ended up with just writing a friendly letter. They signed it with lots of X's for love.

**Answer2:** No, they did not get a reply. Maddie was more anxious for a reply as she thought a lot about it. She would put herself to sleep making speeches about Wanda and defending her from great crowds of girls who were trying to tease her. Before Wanda could press her lips together in a tight line, which she did before answering, Maddie would cry out and ask everybody to stop and then, everybody would feel ashamed the way she felt. Peggy, on the other hand, had begun to forget about the whole affair. This shows that Maddie was more anxious for a reply than Peggy.

**Answer3:** The girls came to know that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her as she had asked Miss Mason to give the green dress with red trimming to Peggy and the blue one to Maddie. Later when Maddie looked at the drawing very carefully, she realized that the dress had a face and a head, which looked like her own self. The head and face in the drawing given to Peggy looked just like Peggy. That is why the girls knew that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her.

### Thinking about the Text

**Answer1:** Wanda family moved to different city because of her father felt bad about the bad behaviour of girls towards Wanda.

**Answer2:** Yes, Maddie was right when she thought that her silence was as bad as Peggy's teasing because her silence encouraged Peggy to tease her. A person who sees something wrong happening in front of him/her is as much an offender as the person committing the offence. Maddie was too afraid to say anything because she did not want to lose Peggy's friendship. Also, she was poor herself, so she feared that everybody would make fun of her too.

**Answer3:** Peggy believed that Wanda was dumb as she could not understand why Wanda said she had a hundred dresses, even when everybody knew that she was poor. She knew everybody was laughing at her. Even then, she kept giving the same answer. She even described the dresses she said she had. That is why Peggy thought Wanda was dumb. She changed her opinion later when she saw the hundred dresses Wanda had talked about. She saw the drawings and was highly impressed by their beauty. She realized that Wanda was a very good artist.

### Page No: 81

**Answer4:** The important decision that Maddie made was that she would never stand by and say nothing again. If she ever heard anybody picking on someone because they were funny-looking or because they had strange names, she would speak up. She did not even mind losing Peggy's

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friendship over it. She knew she could not make things right with Wanda. However, she had decided that in the future, she would never make anybody else unhappy again. She was unhappy that she could not find Wanda at her home. She could not sleep that night. She thought about Wanda, her faded blue dress, and the little house she lived in. She also thought about the hundred glowing pictures, which were all lined up in the classroom. She was feeling guilty of not having said anything when everybody else was teasing Wanda. It was her guilt that made her think very hard and arrive at the important decision.

**Answer5:** Wanda gave Maddie and Peggy the drawings of dresses because they made fun of her hundred dresses. They believe her to be a liar. They were surprised because they always made fun of here dresses and insulted her, but she had gifted them with those beautiful designs.

**Answer6:** Yes, Wanda knew that girls were teasing her She would have known that the children intended to make fun of her poverty, and would have laughed at her whatever she might have said. This could have been the reason for her exaggerating everything whenever she answered their questions.

### Thinking about the Language

**Answer (I):**



**Page No: 81**

- Answer (II):** 1. Peggy: sarcastic, cheerful, contented  
 2. Wanda: kind, timid, introverted, generous, talented, lonely, creative  
 3. Maddie: kind, timid, sensitive, miserable

**Answer (III):** (i) lined up

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And she thought of the glowing picture those hundred dresses made – all **lined up** in the classroom.

(ii) thought up

Peggy, who had **thought up** this game, and Maddie, her inseparable friend, were always the last to leave.

(iii) took off – Miss Mason **took off** her glasses, blew on them and wiped them on her soft white handkerchief.

(iv) stood by – She had **stood by** silently, and that was just as bad as what Peggy had done.

#### Answer (IV):

- (i) the Monday morning blues - sadness or depression after a weekend of fun
  - (ii) go red in the face - feel embarrassed / angry / ashamed
  - (iii) look green - feel very sick, as if about to vomit
  - (iv) the red carpet - a special welcome
  - (v) blue-blooded - of noble birth or from a royal family
  - (vi) a green belt - land around a town or city where construction is prohibited
  - (vii) a blackguard - a dishonest person with no sense of right or wrong
  - (viii) a grey area not - an area of a subject or a situation where matters are not clear
  - (ix) a white flag stop - a sign of surrender or acceptance of defeat; a wish to stop fighting
  - (x) a blue print or scheme - a photographic print of building plans; a detailed plan
  - (xi) red handed - in an unlawful act; while doing something wrong
  - (xii) the green light - the sign or permission to begin an action
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## CLASS -X ENGLISH -First Flight Glimpses of India

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### Answers

#### Page No: 86 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** The elders in Goa were nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese, and their famous loaves of bread.

**Answer2:** Yes, bread-making is still popular in Goa. The author has described about the existence of time-old furnaces and their still burning fire. The Goan society is still having moulders, bread mixers and bakers.

**Answer3:** The bakers are known as *pader* .

**Answer4:** The baker came twice every day, once when he set out in the morning on his selling round, and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basket. The children ran to meet him not because of their love of the loaf, which was bought by the maid-servant of the house. They actually longed for the bread-bangles, which they chose carefully. Sometimes, it was a sweet bread of special make.

#### Page No: 87 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:**

- |                                   |   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| (i) as marriage gifts?            | - | sweet bread called bol |
| (ii) for a party or a feast?      | - | bread                  |
| (iii) for a daughter's engagement | - | sandwiches             |
| (iv) for Christmas                | - | cakes and bolinhas     |

**Answer2:** (i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers had a peculiar dress known as the *kabai*. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees.

(ii) When the author was young, he saw the bakers wearing a shirt and trousers, which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

**Answer3:** Anyone who wears a half-pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that "he is dressed like a *pader*". This was so because the bakers were known as *pader* and they wore such half pants.

**Answer4:** The monthly accounts of the baker were recorded on some wall in pencil.

**Answer5:** A 'jackfruit-like appearance' means a plump physique. Such a physique was linked to the bakers because they never starved. Baking was a profitable profession. The baker, his family, and his servants always looked happy and prosperous and had a 'jackfruit-like appearance'.

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**Answer1:** (i) Correct

(ii) Correct

(iii) Incorrect. The paders still exist in Goan villages.

(iv) Incorrect. The paders wear shirts, and trousers that are shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

(v) Incorrect. Bread and cakes are still an integral part of Goan life.

(vi) Correct

(vii) Incorrect. Baking is still a very profitable business in Goa.

**Answer2:** Bread is an important part of Goan life. Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the bol. For a party, bread is a must, while for Christmas, cakes and bolinhas are a must. Sandwiches must be prepared by the lady of the house on her daughter's engagement. The author says that everybody loves the fragrance of loaves. The elders were given loaves and the children were given bread-bangles, which they longed for. Also, the fact that bakery is a profitable profession shows that the love for bread is enormous in Goa.

**Answer3:** (i) Nostalgic

(ii) Nostalgic

(iii) Nostalgic

(iv) Funny

(v) Matter-of-fact

(vi) Matter-of-fact

### Page No: 92 Thinking about the Text

**Answer1:** Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka, located midway between Mysore and Mangalore.

**Answer2:** It is believed that Kodavu people are of Arabic origin. It is said that some of Alexander's army men moved to south and settled there. Their costume, martial practices and marriage rituals also point to the fact that they are from Arabic origin.

**Answer3:** (i) The people of Coorg are fiercely independent. They are of Greek or Arabic descent. They have a tradition of hospitality. They enjoy recounting numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license. The author has described the people of Coorg as a proud race of martial men and beautiful women. (ii) Coffee is the main crop of Coorg. The coffee estates stand tucked under tree canopies in prime corners.

(iii) The sports that Coorg offers to tourists are river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, mountain biking, and trekking.

(iv) The animals that one is likely to see in Coorg are birds, bees, butterflies, macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs, loris, and wild elephants.

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(v) The distance between Coorg and Bangalore is around 260 km. There are two routes to Coorg from Bangalore and both are of the same distance. The most frequented route is the one via Mysore. The other route is via Neelamangal, Kunigal, and Chanrayanapatna.

**Page No: 93**

**Answer4:** (i) keep many visitors away  
(ii) as one story goes  
(iii) are more than willing to recount  
(iv) the most laidback individuals become converts to  
(v) draws support from  
(vi) keep a watchful eye

### **Thinking about the Language**

**Answer1:**

(i) culture : unique culture, ancient culture  
(ii) monks : serious monks  
(iii) surprise : unique surprise, terrible surprise, unforgettable surprise  
(iv) experience : unique experience, terrible experience, unforgettable experience  
(v) weather : terrible weather  
(vi) tradition : unique tradition, ancient tradition

**Page No: 94**

**Answer2: From the text**

(i) tales of valour  
(ii) coastal town  
(iii) a piece of heaven  
(iv) evergreen rainforests  
(v) coffee plantations  
(vi) rope bridge  
(vii) wild elephants

**Other than the text**

(i) tales of morality  
(ii) coastal food  
(iii) a piece of cake  
(iv) evergreen hero  
(v) crop plantations  
(vi) sturdy bridge  
(vii) wild beasts

**Page No: 96 Thinking about the Language**

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**Answer1:** (i) A heavy downpour has been forecast due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

(ii) Rakesh will undergo major surgery tomorrow morning.

(iii) My brother is responsible for the upkeep of our family property.

(iv) The dropout rate for this accountancy course is very high.

(v) She went to the Enterprise Company to attend a walk-in interview.

**Answer2:** (i) The Army attempted unsuccessfully to overthrow the Government.

(ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major breakthrough in cancer research.

(iii) The State Government plans to build a by-pass for Bhubaneswar to speed up traffic on the main highway.

(iv) Gautama's outlook on life changed when he realized that the world is full of sorrow.

(v) Rakesh seemed unusually downcast after the game.

**Page No: 96**

**Answer1:** (i) a good detective serial on television? Interesting

(ii) a debate on your favourite topic 'Homework Should Be Banned'? Exciting

(iii) how you feel when you stay indoors due to incessant rain? Bored

(iv) how you feel when you open a present? Excited

(v) how you feel when you watch your favourite programme on television? Interested

(vi) the look on your mother's face as you waited in a queue? Tired

(vii) how you feel when tracking a tiger in a tiger reserve forest? Thrilled

(viii) the story you have recently read, or a film you have seen? Boring

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH -First Flight Mijbil the Otter**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 106 Oral Comprehension Check**

**Answer1:** Maxwell thought that he would keep an otter instead of a dog. Camusfearna, ringed by water a very short distance from its door, would be an eminently suitable spot for the experiment.

**Answer2:** He went to Basra, to the Consultant-General, to collect and answer his mail from Europe. He had had to wait there for five days. To start with his mail didn't reach on time. Then he tried to make a telephone call. This incident is of those days when one had to book an international call 24 hrs in advance. The telephone line was not working properly on the first day. Next day it was some public holiday so it was not working. Finally after a tortuous wait of five days his mail arrived.

**Answer3:** When he received his mail, he carried it to his bedroom to read. There, he saw two Arabs and beside them was a sack that twisted from time to time. They handed him a note from his friend saying that he had sent him an otter.

Yes, he liked it. We know this because he uses the term 'otter fixation' to refer to his feeling towards the otter. He felt that this otter fixation or this strong attachment towards otters was something that was shared by most other people who had ever owned one.

**Answer4:** The otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter.

**Answer5:** In the beginning, the otter was aloof and indifferent.

**Answer6:** When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom, it went wild with joy in the water for half an hour. It was plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo.

Two days after that, it escaped from his bedroom to the bathroom. By the time he got there, Mijbil was up on the end of the bathtub and fumbling at the chromium taps with its paws. In less than a minute, it had turned the tap far enough to produce some water and after a moment, achieved the full flow.

**Page No: 108 Oral Comprehension Check**

**Answer1:** Maxwell booked a flight to Paris and from there he would go on to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed in a box (not more than eighteen inches square) that was to be placed on the floor, near his feet.

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**Answer2:** The box was lined with metal sheet. Mij didn't find it comfortable to be there so tried to escape. In its attempt to escape Mij tore into the metal lining of the box. As a result it hurt itself and started bleeding.

**Page No: 109 Oral Comprehension Check**

**Answer3:** As there was no other way to carry Mij to London so the author had put it back into the box. He must have felt pity on the way the otter had hurt itself. Moreover, he must be worried as well.

**Answer4:** Maxwell said that the airhostess was "the very queen of her kind" because she was extremely friendly and helpful. He took her into his confidence about the incident with the box. She suggested that he might prefer to have his pet on his knee. Hearing this, he developed a profound admiration for her, for she understood the pain of both the otter and its owner.

**Answer5:** When the box was opened, Mij went out of the box. He disappeared at a high speed down the aircraft. There were cries all around. A woman stood up on her seat screaming that there was a rat. He saw Mij's tail disappearing beneath the legs of an Indian passenger. He dived for it, but missed. The airhostess suggested him to be seated and that she would find the otter. After a while, Mij had returned to him. It climbed on his knee and began to rub its nose on his face and neck.

**Page No: 110 Oral Comprehension Check**

**Answer1:** Mij had invented a game with ping-pong ball. He would put the ball at one end of a sloping lid and then grab it as it ran to the other end.

**Answer2:** Compulsive habits are usually strange act or behaviour which a person does without clear reason.

On their way to and from school, children make it a habit to place their feet exactly on the centre of each paving block. Similarly, Mij had made it a habit to jump on to the school wall and go galloping all along its length of thirty yards.

**Answer3:** Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others.

**Answer4:** According to Maxwell, the average Londoner does not recognize an otter. The Londoners who saw Mij made different guesses about who Mij was. They guessed, among other things, that it was a baby seal, a squirrel, a walrus, a hippo, a beaver, a bear cub, a leopard and a brontosaurus.

**Thinking about the Text**

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**Answer1:** Mij was an intelligent animal. It invented its own game out of the ping-pong balls. It screwed the tap till water began to flow and then it would play and splash in the water. Though it was aloof and indifferent in the beginning, it soon became very friendly. It formed a special attachment with Maxwell. It responded when Maxwell called out his name. It grew desperate when Maxwell left it in a box and it got hurt while trying to come out of it. After Maxwell took it out, it clung to his feet. It was a fun-loving animal. It enjoyed playing all kinds of games. It would play with a selection of toys, ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit, and a terrapin shell. It required love and affection from Maxwell and it got that readily.

**Answer2:** Otters belong to a comparatively small group of animals called Mustellines, shared by the badger, mongoose, weasel, stoat, mink and others. Maxwell's otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter. They are found in large numbers in marshes. They are often tamed by the Arabs. It is characteristic of otters that every drop of water must be extended and spread about the place; a bowl must at once be overturned, or, if it would not be overturned, be sat in and splashed in until it overflowed. For them, water must be kept on the move. Otters love playing various games, especially with a ball.

**Answer3:** Maxwell's otter was of a race previously unknown to science and was at length named by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata Maxwell* or Maxwell's otter.

**Page No: 111**

**Answer4:**

<b>What Mij does</b>	<b>How Mij feels or thinks</b>
Plunges, rolls in the water and makes the water splash and splash	went wild with joy
Screws the tap in the wrong way	irritated and disappointed
Nuzzles Maxwell's face and neck in the aeroplane	distressed chitter of recognition and welcome

**Answer5:**

(i) He spent most of his time in play.

(iii) I watched, amazed; in less than a minute he had turned the tap far enough to produce a trickle of water, and after a moment or two achieved the full flow.

(v) A suitcase that I had taken to Iraq had become damaged on the journey home, so that the lid, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other. Mij discovered that if he placed the ball on the high end it would run down the length of the suitcase. He would dash around to the other end to ambush its arrival, hide from it, crouching, to spring up and take it by surprise, grab it and trot off with it to the high end once more.

(vii) It is not, I suppose, in any way strange that the average Londoner should not recognize an otter, but the variety of guesses as to what kind of animal this might be came as a surprise to me.

Mij was anything but an otter.

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### Thinking about the Language

**Answer (I):** 1. Emperor Akbar used to be fond of musical evenings.

2. Every evening we used to take long walks on the beach.

3. Fifty years ago, very few people used to own cars.

4. Till the 1980s, Shanghai used to have very dirty streets.

5. My uncle would spend his holidays by the sea.

6. My uncle used to take long walks on the beach.

7. My uncle used to be fond of musical evenings.

**Page No: 112**

**Answer(II):** (i) Noun

(ii) Noun

(iii) Proper noun

(iv) Proper noun

(v) Adjective plus noun

(vi) Adjective plus noun

**Answer2:** Temple – white temple, stone temple, Birst temple

Person – incorrigible person, ridiculous person

Gifts – hundred gifts, ordinary gifts, birthday gifts

Time – college time, rough time, Birst time

Crossing – railroad crossing, Birst crossing

Physique – plump physique, ordinary physique

Three girls – Birst three girls, incorrigible three girls

Thoughts – incorrigible thoughts, uncomfortable thoughts, ridiculous thoughts, heartbreaking thoughts, first thoughts, ordinary thoughts

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Scream – tremendous scream, loud scream

Subject – college subject, ordinary subject

Flight – rough flight, first flight

Coffee – invigorating coffee, ordinary coffee

Triangle – love triangle

Boys – college boys, incorrigible boys, rough boys, hundred boys

Farewell – college farewell, heartbreaking farewell

Landscape – bare landscape, rough landscape, white landscape

Chatterbox – incorrigible chatterbox

View – tremendous view, panoramic view, ordinary view

Dresses – hundred dresses, ordinary dresses, birthday dresses, marriage dresses

Roar – tremendous roar, loud roar

Expression – bare expression, slang expression, slack expression

Handkerchief – white handkerchief, ordinary handkerchief

Profession – family profession, Birst profession, ordinary profession

Celebration – tremendous celebration, family celebration, birthday celebration

**Page No: 113**

**Answer (III):**

- (i) a portion of - fried fish
  - (ii) a pool of - blood
  - (iii) flakes of - snow
  - (iv) a huge heap of - stones
  - (v) a gust of - wind
  - (vi) little drops of - water
  - (vii) a piece of - cotton
-

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(viii) a pot of - gold

**Answer2:**

- (i) My teacher gave me some *advice*.
- (ii) Can you give me some *clay*, please.
- (iii) The *information* you gave was very useful.  
useful.
- (iv) Because of these factories, *smoke* hangs  
hangs over the city.
- (v) Two *stones* rubbed together can produce  
produce sparks of fire.
- (vi) He gave me some *flowers* on my birthday.

My teacher gave me a bit of advice.  
Can you give me a lump of clay, please.  
The piece of information you gave was very  
useful.  
Because of these factories, a cloud of smoke  
over the city.  
Two pieces of stones rubbed together can  
sparks of fire.  
He gave me a bunch of flowers on my birthday.

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## CLASS -X ENGLISH -First Flight Madam Rides the Bus

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### Answer

#### Page No: 119 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Valli's favourite pastime was to stand in the front doorway of her house and watch what was happening in the street outside.

**Answer2:** A source of unending joy for Valli was the sight of the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town, filled with a new set of passengers each time it passed through her street. Her strongest desire was to ride on that bus.

**Answer3:** Valli found out that the town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. On reaching the town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. She found out these details by listening carefully to the conversations between her neighbours and the people who regularly used the bus. She also gained information by asking them a few questions.

**Answer4:** Valli was planning to travel on that bus.

#### Page No: 122 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Valli is trying to behave more mature than her age. She is trying to look overconfident and smart. The conductor is amused at her behaviour and in an effort to tease her calls her 'madam'.

**Answer2:** Valli stood up on her seat because her view was cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. She stood up to look over the blind. She saw that the road was very narrow, on one side of which there was the canal and beyond it were palm trees, grassland, distant mountains, and the blue sky. On the other side, there was a deep ditch and many acres of green fields.

**Answer3:** When the elderly man called her a child, Valli told him that there was nobody on the bus who was a child. She had paid her fare of thirty paise like everyone else.

**Answer4:** The elderly woman was having big earlobes with bigger holes. She chewing betel nut and the betel juice was about to seep out of her mouth. She was giving a sight of unrefined elderly lady. That is why Vaali did not want to make friends with her.

#### Page No: 125 Oral Comprehension Check

**Answer1:** Valli saved every coin that came her way. She made great sacrifices by controlling her normal childish urges of having candies, toys and joyrides. This must have been difficult for her.

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Kids find it very difficult to savour a candy or to enjoy a toy.

**Answer2:** Valli saw a young cow, whose tail was high in the air, running right in front of the bus in the middle of the road. The bus slowed and the driver sounded his horn loudly. However, the more he honked, the more frightened the cow became and it kept running faster and faster, right in front of the bus. Valli found it so amusing that she had tears in her eyes. At last, the cow moved off the road.

**Answer3:** She did not get off the bus at the bus station because she had to go back on that same bus. She took out another thirty paise from her pocket and handed the coins to the conductor. She just wanted to ride on the bus.

**Answer4:** Valli did not want to go to the stall and have a drink because she did not have any money for that. Even when the conductor offered her a cold drink free of charge, she refused firmly and said that she only wanted her ticket. This shows that Valli had a lot of self will and pride. Possibly, she did not want to take anything for free, particularly from a stranger.

#### **Page No: 127 Thinking about the Text**

**Answer1:** Valli's deepest desire was to ride on the bus she saw everyday. The sentences in the story which depict this are as follows:

"Day after day she watched the bus, and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there: she wanted to ride on that bus, even if just once. This wish became stronger and stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire."

**Answer2:** Valli planned that she would take the one o'clock afternoon bus, reach the town at one forty-five, and be back home by about two forty-five. She found out that the town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes. On reaching the town, if she stayed in her seat and paid another thirty paise, she could return home on the same bus. She had carefully saved whatever stray coins came her way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons, and the like, and finally she had saved sixty paise.

**Answer3:**

- (i) "Stop the bus! Stop the bus!" And a tiny hand was raised commandingly.
  - (ii) "Yes, I simply have to go to town," said Valli, still standing outside the bus.
  - (iii) "There's nobody here who's a child," she said haughtily. I've paid my thirty paise like everyone else."
  - (iv) "Never mind," she said, "I can get on by myself. You don't have to help me. "I'm not a child, I tell you," she said, irritably.
  - (v) "You needn't bother about me. I can take care of myself," Valli said, turning her face toward the window and staring out.
  - (vi) Then she turned to the conductor and said, "Well, sir, I hope to see you again."
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For Valli, the bus journey probably symbolised the adult world. Like anyone else, she spent her money to buy the ticket. She would have attained a great sense of pride and satisfaction in doing so.

Therefore, though a child, Valli wanted to be treated as a grown-up on the bus. She had a great sense of self respect which prevented her from taking anyone's help. She felt she was able to take care of herself very well, and was easily irritated when anyone treated her as a child.

**Answer4:** When the conductor stretched out his hand to help her get on the bus, Valli said commandingly that she could get on by herself, and that she did not require his help. She did not act like a child, but as a grown-up girl and therefore, the conductor called her 'madam'. When the elderly man called her a child and asked her to sit down on her seat, she replied that nobody was a child on the bus. She kept stressing on the fact that she had paid her fare like everybody else and therefore, she should not be treated differently.

**Answer5:** The following lines in the text show that Valli was enjoying her ride on the bus:

(i) "Valli devoured everything with her eyes."

(ii) "On the one side there was the canal and, beyond it, palm trees, grassland, distant mountains, and the blue, blue sky. On the other side was a deep ditch and then acres and acres of green fields – green, green, green, as far as the eye could see. Oh, it was all so wonderful!"

(iii) "Everyone laughed, and gradually Valli too joined in the laughter. Suddenly, Valli clapped her hands with glee."

(iv) "Somehow this was very funny to Valli. She laughed and laughed until there were tears in her eyes."

(v) "Valli wasn't bored to the slightest and greeted everything with the same excitement she'd felt the first time."

**Answer6:** Valli refused to look out of the window on her way back because she saw a young cow lying dead by the roadside, just where it had been struck by some fast-moving vehicle. It was the same cow that was running in front of their bus, during their trip to the town. She was overcome with sadness. The memory of the dead cow haunted her and therefore, she refused to look out of the window.

**Answer7:** Valli's mother said that many things happen around us, but we are usually unaware of them. Valli had gone on a bus ride to town, all alone, and had come back without any harm. She did all this without the knowledge of her mother. Hence, she agreed with what her mother said.

**Answer8:** The author has described the things that Valli saw from an eight-year-old's point of view. She was fascinated by a bus. Watching the bus filled with a new set of people each time was a source of unending joy for her. Her strongest desire was to ride the bus. She saved money by cutting on peppermints, toys, and balloons, and even resisting the temptation to ride the merry-go-round at the fair. When the author describes the bus, the points he stresses on are the colour and look of the bus. It was a 'new bus', painted a 'gleaming white'. The overhead bars 'shone like silver'. The seats were 'soft and luxurious'. The descriptions that the author gives when Valli looked outside are also

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typical for an eight-year-old. The 'blue, blue sky' and the 'acres and acres of green fields – green, green, green' show the enthusiasm of a kid on looking at different colours. Valli clapped her hands in glee on watching a cow run right in front of the bus. She found it so funny that tears came into her eyes. On the other hand, she was overcome with sadness on her way back when she saw the same cow lying dead. It had been a 'lovable, beautiful creature' and later it 'looked so horrible'. The memory of the dead cow haunted her so much that she refused to look outside the window. These are the typical reactions of a young child.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**Dust of Snow**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 14**

**Answer1:** A “dust of snow” means the fine particles of snow. This “dust of snow” changed the poet’s mood. The poet’s mood changed from that of dismay to joy. He was holding the day in regret when this dust of snow fell on him and this simple little thing brought him some joy.

**Answer2:** Frost has presented nature in quite an unconventional manner. While in other nature poems we come across birds such as nightingales or sparrows, Frost has used a crow in this poem. A crow can be associated with something dark, black, and foreboding. That is why other poets usually mention singing nightingales or beautiful white doves in their poems.

Also, the poet has written about a hemlock tree, which is a poisonous tree. He has not written about a more beautiful tree such as a maple, or oak, or pine because these trees symbolise beauty and happiness. Frost wanted to symbolise the feelings of sadness and regret, which is why he has used a hemlock tree.

The crow and the hemlock tree represent sorrow. The dust of snow that is shaken off the hemlock tree by the crow stands for joy that Frost experiences. He has, therefore, used an unconventional tree and bird in order to contrast them with joy in the form of snow.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**Fire and Ice**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 15 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** Yes I believe that this world will end some but when nobody knows. Whether the sun gets hot or it gets colder in both the situations end of this world is sure.

**Answer2:** 'Fire' stands for greed, avarice, lust, conflict and fury. 'Ice' stands for cruelty, intolerance, rigidity, insensitivity, coldness, indifference and hatred.

**Answer3:** The rhyme scheme of the poem is: a, b, a, a; b, c, b, c, b.

The contrasting ideas of 'fire' and 'ice' are presented using this rhyme scheme. He mentions that both fire and ice are probable ends of this world. While he talks about how fire represents desire and can therefore be a cause of the end of the world, he also mentions ice in between to symbolise that the coldness and indifference towards one another will also be enough to end the world. In the second stanza, he says that he knows of enough hate in the world to be sure that even destruction through ice would be sufficient to bring about the end of the world.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**A Tiger in the Zoo**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 30 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:**

**(i)**

<b>In the cage</b>	<b>In the wild</b>
Stalks	Lurking in shadow
Few steps of his cage	Sliding through long grass
Quiet rage	Snarling around houses
Locked in a concrete cell	Baring his white fangs, his claws
Stalking the length of his cage	Terrorising the village
Ignoring visitors	
Stares at the brilliant stars	

**(ii)**

<b>Cage</b>	<b>Wild</b>
Few steps of his cage	Shadow
Concrete cell	Long grass
Locked	Water hole
Behind bars	Plump deer
Visitors	Houses at the jungle's edge
Patrolling cars	Village

**Answer2:** This repetition is a poetic device used by the poet in order to increase the intensity of the tiger's rage and his helpless silence. 'Velvet quiet' refers to the quiet velvet pads of the tiger, which cannot run or leap. They can only walk around the limited space in the cage. The use of 'quiet rage' symbolises the anger and ferocity that is building up inside the tiger as it wants to run out into the forest and attack a deer, but the rage is quiet because it cannot come out in the open as it is in the cage. This double use of 'quiet' has brought immense beauty to the poem. Similarly, the use of 'brilliant' for the tiger's eyes as well as the stars also brings out the magnificence of these lines. The tiger has dreams of being free in its 'brilliant' eyes. It sees the stars (that have also been described as brilliant) with the same eyes. It stares at the brilliant stars with its brilliant eyes thinking about how beautiful its life could be in the forest. The repetitiveness of these words gives a wonderful effect to the poem.

**Answer3:** The Zoo is very necessary place for some animals as they could be hunted down, poisoned by some wild food, or could drown in water in the forest. They also aware public about the nature of animals and make human friendly with animals. However, a zoo is not the correct substitute for a forest. In a zoo, an animal would feel caged, bound, and not free to roam about in the wild. It is for this reason that wildlife sanctuaries and national parks have been instituted in

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order to conserve several endangered species. These places provide protection as well as natural surroundings to these species. They can roam about freely in their habitats and are safe too. The public can visit these parks and get educated about the animals and their lifestyles. The parks and sanctuaries are run using a strict set of rules, the most prominent being the ban on hunting. Since the animals are in the open, visitors would not be able feed them and would not misbehave or try to play with them as they are under strict guidance. Such incidents have been recorded in zoos where people irritate and tease the animals. Hence, a wild life sanctuary is a good alternative for animals to be safe as well as in their natural surroundings.



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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**How to Tell Wild Animals**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 45 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** No, 'dying' does not rhyme with 'lion'. It is for this reason that the poet has used 'dyin' so that when we pronounce it, it rhymes with 'lion'.

**Answer2:** The poet suggests that if a large and tawny beast in the jungle in the east advances towards us, then it is an Asian lion. We can identify it when it roars at us while we are dying with fear. When while roaming we come across a wild beast that is yellow in colour with black stripes, it is a Bengal tiger. We can identify it when it eats us.

**Answer3:** No, the words 'lept' and 'lep' are spelt incorrectly. The poet has spelled them like this in order to maintain the rhythm of the poem. When spelled this way, they rhyme with the first part of 'leopard', thus giving emphasis to 'leopard' in each line.

**Answer4:** A 'bearhug' is the bear's tight embrace. Hyenas never laugh. But their faces look like that. Crocodiles do not weep but tears come when they swallow their victims.

**Answer5:** The line "A novice might nonplus" can be correctly written as "A novice might be nonplussed". The poet's incorrect line is better in the poem as it maintains the rhyme scheme of the poem. By writing it incorrectly, 'nonplus' rhymes with 'thus'.

**Answer6:** Yes, many poets take such liberties to create proper rhyming. These are for example: Kirk is used for 'church' to rhyme with 'work'. Ken is used for 'see' to rhyme with 'pen'.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**The Ball Poem**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 47 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** The poet wants the boy to experience the loss. He should learn that it is the part of life. That's why the poet doesn't want to interfere the boy and doesn't want to offer him money to buy another ball.

**Answer2:** Yes, it seems like the boy has had the ball for a long time. When it bounced into the water, all his memories of the days of childhood flashed in front of him. This led to a realisation that those moments would not come back, just like the ball. He can buy new balls and can similarly create new moments, but those that are gone would not return.

**Answer3:** In the world of possessions' means people like to possess all sorts of things in the world. Money is external because it can buy only material objects; it cannot buy everything that one loses.

**Answer4:** No, it seems that the boy had not lost anything earlier. The words that suggest so are 'senses first responsibility in a world of possessions'.

**Answer5:** The poet says that the boy is learning to cope up with the loss of the ball. He is experiencing grief and learning to grow up in this world of possessions. He learns that there are so many things in life that are to be lost and cannot be brought back. It is useless to feel sorrow for it.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM) Amanda!**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 62 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** Amanda is must be about 9–10 years old. She is school going girl. The things that her mother scolds her for are all typical instructions given to a 9 or10 year old girl.

**Answer2:** Her mother is speaking to her.

**Answer3:** Stanzas 2, 4 and 6 are given in parenthesis because they are the thoughts of the child in between the instructions that she is being given by her mother, which are given in stanzas 1, 3 and 5. The scolding by the mother and the child's thoughts are placed in alternate stanzas by the poet.

**Answer4:** In stanzas 2, 4 and 6, the speaker is the child, Amanda. No, she is not listening to her mother who is the speaker in stanzas 1, 3 and 5. She is lost in her own dreams and doesn't listen to what is being said to her.

**Answer5:** If Amanda were a mermaid, then she would drift slowly on a languid emerald sea. She would be the sole inhabitant of the relaxed green sea and would move slowly on it.

**Answer6:** No, Amanda is not an orphan. She says so because she wants to be alone. She wants to roam around in the street alone and pattern dust wit her bare feet. She finds silence 'golden' and freedom 'sweet'. It is for this reason that she calls herself an orphan.

**Answer7:** She wants to be Rapunzel because she wants to live alone. Rapunzel lived alone in a tall tower and had long, beautiful hair. She was held captive by her grandmother, who came up the tower by climbing her long hair. The girl also wants to live alone in a tower as she would not have to care about anything as life in a tower would be tranquil, peaceful and rare. However, she also decided that she would never throw down her hair for anyone to come up as she wanted to live alone always.

**Answer8:** The girl yearns for a life of freedom. The poem tells us that she is an imaginative girl who is constantly nagged by her unimaginative parent.

**Answer9:** No, Amanda is neither sulking, nor is she moody. She is simply longs for her freedom. She wants to go out and play where she likes.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**Animals**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 84 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** The poet is turning away from living with other humans as he finds them complicated and false. He would rather live with animals that are self-contained and non-complaining.

**Answer2:** The poet has drawn three comparisons between humans and animals.

- Humans sweat and work to make a living and later whine and sulk about the amount of work they have to do to survive. Animals, on the other hand, do not whine about their condition.
- Humans lie awake at night and cry for the wrongs they have done. Animals do not weep for anything they do and sleep peacefully.
- Finally, humans make each other sick by discussing their duties to God. However, animals do not have any god and they live and survive without any prayers or fasts.

**Answer3:** Yes, humans kneel to other humans who lived thousands of years ago. They worship their ancestors and pray by kneeling in front of their portraits. They hold religious sermons and ceremonies in their memory.

**Answer4:** The token that the poet says he might have dropped long ago, and which the animals have kept for him, is his true nature as a human. While humans came close to civilisation, they gradually moved away from their true nature. The natural instincts that humans had and the innocence with which they lived and helped each other have been left behind somewhere. As they got near civilisation, they chose to leave behind the virtues of kindness, sincerity, unselfishness, joy, satisfaction, respectability, and sharing. They took to vices such as greed, selfishness, desire to capture everything, and other such inhuman characteristics. Animals have carried forward the real instincts and characteristics, which the poet looks at and tries to remember where he had negligently lost his true nature.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM)**  
**The Trees**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 100 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:**

- (i) The three things that cannot happen in a treeless forest are the sitting of a bird on trees, the hiding of insects and the sun burying its feet in the shadow of the forest.
- (ii) The sun radiates heat and the given words create a picture of the hot, radiating sun cooling its feet in the cool shadow of the forest. The sun's 'feet' refers to its rays that reach the earth.

**Answer2:**

- (i) In the poem, the trees are in the poet's house. Their roots work all night to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves make efforts to move towards the glass, while the small twigs get stiff with exertion.
- (ii) The poet compares the 'long-cramped' branches that have been shuffling under the roof to newly discharged patients who look half-dazed as they move towards the hospital doors after long illnesses and wait to get out of the hospital. The branches also have cramped under the roof and want to get out into the open to spread themselves in fresh air.

**Answer3:**

- (i) In the beginning of the third stanza, the poet says that the whole moon is shining in the open sky in the fresh night. However, at the end of the stanza, she describes the moon as broken into many pieces such as a shattered mirror. This change is caused by the trees that have made their way from her home to outside. Their branches have risen into the sky, blocking the moon, which is why the moon seems to be broken into many pieces. These pieces can be seen flashing at the top of the tallest oak tree.
- (ii) When the trees move out of the house, the glass gets broken and the smell of the leaves and lichens still reaches the rooms of the house.

**Page No: 101**

**Answer4:**

- (i) Yes, the poem presents a conflict between man and nature. While nature is more free and unbounded, man prefers to live in bounded spaces and also wants to curb nature. He uses

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plants for interior decoration of houses, cuts trees to make a house for himself, kills animals for food or other purposes and cages them in zoos. In all these ways, man curbs nature and denies plants and animals the freedom in which they should live. The poem shows that trees and plants are rebelling against man as they strive to work their way out into the open. For instance, in the poem A Tiger in the Zoo, the poet presents the fact that animals feel bounded by cages. They can only take a few steps inside the cage, whereas they really want to run and leap into the open. This signifies the fact that plants and animals feel caged by humans and want to break out from the imprisonment at the hands of humans.

(ii) If trees are symbolic of human beings, then it could be said that humans too want to break away from the shackles of the busy and selfish lives they lead. They also want to go out into the nature and be free. They work all day and sometimes all night to try and achieve something though they do not have the time to enjoy it. They keep striving hard in their routines as they feel cramped under the roofs of their homes and offices. Even they want to break free and go out into the peaceful nature.





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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM) Fog**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 115 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:**

- (i) According to Sandburg, the fog is like a cat.
- (ii) The fog comes on little cat feet.
- (iii) In the third line 'it' refers to the fog that has covered the city and it seems as if it is looking over the city like a cat.
- (iv) No, the poet does not actually say that the fog is like a cat. However, he has used cat as a metaphor for describing the fog. He says that the fog comes on its little cat feet, which implies that the fog is like a cat as it comes slowly. He also says that the fog looks over the harbour and the city and then moves on, implying that the fog has covered the city and is sitting and looking at it, thereby again comparing it to a cat. This is reiterated when he says that the fog looks over the city sitting on 'silent hunches'. This also shows the reference to a cat as a cat always sits with its knees bent. Hence, he has compared the fog to a cat without actually saying so.

**Answer2:**

Storm	Tiger	Pounces over the fields, growls
Train	Gush of wind	Very fast movement
Fire	Anger	Danger that surrounds both on the basis of their intensities
School	Gateway	Leads to adulthood and a life of responsibility
Home	Nest	Provides hospitable, loving environment

**Answer3:** No, this poem does not have a rhyme scheme. It is written in free verse.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM) The Tale of Custard**  
**the Dragon**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 132 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** The characters in this poem are Belinda, a little black kitten, a little grey mouse, a little yellow dog, a little pet dragon and a pirate.

<b>Character</b>	<b>Pet name</b>
Kitten	Ink
Mouse	Blink
Dog	Mustard
Dragon	Custard

**Answer2:** Custard cried for a nice, safe cage because it was a coward. It is called a 'cowardly dragon' because everybody else in the house was brave. Belinda was as brave as a barrel of bears. Ink and Blink are described as so brave that they could chase lions down the stairs and Mustard was as brave as a tiger in rage. Compared to them, Custard cried asking for a nice and safe cage, which is why it is called a coward.

**Answer3:** Belinda tickled the dragon unmercifully because it was very scared and cried for a safe cage. They all laughed at it as it was a coward.

**Answer4:** In the entire poem, the poet has made extensive use of similes. Apart from simile, another poetic device that has been used is repetition. For example, the repetitive use of the word 'little' in the first stanza to emphasise how everything from the house to Belinda to her pets were all little. Also, in the seventh stanza, the poet has made use of incorrect spelling as a poetic device to maintain the rhyme scheme of the poem. He has chosen to write 'winda' instead of 'window' as 'winda' rhymes with 'Belinda', whereas 'window' does not. He has also used alliteration in the poem. For example, in the tenth stanza, 'Custard' has 'clashed' his tail with a 'clatter' and a 'clank'. Similarly, in stanza eleven, the pirate 'gaped' at the dragon and 'gulped' some 'grog'.

**Answer6:** The rhyme scheme of each stanza of this poem is aabb.

**Answer7:** Some such images used in the poem are 'mouth like a fireplace', 'chimney for a nose', 'brave as a barrel full of bears', 'brave as a tiger in a rage', 'went at the pirate like a robin at a worm', etc.

**Answer8:** The Tale of Custard the Dragon is a light-hearted poem. It is almost a parody. The names of the pets of Belinda are all rhyming and funny. Belinda has been compared to a barrel full of bears. The kitten and mouse, both little, could chase lions down the stairs. The little yellow dog was as brave as a tiger, while the dragon was a coward and they all teased him. However, when the pirate came to their little house, all of them were engulfed in fear and hid themselves. Ironically, the 'cowardly' dragon came to their rescue and jumped snorting like an engine. It clashed its tail and charged at the pirate like a robin at a worm and ate him up. Even as everybody

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became happy to see the bravery of the dragon, they again came back to glorifying themselves that they could have been twice or thrice braver than the dragon. Finally, at the end of the poem, the situation again came back to the other pets being brave and the dragon being the coward.

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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**FIRST FLIGHT (POEM) For Anne Gregory**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 141 Thinking about the Poem**

**Answer1:** The “great honey-coloured/Ramparts at your ear” refers to the beautiful yellow coloured hair that falls at the woman’s ear and cover it like a wall around a fort. He says that the young men are “thrown into despair” by them because they look so beautiful on the woman that her beauty gets thoroughly enhanced. The young men fall in love with her and feel despair. He says that it is not possible that someone would love her alone and not her yellow hair.

**Answer2:** The young woman’s hair is of yellow colour. She says that she could get her hair dyed to brown, black or carrot colour. She would change the colour of her hair so that the young men in despair would love her only and not her yellow hair. She wanted them to love her for what she was and not for her appearance such as her hair colour.

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