

UNFAMILIAR APSSAGES



Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

To sing a song has been deeply related to human life from ancient times. The first form of song might be a lullaby sung by a mother to put her child to sleep. Children have a special liking for songs. Grownups enjoy singing songs to babies and they enjoy listening to them. In recent years, there has been a boom in 'karaoke'. Karaoke includes CD players with voice mixing facilities and are used to provide musical accompaniment for solos. The Japanese word 'kara' of kara-oke means empty, while the "oke" is a Japanese abbreviation of the English word, 'orchestra.' These two words coming together mean an orchestra without a vocalist. Karaoke systems are widespread in many countries nowadays. To relish karaoke is not difficult at all. All you have to do is buy a karaoke CD and practice singing songs. Believe me! You will be a singer one day!

- 1. Who, according to the author, is considered as the first singer of the world?**
- 2. How does the author establish the idea that songs are deeply related to human life?**
- 3. How does technology influence the singing habit of the humans?**
- 4. What does the word 'karaoke' mean?**
- 5. Do you agree with the author's opinion that everyone can be a singer one day? Justify your answer.**

- 1. The first singer is a mother singing a lullaby.**
- 2. Children as well as grown-ups like songs and enjoy singing.**
- 3. CD players with voice mixing facilities influence singing habit.**
- 4. Without a vocalist.**
- 5. Yes. Buying karaoke and practising singing, everyone can be a singer**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The world appears to be gloomy in the absence of a true friend. Man, by nature, is a social animal. A man, who lives alone, is either an angel or a beast. Therefore, the need for a true and honest friend is always important for man. True friends, no doubt, are rare in this world. A friend is the elixir of life and panacea for many ills. A friend is very useful at the time of adversity. But there are many persons in this world who are fair weather friends. When one's purse jingles with money, they flock around him; otherwise, run away. I would always like to have friends who possess qualities of both the head and heart. Do you have any one such friend?

- 1. What do you mean by the phrase 'fair weather' friends?**
- 2. 'A friend is the elixir of life and panacea for many ills.' What does this statement mean?**
- 3. Why does the author state that friends should possess the qualities of both the head and the heart?**
- 4. 'Friends are people who stand by you in times of need.' Quote relevant sentence from the passage which means the same.**
- 5. What, according to the author, is so rare in this world?**

ANSWERS

- 1. Friends those who flock around you when you have money and runs away when don't have it.**
- 2. A friend is very useful at the time of adversity and you can learn many things from a friend.**
- 3. A true friend must be helping and kind. A friend in need is friend indeed.**
- 4. A friend is very useful at the time of adversity.**
- 5. True friends are rare in this world.**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Trees are Nature's wonders and a great gift to mankind as well as to all those who depend on them. While some dependants stay on the trees, others come to them to rest or to feed. Still others use them to raise their offsprings. Humans have used almost any and every tree to their benefit.

It is very sad that the same humans are destroying trees all over the world in the name of 'development'. This can be to create factories, new townships, wider roads, railways, entertainment centres and so on. They do not realise that they are making a big mistake. More trees would mean better rains, cooler climates, and decreased use of air-conditioners and refrigerators. This would lead to the reversal of global warming. What a wonderful thing to happen!

- 1. Why are trees considered as 'Nature's wonders'?**
- 2. How does 'development' affect trees?**
- 3. What do 'more trees' bring to us?**
- 4. What a wonderful thing to happen!' What is the wonderful thing referred to here?**
- 5. Pick out the sentence that suggest 'the selfish attitude of human beings' from the passage.**

ANSWERS

- 1. It is a great gift to mankind as well as to all those who depend on them.**
- 2. Development destroys trees all over the world.**
- 3. More trees would bring better rains, cooler climates, and decreased use of air-conditioners and refrigerators.**
- 4. Reversal of Global Warming.**
- 5. It is very sad that the same humans are destroying trees all over the world in the name of development.**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

TIME WITH GRANDPA

Ben jumped from bed as soon as the first bit of sun peeped through his window. He grabbed his bag from his shelf and opened it on the floor. Ben put in some of his favourite things to take with him on his trip to visit Grandpa. He put in a book on building forts, a book on making go-carts and a new book he had taken from the library about a kid detective who creates his own spy gear. He also put in a model car kit and his stuffed bear. He was ready to go! Going to visit his grandfather for a week was always Ben's favourite part of summer vacation. Grandpa would take him fishing and to baseball games. Grandpa also taught Ben how to fix things around the house. Last year, when he was eight-years-old, Ben had learned how to replace a broken doorknob and how to fix a leaky tap. Grandpa was patient and did not mind taking many hours to show Ben how to use his tools. Ben's mom came to his bedroom door. 'Grandpa's here,' she said with a smile. Ben grabbed his backpack and ran into the kitchen where Grandpa was waiting. 'Ready, big guy?' asked Grandpa. 'Or do you want to eat breakfast before we leave?' 'Ready,' said Ben. As he kissed his mother good-bye, he felt his stomach rumble. 'We can eat later!'

- 1. What is the most likely reason for Ben to jump out of bed?**
- 2. Judging by the things Ben put in his bag, what will one think Ben is going to do most during the vacation?**
- 3. Why does visiting Grandpa become favourite part of Ben's vacation?**
- 4. what two things did Ben learn from his Grandpa last year?**
- 5. what impression do you get from about Ben's Grandpa?**

ANSWERS

- 1. When the first bit of sun peeped through his window.**
- 2. Ben is going for some training.**
- 3. Because he could learn many new things from Grandpa.**
- 4. To replace a broken doorknob and to fix a leaky tap.**
- 5. Grandpa was a patient man.**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

One evening as the Guru was meditating a thief with a sharp sword entered, demanding either his money or his life, the Guru told him: 'Do not disturb me. You can find the money in that drawer.' Then he resumed his meditation. A little while afterwards he stopped and called: 'Don't take it all. I need some to pay taxes tomorrow.' The intruder gathered up most of the money and started to leave. 'Thank a person when you receive a gift,' the Guru added. The man thanked him and went off. A few days afterwards the fellow was caught and confessed, among others, the offence against the Guru. When the Guru was called as a witness he said: 'This man is no thief, at least as far as I am concerned. I gave him the money and he thanked me for it.' After he had finished his prison term, the man went to the Guru and became his disciple.

- 1. What did the thief want from the Guru?**
- 2. How did the Guru react against the threat from the thief?**
- 3. Why did the Guru ask the thief not to take all the money?**
- 4. Give a suitable title to the story.**
- 5. What, in your opinion, made the thief become the disciple of the Guru?**

ANSWERS

- 1. The thief wanted either his money or his life..**
- 2. He responded patiently and was not frightened.**
- 3. Because he needed some money to pay the tax..**
- 4. The Great Guru/Guru and the Thief.**
- 5. The Guru's kind attitude to the thief.**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

CLOCKS

The clock is a very old invention. Sundials were used in ancient times. Sundials work by measuring shadows that are cast by the sun. Candle clocks were used a very long time ago. Candle clocks work by measuring the time it takes for the wax to melt. Hourglasses are similar to candle clocks because they also measure the time it takes for something to happen. Hourglasses work by measuring the time it takes for sand to pour through a small opening into a glass. Mechanical clocks appeared in the 13th century in Europe. They work with a system of moving gears. The gears always move at the same speed. Pendulum clocks work with a swinging weight. The swinging weight is called pendulum. The pendulum makes the clock parts move. Now people typically use mechanical clocks or digital clocks. Digital clocks show numbers on a screen. The numbers represent the time. Some people use auditory clocks. Auditory clocks use language to tell the time aloud. Computers also use clocks. Computers use internal clocks in order to work properly. In today's world, clocks are everywhere - in homes, schools, offices, and public places. Many people live their lives according to the clock. People go to work and return home according to the clock. School days start and end according to the clock. Air planes take off and land according to the clock. It is fun to imagine a world without clocks!

1. What were the different types of clocks used in ancient times?
2. How is time measured using a candle clock?
3. What is the advantage of a mechanical clock?
4. What kind of a clock would you suggest for a blind person?
5. Why does the author say that it is fun to imagine a world without clocks?

ANSWERS

- 1. Sundails, Candle Clocks, Hourglasses.**
- 2. Time is measured in a candle clock by measuring the time it takes for the wax to melt.**
- 3. Mechanical clocks work with a system of moving gears and the gears move at the same speed. So the time is more accurate.**
- 4. Auditory Clocks.**
- 5. All the activities in the world start and end according to**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her eighties stood before me. She was wearing a faded silk sari and a frill blouse, with a colourful shawl wrapped around her neck, like somebody straight out of a 1970's family movie. By her side was a small plastic suitcase. The house looked as if no one had lived in it for years. 'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said. I took the suitcase to the cab. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the cab. She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated.' 'Oh, you're such a good guy,' she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive me through the city? It's not the shortest way.' 'Oh, I don't mind,' I said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to an old age home,' she said. I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'My kids are far away, I don't have anyone here to take care of me,' she continued in a soft voice. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?' I asked. For the next few hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as a bank clerk. We drove through the neighbourhood where she had lived before she got wed.

She showed me the park, where she walked hand in hand with the man she loved. She had me pull up in front of a mall that had once been a wedding hall where her kids had been married off. At the first hint of the sun dipping below the horizon, she said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'. We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low block of buildings. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. 'How much do I owe you?' she asked, reaching into her purse. 'Nothing,' I said 'You have to make a living,' she answered. 'There are other passengers,' I responded. Almost without thinking, I held her hands and gave them a squeeze. She held onto mine tightly. 'You gave an old woman a little moment of unforgettable joy,' she said. 'Thank you.' I squeezed her hand, and then walked away into the fading light. Behind me, a door shut.

- 1. Why does the narrator feel that the woman was 'somebody straight out of a 1970's family movie'?**
- 2. What made the driver shut off the meter?**
- 3. Pick out any two sentences/ expressions from the story that indicate the loneliness of the woman.**
- 4. What was the unforgettable joy that the narrator gave to the woman?**
- 5. Give a suitable title to the story.**

ANSWERS

- 1. She was wearing a faded silk sari and a frill blouse, with a colourful shawl wrapped around her neck.**
- 2.**

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

MEMORIES

Memories of the past have something to do with tragedies: pain, insult, loss, grief... When I was a child, I was a good marksman. I was adept at aiming at any mango or cashew fruit and bringing it down with stones. Once, while I was going to school, I saw an owl on a tree. I don't know what came over me. I aimed and threw a stone at it. And it dropped to the ground dead. This painful memory has stayed with me since then and still haunts me. There are many things in life that you can't repair later. Our house was in the middle of a large garden with a variety of trees-mango, cashew, coconut, arecanut, jackfruit, tamarind. There was hardly any tree I had not climbed. Once on top of the tree I would forget about the laws of gravitation. And naturally it was normal routine for me to fall off them. As it became a regular affair, my mother kept a dish of herbal oil handy so that she could take it with her every time she rushed to the spot where I hit the ground with a big thud.

- 1. Why does the narrator call himself a good marksman?**
- 2. What is the haunting memory that still pains the narrator?**
- 3. What happened when the narrator forgot the laws of gravitation?**
- 4. What made the narrator's mother keep a dish of herbal oil?**
- 5. 'Memories of the past have something to do with tragedies.' How does the narrator prove this?**

ANSWERS

- 1. He was adept at aiming at any mango or cashew fruit and bringing it down with stones.**
- 2. One day he saw an owl on a tree. He aimed and threw a stone at it. And it dropped to the ground dead. This painful memory has stayed with him since then and still haunts him.**
- 3. He fell off from a tree.**
- 4. Falling from tree became a regular affair. So his mother kept a dish of herbal oil handy so that she could take it with her every time she rushed to the spot where I hit the ground with a big thud.**
- 5. Memories of the past have something to do with tragedies. Author proves it by narrating some of the incidents of his childhood.**