

Learning Horizon

Class 9th

MOMENT

Subject : English

Question answer

The Lost Child

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answer Type)

Q1. Who is the author of *The Lost Child*?

A: Mulk Raj Anand.

Q2. On what occasion was the boy going to the fair?

A: On the occasion of a spring festival.

Q3. What did the boy first ask his parents to buy at the fair?

A: A toy.

Q4. What attracted the child the most at the fair?

A: The roundabout (merry-go-round).

Q5. What was the child's reaction after he realized he was lost?

A: He started crying and shouting for his parents.

2-Mark Questions (Short Answer Type)

Q1. Why did the child's parents say "no" to everything he asked for?

A: The parents knew that the child was likely to forget each request quickly, as children often get distracted. Also, they wanted to avoid unnecessary purchases.

Q2. What changes occurred in the child after he lost his parents?

A: The child became frightened, anxious, and disoriented. He lost interest in everything around him and cried only for his parents.

Q3. How did the man try to console the lost child?

A: He offered him sweets, balloons, flowers, and a ride on the roundabout, but the child refused everything and kept crying for his parents.

Q4. What shows that the child was excited during the journey to the fair?

A: He was fascinated by toys, insects, flowers, and birds on the way, showing childlike curiosity and joy.

5-Mark Questions (Long Answer Type)

Q1. Describe the child's journey from joy to fear in *The Lost Child*.

A: At the beginning of the story, the child is full of joy and wonder as he walks with his parents to the fair. He is attracted to every little thing — toys, sweets, and nature around him. However, when he gets separated from his parents in the crowd, his emotions shift drastically. Joy turns into fear, and excitement into helplessness. The things that once fascinated him no longer hold value. He cries out for his mother and father, showing that a child's true comfort lies in the security of parental love, not material possessions.

Q2. What message does the story *The Lost Child* convey?

A: The story highlights the innocence of childhood and the deep emotional bond between children and parents. It shows that while children are often drawn to material things, what they need most is love, care, and security. The story also conveys that in times of crisis, nothing matters more to a child than being with their parents.

Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"I want that toy," he pleaded. His father looked at him red-eyed in his familiar tyrant's way. His mother, melted by the free spirit of the day, was tender, and said: "Look, child, what is before you!"

Q1. What does the child want in this extract? (1 mark)

A: The child wants a toy.

Q2. How do the parents react to his request? (2 marks)

A: The father looks at him angrily, while the mother gently distracts him by pointing to something else.

Q3. What does this moment reveal about the child's relationship with his parents? (2 marks)

A: It shows that the parents are caring but strict. The child is used to being told "no" and is somewhat afraid of his father.

Extract 2:

"The child turned his face from the sweet shop and only sobbed: 'I want my mother, I want my father!'"

Q1. Where is the child at this point in the story? (1 mark)

A: He is lost in the fair.

Q2. Why does he refuse the sweets? (2 marks)

A: Because he is distressed and frightened. He no longer cares about sweets — he only wants his parents.

Q3. What change does this sentence show in the child's behavior? (2 marks)

A: It shows a shift from material desires to emotional needs. The child has realized that his parents are more important than anything else.

Extract 3:

"The child was running towards his parents, overcome by fear. He had lost them in the crowd. He ran to and fro, panic-stricken, shouting, 'Mother, Father!'"

◇ **Q1.** What caused the child to panic? (1 mark)

A: He realized he had been separated from his parents in the crowd.

◇ **Q2.** What does this extract show about the child's emotional state? (2 marks)

A: The child is terrified and helpless. The joy of the fair is gone, replaced by fear and a desperate longing for his parents.

◇ **Q3.** How does the theme of parental attachment come through in this moment? (2 marks)

A: Despite all the attractive things in the fair, the child only wants his parents. It emphasizes the strong emotional bond between a child and their parents.

Extract 4:

"A kind-hearted man in the crowd took him up in his arms and tried to soothe him. He took him to the roundabout. 'Would you like to have a ride on the horse?' he gently asked."

◇ **Q1.** Who is the "kind-hearted man"? (1 mark)

A: A stranger who found the lost child in the crowd.

◇ **Q2.** What does the man offer to do for the child? (2 marks)

A: He offers him a ride on the roundabout to cheer him up and distract him from his fear.

Q3. What do the man's actions reveal about human nature? (2 marks)

A: His actions show that kindness and empathy still exist in society. He genuinely wants to help the distressed child.

Extract 5:

"He was simply carried away by the dizzy laughter of their swirling movements."

◇ **Q1. What does "swirling movements" refer to? (1 mark)**

A: It refers to the people riding the roundabout/merry-go-round.

◇ **Q2. Why was the child "carried away"? (2 marks)**

A: The child was momentarily fascinated and enchanted by the fast and joyful movement of the ride.

◇ **Q3. What does this line show about the nature of the child before he got lost? (2 marks)**

A: It shows the innocence and curiosity of childhood, as the child gets easily excited and drawn into joyful sights and sounds.

Extract 6:

"He had gone to the fair with his parents, but had lost them in the crowd. He was sobbing bitterly, tears rolling down his cheeks."

◇ **Q1. Why is the child sobbing? (1 mark)**

A: Because he is lost and cannot find his parents.

◇ **Q2. What does this tell us about the child's priorities now? (2 marks)**

A: All material attractions are now meaningless to him; his only priority is to be reunited with his parents.

◇ **Q3. How is the setting of the fair used effectively to contrast emotions? (2 marks)**

A: The lively, joyful atmosphere of the fair contrasts with the child's loneliness and fear, emphasizing how happiness turns into sorrow when emotional security is lost.

The Adventures of Toto

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answers)

Q1. Who is the author of The Adventures of Toto?

A: Ruskin Bond.

Q2. Who bought Toto, and from whom?

A: Grandfather bought Toto from a tonga-driver.

Q3. How much did Grandfather pay for Toto?

A: Five rupees.

Q4. Where did Grandfather hide Toto?

A: In a closet in the narrator's room.

Q5. What did Toto do to the narrator's blazer?

A: He tore it into shreds.

 2-Mark Questions (Short Answers)

Q1. Why was Toto kept a secret from Grandmother?

A: Because Grandmother didn't like animals much and would have objected to keeping a monkey.

Q2. Describe Toto's appearance.

A: Toto had bright eyes, white teeth, and a long tail that served as a third hand. He looked cute and was full of mischief.

Q3. What mischief did Toto do in the closet?

A: He tore the narrator's blazer, pulled out the wallpaper, and broke the hook of the closet door.

Q4. How did Toto react to taking a bath?

A: He loved taking a bath in warm water and imitated Grandfather while bathing.

✔ 5-Mark Questions (Long Answers)

Q1. Describe the character of Toto.

A: Toto was a mischievous monkey with a playful and destructive nature. He looked adorable but was always up to some prank. He enjoyed tearing things apart and could not live peacefully with other animals. He was intelligent and had human-like behavior, such as enjoying a warm bath. Despite his cuteness, he caused so much trouble that the family had to return him to the tonga-driver.

Q2. Why did Grandfather eventually return Toto?

A: Although Grandfather loved animals, Toto's destructive behavior became unmanageable. He caused damage to clothes, dishes, and even other animals. The cost of keeping him was too high, both emotionally and financially. So, Grandfather decided it was best to return him to his original owner.

Q3. What does the story teach us about keeping wild animals as pets?

A: The story shows that wild animals like monkeys are not suitable as domestic pets. Though they may look cute, they can be very destructive and difficult to manage. It teaches that animals should be in their natural habitat, not confined for human amusement.

✔ Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"Toto was a pretty monkey. His bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath deep-set eyebrows, and his teeth, which were pearly white, were very often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies."

Q1. How is Toto described here? (1 mark)

A: As a pretty monkey with bright, mischievous eyes and pearly white teeth.

Q2. What kind of smile did Toto have? (1 mark)

A: A mischievous smile that frightened elderly ladies.

Q3. What does this description suggest about Toto's personality? (2 marks)

A: It shows that Toto was both charming and naughty. His appearance was cute, but his actions could be troubling.

Extract 2:

"He stuffed himself till there was nothing left. Then, picking up the dish, he threw it out of the window."

Q1. What had Toto just finished doing? (1 mark)

A: Eating all the food (pulao).

Q2. What does this action show about Toto? (2 marks)

A: It shows his greedy, wasteful, and mischievous nature. He not only ate everything but also broke the dish.

Q3. What was the family's reaction to this behavior? (2 marks)

A: They were upset and realized Toto was too troublesome to keep at home.

Extract 3:

"He would cunningly take a lump of coal from the fire, pretend to be hurt, and then jump into the tub of warm water, grunting with pleasure."

Q1. What was Toto pretending? (1 mark)

A: That he was hurt by the coal.

Q2. Why did he jump into the tub? (1 mark)

A: To enjoy a warm bath.

Q3. What human-like behavior does Toto show here? (2 marks)

A: He mimics Grandfather's bathing routine and shows cleverness by pretending to be hurt.

▣ Themes in "The Adventures of Toto"

- Mischief and innocence of animals
- Human-animal relationships
- Humor in everyday life
- The consequences of trying to tame wild creatures

Iswaran the Storyteller

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answers)

Q1. Who is Iswaran?

A: A cook and storyteller who works for Mahendra.

Q2. What is Mahendra's job?

A: He is a junior supervisor at a construction firm.

Q3. What kind of stories did Iswaran narrate?

A: Suspenseful, exaggerated, and dramatic stories — often involving ghosts or wild animals.

Q4. What ghost did Iswaran describe to Mahendra?

A: A female ghost with matted hair, carrying a foetus in her arms.

Q5. What was Iswaran's reaction to the ghost story?

A: He claimed it was real and warned Mahendra not to go outside at night.

☑ 2-Mark Questions (Short Answers)

Q1. How did Iswaran entertain Mahendra?

A: He told him vivid, dramatic stories with sound effects and facial expressions, making even ordinary incidents exciting.

Q2. What was unusual about Iswaran's storytelling style?

A: He used dramatic expressions, voice modulation, suspense, and gestures to make his stories lively and believable.

Q3. How did Mahendra react to the ghost story?

A: He initially laughed it off but was later frightened when he thought he actually saw the ghost.

Q4. Why did Mahendra leave the place at the end of the story?

A: He got scared after supposedly seeing the ghost and decided to leave the place.

✓ 5-Mark Questions (Long Answers)

Q1. Describe Iswaran's character and his storytelling skills.

A: Iswaran is loyal, hardworking, and entertaining. He reads a lot and narrates stories filled with suspense and drama. He uses body language, voice changes, and facial expressions to create an atmosphere. His stories are so convincing that Mahendra sometimes forgets they are fictional. Iswaran's character adds humor and interest to the story.

Q2. How does the story show the power of imagination or storytelling?

A: The story shows how Iswaran's powerful imagination could make the listener believe in unbelievable things. Mahendra, a rational man, ends up believing he saw a ghost. The story illustrates that storytelling, if done well, can influence people's thoughts and emotions deeply.

Q3. What message does the story "Iswaran the Storyteller" convey?

A: The story highlights the impact of storytelling and how imagination can influence even logical minds. It also shows the importance of companionship and entertainment in a lonely life like Mahendra's. Lastly, it reminds us not to take everything at face value.

✓ Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"He was an asset to Mahendra. He would cook for him, wash his clothes, and also chat with him in the evening."

Q1. Who is 'he' in this line? (1 mark)

A: Iswaran.

Q2. Why was he considered an asset? (1 mark)

A: Because he took care of household chores and provided entertaining company.

Q3. What does this tell us about Mahendra's lifestyle? (2 marks)

A: Mahendra lived a simple, lonely life due to frequent transfers, and relied heavily on Iswaran for help and companionship.

Extract 2:

"If you care to listen to my story, I shall tell you about a wild elephant..."

Q1. Who says this and to whom? (1 mark)

A: Iswaran says this to Mahendra.

Q2. What is the story about? (1 mark)

A: A wild elephant that Iswaran claims to have tamed single-handedly.

Q3. What is the tone of this line? (2 marks)

A: Dramatic and suspenseful — Iswaran is building excitement for his story.

Extract 3:

"I have often heard it moaning at midnight... It is an ugly creature with matted hair and a shrivelled face."

Q1. What is being described here? (1 mark)

A: A ghost that Iswaran claims haunts the area.

Q2. How does this description affect Mahendra? (1 mark)

A: It scares him and makes him uneasy, even though he pretends not to believe it.

Q3. How does this contribute to the plot? (2 marks)

A: It sets up the suspense and the climax where Mahendra believes he sees the ghost, showing the power of Iswaran's storytelling.

In the Kingdom of Fools

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answer)

Q1. Who is the author of *In the Kingdom of Fools*?

A: A. K. Ramanujan.

Q2. What was unusual about the kingdom?

A: People slept during the day and worked at night.

Q3. Why did the disciple want to stay in the kingdom?

A: Because food was cheap and plentiful.

Q4. Who was sentenced to death initially?

A: A rich merchant.

Q5. Who finally got executed?

A: The foolish king and his minister.

☒ 2-Mark Questions (Short Answer)

Q1. Why did the guru leave the kingdom?

A: He realized it was a kingdom of fools and believed foolishness would lead to danger, so he didn't want to stay.

Q2. How was justice delivered in the kingdom?

A: Very foolishly — the king made random and illogical decisions without proper investigation.

Q3. Why was the disciple arrested?

A: Because he was fat and could fit the stake that was used for execution after the merchant didn't fit.

Q4. How did the guru save his disciple?

A: He tricked the king by pretending that whoever was executed would become the next king, so the king and minister offered themselves instead.

☒ 5-Mark Questions (Long Answer)

Q1. Describe the nature of the king and the minister in the Kingdom of Fools.

A: Both were foolish and made absurd laws, such as reversing the day-night cycle. They didn't think logically or fairly and ruled without understanding the consequences of their actions. Their foolishness created chaos and nearly led to the death of an innocent man.

Q2. What lesson do you learn from the story "In the Kingdom of Fools"?

A: The story teaches that **foolishness in leadership** can be dangerous and harmful to society. It also emphasizes the importance of **wisdom, presence of mind, and rational thinking** in governance and decision-making.

Q3. How does the guru outsmart the king and save his disciple?

A: When the disciple is sentenced to death, the guru pretends that dying on the stake would bring great spiritual power and the next birth as a king. The foolish king and minister, greedy for this supposed reward, decide to die in their place. This clever trick saves the disciple.

 Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"This is no place for us. Let's leave this kingdom of fools right now," he said to his disciple.

Q1. Who says this and why? (1 mark)

A: The guru says this because he realizes the kingdom is ruled by foolish people.

Q2. What decision does the disciple make? (1 mark)

A: He decides to stay back for the cheap food.

Q3. What does this line reveal about the guru's character? (2 marks)

A: The guru is wise and can foresee danger. He values safety and logic over material comfort.

Extract 2:

"The merchant was very thin and weak. He couldn't be executed properly on the stake."

Q1. What problem did the king face here? (1 mark)

A: The merchant was too thin to fit the execution stake.

Q2. What foolish decision did the king make after this? (1 mark)

A: He ordered the execution of someone who fit the stake — the fat disciple.

Q3. What does this reveal about the king's sense of justice? (2 marks)

A: The king was completely illogical and valued rituals over real justice. He didn't care about guilt or innocence.

Extract 3:

"The guru and disciple ruled the kingdom wisely and changed all the foolish laws."

Q1. Why did the people ask the guru and disciple to stay and rule? (1 mark)

A: Because their king and minister were dead, and they trusted the guru and disciple.

Q2. What was the first change they made? (1 mark)

A: They abolished the foolish laws, including the day-night reversal.

Q3. What theme is reflected in this conclusion? (2 marks)

A: The theme of **wisdom triumphing over foolishness** and the importance of good leadership.

The Happy Prince

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answer)

Q1. Who is the author of *The Happy Prince*?

A: Oscar Wilde.

Q2. What was the statue of the Happy Prince covered with?

A: Thin gold leaves, sapphires for eyes, and a ruby on the hilt of his sword.

Q3. Why was the Happy Prince not really "happy"?

A: Because he could now see all the suffering and misery in his city.

Q4. Why did the Swallow stay back instead of going to Egypt?

A: To help the Happy Prince carry out his charitable deeds.

Q5. What happened to the Swallow at the end?

A: He died from the cold and exhaustion.

✓ 2-Mark Questions (Short Answer)

Q1. What does the Happy Prince see from his high pedestal?

A: He sees the misery, poverty, and suffering of the poor people in the city.

Q2. What did the Prince ask the Swallow to do for the seamstress?

A: To take the ruby from his sword and give it to her for her sick son.

Q3. How did the Prince help the playwright?

A: By sending him one of his sapphire eyes so he could buy food and firewood.

Q4. Why was the statue of the Happy Prince pulled down?

A: Because it was no longer beautiful — all its jewels and gold had been given away.

Q5. What is the significance of the broken heart of the Prince?

A: It symbolizes his deep compassion and love for humanity.

✓ 5-Mark Questions (Long Answer)

Q1. How did the Happy Prince and the Swallow help the poor in the city?

A: The Happy Prince saw the suffering of the poor and directed the Swallow to pluck out his ruby, sapphires, and gold leaf to help them. The Swallow carried these treasures to the needy — the seamstress, the playwright, and the match-girl — among others. Despite his own suffering, the Swallow stayed and helped until his death, showing the power of kindness and sacrifice.

Q2. What moral values does the story "The Happy Prince" teach us?

A: The story teaches the values of compassion, charity, and selflessness. It shows that real happiness comes from helping others, not from luxury or status. It also highlights that love and kindness are eternal and rewarded in the afterlife.

Q3. Describe the transformation of the Swallow's character in the story.

A: Initially, the Swallow is self-centered and focused on reaching Egypt. But his heart is touched by the Prince's compassion. He transforms into a kind, selfless bird who sacrifices his journey, comfort, and eventually his life to help the poor. His evolution from selfishness to sacrifice is a central theme of the story.

Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"When I was alive and had a human heart, I did not know what tears were... Now that I am dead, they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city."

Q1. Who is the speaker of these lines? (1 mark)

A: The Happy Prince (statue).

Q2. What change has occurred in him after death? (1 mark)

A: He has become aware of suffering and sorrow in the world.

Q3. What is the significance of his new position? (2 marks)

A: It gives him the ability to see beyond palace walls and understand real human suffering — leading to his transformation into a compassionate figure.

Extract 2:

"You are blind now," said the Swallow, "so I will stay with you always."

Q1. Why is the Prince blind? (1 mark)

A: Because he gave both his sapphire eyes to help the needy.

Q2. What does the Swallow decide? (1 mark)

A: To stay with the Prince instead of migrating to Egypt.

Q3. What does this reveal about the Swallow's character? (2 marks)

A: It shows his loyalty, compassion, and growing selflessness — he chooses love and kindness over his own safety.

Extract 3:

"Bring me the two most precious things in the city," said God to one of His angels. The angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

Q1. What are the "two most precious things"? (1 mark)

A: The lead heart of the Happy Prince and the dead Swallow.

Q2. Why did the angel choose them? (2 marks)

A: Because they represented true love, sacrifice, and compassion — the values God cherishes most.

Q3. What does this ending suggest? (2 marks)

A: That spiritual and moral values are more important than material beauty or wealth. True goodness is rewarded by God.

The Last Leaf

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answer)

Q1. Who is the author of The Last Leaf?

A: O. Henry.

Q2. What disease was Johnsy suffering from?

A: Pneumonia.

Q3. What did Johnsy link her life to?

A: The falling of the ivy leaves outside her window.

Q4. Who painted the last leaf?

A: Behrman.

Q5. What was Behrman's dream in life?

A: To paint a masterpiece.

 2-Mark Questions (Short Answer)

Q1. Why did Johnsy keep looking out of the window?

A: She believed that when the last ivy leaf fell, she would die too.

Q2. How did Sue try to encourage Johnsy?

A: By staying cheerful, distracting her with talk of art, and calling the doctor regularly.

Q3. Why did Behrman paint the leaf?

A: To give Johnsy hope and save her life by making her believe the last leaf hadn't fallen.

Q4. What happened to Behrman after painting the leaf?

A: He caught pneumonia in the cold and died two days later.

 5-Mark Questions (Long Answer)

Q1. Describe the character of Behrman and how he becomes a hero in the story.

A: Behrman is an old artist who lives downstairs from Sue and Johnsy. Though rough in appearance and speech, he has a kind heart. He has always dreamed of painting a masterpiece but never succeeded. However, when he sees Johnsy losing the will to live, he risks his life to paint a realistic ivy leaf during a stormy night. That leaf gives Johnsy hope and helps her recover. He dies of pneumonia, but his painted leaf becomes his true masterpiece — a symbol of **selfless love and sacrifice**.

Q2. What is the central theme of "The Last Leaf"?

A: The story deals with themes like **hope, sacrifice, and the power of art**. It shows how a small act of kindness can change someone's life. Behrman's selfless act saves Johnsy, proving that true art and humanity come from love and sacrifice.

Q3. How does the story reflect the importance of hope in overcoming illness?

A: Johnsy had mentally accepted death and refused to fight her illness. But when she sees the last leaf never falling, she begins to believe in life again. That hope becomes stronger than medicine. The story shows that **a hopeful attitude is essential to recovery**, and that belief can bring strength even in the darkest moments.

 Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"When the last leaf falls, I will die," she said with finality.

Q1. Who is 'she'? (1 mark)

A: Johnsy.

Q2. What does the last leaf symbolize for her? (1 mark)

A: Her life — she believes her life will end when the last leaf falls.

Q3. What does this sentence show about her mental state? (2 marks)

A: She has given up hope and believes in superstition rather than medicine. She is depressed and has lost the will to live.

Extract 2:

"It is the last one. I thought it would surely fall during the night. I heard the wind. It will fall today and I shall die at the same time."

Q1. What is 'it' in this line? (1 mark)

A: The last leaf on the ivy creeper.

Q2. What does the speaker expect? (1 mark)

A: That the leaf will fall and she will die.

Q3. What literary device is used in linking her death to the leaf? (2 marks)

A: Symbolism – the leaf represents Johnsy's life. When it stays, so does her life.

Extract 3:

"Ah, darling, it's Behrman's masterpiece – he painted it there the night the last leaf fell."

Q1. Who says this and to whom? (1 mark)

A: Sue says this to Johnsy.

Q2. What is the 'masterpiece'? (1 mark)

A: The leaf Behrman painted on the wall.

Q3. Why is it called a masterpiece? (2 marks)

A: Because it was realistic enough to fool Johnsy and gave her the will to live — the greatest impact an artwork could have.

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answer)

Q1. Who is the author of *A House is Not a Home*?

A: Zan Gaudio.

Q2. What disaster struck the author's house?

A: A fire.

Q3. What precious pet did Zan lose during the fire?

A: Her cat.

Q4. What kind of school had Zan recently joined?

A: A high school.

Q5. How did Zan feel at the new school initially?

A: Lonely and uncomfortable.

☑ 2-Mark Questions (Short Answer)

Q1. Why was Zan unhappy at her new school?

A: She missed her old friends and found it difficult to adjust to the new environment. She felt like an outsider.

Q2. What did Zan lose in the fire?

A: Her home, belongings, clothes, books, and her cat.

Q3. How did the new school community help her?

A: They brought her school supplies, clothes, and offered emotional support, making her feel accepted.

Q4. What changed Zan's view about her new school?

A: The kindness and support from her classmates and teachers helped her feel connected and accepted.

☑ 5-Mark Questions (Long Answer)

Q1. Explain the significance of the title "*A House is Not a Home*."

A: The story highlights that a **house** is merely a building, but a **home** is where one feels **loved, supported, and emotionally secure**. Initially, Zan felt isolated at her new school and devastated after the fire. But the kindness of her

classmates and the return of her cat helped her realize that **home is about people and emotional connection**, not just physical structures.

Q2. How did the loss of her house affect Zan emotionally?

A: She felt **devastated and lost**, especially since she was already emotionally unsettled due to her new school. Losing her personal belongings and cat made her feel like she had lost her identity. However, she slowly began to heal due to the compassion and support she received.

Q3. How does the story reflect the theme of **empathy and kindness**?

A: The story shows how the students and teachers at Zan's new school offered help without being asked. Their small acts of generosity helped her cope with her trauma and find a sense of belonging. It teaches that **simple acts of kindness can make a huge difference** in someone's life.

Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"I had no clothes, no books, no homework — it was like starting from scratch."

Q1. Why did the speaker have nothing left? (1 mark)

A: Because her house burned down in a fire.

Q2. What does "starting from scratch" mean here? (1 mark)

A: Beginning life all over again, with nothing.

Q3. What feelings are expressed in this line? (2 marks)

A: Feelings of **loss, despair, and helplessness** after the fire.

Extract 2:

"They made me feel that everything would be okay."

Q1. Who are 'they' in this sentence? (1 mark)

A: The students and staff at her new school.

Q2. What did they do to help? (1 mark)

A: They gave her school supplies, clothes, and emotional support.

Q3. What does this show about the power of community? (2 marks)

A: It shows that even strangers, through kindness and empathy, can provide **emotional healing and a sense of belonging**.

Extract 3:

"It was like the only thing that made sense in all the chaos."

Q1. What is 'it' referred to here? (1 mark)

A: The return of her cat.

Q2. What kind of chaos is being referred to? (1 mark)

A: The emotional and physical destruction caused by the house fire.

Q3. What does this line reveal about the speaker's emotional state? (2 marks)

A: It reveals her deep **longing for comfort and normalcy**, and how the return of her cat gave her hope and peace.

The Beggar

1-Mark Questions (Very Short Answer)

Q1. Who is the author of *The Beggar*?

A: Anton Chekhov.

Q2. What was Lushkoff's former profession?

A: A schoolteacher.

Q3. What lie did Lushkoff tell Sergei?

A: That he was a student and needed work.

Q4. Who actually chopped the wood for Lushkoff?

A: Olga, Sergei's cook.

Q5. What job did Lushkoff eventually get?

A: A notary (a legal clerk).

2-Mark Questions (Short Answer)

Q1. Why did Sergei decide to help Lushkoff despite his lies?

A: Sergei believed in giving people a chance to change and felt that honest work could reform Lushkoff.

Q2. What role did Olga play in Lushkoff's transformation?

A: Olga chopped the wood for Lushkoff and scolded him, but her kindness and silent help moved him and sparked his change.

Q3. How did Lushkoff express his gratitude?

A: He admitted the truth to Sergei and said that Olga's actions helped him regain his dignity and become a better man.

Q4. What does the story suggest about the impact of compassion?

A: It shows that quiet acts of compassion, like Olga's, can transform lives more effectively than lectures or punishments.

5-Mark Questions (Long Answer)

Q1. How does Lushkoff transform from a beggar to a respectable man?

A: Lushkoff starts as a dishonest beggar, but Sergei offers him honest work instead of charity. Though he doesn't do the work himself, Olga, the cook, quietly does it for him. Her compassion and unspoken support deeply affect Lushkoff, making him feel ashamed and inspired to change. Over time, he quits drinking and works hard, eventually becoming a notary. His transformation shows the power of silent kindness.

Q2. Contrast the personalities of Sergei and Olga.

A: **Sergei** is rational, just, and wants to help through moral lessons and work. He believes in reforming through dignity. **Olga**, though appearing gruff, is deeply compassionate. She doesn't preach but shows kindness through action — quietly doing Lushkoff's work. Her silent empathy has a greater impact than Sergei's words.

Q3. What is the message of *The Beggar* by Anton Chekhov?

A: The story teaches that **true change** comes from inner realization, often triggered by **kindness and empathy**. It shows that **compassion**, even when expressed silently, can deeply impact a person's heart and life. Also, **dignity of labour** and **second chances** are crucial to rebuilding self-respect.

Extract-Based Questions

Extract 1:

"I am a sick man and have nothing to eat. I have been wandering for three days without food."

Q1. Who is speaking here? (1 mark)

A: Lushkoff.

Q2. Is the speaker telling the truth? (1 mark)

A: No, he is lying to gain sympathy and money.

Q3. What does this tell us about the speaker's character at the beginning? (2 marks)

A: He is dishonest and manipulative but also desperate and possibly ashamed.

Extract 2:

"It was Olga who saved me. She is the real reason I changed."

Q1. Who says this and to whom? (1 mark)

A: Lushkoff says this to Sergei.

Q2. What does this confession reveal? (1 mark)

A: That Olga's silent help and compassion truly changed him.

Q3. What lesson does this part of the story teach? (2 marks)

A: That **empathy and silent actions** can have a more lasting effect than lectures or punishment.

Themes in "The Beggar"

- **Compassion and Empathy**
- **Transformation and Redemption**
- **Dignity of Labour**
- **Power of Silent Support**
- **Second Chances**

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