

My First Teacher

Comprehension

I. Answer the following question:

1. Which is the most important day in the author's life? Which two lives does it connect?

Ans: The most important day in the author's life is one on which her teacher Anne Mansfield Sullivan came to her. The two lives it connects is the life before her teacher came and the life after her teacher.

2. How did the author guess that something unusual was about to happen?

Ans: The author guessed that something unusual was about to happen from her mother's sign of hurrying to and fro in the house.

3. Why was the author filled with anger and bitterness?

Ans: The author was filled with anger and bitterness because she was helpless. She could not see or hear anything.

4. How does the author describe her feelings before her education began?

Ans: The author says that her life was also like a ship before her education began. Without compass or sounding line and have no way of knowing how near the harbour is.

5. Who had sent the doll to the author? Who dressed it? Why did she come to know of it only afterwards?

Ans: The little blind children at the Perkins Institution had sent the doll and Laura Bridgman had dressed it. She came to know only afterwards because she could not see or hear.

6. Why do you think the author felt no love for the doll and was rather delighted when she broke it?

Ans: The author had not loved the doll because in the still dark world in which she lived there were no strong sentiments or tenderness.

7. How was the mystery of language revealed to the author?

Ans: The author's teacher placed her hand under the spout. The cool water gushed over one hand she spelled into the other word 'w-a-t-e-r' she knew water means the wonderful cool something that was flowing over her hand and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to her.

8. Why did the author feel that she saw everything with a strange new sight?

Ans: As she returned to her house, every object which she touched seemed to quiver with life. That was because the author saw everything with the strange new sight.

9. What made the author feel repentance and sorrow? Why couldn't she feel it before?

Ans: The author remembered the doll which she had broken and tried to put them together it was then that she realised what she had done it for the first time and felt repentance and sorrow. She couldn't feel this before because she was not aware of these things she felt her life was full of darkness.

10. How had the author's attitude to life changed after she realised that everything has a name?

Ans: When the author realised that everything has a name, her attitude towards life changed it gave her joy light of hope the living words awakened her soul.

11. What obstacle did the author and Miss. Sullivan face in the beginning?

Ans: As long as author and Miss. Sullivan didn't understand each other they had obstacles at the beginning. The author became impatient at her repeated attempts but later she was delighted that she was no more in the dark world.

12. How did Miss. Sullivan succeed in revealing the mystery of language to the author?

Ans: Miss Sullivan had succeeded in revealing the mystery of language to the author. She knew then that 'water' meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over her hand. That living word awakened her soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free.

13. What was the strange, new sight that the author had experienced?

Ans: The strange, new sight that the author had experienced was that everything had a name, and each name gave birth to a new thought.

Be a Grammarian

II. Write the correct past forms of the following sentences.

2. It had been hot.

3. We could have rented a car.

4. I had done the laundry.

5. She had made some delicious cookies.

The Night We Won the Buick

Comprehension

I. Answer the following question:

1. How does the young boy describe his family's condition? What was the source of great shame for him?

Ans: The young boy's father was a clerk in the cage of a stock-and-bound. Half of his family went for the support and medical expenses of the illness of his very poor relatives. His house was mortgaged completely and on some winters their groceries were bought on credit. The source of great shame for him was that they did not own a car.

2. How did the mother console the family? How did she make the house look charming?

Ans: Mother console the family by saying, "if you have character you have the better part of wealth. Living on little develops inner resource and builds a spiritual bank account." She used a few metres of bright chintz and little paint in the right place to make the house look charming.

3. "I made it to home in record time."

a) Who is "I" here?

Ans: 'I' here is referred to the author.

b) How did he come home in record time?

Ans: he ran very fast and reached home in record time.

4. Why was the boy shocked?

Ans: The boy was shocked seeing his father so tensed instead of celebrating.

5. What was the ethical problem that the father was struggling with?

Ans: The car that the father won was not theirs since the father had bought two tickets and the tickets he bought on Kendrick name won, so he was struggling with an ethical problem to take the right decision.

6. What was marked on the raffle stub 348? What did it stand for? Why was it marked so?

Ans: Letter 'K' was dimly marked in pencil on one corner of the raffle stub. It stood for 'Kendrick' it was marked because it was bought in the name of Kendrick.

7. To the young boy, why was it an open and shut case? Was this opinion because he had no regard for ethical values or because he badly wanted his family to have a car?

Ans: To the young boy it was an open and shut case, because just as the case opens and shuts immediately the same way they won the car but the car did not belong to them. This opinion was because he badly wanted his family to own a car.

8. When did the family finally own a car?

Ans: The family finally own a car until after the author was grown up.

9. When did the boy realise that they were never richer than that moment when his family made the telephone call to Kendrick's?

Ans: The boy knew that as his father was honest man he would tell the truth and Kendrick would take away the car so he realised that after the phone call made by his father they were never richer.

10. Describe the boy's father and mother?

Ans: The boy's father and mother believed in good characters. They were very honest. Their better part of wealth was their inner resources and spiritual bank account was their character and not their wealth.

The Three Questions

Comprehension

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of person was King John? Why did he get the Abbot of Canterbury arrested?

Ans: King John was a selfish person. Abbot of Canterbury was leading a luxurious life so he arrested him.

2. What were the three questions that the king asked Abbot? How many days were granted to find the answer?

Ans: 1) "tell me how much I am worth"

2) "How long will it take for me to go around the world?"

3) "What am I thinking now?"

Three days were granted to find the answer of this question.

3. What did Abbot do to try to find the answer?

Ans: Abbot went into Oxford and Cambridge Universities. He met great professors and learned men to find the answer.

4. How did the shepherd convince the Abbot to let him go in his place?

Ans: The shepherd said to Abbot to let him go in his place, since he resembled him. He would wear his dress and cover his head with cowl. He said that he would answer the three questions of the king to satisfy him.

5. What was the first question and what was the shepherd's answer?

Ans: The first question was "What am I worth?". Shepherd replied, "You are worth exactly 29 silver coins."

6. What was the second question and what answer did the shepherd give? Did it satisfy the king?

Ans: The second question was, “How soon can I ride around the world.” The shepherd replied, “Your Majesty you must rise with the sun early in the morning and ride with it till the next sunrise. In this way, you will be able to go around the world in twenty four hours.” Yes, the king was satisfied with the answer.

7. What was the third question and what was the shepherd’s answer?

Ans: The third question was, “What am I thinking now?” The shepherd replied, “Your Majesty you are thinking I am the Abbot but I am not I am only the poor shepherd. I have to ask pardon for the Abbot and for myself.”

8. How was the shepherd rewarded?

Ans: The king rewarded the shepherd by giving him a pound a week as long as he lived and he forgave his master the Abbot too.

9. Do you think the shepherd was granted pardon for taking the place of his Abbot because of his wit or was he just lucky that King John saw the humorous side of the whole situation?

Ans: The shepherd was lucky that King John saw the humorous side of the whole situation.

II. Write true or false.

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. True

Be a Grammarian

I. Degrees of Adjectives

1. Taller
2. Smaller
3. More junior
4. More difficult
5. More difficult

II. Comparatives adjectives are used to express characteristics of one thing in comparison to another thing (one thing). It makes comparison between two things (only two things not more than two things).

1. Richest
2. Most beautiful
3. Highest
4. Tallest
5. Most modern
6. Biggest
7. Hottest

My Elder Brother

Learning words

Match the following words with their opposites:

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. E

Comprehension

I. Answer the following question:

1. Why was the elder brother only three grades ahead of the narrator in spite of being five years older than him?

Ans: The elder brother had failed two times so he was three grades ahead of the narrator in spite of being five years older than him.

2. “He wanted to lay a firm foundation for that edifice. So he took two years to do one year’s work, sometimes he even took three.”

a. What does the above sentence mean?

b. Is the narrator implying that his elder brother chose to repeat in the same grade? Explain.

Ans: a) The above sentence means he failed in the same class for 2 years.

b) The narrator's elder brother did not choose to repeat in the same grade it was his luck which was not favouring him.

3. What is the elder brother's attitude towards studies?

Ans: The elder brother killed himself with hard work memorising every word of the course. He used every ounce of his energy in studies.

4. What is the narrator's attitude towards studies?

Ans: The narrator spent most of his time in playing. He was not at all serious about his studies.

5. Why is it that in spite of devoting all his time to studies, the elder brother kept failing while the younger brother passed with first division in spite of his distaste for books?

Ans: In spite of his devotion towards studies the elder brother kept failing might be because of his over confidence or might be his method of learning was not a right one.

6. What changes came in the narrator as he found himself only one grade lower than his elder brother?

Ans: When the narrator found himself one grade lower than his elder brother, his feelings of independence grew. He began to take advantage to his tolerance as a result the little he studied too stopped. He found his pleasure in playing and flying kites.

7. Why was a new respect developed in the narrator's heart for his elder brother?

Ans: When the elder brother opened his views about life, the respect he had for his parents for their experience of the world and love he had for his brother, developed new respect in the narrator's heart for his elder brother.

8. Why couldn't the elder brother play kites even though he wanted to?

Ans: The elder brother wanted to be an example to his brother he was not against flying kites he was also tempted but he was helpless.

II. Tick the correct option:

1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. C
7. A

Be a Grammarian

II. Now correct the following sentences.

1. I burnt myself on the stove this morning.
2. You can help yourself to drink.
3. He blames himself for the accident.
4. After I got up I washed myself.
5. Have you hurt yourself?
6. I found myself unable to speak.
7. The company has got itself into difficulties.
8. The only people there were ourselves.

Fire and Ice

Comprehension

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What are the opinions that people hold regarding the world's end?

Ans: The opinion that people hold regarding the world's end is that it will end in fire or ice.

2. What does the poet compares with fire?

Ans: The poet compares fire with ice.

3. Why does the poet thinks the world may end in fire?

Ans: The poet thinks the world may end due to fire because there is so much of desire in man.

4. What does the poet compare ice with?

Ans: The poet compares ice with hate.

5. Why does he think that the world may be destroyed by ice?

Ans: He thinks that the world may be destroyed by ice because there is so much of hatred in people.

6. Does the poet have personal experiences of the destructive power of desire and hate? If yes, which lines in the poem suggest this?

Ans: Yes, the lines from "What I've tasted of desire" and "I think enough of hate" suggest this line.

7. What is the message contained in this poem?

Ans: The intension and meaning behind the poem is a basic desire on poet's part to warn against what he sees as the two greatest problems facing humanity.

II. Tick the correct option:

1. C
2. A
3. B

Be a Grammarian

II. Complete the following sentences with will or would:

1. Would
2. Would not
3. Would not
4. Will
5. Will
6. Would not
7. Would
8. Will
9. Would
10. Would