

NCERT English Literature Textbook Solutions



Class 9

Chapter 1
How I Taught My Grandmother

4. (a) The grandmother could relate to the central character of the story '*Kashi Yatre*' as _____.
- (i) both were old and uneducated
 - (ii) both had granddaughters who read to them
 - (iii) both had a strong desire to visit Kashi
 - (iv) both were determined to learn to read

Answer

- (iii) both had a strong desire to visit Kashi

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- (b) Why did the women at the temple discuss the latest episode of '*Kashi Yatre*'?
- (i) to pass their time
 - (ii) the writer, Triveni, was very popular
 - (iii) they could relate with the protagonist of the serial
 - (iv) women have a habit of discussing serials

Answer

- (ii) the writer, Triveni, was very popular

- (c) The granddaughter found her grandmother in tears on her

return as _____.

- (i) the grandmother had been unable to read the story 'Kashi Yatre' on her own
- (ii) the grandmother had felt lonely
- (iii) the grandmother wanted to accompany her granddaughter
- (iv) she was sad she could not visit Kashi

Answer

(i) the grandmother had been unable to read the story '*Kashi Yatre*' on her own

(d) Why did the grandmother touch her granddaughter's feet?

- (i) As a mark of respect to her teacher
- (ii) It was a custom in their family
- (iii) Girls should be respected
- (iv) She had read the story of 'Kashi Yatre' to her

Answer

(i) As a mark of respect to her teacher

5. (a) What made Triveni a popular writer?

Answer

Triveni was a popular writer because of her style of writing was very easy-to-understand and also convincing. Moreover, she

used to write on the complex psychological problems in the lives of common people which was another reason of her popularity.

(b) Why did the grandmother depend on her granddaughter to know the story?

Answer

The Grandmother depended on her granddaughter to know the story for two reasons. The first one was that she did not go to school and hence she couldn't read. The second one that she was too embarrassed to ask anyone else.

(c) Pick out two sentences which state that the grandmother was desperate to know what happened in the story.

Answer

- 1) I waited eagerly to written.
- 2) I even taught off going to the village and asking you to read for me.

(d) Could the grandmother succeed in accomplishing her desire to read? How?

Answer

Yes, The grandmother succeed in accomplishing her desire to

teach her to read as she wanted to be independent so she said a deadline for herself and with determination she learnt the Kannada alphabet when she was 62 years old.

(e) Which of the following traits would be relevant to the character of the narrator's grandmother?

(i) determined

(ii) selfish

(iii) emotional

(iv) mean

Give reasons for your choice.

Answer

(i) determined

* Give reasons for your choice.

The grandmother was indomitable and sincere to learn the Kannada alphabet. She set *Saraswati Pooja* as the deadline to accomplish her resolution. “Avva was a wonderful student” as the narrator tells in the story. She not just used to do her homework with all her sincerity but even used to read, repeat, write and recite. She was determined to be independent and wanted to be literate. She always regretted not being educated and thus with the help of her granddaughter she learnt to read and write Kannada alphabet and even received the novel *Kashi Yatre* as a reward from her granddaughter.

Chapter 2

A Dog Named Duke

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4. (a) With reference to Hooper, the author says, "*Every thing was going for him*", What does it imply?

- (i) He had everything that a man aspires for.
- (ii) People admired him.
- (iii) He did what he wanted.
- (iv) He was capable of playing games.

Answer

(i) He had everything that a man aspires for.

(b) Duke never jumped on Chuck again because

_____.

- (i) Duke was paralysed and unable to jump
- (ii) Chuck was angry with Duke for jumping at him
- (iii) Duke realized that Chuck was not well and could not balance himself
- (iv) Marcy did not allow Duke to come near Chuck

Answer

(iii) Duke realised that Chuck was not well and could not balance himself.

(c) The author says that Duke '*knew his job*'. The job was

_____.

- (i) to look after Chuck
- (ii) to get Chuck on his feet
- (iii) to humour Chuck
- (iv) to guard the house

Answer

(ii) to get Chuck on his feet

(d) " _____ *even Duke's presence didn't reach Chuck* ". Why?

- (i) Duke was locked in his kennel and Chuck couldn't see him.
- (ii) Duke hid himself behind the bed post.
- (iii) Duke had come to know that Hooper was not well.
- (iv) Hooper was lost in his own grief and pain.

Answer

(iv) Hooper was lost in his own grief and pain.

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5. (a) In 1953, Hooper was a favoured young man. Explain.

Answer

In 1953, Hooper was a favoured young man. Standing Six-foot-one, he'd played on the university football team. He was already a hard-charging zone sales manager for a Chemical company.

(b) They said that they would create a desk job for Hooper at headquarters.

(i) Who are 'they'?

(ii) Why did they decide to do this?

Answer

(i) 'They' refer to the seniors of Hooper who were working for the same chemical company Hooper used to work for.

(ii) Hooper had met with an accident and was critically ill suffering from a subdural haemorrhage. He remained on the critical list for a month. After five weeks when the men from his office came to visit him, they told him that they would create a desk job for him at headquarters because they knew his left side was completely paralyzed and he would not be able to move around.

(c) Duke was an extraordinary dog. What special qualities did he exhibit to justify this? Discuss.

Answer

Duke was an extra-ordinary dog with special qualities, when chuck came from the hospital, Duke jumped on him and he knew instantly that he was never to jump on him again. From that movement he took up a post behind master's bed around the cloak. Duke encouraged his master to get up by poking his nose under Chuck's elbow and lifting it up. He also nudged, needled and snorted. Finally chuck and duke began walking together with Duke pulling at the leash and holding taught so that Chuck could be supported and he could be supported and he could take one

step forward. What began as one step at a time culminated in Chuck walking by himself.

(d) What problems did Chuck present when he returned to the company headquarters?

Answer

Chucks moving back to the company's headquarters presented several tough problems. Looking at the way he had fought to get back to his normal life, no one had the heart to tell him that he would not be able to handle his old job. Yet it was impossible to work as a salesman if you can't move about and can work for just one hour in a day.

(e) Why do you think Charles Hooper's appointment as Assistant National Sales Manager is considered to be a tribute to Duke?

Answer

Charles Hooper's appointment as assistant national sales manager is considered to be a tribute to Duke because just as Duke helped chuck to walk again step by step Chuck's appointment advanced the objectors of the company step by step.

Chapter 3
The Man Who Knew Too Much

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3. The 'Professor' knew too much. How did he prove himself? Fill up the space with suitable examples from the story, using the given clues:

- (a) about muzzle velocity:
- (b) after a thirty mile walk:
- (c) his salute on payday:
- (d) the loud sound of a high flying invisible aeroplane:
- (e) about hand grenades:
- (f) during cook house duties:

Answer

(a) Once a Sergeant was describing the mechanism of a service rifle, “The muzzle velocity or speed at which the bullet leaves the rifle is well over two thousand feet per second.” On this, The Professor interrupted and corrected the Sergeant, “Two thousand, four hundred and forty feet per second.

(b) he Professor drilled with enthusiasm and on route marches he was not only miraculously tireless but also extremely hearty and enthusiastic. At the end of a thirty miles walk he would ask the others if they would like to sing a song much to the chagrin of his colleagues.

(c) The Professor's salute at the pay table was a model to behold. Whenever there were officers in sight he would swing his skinny arms and march to the canteen like a Guardsman.

(d) The soldiers used to pride themselves on aircraft recognition. Once, while all were out for a walk, they heard the drone of a plane flying overhead. The sun was glaring and none of them could see the plane. But The Professor didn't need even a sight of the plane and announced, "That of course, is a North American Harvard Trainer. It can be unmistakably identified by the harsh engine note, due to the high tip speed of the airscrew." The rest felt like louts and felt out of place with Private Quelch.

(e) One afternoon Corporal Turnbull was taking a session on hand grenades. The Corporal began by telling about how the outside of a grenade is divided up into a large number of fragments to assist segmentation. However, The Professor interrupted by pointing out with the exact number of fragments, which was 44, and went on suggesting that Corporal should have started his lecture by first explaining the five characteristics of the grenade. In reaction the Corporal let Quelch take the lecture. After The Professor was through and all had fallen in, Corporal Turnbull assigned Private Quelch, the permanent cookhouse duties. Of course, it was a joke for days afterwards; a joke and joy to talents.

(f) The Professor was assigned by Corporal Turnbull for 'permanent cook house duties'. One day while the narrator and his friend Trower were returning from the canteen to their own hut, they saw through the open door three cooks standing against the wall as if at bay. From within they heard the monotonous yet familiar voice of the Professor .He was criticizing the cooks for their abominably unscientific and unhygienic method of peeling potatoes. According to him it was a sure waste of the vitamin value of the potatoes.

4. Based on your reading of the story, answer the following questions by choosing the correct options.

(a) Private Quelch was nick-named 'Professor' because of _____.

- (i) his appearance
- (ii) his knowledge
- (iii) his habit of reading
- (iv) his habit of sermonising

Answer

(iv) his habit of sermonising

(b) One could *hammer nails* into Corporal Turnbull without his noticing it because _____.

- (i) he was a strong and sturdy man
- (ii) he was oblivious to his surroundings
- (iii) he was a brave corporal
- (iv) he was used to it

Answer

(i) he was a strong and sturdy man

(c) The author and his friend Trower fled from the scene as _____.

(i) they had to catch a train

- (ii) they could not stand Private Quelch exhibiting his knowledge
- (iii) they felt they would have to lend a helping hand
- (iv) they did not want to meet the cooks

Answer

(ii) they could not stand Private Quelch exhibiting his knowledge

5. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) What is a 'nickname'? Can you suggest another one for Private Quelch?

Answer

A nickname is a name that may be given to somebody in addition to the person's actual name. This nickname may represent the person's unique traits or his intellect.

'Mr. Knowledgeable' could be another one for Private Quelch as he had knowledge of all the things by heart.

(b) Private Quelch looked like a 'Professor' when the author first met him at the training depot. Why?

Answer

Private Quelch was a lanky, stooping man who frowned through horn rimmed spectacles and so was nick named 'Professor'.

(c) What does the dark, sun-dried appearance of the Sergeant suggest about him?

Answer

The Sergeant was as dark and sun-dried as raisins. He wore North-West Frontier Ribbons. He was to deliver a lecture on the mechanism of a service rifle. His appearance spoke much about him. He appeared to be a man who had dedicated his whole youth serving army. His ribbons reflected valour and gallantry. He was not a man to be fooled around or impressed easily, a man not to be incited with anger.

(d) How was Private Quelch's knowledge exposed even further as the Sergeant's classes went on?

Answer

Quelch not only corrected sergeant's knowledge of the rifle but he could answer all the questions directed towards him. He was particularly very good with technical definitions.

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(e) What did the Professor mean by "intelligent reading"?

Answer

By "intelligent reading" the Professor means to do a thorough study and have all knowledge available on a particular subject. For instance, if one is studying about 'the mechanism of a service rifle', one must know every detail-technical definitions, the parts of the rifle, its uses and care, muzzle velocity everything by heart.

(f) What were the Professor's ambitions in the army?

Answer

Professor Quelch wanted to race ahead of all his batch in getting commission. His first step was to get a stripe.

(g) Did Private Quelch's day to day practices take him closer towards his goal? How can you make out?

Answer

Quelch was highly ambitious, very diligent, brainy but his strategy to impress his instructors, backfired. In pursuit of showing off his own knowledge, he irritated and tried to belittle his instructors. He rudely interrupted them in front of the squad and exhibited his knowledge. No wonder he is relegated to the back quarters of the kitchen house.

(h) Describe Corporal Turnbull.

Answer

Corporal Turnbull had a great reputation of being tough and was not the one to be rubbed the wrong way. The squad were in awe of him and it was believed that one could hammer nails into him



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