**STD 6 The story of amber beads**

**Value: ‘If we truly love nature, we will find beauty everywhere.’**

**Q.1 Answer the following.**

**a. Give reasons to show that Nature, like a Mother, is**

**i. active:We know that Mother Nature is active like a mother because she takes care of all the different life forms on earth, all at the same time. From taking care of a sick tree or a flower to guiding the steps of newborns of all species, she is everywhere at once.**

**ii. strong: We know Mother Nature is strong because she never stops caring for all the organisms on earth, even while constantly sweeping, dusting, building and rearranging her ‘house’ which is planet Earth.**

**iii. interesting: We know that Mother Nature is interesting because even in the middle of all her work, she is able to tell the most marvellous stories about the distant past and all the many treasures hidden all over the earth.**

**b. What was the one treasure that Jeanie possessed? How did she come to own it?**

**Ans: The one treasure that Jeanie possessed was a string of amber beads. Her grandfather had carved the beads himself when he was young, and gifted the necklace to his bride, Jeanie’s grandmother. She had left the necklace to Jeanie when she died.**

**c. What was special about the beads of the necklace?**

**Ans: What made the beads of the necklace special was that each bead had inside it a tiny, fossilized insect or piece of ancient moss.**

**d. How did old Kenneth manage to fashion the necklace?**

**Ans: Old Kenneth had fashioned the necklace out of a lump of amber that he found on the beach. He had worked carefully to save the prettiest insects and pieces of moss inside the beads.**

**e. What brought amber to the shore?**

**Ans: The amber in Jeanie’s beads had been formed a long time ago when Nature was young, in the forests of Northern Scotland. These mountains had been submerged under the sea, perhaps several times over. Lying at the bottom of the ocean, the amber had hardened like stone. It was eventually churned up from the sandy floor of the ocean by a storm. It was one of those storms that brought amber to the seashore, where it was found by Jeanie’s grandfather.**

**Critical thinking**

**1. The story is set in Scotland. State at least three instances to prove this.**

**Ans: We know that the story is set in Scotland because we are told that the protagonist Jeanie is a little Scottish girl who lives in the Highlands, and that we must remember to spell her name in the Scottish way with an ‘ea’. Later in the text we are told that the amber in Jeannie’s beads was found by her grandfather Kenneth, who was in love with a Scottish girl from the Highlands. Finally, we are told the story of how amber came to be found by Kenneth, by Mother Nature herself, who says that the lump of amber came from the sticky gum of pine trees in the Scottish Highlands.**

**2. Jeanie was a young girl with limited means. Do you think she was happy? Why/why not?**

**Ans: Yes, I think Jeanie must be happy even though she has limited means. The story gives us a glimpse of a simple life with a small family, living close to nature and animals. Jeanie’s father is a shepherd, and she works with her mother to cook, sew, spin and weave. She must have been loved too by her grandmother who left her treasured amber beads to Jeanie. The story gives the impression of a simple but happy life lived close to nature.**

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**HOD PRINCIPAL**