

3. I Remember, I Remember

(a) Text-based Multiple Choice Questions

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| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (d) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) |
| 6. (c) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) | 9. (b) | 10. (b) |

(b) Comprehension Passages

PASSAGE 1

- (i) The poet recalls his childhood in nostalgic mood. He laments the loss of his childhood as he feels the childhood period is a blissful period without cares and worries while the adulthood is full of stress and tension.
- (ii) The sun is presented as a living being. The memory of the window of his house through which it (the sun) would peep and wake him up punctually is associated with it.
- (iii) The poet wishes that he should have died in his childhood, as that would have prevented him from experiencing so much tension and stress of adulthood.
- (iv) The poet compares and contrasts the two periods of his life. His childhood was full of cheerfulness and freedom while his adulthood is full of despair, tension and boredom.
- (v) The poet views swinging in his childhood an act of sheer ecstasy and freedom. The rush of air he felt on his face then was as fresh as it must have been to the flying swallows.

PASSAGE 2

- (i) The poet has wished that he should have died in his childhood, because that was the only time when he was absolutely happy and tension free.
- (ii) Flowers, as seen by the poet in his childhood, looked so bright and dazzling as if they were made of light itself.

- (iii) Laburnum is a small tree with hanging bunches of yellow flowers. A laburnum was planted by the poet's brother. The poet feels excited that laburnum was still 'alive'.
- (iv) The poet's thrill as he moved on a swing in his childhood reminds us of childhood being a period of freedom.
- (v) The poet refers to the fir tree tops because in childhood he used to think that these tree tops were very close to the sky. That 'childish ignorance' he has lost at the cost of his so-called wisdom in his adulthood.

PASSAGE 3

- (i) The poet's brother planted a laburnum on his birthday. That the plant was still living after many years was a matter of excitement to the poet.
- (ii) On the swing the poet as a child would feel ecstatic, thrilled and free.
- (iii) In childhood, one is totally happy, excited, curious and free from all cares and worries. In adulthood, one is full of tensions, anxieties and apprehensions. In childhood one is ignorant. In adulthood one gains knowledge but loses natural cheerfulness and flights of fancy.
- (iv) In adulthood the poet's life is full of the fever of cares and worries, which no cool waters in the summer pools can bring down. In other words, adulthood cares and worries are inevitable and cannot be done away with.
- (v) Yes, the poet wants to escape from the present harsh realities because he always feels tense and worried.

PASSAGE 4

- (i) The poet recalls his childhood in a sentimental and nostalgic state of mind. The cares and worries of adulthood has made him nostalgic about his childhood when life was quite cheerful and carefree.
- (ii) The childhood viewpoint was that the tops of fir trees were so tall as to touch the sky.
- (iii) The poet views his adult wisdom no better than his childhood ignorance. With his so-called wisdom he now finds himself more distant from heaven than he was in his boyhood.
- (iv) The poet finds little joy in the realization that now as a grown man he is more distant from God than he was as a boy.
- (v) The rhyme scheme used here is abcbdefe.