

3. The Girl Who Can

1. Text-based Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

- | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. <i>c</i> | 2. <i>a</i> | 3. <i>b</i> | 4. <i>c</i> | 5. <i>c</i> |
| 6. <i>d</i> | 7. <i>c</i> | 8. <i>b</i> | 9. <i>c</i> | 10. <i>d</i> |
| 11. <i>b</i> | 12. <i>c</i> | 13. <i>d</i> | 14. <i>c</i> | 15. <i>b</i> |

2. Comprehension Passages

PASSAGE-1

- (i) In the first sentence of the extract, a contrast is made between the fertile land of the narrator's village and the land facing long spells of drought in rest of Africa.
- (ii) The speaker's name is Adjoa. She is not much aware of the problems one has to face in life. She lives in Africa in a village named Hasodzi.
- (iii) Nana is the mother of the narrator's mother *i.e.*, her grandmother. She seems to be an authoritative woman.
- (iv) The narrator thinks that her not finishing the food encourages her grandmother to make the comment about her not being aware of the problems of life. Her grandmother makes this comment as she knows how much of the land in Africa is not fertile.
- (v) This story is about the part of Africa which is comparatively fertile and prosperous. The story is set in a village named Hasodzi. The peculiar thing about this region is that it is not facing droughts like other parts of Africa.

PASSAGE-2

- (i) The narrator is talking about her problem of thinking the things but being unable to express them. It is a problem for her as she is just seven years of age.

- (ii) She does not know whether she should speak out what she thinks or remain silent. It is the dilemma she is facing as she knows if she speaks out she will be laughed at by the people.
- (iii) The general attitude of the elders to the problems of the youngsters is that of indifference. It is very difficult for the youngsters to make the elders take their problems seriously.
- (iv) It has not been easy for Adjoa to deal with Nana. She either asks Adjoa never to repeat what she has said or laughs away Adjoa's concerns.
- (v) Nana points out that Adjoa has thin legs. Nana considers it a weakness in Adjoa.

PASSAGE-3

- (i) Adjoa's mother and grandmother sometimes laugh a lot at certain things she says repeatedly. It confuses her as she does not know the reason of their laughing so much over such things.
- (ii) She is forbidden to repeat some of the things she says. Her grandmother forbids her to say these things.
- (iii) The surprising thing or habit of the elders that the narrator refers to is related to their discussion about the legs of a female child like Adjoa.
- (iv) The elders repeatedly discuss the follies and foibles of the youngsters. They express their worry and concern for these drawbacks of the youngsters.
- (v) Adjoa thinks that the elders often give much importance to the things that do not matter much. They have traditional and fixed views about certain things.

PASSAGE-4

- (i) The narrator here refers to the issue of her thin legs. Her mother and grandmother discuss Adjoa's thin legs and consider it a drawback in her.
- (ii) The two favourite people of the narrator mentioned here are her mother and the grandmother. Both of them have similar views about Adjoa's legs.
- (iii) Adjoa expects of her mother and grandmother not to worry about her thin legs. She does not want them to fight over this issue.
- (iv) Nana believed that a woman's ability to rear a child depended on her strong legs.
- (v) The world before birth is a world of sweet soft silence. The outer world is a world of noise and comprehension.

PASSAGE-5

- (i) In this extract the opinion talked about is that of Adjoa's grandmother. This opinion about the legs of a girl is not sound. It is illogical and irrational.

- (ii) The words 'such things' refers to the issue related to the legs of a girl child. Sometimes it also happens that a child is born without arms or legs. These things are not to be discussed everyday.
- (iii) The thin legs of a young girl are not liked. People like Adjoa's grandmother do not like them.
- (iv) A female child should come into the world with strong legs.
- (v) The narrator does not get any complexes in her mind due to her so called imperfection. She rather moves in confidence and takes part in games and sports also.

PASSAGE-6

- (i) Nana laments having a grand daughter with thin and weak legs.
- (ii) Maami married a man who was not liked by her mother. It was not a happy marriage.
- (iii) The passage refers to the social evil of treating a woman like a child producing machine only. She has to be healthy and strong to give birth to healthy children only.
- (iv) Nana knows that Adjoa has thin and weak legs. She feels unhappy about Adjoa's legs as she believes that it will be difficult for Adjoa to give birth to a child when she becomes a grown up woman.
- (v) Nana believes that an ideal woman is the one who has a strong body to give birth to children. She thinks that the woman who follows the rules of the society without showing any resentment is an ideal woman.

PASSAGE-7

- (i) Nana believed that sending girls to a school for education was a waste of time. She did not like women to get educated.
- (ii) Nana is a traditional African woman. She is authoritative and commanding. She wants to force her ideas on her family. However, she learns to accept new ideas also.
- (iii) Adjoa's mother did not hold the same views about the education of women as her grandmother Nana. However, she does not express her ideas emphatically.
- (iv) Adjoa's mother was not allowed to go to school. She could not get education. She regretted her not being able to receive education and going to school.
- (v) Nana considered that sending girls to school for education was a waste of time only. She did not wish the girls to move out in the school. But Adjoa did not agree with her grandmother.

PASSAGE-8

- (i) The moment of pride that the extract refers to is Adjoa's achievement. She won the cup for the best all - round Junior athlete. It was a matter of pride for her and the whole family.
- (ii) Nana reacts with great joy and excitement on Adjoa's achievement. She carries the cup won by Adjoa on her back like carrying a baby.
- (iii) Nana undergoes a change of heart and mind is apparent at the time of Adjoa's winning the cup as the best junior athlete. Earlier she did not approve of the participation of girls in sports nor did she like the idea of females receiving education.
- (iv) Nana begins to think that a woman's role in society is not limited to rearing children. She can contribute much more to the society. This change in her is brought by Adjoa and her achievements as an athlete.
- (v) Adjoa does not feel rejected and disappointed at the attitude of her grandmother towards women and their role in society. She continues struggling hard and becomes a successful athlete. It proves her strength and the importance of women's role in society.