

Why was it still winter in one corner of the garden ?

Describe the first meeting of the little boy and the Giant.

Describe their second meeting after a long interval.

The Giant lay dead, all covered with white blossoms. What does this sentence indicate about the once selfish Giant ?

(i) The children sat in the branches of the trees. The trees had blossoms. They were waving their arms gently over children's heads. The birds were flying. They were chirping with joy. Flowers were laughing. It was a most wonderful sight which the giant saw.

(ii) The Giant's heart became soft. He called himself selfish. He now realised why there was always winter in his garden.

It was still winter in one corner of the garden. A little boy stood there under a tree. He was wandering. He was weeping also. He had not been able to climb the tree. So it was still winter there.

In the first meeting the little boy did not run seeing the Giant. He was weeping. The Giant took him gently. He put him into the tree. The tree broke at once into blossom. The birds came and sang. The little boy embraced the Giant. He also kissed him.

In the second meeting the Giant saw the little boy wounded. The Giant got angry at it. He said that he would kill the person who had wounded the little boy. But the little boy said that his wounds were of love.

The surprised Giant had asked him who he was. A strange awe fell on him. He knelt before the little child.

The child smiled. He told the giant who he was. The Giant had once allowed him to play in his garden. Now he would go with the Child to play with him in his garden. This garden was paradise.

This indicates that the Giant is no longer selfish and cruel. He has been blessed with Lord Christ himself. That's why, he is covered with white blossoms. White colour is a symbol of peace.

EXERCISE (Page 24)

Discuss the following topics in groups.

Q. 1. The little child's hands and feet had marks of nails. Who does the child remind you of ? Give a reason for your answer.

Ans. The child reminds me of Lord Christ. Lord Christ was put on a cross with nails on his palms and feet. The little boy had these nail marks.

Q. 2. Is there something like this garden near where you live ? Would you like one (without the Giant perhaps) and why ? What would you do to keep it in good shape ?

Ans. Yes. There is a beautiful garden near where I live. I like Gardens much. I have a small garden in my own house too. I love flowers and plants. It is one place which is liked by all—young, old and children. To keep it in good condition, I believe there should be more gardeners. So many people use the garden. They can also help to keep it in good shape.

III. TEXTUAL EXERCISES

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 20)

1. Why is the Giant called selfish ?
2. On one occasion the children said : "How happy we are here !" Later they said : "How happy we were there !" What are they referring to in both the cases ?
3. (i) When spring came, it was still winter in the garden. What does winter stand for or indicate here ?
(ii) Winter has been presented like a story with its own characters and their activities. Describe the story in your own words.
4. Was the Giant happy or sad over the state of the garden ?
5. What effect did the linnet's song have over Hail and the North Wind ?

Answers

1. The Giant is called selfish because he thinks of himself only. He does not allow children to play in his garden. He builds a wall around the garden. He also puts a notice of warning in the garden.
2. In both the cases they were referring to the Giant's garden.
3. (i) Winter stands for many things. The flowers didn't blossom in the Giant's garden. The Birds didn't sing there. There was no joy.
(ii) Winter is shown in various characters. It has Snow, Frost, North Wind and Hail. The Snow covered up the grass. The Frost painted the trees silver. The North Wind roared all day. It blew the chimney-pots down. The Hail rattled on the castle roof.
4. The Giant was sad over the state of the garden.
5. The Hail stopped dancing over his head. The North Wind stopped roaring.

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 24)

1. (i) The Giant saw a most wonderful sight. What did he see ?
(ii) What did he realise on seeing it ?

2. (i) The girl is referring to the Central Jail.
(ii) She means that doing wrong is not important. Even innocent people can be arrested by the police. So the important thing is not to be caught. A little later she says, "Just don't get caught, that's all." It means the same thing.
3. (i) The girl led Velu to a marriage hall. The sign on it was : 'Sri Rajrajeshwari Prasanna Kalyan Mandapam.'
(ii) They got to eat some food (two crushed bananas and a *vada*) from the big garbage bin. It was leftover food.
4. Ragpicking.

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 15)

1. (i) What material are the "strange" huts made out of?
(ii) Why does Velu find them strange?
2. What sort of things did Jaya and children like her collect and what did they do with those things?
3. Is Velu happy or unhappy to find work? Give a reason for your answer.

Answers

1. (i) The strange huts are made out of metal sheets, tyres, bricks, wood and plastic.
(ii) In Velu's village the houses are made of mud and palm leaves. So he finds these houses strange.
2. Jaya and children like her collected paper, plastic, glass and such other things. They sold these things to Jam Bazar Jaggu. Later, he sold them to a factory.
3. Velu was not happy to find work. He had to accept it because there was no choice. So Velu scratched his head and sighed before accepting the work.

EXERCISE (Page 16)

Discuss the following questions in small groups. Write their answers afterwards.

Q. 1. Is Velu a smart boy? Which instances in the text show that he is or isn't?

Ans. No. Velu is not smart. He had run away from home. He felt very miserable at the railway station. He did not know what to do. Then he expected to work on farm in a big city. All this shows that he is not smart.

Q. 2. Do you think Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with a sense of humour? Find instances of her courage, kind nature and humour in the text.

Ans. Jaya is certainly a memorable character with a sense of humour. She is brave. She lives alone in a big city and earns her livelihood. She is sensitive. That was why she came to help Velu. She has a sense of humour too. This is seen quite a few times.

She dragged Velu to cross the road. Then she said to him, "What do you think you're doing? Grazing cows?" At the Mandapam, Velu asks if they are going to eat there. At this she shakes her thumb under her nose and says, "Hopes!" The best part of her humour appears when she reaches the dirty trickle of water. She calls it 'Buckingham Canal'. Thus Jaya is a brave and sensitive child with a sense of humour.

Q. 3. What one throws away as waste may be valuable to others. Do you find this sentence meaningful in the context of this story? How?

Ans. This sentence is true in the context of this story. Jaya is a ragpicker. She has experienced the truth of life. She faces realities of the practical life. Children like her have no choice other than eating leftovers or thrown away food. She offers a crushed banana to Velu.

III. TEXTUAL EXERCISES

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 9)

1. Velu stood on the platform but he felt "as if he was still on a moving train". Why?
2. What made him feel miserable?
3. (i) Velu travelled without a ticket. Why?
4. (ii) How did he escape the ticket collector's attention?
5. Why had Velu run away from home?
6. Why did he decide to follow the 'strange' girl?

Answers

1. Velu was in great fear. He was tired and hungry. He did not know what lay ahead. So his legs were unsteady as if he was still on a moving train.
2. Velu was hungry and tired. He saw as many people as he had seen only in the village fair. They were all walking with their luggage. Velu was much confused. He did not know what to do. This made him feel miserable.
3. (i) Velu travelled without a ticket because he had no money to buy one.
4. (ii) The ticket collector did not come to that unreserved compartment. Thus Velu escaped his attention.
5. Velu had run away from home because of his father. He and his sisters earned some money by working on the farms. His father snatched all this money. He spent it on drinking. It was not all. He also beat him much. He ran away from home because he could not stand this beating any more.
6. He decided to follow the strange girl because she had promised to give him food. He was very hungry. He knew no way to get the food for himself.

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 13)

1. Can Velu read Tamil and English? How do you know?
2. "If you are not careful, you will soon be counting bars there," the girl said.
(i) What is she referring to?
(ii) What does she mean when she says "If you are not careful..."?
(She says something a little later which means the same. Find that sentence.)
3. (i) Where did the girl lead Velu to?
(ii) What did they get to eat?
4. What work did she do? Think of a one-word answer.

Answers

1. Velu cannot read English. He fails to read the signboards in English. However, he can read Tamil. He could read the Tamil sign on the Central Jail.

2. Sanjeev made it to safety after the tsunami.
3. Meghna was saved by a relief helicopter.
4. Almas's father realised that a tsunami was going to hit the island.
5. Her mother and aunts were washed away with the tree that they were holding on to.

Answers

1. True
5. True

2. False

3. False

4. True

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Pages 28-29)**Answer the following in a phrase or sentence.**

1. Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?
2. What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?
3. Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?
4. Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?
5. Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami?
6. How do you think her geography teacher felt when he heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Answers

1. Tilly's family came to Thailand to celebrate Christmas.
2. Both of them saw the sea rise and start to foam, bubble and form whirlpools.
3. No, Tilly's mother was not alarmed by them.
4. In the video which her geography teacher had shown to the class.
5. They went to the third floor of the hotel to escape from the tsunami.
6. The geography teacher must have felt very pleased and satisfied.

COMPREHENSION CHECK (Page 30)**Answer using a phrase or a sentence.**

1. In the tsunami 1,50,000 people died. How many animals died?
2. How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?
3. What do people say about the elephants of Yala National Park?
4. What did the dogs in Galle do?

Answers

1. Only a few.
2. 60 people and two animals.
3. They say that they saw them running from the beach. The elephants had sensed it an hour before the tsunami hit the coast.
4. They refused to go to the beach for their daily runs.

that the Ignesious family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck?

Ans. No. When he felt the earthquake, Ignesious did not think about the tsunami. He thought only of the tremors. That was why he took his television off the table and put it on the ground. Ignesious family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action. That was why, there was only chaos and confusion. The following sentence tells it clearly.

"In the chaos and confusion, two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother's father and mother's brother and rushed in the opposite directions." (Page 14)

Q. 2. Which words in the list below describe Sanjeev, in your opinion?

(Look up the dictionary for words that you are not sure of.)

cheerful	ambitious	brash	brave	careless
heroic	selfless	heartless	humorous	

Use words from the list to complete the three sentences below.

(i) I don't know if Sanjeev was cheerful, _____ or _____.

(ii) I think that he was very brave, _____ and _____.

(iii) Sanjeev was not heartless, _____ or _____.

Ans. The words 'brave', 'heroic' and 'selfless' describe Sanjeev, as I feel.

(i) ambitious or brash

(ii) heroic and selfless

(iii) careless or humorous

Q. 3. How are Meghna and Almas's stories similar?

Ans. Meghna and Almas were both lucky survivors. Meghna was swept away with her parents and seventy seven other people. All but Meghna died. She floated on a wooden door for two days. Relief helicopters did not see her but a wave brought her back to the shore.

Similarly, all the members of the family of Almas Javed were swept away by the tsunami. She climbed a log of wood. She fainted but remained on it for a long time. She was ultimately saved.

Q. 4. What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behaviour? What would you have done if you were in their place?

Ans. Instead of heeding to Tilly as they did, Tilly's parents could have ignored her. Alternatively they could have scolded her and asked her to behave. In either case, they would have all died.

There is no doubt that they made the best move. In their place, I am afraid, I might not have been so wise. I might have asked her not to be panicky or make a scene.

Q. 5. If Tilly's award was to be shared, who do you think she should share it with—her parents or her geography teacher?

Ans. Tilly's award should be shared with her geography teacher. It was because of him that Tilly could see the coming tsunami before anyone else.

Q. 6. What are the two different ideas about why so few animals were killed in the tsunami? Which idea do you find more believable?

Ans. The first idea is that the animals have a sixth sense. They know when the earth is going to shake. The second idea is that the animals have a more acute sense of hearing. This helps them to hear or feel the earth's vibration. In this way they sense the coming disaster much before the human beings. So they run away to safer places.

Q. 3. Which of the following statements are examples of "the logic of geography."

- (i) There are cities where there are rivers.
- (ii) Cities appear as they are not from six miles above the ground.
- (iii) It is easy to understand why valleys are populated.
- (iv) It is difficult to understand why humans hate and kill one another.
- (v) The earth is round, and it has more sea than land.

Ans. (i), (iii), and (v) are the correct statements.

Q. 4. Mention two things that are

- (i) clear from the height.
- (ii) not clear from the height.

Ans. (i) The earth is round and that it has more sea than land. These two things are clear from the height.

(ii) Men hate each other and build walls across the cities to kill each other. It is not clear why they do so.

IV. OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

A. Short Answer Type Questions

Q. 1. 'Seeing it scaled six inches to the mile'. What is it in this phrase? How has it been so scaled?

Ans. 'It' refers to the city. The poet sees it from a window of a plane flying over the city. From that height it appears as if the poet were seeing a map. It was a map in which a mile looked like six inches.

Q. 2. Why had the city developed the way it had? (Imp.)

Ans. The city had developed according to the requirements of the people. So, though it seemed haphazard, it had a logic.

Q. 3. What did the poet learn about the cities of the country from a height of ten thousand feet?

Ans. The poet learnt that man made cities along the rivers. It was clear from the jet which flew ten thousand feet above the country.

B. Long Answer Type questions

Q. 1. What lesson of geography did the poet learn when he flew above his city?

Ans. The poet learnt why the city had grown the way it had. From the ground, it seemed haphazard, unplanned and without style. Now he could see the inevitability of the city's growth. It had actually developed according to the requirements of the people. So it was futile to expect any artistic pleasure in the growth of a city. It was natural that it was haphazard and had no particular plan or style.

Q. 2. What did the poet observe about his country from a height of ten thousand feet?

Ans. From the height of ten thousand feet the poet looked upon his country. He saw that the cities had grown along the banks of the rivers. He also saw that the valleys were thickly populated. This made him understand a point of geography. It is that people make homes where they find land and water easily available. At that height, these facts could be clearly observed.

3. The phrase 'building walls' indicates man's desire to segregate.
4. high.

III. TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

WORKING WITH THE POEM (Page 35)

Q. 1. Find three or four phrases in stanzas one and two which are likely to occur in a geography lesson.

Ans. The following phrases are likely to occur in a geography lesson :

- (a) scaled six inches to the mile (stanza 1)
- (b) why valleys were populated (stanza 2)
- (c) land and water attracted man (stanza 2)
- (d) clearly delineated (stanza 2)

Q. 2. Seen from the window of an aeroplane, the city appears

- (i) as haphazard as on ground.
- (ii) as neat as a map.
- (iii) as developed as necessary.

Mark the right answer.

Ans. (iii) as developed as necessary