

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature
Sample Paper 06 (2020-21)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allowed: 3 hours

General Instructions:

- i. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- iii. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Section A

1. Read the passage given below and answer any 10 questions that follow:

Do you have a hobby? Is there anything that you are passionate about? Something creative that you really like doing, or are deeply involved with? Something that grips you, makes you forget all else — even makes you forget to eat or sleep? No, I am not talking about your job or your daily chores.

By developing a parallel line, other than that of your job, and following it like crazy, you energise your life. It will keep you going even when all other activities have stopped. It did not make much sense to me until I ran into a retired officer turned passionate writer. Let's call him Mr. X. What was amazing was his appearance. He looked 10 years younger than his self-proclaimed 75 - dark grey hair, tall and robust. Well-preserved, as some would say. "I don't want to take much of your time, but just wanted to show you my work," he said. In his bag, he was carrying dozens of books that he had written after retirement. Short stories and novels in his mother tongue and in English, for children and adults.

Mr. X retired after putting in 30 years of service. But he did not retire from life. No way. "In fact, I lead a much busier life now - writing." "So writing is your hobby?" I asked him. "No, it is my only interest. While I was working, I did not have enough time to write. But now I work 10 - 12 hours a day writing, writing, writing."

"Why? Is that the way you support yourself?" "No, my writings don't pay me financially,

but they fulfil me otherwise,” he said. Mr. X lives on his savings, but he relies on his passion to take care of his mental and physical wellbeing. In fact, such is the energy and sense of satisfaction and contentment that he draws from his writing that he has managed to survive many upheavals in life. Thanks to his passion, retirement never became a sad phase of life for him; instead, it gave him a new lease of life, an opportunity to do that which he missed out on or had no time for earlier.

And his level of commitment was impressive. He does not want publicity nor is he interested in advertising himself. “It will take me away from my writing and pull me into the world of the Internet. I would rather follow my passion,” he says. Gathering his books, he was soon ready to leave - eager to go back to his passion. He left me with the motivation to seek one, too. Thank you, Mr. X.

- i. According to the passage, what is a hobby?
 - a. Something you are passionate about
 - b. Something that energises your life
 - c. Something you are deeply involved in
 - d. All of these
- ii. According to the writer, what made Mr. X look 10 years younger?
 - a. He relies on his savings for his expenses
 - b. Writing supports him financially
 - c. His passion takes care of his mental and physical well being
 - d. He is a retired officer
- iii. What did Mr. X do after retirement?
 - a. Advertise his books
 - b. Followed his passion for writing
 - c. Continued working even after retirement
 - d. Met new people and motivate them
- iv. How were the retirement years of Mr. X?
 - a. Writing gave him a new lease of a happy life
 - b. Full of tragedies and upheavals
 - c. He wrote books and sold them
 - d. It became a sad phase of life
- v. Why was Mr. X not interested in seeking publicity?
 - a. He would be motivated

- b. He would be pulled to the world of Internet
 - c. He is interested in advertising his writings
 - d. He already earns enough for survival
- vi. Mr. X lives on his _____ .
- a. savings
 - b. profit from business
 - c. son's support
 - d. siblings' support
- vii. Mr. X has managed to survive much _____ in life due to his obsession.
- a. joys
 - b. celebrations
 - c. reunions
 - d. upheavals
- viii. Mr. X wrote books in home many languages?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. More than 3
- ix. The noun form of "fulfill" is
- a. Fulfilling
 - b. Fulfillment
 - c. Fulfilled
 - d. Fulfil
- x. The word which means very enthusiastic in para 1 of the passage is
- a. creative
 - b. grip
 - c. passionate
 - d. forget
- xi. The word which means active and energetic in para 4 of the passage is
- a. robust
 - b. self-proclaimed
 - c. well-preserved
 - d. amazing

xii. Mr. X left the narrator with a motivation to seek a

- a. book
- b. hobby
- c. sport
- d. pen

2. **Read the passages given below and answer any 10 questions that follow them:**

January 26 is celebrated as Republic Day in our country. It was on this day, in 1950, the new constitution of independent India came into force and India became a democratic republic. The Constituent Assembly headed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, took more than two years to bring the world's lengthiest constitution to its final shape.

The **enormous** task before the Constituent Assembly was to frame the basic law that would formalize India as a truly democratic nation. Democracy is aptly defined as a system of Government by the people, for the people and of the people. The founding fathers of the Constitution, therefore, had to ensure that the basic law of the land contained sufficient provisions for the fulfilment of the democratic aspirations of the people of India not only in the political sphere but also in the social and economic spheres. That explains the **inclusion** of a separate part in the Constitution, called the Directive Principles of State Policy.

These principles signify the fact that the framers of the Constitution were well aware of the wide gaps and inequalities that existed among the various sections of the Indian population. The Constitution makers had the wisdom to appreciate that political democracy is meaningless when an overwhelming majority of the population is historically trapped in poverty, illiteracy, ill-health and superstition. The Central and State Governments were expected to frame policies so that every citizen is assured of a decent living standard irrespective of sex, caste, religion, language and region.

The makers of our Constitution describe India as a Union of States and not as a federation. Being well conversant with the diversity of the nation in terms of the language, religion, caste and region, and its implications on the intended socio-economic development of the country as a whole, the makers of the Constitution opted for a political system in which the Central Government is equipped with overwhelming administrative, legislative and financial muscle. Most of the nations' policies and programmes for socio-economic development originate at the Central Government, and

the responsibility for their successful implementation is entrusted to the states.

- i. The programmes for the socio-economic development originate at
 - a. state level
 - b. regional level
 - c. district level
 - d. central government level
- ii. The British had left behind
 - a. a developed India
 - b. a wealthy India
 - c. a poverty-stricken, illiterate India
 - d. a strong and healthy India
- iii. The constitution-makers describe India as a _____.
 - a. Union of states
 - b. Union of nations
 - c. Union of territories
 - d. Union of districts
- iv. The constitution-makers took more than two years to bring the world's _____ constitution to its final shape.
 - a. simplest
 - b. lengthiest
 - c. heaviest
 - d. shortest
- v. Find the word from the passage which means the same as **recognizing the good quality of somebody**.
 - a. overlook
 - b. appreciate
 - c. disparage
 - d. condemn
- vi. Who is the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?
 - a. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 - b. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - c. Jawahar Lal Nehru
 - d. Sachchidananda Sinha

- vii. Who is the Head of the Constituent Assembly?
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - Jawahar Lal Nehru
 - Sachchidananda Sinha
- viii. _____ is equipped with overwhelming administrative, legislative and financial muscle.
- State Government
 - Constitution
 - Central Government
 - Supreme Court
- ix. When did the Indian Constitution came into force?
- 1949
 - 1947
 - 1948
 - 1950
- x. In how much time our Constitution made?
- In two years
 - More than two years
 - In one year
 - More than three year
- xi. Antonyms of word **enormous**:
- insignificant
 - mammoth
 - vast
 - humongous
- xii. Synonyms of word **inclusion**:
- omission
 - oversight
 - append
 - preclude
3. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:
- Once home, a squad of coolies were engaged for special work in our compound. An island

was made for Baba. It was twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide and was surrounded by a dry pit or moat, six feet wide and seven feet deep. A wooden box that once housed fowls were brought and put on the island for Baba to sleep in at night. Straw was placed inside to keep him warm, and his 'baby', the gnarled stump, along with his 'gun', the piece of bamboo, both of which had been sentimentally preserved since he had been sent away to the zoo, were put back for him to play with.

- i. Why did the author engage a squad of coolies?
 - a. To make an island for Baba
 - b. To reconstruct his house
 - c. To make a bed for his wife
 - d. To paint his house
- ii. Why was the wooden box made for Baba?
 - a. To protect it
 - b. To punish it
 - c. To sleep in at night
 - d. To teach him some exercises
- iii. Find a word similar in meaning to "emotionally".
 - a. Sentimentally
 - b. Warmly
 - c. Engaged
 - d. Widely
- iv. Why was the sloth bear brought back from the zoo?
 - a. For it had become very sad
 - b. For it felt depressed and lonely in the zoo
 - c. For it had stopped eating
 - d. All of these
- v. What was placed in the wooden box to keep Baba warm?
 - a. Straw
 - b. A room heater
 - c. Stones
 - d. Blanket

OR

Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

She never stuttered with other people - had quite given it up - but only with Father, because then she was trying so hard to say the words properly. "What's the matter? What are you looking so wretched about?" Mother, I wish you taught this child not to appear on the brink of suicide... "Here, Kezia, carry my teacup back to the table carefully." He was so big - his hands and his neck, especially his mouth when he yawned. Thinking about him alone was like thinking about a giant.

- i. Whom did the author compare to a giant?
 - a. Kezia's father
 - b. Kezia's mother
 - c. Kezia's grandfather
 - d. Kezia's grandmother
- ii. What does the word **wretched** mean?
 - a. happy
 - b. tired
 - c. excited
 - d. miserable
- iii. What did her father ask her to do?
 - a. to put his teacup back on the table
 - b. to carry his briefcase to his room
 - c. to read the newspaper for him
 - d. to make a cup of tea for him
- iv. In front of whom did kezia stutter?
 - a. her father
 - b. her mother
 - c. her grandmother
 - d. her brother
- v. Name the chapter from which the given extract has been taken?
 - a. The little girl
 - b. If I were you
 - c. The bond of love
 - d. Reach for the top

4. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

Let us remember, whenever we are told
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.
Remember, we who take arms against each other

- i. What kind of people instigate the commoners to hate foreigners?
 - a. selfish
 - b. naive
 - c. gentle
 - d. weak
- ii. What are the aftermaths of hatred?
 - a. communal disharmony
 - b. violence
 - c. inhuman behavior
 - d. all of these
- iii. What advice does the poet provide us within the given stanza?
 - a. to ignore the directions of people who invite us to hate others
 - b. to follow the commands of the people who instigate us to hate others
 - c. to kill the weaker sections of the society
 - d. to follow our religion blindly
- iv. Write the noun form of condemn.
 - a. condemnation
 - b. condemned
 - c. condemns
 - d. condemning
- v. What is the rhyming meter of the given stanza?
 - a. alternate rhyme
 - b. coupled rhyme
 - c. free verse
 - d. Monorhyme

OR

Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

Then the matter

Of scorching and choking
In sun and air,
Browning, hardening,
Twisting, withering,
And then it is done.

- i. Name the poem.
 - a. On killing a tree
 - b. Wind
 - c. Rain on the roof
 - d. No men are foreign
 - ii. The tree gets scorched due to
 - a. The sun's heat
 - b. A cyclone
 - c. A drought
 - d. An earthquake
 - iii. Why does the tree gets choked?
 - a. Due to the absence of air
 - b. By the spell of an evil spirit
 - c. Because of a flood
 - d. due to a thunderstorm
 - iv. What does the poet mean by 'then it is done'?
 - a. Finish the task assigned
 - b. To put the tree to an end
 - c. To go to deep sleep
 - d. To eat fully
 - v. Name the poet of the given stanza.
 - a. Gieve Patel
 - b. Vikram Seth
 - c. Subramania Bharati
 - d. Sarojini Naidu
5. **Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate words from the given options:**
Puppets are among the (i) _____ man-made objects in (ii) _____ world. Archaeologists in Egypt and India have (iii) _____ pointed clay models that are operated by pulling

their strings, which date back to 4,000 years. Historians tell us that puppets have been created by nearly all people at all times. The first puppets were probably used mostly by adults.

- i. (a) older (b) elder (c) oldest (d) old
- ii. (a) a (b) an (c) any (d) the
- iii. (a) find (b) found (c) finding (d) fond

6. Read the conversation given below and complete the paragraph that follows:

Shopkeeper: What do you want to buy?

Customer: I want to buy a white dress.

Shopkeeper: I do not have any white dress just now, Would you like to see something else?

Customer: No, thank you. I will try in another shop.

The shopkeeper asked the customer (a) The customer that (b) The shopkeeper told him that (c) just then and asked and should be asked if he would like to see something else. The customer thanked him and said that he would try in another shop.

7. Choose the correct options for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given below.

- i. Because I ____ a long way from my work, I ____ lots of time going to and from work.
 - a. have been living / wasted
 - b. am living / have been wasting
 - c. live / waste
 - d. lived / have wasted
- ii. I _____ anything since breakfast so I feel very thirsty now.
 - a. was not drinking
 - b. did not drink
 - c. have not drunk
 - d. do not drink
- iii. Either Cassie or Marie _____ the employees this afternoon.
 - a. payed
 - b. pay
 - c. paying
 - d. pays
- iv. He _____ broken the classroom window. He wasn't even in school today.

- a. wouldn't have
 - b. mustn't
 - c. couldn't have
 - d. shouldn't have
- v. You _____ have repeated it. It wasn't really necessary.
- a. couldn't
 - b. shoul'n't
 - c. can't
 - d. needn't
- vi. You can buy these magazines at _____ station. They all have them.
- a. One
 - b. Many
 - c. Any
 - d. Some

Section B

8. Your uncle lives in Malaysia. So in the last summer vacations, he took you to Malaysia. You enjoyed your visit to Malaysia a lot. Write your experiences in Malaysia as a diary entry after returning home, Write a diary entry.

OR

Using the information given in the input, write a paragraph on **Child Labour and Battle for Child Rights in India**. Hints: Nobel Peace Prize 2014 to India's Kailash Satyarathi and Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan, The 2001 national census, 12.6 million, aged 5-14.]

9. Mohan wrote just a few lines but couldn't develop the story he wanted to write Taking help from the input given below and the introductory lines written by Mohan, complete the story.

The celebrated archer Guru Dronacharya taught the royal princes the finer points of archery. One day he wanted to test.....

OR

Complete the story given below by using the clues provided:

Ravi was too excited as he is going to his favorite place Darjeeling. It was his lifetime wish to be there. Before starting his journey he wanted to make sure that he had not forgotten

anything. He got into the train, settled in his seat and looked around.....

10. **Answer ANY TWO questions from (a) to (c) and ANY TWO questions from (d) to (f) in 20-30 words each:**

- a. Why does Evelyn say that men with bushy beards give her trouble?
- b. How did Lakshmana Sastry reform the young teacher?
- c. Where does the snake start moving to avoid being killed?
- d. What did the child see at the corner of the entrance of the fair? What was his reaction? Write your answer in the context of The Lost Child.
- e. How did the Prince help the match girl? What was the result? Write your answer in the context of The Happy Prince.
- f. Has Lushkoff become a beggar by circumstance or by choice?

11. **Answer ANY TWO questions from (a) to (c) and ANY TWO questions from (d) to (f) in 40-50 words each:**

- a. What did the little woman feel about the cakes when she ate them herself?
- b. Why does the intruder call himself 'a poor hunted rat'?
- c. What were the foolish things done by George and Harris while packing the hamper?
- d. What did the dancing girl say in her defence? Write your answer in the context of In the Kingdom of Fools.
- e. Why was Johnsy's condition worrisome according to the doctor?
- f. How did the child enjoy the beauty of nature on his way to the fair?

12. Do you agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

How can you say that the old lady was greedy? Write your answer in the context of the Poem 'A legend of the Northland'.

13. Describe the author's love for his cat. Write your answer in the context of the A House is Not a Home.

OR

How was life different in the Kingdom of Fools?

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Solution

Section A

1.
 - i. (d) All of these
 - ii. (c) His passion takes care of his mental and physical well being
 - iii. (b) Followed his passion for writing
 - iv. (a) Writing gave him a new lease of a happy life
 - v. (b) He would be pulled to the world of Internet
 - vi. (a) Savings
 - vii. (d) Upheavals
 - viii. (b) 2
 - ix. (b) Fulfilment
 - x. (c) Passionate
 - xi. (a) Robust
 - xii. (b) Hobby
2.
 - i. (d) central government level
 - ii. (c) a poverty-stricken, illiterate India
 - iii. (a) Union of states
 - iv. (b) lengthiest
 - v. (b) appreciate
 - vi. (a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 - vii. (b) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - viii. (c) Central Government
 - ix. (d) 1950
 - x. (b) More than two years
 - xi. (a) insignificant
 - xii. (c) append
3.
 - i. (a) To make an island for Baba
 - ii. (c) To sleep in at night
 - iii. (a) Sentimentally

- iv. (d) All of these
- v. (a) Straw

OR

- i. (a) Kezia's father
 - ii. (d) miserable
 - iii. (a) to put his tea cup back on the table.
 - iv. (a) her father
 - v. (a) The little girl
4. i. (a) selfish
- ii. (d) all of these
 - iii. (a) to ignore the advice of people who incite us to hate others
 - iv. (a) condemnation
 - v. (c) free verse

OR

- i. (a) On killing a tree
 - ii. (a) the sun's heat
 - iii. (a) due to absence of air
 - iv. (b) to put the tree to an end
 - v. (a) Gieve Patel
5. i. (a) oldest
- ii. (d) the
 - iii. (b) found
6. a. the shopkeeper asked the customer what did he did want to buy?
- b. the customer replied that he wanted to buy a white dress.
 - c. the shopkeeper told him that he did not have any white dress just then.
7. Choose the correct options for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given below.
- i. (c) live / waste
- Explanation:** live / waste
- ii. (c) have not drunk
- Explanation:** have not drunk
- iii. (d) pays

Explanation: Either Cassie or Marie **pays** the employees this afternoon.

iv. (c) couldn't have

Explanation: couldn't have

v. (d) needn't

Explanation: needn't

vi. (c) Any

Explanation: Any

Section B

8. Delhi

2nd June, 20XX

Wednesday, 10:00 pm

Dear Diary,

I am pleased to put the record of my destination to Malaysia. I rode an aeroplane for the first time. It was a thrilling experience. In Malaysia, my uncle took me to many beautiful places such as Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur Bird Park and Batu Caves. The people of Malaysia speak in the Malay language. So I talked in English to communicate with them. The people of Malaysia are dedicated to cleanliness. Malaysia has a very vast diversity in respect of culture. I felt escalated when I got a taste the Malaysian food which appealed to my senses. I can't forget that experience in my entire life. The capital city Kuala Lumpur is very clean and beautiful. Also, I went to Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur. I stayed for 7 days at Langkawi and 2 days for Kuala Lumpur. I wish to visit Malaysia again. I enjoyed so much and this day will be remarkable for me.

Ramudu

OR

Child Labour and Battle for Child Rights in India

Riya Kailash Satyarthi brought laurels to the people of India for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2014 along with Malala for their battle for child safety. The world has appreciated the battle he fought for child rights for years. The term 'Child Labour' is actually the work that deprives children of their childhood. It destroys their potentiality and their dignity. In short, it is the kind of work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children. Child labour is the practice of having children engaged in economic activity. The constitution of India (Article 24) prohibits

child labour below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or castle or engaged in any other hazardous employment. India has the highest number of labourers under 14 in the world. Many NGOs like 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' of Kailash Satyarathi are working sincerely to eradicate child labour in India. Only concerted efforts by the government, the NGOs and the public can eradicate this evil from our civilized society.

9.

An Accomplished Marksman

The celebrated archer Guru Dronacharya taught the royal princes the finger points of archery. One day he wanted to test the archery skill of his pupils. They came to a forest. The Guru chose a tree standing in the open. He placed a wooden bird on a bare branch of that tree. The princes were asked to stand 200 yards away and aim at their target one by one. They were to hit the eye of the bird. Yudhisthir was asked to start the competition. He took his bow and looked at his target. can you see me? asked Dronacharya. Yes, sir! replied Yudhisthir. Put down your bow, asked the Guru. The disappointed prince retired from the contest. The same thing happened with all other princes. The same question was asked and all of them gave the reply. Hence, all of them were asked to retire from the competition.

Finally, it was Arjuna's turn. Arjuna do you see me? asked the Guru. I see nothing but only my target, the eye of the bird, replied Arjuna. Good, Arjuna, shoot now, asked Dronacharya. Arjuna released the arrow aiming at his target. The arrow hit the eye of the wooden bird. And finally, Arjuna was adjudged as the accomplished marksman. The Guru told to all his pupils that for being the best archer we need to focus the target only. Everything will be disappeared if we have focused our target. Our target had to be on the eye of the bird only as did by Arjuna. Arjuna is the accomplished marksman. The Guru was finally successful in teaching them his lesson about the archery. All the pupils understood how the target needs to be hit in actual.

OR

Cherry On The Top

Ravi was too excited as he is going to his favourite place Darjeeling. It was his lifetime wish to be there. Before starting his journey he wanted to make sure that he had not forgotten anything. He got into the train, settled in his seat and looked around, there

were very few people. He did not bother and his main focus was outside the train. He was wondering what he would do first after reaching there. But suddenly some strange voices were coming from somewhere in the train. He got up from his seat and moved outside his coach. His eyes could not believe what he saw. He was mesmerized to see that Ranbeer Kapoor was there in his train with his crew for the shooting of his upcoming movie. He was overwhelmed with joy, but he was confused about his presence in such a small train. He wanted to ask him personally but he was out of his reach. The people were gathered around him and asking for selfies and autographs from him. After a few minutes, people settled down and he went to him and nervously asked for a selfie with him. He, too, asked him what he was doing there in such a small train. He told him that he was going to Darjeeling for his upcoming film and actually, he wanted to enjoy the train trip to Darjeeling and also, to enjoy all the scenic beauty of nature outside the train. Ravi got too contented after listening to him. Ravi took a selfie with him and came back to his seat and started enjoying his journey. He was wondering what this journey had doubled his happiness.

10. Answer ANY TWO questions from (a) to (c) and ANY TWO questions from (d) to (f) in 20-30 words each:

- a. Evelyn says that men with bushy beards give her trouble because she has to watch their whole face, especially their eyes. In order to grasp what they say, just watching their lips did not help as the lips remained partially hidden in the beards.
- b. Lakshmana Sastry was Ramanadha Sastry's father. When he came to know that the young teacher had shifted Kahan to the last row he got very angry. He summoned the teacher. He bluntly asked the teacher to either apologise or quit the school and the island. Not only did the teacher regret his behaviour, but the strong sense of conviction Lakshmana Sastry conveyed ultimately reformed this young teacher.
- c. The snake glides on the surface of the water of the pond to reach the bank on the other side which has slim and green reeds like those on the snake's body, where he can easily camouflage himself and avoid being detected and killed. It starts moving towards the pond to avoid being killed.
- d. At last, they reached the fair. The child saw sweet-seller hawking Gulab-Jaman, Rasagulla, Burfi and a crowd around his counter. There were coloured sweets, decorated with leaves of silver and gold. On seeing the sweets his mouth watered and he wanted to have burfi. But he knew that his father would not buy it for him.

- e. The Prince asked the swallow to pluck out the sapphire from one of his eyes and deliver it to the match girl who was crying because all her matchsticks fell in a gutter. She was afraid that her father would beat her if she was unable to bring back any money. But as soon as the little girl got the sapphire her happiness went beyond limits.
- f. Lushkoff has become a beggar not by choice but by circumstance. Lushkoff was a middle-aged man and belonged to the Russian choir. He was not a born beggar. He was sacked from the choir because of his drinking habits. He became a beggar by choice as he did not like to work hard at that stage. Alcoholism had made him weak and he could not toil, so he becomes a beggar for survival.

11. Answer ANY TWO questions from (a) to (c) and ANY TWO questions from (d) to (f) in 40-50 words each:

- a. The woman made a small cake for the Saint but when she laid it to bake, it seemed too big to her to be given for free. So she kneaded a smaller cake but it too seemed as big as the earlier one. Then she took a small bit of dough and rolled it as thin as a wafer but could not part even with that because of her greed. She was surprised that her cakes seemed very small when she ate them but appeared too large for charity.
- b. The intruder describes himself as 'a poor hunted rat' because he is being chased by the police and he has to keep dodging them. He has killed a cop and is trying to escape punishment by hiding like a rat being chased by a cat.
- c. While packing the hamper, George and Harris fumbled and flustered many times. They jumbled up the items to be packed and crushed softer things like pies under heavy objects. Also, they broke a cup at the outset and then squashed tomato and stepped on the butter.
- d. The dancing girl defended herself by stating that she had given some gold to the goldsmith to make jewellery. Since the goldsmith made many excuses, she had to walk up and down to his house a dozen times. So the goldsmith should be held responsible for the death.
- e. Johnsy's condition was worrisome according to the doctor because she had not shown any signs of improvement despite good treatment. No medicines could help her in that negative state of mind as she had lost her will to live.
- f. On his way to the fair, the child saw a flowering mustard field. He stopped there to watch the little insects and worms that were coming out from their hiding places. He

then tried to gather the petals of falling flowers and ran gaily in circles around a banyan tree.

12. Yes, I agree with Margie that schools today are more fun than the school in the story. Learning is not just reading books, acquiring knowledge and upgrading the grades. It's about adaptability and adjustability in the society. In the story, Margie finds the old book awfully funny to read and she finds school scornful. Merely studying and answering questions seems to be a boring idea with a mechanical teacher. Doing homework without anybody's help and writing them in a punch code would also be draining. Moreover, children develop a better understanding about each other and of their surroundings when they go to a school and interact with each other. It is a healthier way of learning. Listening to teachers' explaining lessons is always more interesting than reading the entire lesson on a mechanical computer. It is impossible to discuss problems and situations with a mechanical teacher that is only programmed to teach in a particular manner. Therefore, schools today are more fun than the school in the story as they are more interactive.

OR

The old lady was running a bakery. Saint Peter was a wise saint. He had travelled and preached a lot so he was tired and hungry. He had arrived at her door for some food. Still, the lady made him wait for the cake for a long time. She first made a small cake but when she laid it to bake, it seemed much too big to be given away. So she kneaded a still smaller cake but it too seemed as big as the earlier one. Then she took a small bit of dough and rolled it as thin as a wafer but could not part even with that. Every time, she tried to bake a small cake but unfortunately, the cake often seemed to her of a bigger size. The old lady did not want to share the cake of this size with the saint. At last, the saint grew angry and cursed her. So, it can be said that her greed had no limit.

13. The author loved his cat very much. Author's love for a cat can be seen when his house was on fire. He didn't cry to see his house on fire but very thought that he had lost his cat made him cry. He searched for his cat and made all possible effort to find it but couldn't find it. He couldn't imagine his life without the cat. He never considered her far from him. He had rescued her when she was a kitten. She kept sitting beside him when he did his homework and other household works. His life seemed to have ruined. But he could not find her. He kept visiting the remains of his burnt house with the hope that he would

find his cat there. He missed his cat all the time. When the wonderful lady brought the cat back' to him, his happiness knew no limits. He grabbed her quickly and felt relieved. Author's reunion with his cat diminished all the overwhelming feelings of loss and tragedy.

OR

The kingdom of fools, both the king and the minister were idiots. They both behaved like fools. They didn't want to run things like other kings. They did not do any work using their wits. They had decided to make the kingdom unique and different. They ordered that everyone should awake at night, till their fields and run their businesses only after dark, and go to bed as soon as the sun came up. Anyone who disobeyed would be punished with death. The people did as they fear death. Now everything was different in the Kingdom of Fools. Even the cattle had been taught to sleep by day. At this grand success of making the kingdom unique, both the king and the minister felt delighted. The next thing they did was that they set equal price for everything. The things were cheaper and anything could be bought for a 'duddu'. Whether a measure of rice or a bunch of bananas, it cost daddu only. Hence, life was different here.