

Chapter-6

Memories of Childhood

Part-1

The Cutting Of My Long Hair

Short Answer Questions

1. **What were the indignities that the new girls were subjected to at Carlisle Indian School?**

Ans. The girls were scrutinized thoroughly and supervised by a greyhaired woman. They were made to wear tight fitting immodest clothes and stiff shoes. During breakfast a systematic and regimental discipline was observed. The girls with long hair had to get them shingled and they had to submit to the authorities who were strong, unfeeling and cruel.

2. **How had Zitkala – Sa been subjected to extreme indignities?**

Ans. Since the day she was taken from her mother Zitkala had suffered many indignities. She was stared at and tossed like a wooden puppet. Her long hair was shingled like a coward's. In her pain when she cried for her mother no one came forward to comfort her. She was just like one of the animals driven by a herder.

3. **What did Judewin tell the narrator? What was the effect?**

Ans. Judewin who could understand a little English informed the narrator that the strange woman intended to cut their long hair. But the narrator had learnt from her mother that the enemy cut the hair of the unskilled warrior when they are captured and among their people mourners wear short hair and cowards shingled hair. So, she decided to resist. She hid herself under a bed in a dark room.

4. **Why was Zitkala-Sa so averse of having her hair cut?**

Ans. It was an age old tradition among the people of tribe, to which Zitkala-Sa belongs, to maintain their long shining and beautiful hair. It was believed that only the warriors or the mourners get their hair shingled. Short hair worn by the cowards as per their tradition. So, obviously Zitkala-Sa never wanted her hair to be cut short.

Long Answer Questions

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1. **"Children are keen observers. they notice every happening in their surroundings. Injustice in any form can not escape being unnoticed by them." Explain with reference to "Memories of Childhood".**

Ans. Even the slightest action of the elders in their immediate surroundings never go unnoticed by the children. They do not reconcile with their fate but become rebel as and when find a chance. They tend to raise their voice against the injustice; it may not bear fruit immediately like in case of Zitkala-Sa and Bama. But sown a seed of rebellion they become more sensitive, receptive and readily get an idea of any injustice done to them. If got right grooming, with their courage, will power, hard work, determination, grit and far-sightedness, these seeds (children) bloom. In both the versions of "Memories of childhood", thought depicted are from societies in different parts of world. Both the women belong to marginalized sections of their respective societies, suffered a lot but never gave up. Being observant they took calculated steps i.e., Education, to up bring themselves from the mess of ignorance and atrocities.

**CBSE Class 12 English Core Vistas
Chapter-6 Memories of Childhood**

Part-2

We Too Are Human Beings

Short Answer Questions

1. **Why did Bama take half hour to an hour to cover the distance to her home that would normally take only ten minutes?**

Ans. She walked very slowly and watched every scene, shop, snake charmer, man paddling his bicycle to win prizes and so on. She liked to see the Maariyatta temple, the Pongal celebrations, the statue of Gandhi and the sweet and snack stalls. Everything stopped her and attracted her attention. She also stopped to the processions of the political parties, street play or a puppot show or stunt performance.

2. **How did Bama first come to know of the social discrimination faced by the people of her community?**

Ans. She saw an elder carrying a small packet by its string without touching it. The elder went straight to the landlord. He bowed low and extended the packet towards him. The

landlord opened it and started eating. She was amused to see the incident. On reaching home, she narrated the incident to her elder brother Annan. But her brother was not amused. He explained that the man was from a low caste and the landlord was from the upper caste. Everybody believed that they would be polluted if they are touched by the low caste people.

Long Answer Questions

- 1. How did Annan advise his sister Bama regarding untouchability and what was its effect on her?**

Ans. Annan is a thoughtful and considerate elder brother. He guides her properly and explains the social stigma of untouchability. He told that the elder carrying Vadai was not amusing but pathetic. He was the victim of social prejudice. Bama became angry and annoyed Annan guides her in right direction. He believe that people of their community should study and outshine others to earn respect in society. Bama follows his timely advice and grows up to be a balanced and well respected individual of the society.