

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature
Sample Paper 02 (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 passages given below and answer any 10 questions that follow them:

Maggie is a golden doodle. However, she turned out to be more golden than a doodle. She has lots of energy, is very loving, a people pleaser, soft and she loves every minute of life. But when she was small, we called her "The Demon". She loved to jump on me, bite me, and steal anything. My goal had been to get a dog that would keep me walking every day. But more than that, I am in a period of my life where I was looking for a way to give back. Seeing Maggie's loving personality and high energy, I realized that Maggie needed a job and I needed to volunteer, and if we worked together, we could both have that. But the little "demon" needed to be tamed! After going through beginner and intermediate obedience at Canine Academy, I knew that Maggie would benefit from the Off-Leash program and that would help her get ready to become a therapy dog so that she could be busy and I could give back.

She is home from the Academy now, and what a great dog she is! She loved her training and did very well at Canine Academy. Walks that used to be difficult because, at 75 lbs, her pulling on the leash was hard on me, are now a pleasure. We walk twice every day and she has many friends in the neighborhood, that have watched her grow from an unruly puppy to a beautiful companion, thanks to the Canine Academy. We train every day and she loves to attend the weekly training sessions that the Off-Leash graduates take part in. Lisa and her trainers gave Maggie the tools she needed to be an absolutely

wonderful dog. Now we work together to fine-tune those tools and everyone that knew her before is quite impressed by how well-behaved she is now. My life is so much better with Maggie in it, but part of that is thanks to the wonderful people at the Canine Academy and the great work they do with dogs. If I ever add to my dog family, we will surely be calling them again!

Answer the following questions:

- i. Who is Maggie?
 - a. A girl
 - b. A demon
 - c. A dog
 - d. A fish
- ii. What qualities of Maggie are mentioned by the author in the opening paragraph?
 - a. She is soft and loving
 - b. She is a villain
 - c. She bites everyone
 - d. She is always low on energy
- iii. What was Maggie called when she was small?
 - a. Golden Dog
 - b. The Demon
 - c. Golden Doodle
 - d. A Doodle
- iv. Which academy does she go to?
 - a. Off-Leash Academy
 - b. Academy of Dogs
 - c. Canine Academy
 - d. Dog Family
- v. What training programmes did Maggie undergo?
 - A. Beginner Obedience Programme
 - B. Intermediate Obedience Programme
 - C. Advanced Obedience Programme
 - D. Off-Leash Training Programme
 - a. Only (A) and (B)
 - b. Only (A), (B), and (C)

- c. Only (A)
- d. Only (A), (B), and (D)
- vi. What change occurred in Maggie after training?
 - a. She became high on energy
 - b. She had a soft fur now
 - c. She became a people pleaser
 - d. She became well behaved
- vii. The narrator wanted Maggie to become a _____ dog.
 - a. Good
 - b. Therapy
 - c. Soft
 - d. Calm
- viii. Narrator's life is better with _____ in it.
 - a. Canine Academy
 - b. Lisa
 - c. Maggie
 - d. Dogs
- ix. What is meant by the word, 'tamed'? (Para 1)
 - a. taught
 - b. trained
 - c. calmed
 - d. disciplined
- x. What is meant by the word, 'obedience'? (Para 1)
 - a. faithfulness
 - b. servility
 - c. calmed
 - d. respect
- xi. What is meant by the word, 'unruly'? (Para 2)
 - a. unmanageable
 - b. cruel
 - c. ugly
 - d. bad
- xii. What is meant by the word, 'impressed'? (Para 2)

- a. afraid
- b. affected
- c. charmed
- d. delighted

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

Tourists to Jammu and Kashmir have another attraction - a floating post office on the Dal Lake in Srinagar, the first in the country. 'Floating Post Office, Dal Lake' - claimed to be the only one such post office in the world is built on an intricately carved maroon houseboat, fastened on the western edge of the Dal Lake.

This post office lets you avail of all the regular postal services available in the country while being afloat. The seal used on everything posted from Floating Post Office is unique - along with the date and address, it bears the design of a boatman rowing a shikara on the Dal Lake. The special feature of this post office is that letters posted from here carry a special design which has the picturesque scenery of Dal Lake and Srinagar city. These pictures reach wherever these letters are posted to and hence promote Kashmir as a tourist destination across the world.

This is actually a heritage post office that has existed since British times. It was called Nehru Park Post Office before 2011. But then the chief postmaster John Samuel renamed it as "Floating Post Office".

The post office's houseboat has two small rooms - one serves as the office and the other a small museum that traces the philatelic history of the state postal department. It has a shop that sells postage stamps and other products.

But for the locals, Floating Post office is more than an object of fascination. 1-2 crore is deposited per month in Floating Post Office by communities living in and around the Dal Lake. The lake has several islets that are home to more than 50,000 people.

The greatest fear is the recurrence of 2014 like floods in which the houseboat had gone for a toss uncontrollably pushed by the flood. Rescue teams had to anchor it using the special mechanism in a nearby highland. Then it was brought back on the Dal after the water receded. The biggest boon is that at no time of the year do you need a fan in this post-office!

- i. What is the location of the Floating Post Office in Srinagar?
 - a. On dal lake
 - b. Near centaur

- c. On Pari Mahal
 - d. Near post office
- ii. What is special about the seal used in the post office?
 - a. design of a houseboat on the Dal Lake
 - b. design of a boatman rowing a shikara on the Dal Lake
 - c. design of a chinar tree on the Dal Lake
 - d. design of a tourist on the Dal Lake
- iii. Who renamed the post office as Floating Post Office?
 - a. Postmaster
 - b. Postman
 - c. Delivery agent
 - d. Chief Postmaster
- iv. What is the greatest fear that the post office has?
 - a. Snow
 - b. Earthquakes
 - c. Floods
 - d. Tsunami
- v. How is the post office a big boon to the people?
 - a. You do not need fan
 - b. You need water
 - c. You need airconditioning
 - d. You do not need heater
- vi. The flood came in the year in Kashmir valley:
 - a. 2014
 - b. 2013
 - c. 2015
 - d. 2011
- vii. The chief postmaster _____ renamed Nehru Park Post Office as Floating Post Office:
 - a. John Sammy
 - b. John Samuel
 - c. Samuel Sammy
 - d. Daniel Samuel
- viii. In para1, the synonyms of word **attraction**:

- a. beauty
- b. repulsive
- c. float
- d. intricate

ix. In para4, the synonyms of word **floating**:

- a. settled
- b. fixed
- c. afloat
- d. wind up

x. In para2, the antonyms of word **unique**:

- a. rare
- b. particular
- c. distinctive
- d. ordinary

xi. The lake has several islets that are home to more than _____ people.

- a. 10,000
- b. 50,000
- c. 55,000
- d. 40,000

xii. _____ Post Office known as Floating Post Office before 2011.

- a. John Samuel
- b. Dal Lake
- c. Nehru Park
- d. Maroon

3. **Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:**

In 1900, at the age of 21, Albert Einstein was a university graduate and unemployed. He worked as a teaching assistant, gave private lessons and finally secured a job in 1902 as a technical expert in the patent office in Bern. While he was supposed to be assessing other people's inventions, Einstein was actually developing his own ideas in secret. He is said to have jokingly called his desk drawer at work the "Bureau of theoretical physics".

i. In which year did Albert Einstein secure a job in the patent office in Bern?

- a. 1902
- b. 1912

- c. 1947
- d. 1900
- ii. Albert Einstein finally secured a job in the patent office in Bern as a _____.
 - a. Typist
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Technical expert
 - d. Accountant
- iii. Write the synonym of "Bureau".
 - a. Beaurocrats
 - b. Office
 - c. Brand
 - d. School
- iv. In which year did Albert complete his graduation?
 - a. 1900
 - b. 1902
 - c. 1905
 - d. 1922
- v. How old was Albert Einstein when he became a university graduate?
 - a. 18 years old
 - b. 21 years old
 - c. 24 years old
 - d. 16 years old

OR

Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

A marriage as early as that was the last thing on her mind. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. When her parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part-time to pay her school fees. Her parents then agreed to pay for her education.

- i. In which city did she first go for her proper education?
 - a. Delhi
 - b. Mumbai

- c. Chennai
- d. Kolkata
- ii. What was the last thing in her mind?
 - a. To go abroad
 - b. To become a lawyer
 - c. To get married
 - d. To deceive her friend
- iii. How did the girl plan to pay her school fees when her parents refused to pay it?
 - a. To earn money by working part-time
 - b. By stealing money
 - c. By asking her relatives to sponsor her education
 - d. By borrowing money from a friend
- iv. Find the word from the passage opposite to noisily.
 - a. Threatening
 - b. Enrolled
 - c. Refused
 - d. Politely
- v. Who is **she** in the given extract?
 - a. Santosh
 - b. Santoshi
 - c. Santok
 - d. Shanti

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

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves, no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

- i. Why did the poet leave the first road?
 - a. To travel on it on some other day
 - b. It was under repair
 - c. There was a traffic jam on it
 - d. it was blocked because of an accident

- ii. How did both the roads lie?
 - a. Sparsely trodden
 - b. Very frequently travelled
 - c. Never travelled
 - d. Under construction
- iii. Who does **both** refer to?
 - a. The two roads
 - b. The poet and his friend
 - c. The two boys
 - d. The two benches
- iv. What doubt did the poet suffer from?
 - a. If he would reach his destination on time
 - b. If he would ever be able to come back to the first road
 - c. If he would manage to finish the task assigned
 - d. If he would manage to convince his employer
- v. Who wrote the poem?
 - a. William Wordsworth
 - b. Ruskin Bond
 - c. Stephen Spender
 - d. Robert Frost

OR

Hi Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

You're very clever at poking fun at
weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors,
crumbling rafters, crumbling wood,
crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts-

the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

- i. Who is very clever?
 - a. The wind
 - b. The wood

- c. The rafters
 - d. The houses
- ii. What does the wind God do?
- a. It separates weaklings from the strong
 - b. It crushes all that is weak
 - c. It destroys lives
 - d. All of these
- iii. Write the word opposite in meaning to the word **Frail**.
- a. Strong
 - b. Weak
 - c. Flexible
 - d. Rude
- iv. Which poetic device is used in the given stanza?
- i. Transferred Epithet
 - ii. Simile
 - iii. Oxymoron
 - iv. Repetition
- v. Name the poet.
- a. Subramania Bharati
 - b. Vikram Seth
 - c. Gieve Patel
 - d. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
5. **Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate words from the given options :**
 Nazi Germany (a) defeated in 1944 (b) Hitler apparently killed himself (c) the world cannot forget him. Films, books, articles, documentaries on him have been made.
- a. (i) had (ii) have (iii) was (iv) were
 - b. (i) but (ii) or (iii) and (iv) then
 - c. (i) and (ii) but (iii) or (iv) either
6. **Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate words from the given options:**
 Principal: Why were you absent last week?
 Student: I was absent because I was not well.
 Principal: What will happen to your studies now?

Student: I will work hard to complete them.

The Principal asked the student (a) The student replied (b)The Principal was concerned and asked (c) The student replied that he would work hard to complete them.

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

- i. Time ____ over. We ____ fifty applications in all.
 - a. had been / received
 - b. is / have received
 - c. is / received
 - d. was / had been receiving
- ii. The weather conditions _____ throughout the day and now the ground officials are confident that the championship game _____ ahead.
 - a. are improving / has gone
 - b. will be improving / will go
 - c. have improved / was going
 - d. have been improving / will go
- iii. Each candidate _____ fill in these forms and sign them.
 - a. are to
 - b. were to
 - c. have to
 - d. has to
- iv. _____ you hold this shelf here while I go and get my hammer?
 - a. May
 - b. Must
 - c. Will
 - d. Should
- v. You can come to the meeting if you want but you _____.
 - a. have to
 - b. mustn't
 - c. don't have to
 - d. haven't
- vi. Can you pass me _____ book please?
 - a. A

- b. The
- c. Some
- d. An

Section B

8. Indian summers are really unbearable. One day the maximum temperature shot up to 47°C. It was most miserable day of the year for you. Record the experience in your diary.

OR

Write a paragraph on **War on Black Money in India**.

9. Mohan wrote just 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

Sneha wanted to write a story but could not go beyond a line or two. Taking help from, the information given below along with the lines Sneha wrote a complete story.

Mr. Aggarwal was a very wealthy businessman. One day he was alone sitting at his dining table when.....

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

- a. How did Tommy describe the old kind of teachers? Write your answer in the context of The Fun They Had.
- b. Why was Einstein's mother against his marriage with Mileva?
- c. What is the central idea of the poem? Write your answer in the context of poem No Men Are Foreign.
- d. What kind of people were the king and the minister? What did they want to do? Write your answer in the context of 'In the Kingdom of Fools'.
- e. Why does Zan break down in tears after the fire?
- f. How did Sergei help Lushkoff to live respectfully?

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

- a. How does the wind treat strong fires? Write your answer in the context of Poem Wind.
 - b. What did grandmother want Kezia to forget? Why? Write your answer in the context of The Little Girl.
 - c. How much time did the bear take to start drinking and eating everything?
 - d. Describe the relationship between Toto and Nana.
 - e. How did the villagers make the helicopters drop regular quantities of the food? Write your answer in the context of Weathering the Storm in Ersama.
 - f. How did Sue help Johnsy during her illness?
12. How did Santosh carve her own destiny?

OR

- What does the root of the tree look like when it is pulled out of the earth-cave? What happens to it when it is left exposed? Write your answer in the context of Poem On Killing a Tree.
13. What did the swallow observe when he flew over the city? Write your answer in the context of The Happy Prince.

OR

What were the things that the boy wanted to possess when he was with his parents? Write your answer in the context of The Lost Child.

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Solution

Section A

1.
 - i. (c) A dog
 - ii. (a) She is soft and loving
 - iii. (b) The Demon
 - iv. (c) Canine Academy
 - v. (d) Only (A), (B) and (D)
 - vi. (d) She became well-behaved
 - vii. (b) Therapy
 - viii. (c) Maggie
 - ix. (d) Disciplined
 - x. (a) Faithfulness
 - xi. (a) Unmanageable
 - xii. (b) Affected
2.
 - i. (a) On dal lake
 - ii. (b) design of a boatman rowing a shikara on the Dal Lake
 - iii. (d) Chief Postmaster
 - iv. (c) Floods
 - v. (a) You do not need a fan
 - vi. (a) 2014
 - vii. (b) John Samuel
 - viii. (a) beauty
 - ix. (c) afloat
 - x. (d) ordinary
 - xi. (b) 50,000
 - xii. (c) Nehru Park
3.
 - i. (a) 1902
 - ii. (c) Technical expert
 - iii. (c) Office

- iv. (a) 1900
- v. (b) 21 years old

OR

- i. (a) Delhi
 - ii. (c) To get married
 - iii. (a) To earn money by working part
 - iv. (d) Politely
 - v. (a) Santosh
4. i. (a) To travel on it on some other day
- ii. (a) Sparsely trodden
 - iii. (a) The two roads
 - iv. (b) If he would ever come back to the first road
 - v. (b) Robert Frost

OR

- i. (a) The wind
 - ii. (d) All of these
 - iii. (a) Strong
 - iv. (d) Repetition
 - v. (a) Subramania Bharati
5. a. was
- b. and
- c. but
6. a. why he had been absent the previous week.
- b. that he had been absent because he had not been well.
- c. what would happen to his studies then.
7. Choose the correct options for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given below.
- i. (b) is / have received
Explanation: is / have received
 - ii. (d) have been improving / will go
Explanation: have been improving / will go
 - iii. (d) has to

Explanation: has to

iv. (c) Will

Explanation: Will

v. (c) don't have to

Explanation: don't have to

vi. (b) The

Explanation: The

Section B

8. Delhi

20th July, 20XX

Friday, 8:00 pm

Dear Diary,

Indian summers can be really unbearable and who can live in peace and comfort when the heat waves, start blowing over the plains of north India. It was the 20th of July, 20XX, the most miserable day of my life. It was certainly the hottest day of the season. By noon the heat became unbearable. To avoid dehydration, we had already had several litres of cold water. I had to go to the market. I forgot to wear a cap. By the time I reached home, I was very miserable and started vomiting. To make things still worse, there was a breakdown of electric power during most part of the night. Without the working of fans and air-conditioners, we felt miserable. It was very uncomfortable with the dress I wore. I told my mom it was unbearable. She too felt hot. Then we both went to the hotel where there had airconditioning. We sat for at least an hour get cooled . We ordered an ice cream and went back home. We spent a sleepless and miserable night.

Govind

OR

War on Black Money in India

More smoke than light has been generated by the current outcry on black money. People think that there is a lot of money out there in Swiss banks. Black money does not remain black, money forever. A lot of foreign funds and investments come back to India as white money. Income generated through illegal activities is the basis for generating black money. Global terror business, drugs, arms dealing, real estate, Hawala transactions, to name just a few, create black money. The G20 summit in London gave a clear message.

The era of banking secrecy is over. India is a strong supporter of this move. The success in getting black money depends on international actions and cooperation among nations. Rather than looking for the foreign hand, the battle against black money must be waged at home. Unless black money is generated at home, unaccounted money can't be transferred abroad. Centre and states need to work on reforms. Tax rates need to be moderate. The laws must be simple. There should be no temptation to evade.

9. **Arjuna: The Most Accomplished Marksman**

One day Guru Dronacharya desired to test the skills of his pupils, to test so he put the wooden bird and asked the various of his students to target the eye of the bird, however, before starting the activity he asked various of his students what can they see, to which all the students replied to them that they can see all the other things too along with the target while Arjun was the only one to see the bird's eye only, as a result of which Arjun received appraisal, jealous by which Yudhishtira chalked out a conspiracy he ordered him to stand in the middle of the pond for whole night, which Arjun did by spending his time focusing on the bulb situated a few yards away next day when Yudhishtira came to know about it he regarded this as a foul play, to justify his point Arjun ordered him to make a khichdi with pot at a few distances with fire, agitated Yudhishtira said how is it possible, Arjun replied then how was it possible in my case.

OR

The Return Gift

Mr. Aggarwal was a very wealthy businessman. One day he was alone sitting at his dining table. It was his birthday. He heard the footsteps of a man behind the curtains. He knew there was a thief there. Come on! Thank you for coming to my house on my birthday. I'm alone, give me your company. The thief was starving. He had good food and drinks. Mr. Aggarwal gave him a big purse. It had silver coins. Years rolled by. His fortunes changed. Mr. Aggarwal was a very poor man now. His business was ruined. Today was his 50th birthday. But he had become a pauper now. He was alone reflecting over his good old days. It was at 9 pm. The bell rang. Who can be at such a time to visit a poor man? thought Aggarwal. He saw a man in a new suit with a lovely bouquet of red roses. He had many packets of gifts, fruits, sweets, and a few

bottles. He tried to recognise the man. I'm your old thief, replied the man. With the money, you gave me I did some business. I earned a lot of money within these years. Now I am a rich businessman. Let's celebrate your birthday, he said. "It is for you, a little return-gift. He gave a bag to Mr. Aggarwal. Mr. Aggarwal opened the bag. It was full of new currency notes. Mr. Agarwal was surprised and refused the gift at first. Then the thief convinced him to take it as a token of gratitude since he is the reason behind him turning into a rich business man from a thief. Mr. agarwal accepted the gift and started his own business and lead his life ever like before. Agarwal accepted the request but on one condition he said he would use this money to start his business and share 50% share of his profit to the thief. He was thankful to the thief since he was the only one who accompanied him earlier on his birthday and even now for his 50th birthday.

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

- a. Tommy described the teacher as a man and added that they didn't teach in the house. They had a special building and all the kids went there. The teacher gave them homework and asked them questions. To Margie, a man as a teacher was totally surprised she couldn't imagine it as she had a conception that 'man isn't smart enough' to be a teacher.
- b. Albert wanted to marry Mileva right after finishing his studies. But his mother was against it. She thought Mileva, who was three years elder to Einstein, was very old for him. She was also intelligent to be a wife. Einstein's mother said, "she is a book like you." As his mother was against his marriage with Mileva so Einstein put the wedding off.
- c. The central idea of the poem is that all human beings are similar and equal. Hence, we should love one another and live in peace and harmony. All human beings are identical in nature and phases of human life are the same anywhere in the world.
- d. The king and the minister were idiots. The ministers blindly followed the imprudent commands of their king. The king wanted to do something unique. So he decided to change night into day and vice-versa. The king ordered every citizen to follow the rule strictly. He ordered everyone to work after dark and sleep as soon as the sun came up. Even the cattle were made to follow this order. The people had to obey the order of the foolish king for fear of death. The king felt delighted at the success of this new order.

- e. Zan breaks down in tears after the fire because he comes to an overwhelming realisation of the great losses he has suffered. His old school, his friends, his house and his cat—all have been lost. The tears are an emotional outburst of a teenager who is struggling with adjustment issues.
- f. Sergei helped Lushkoff to live respectfully by giving him odd jobs every time he came to the yard. Now Lushkoff did not need to beg alms since he got money for all the little tasks that he was given by Sergei. Lastly, Sergei sent Lushkoff to his friend with a letter of recommendation for cleaner employment as a copier.

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

- a. Strong fires become fiercer when the wind blows. Instead of yielding to its power, their big flames rise higher and become stronger. Everything that is weak is destroyed in the face of a strong wind. But all the things that are strong flourish and grow to become even stronger.
- b. Grandmother wanted Kezia to forget all about the beating that she had got from her father. She wanted her to forget it because the punishment was not given to hurt her but to make her understand that things belonging to others must not be touched. She tried to console Kezia by asking her to forget about the punishment her father had given her. Grandma thought that since she was a little girl she would forget about the beating in the morning. But Kezia never forgot it. The next morning she hid her hands behind her back on seeing her father.
- c. Bruno took to drinking milk from a bottle immediately. The bear started eating and drinking everything else soon after. He ate porridge, made from any ingredients, vegetables, fruits, nuts, meat and he also started drinking all sorts of liquids like milk, tea, lime-juice etc. soon.
- d. Nana was the narrator's family donkey. Toto troubled Nana by clinging on to its long ears with his sharp teeth. He did so on the very first night that he shared the stable with the donkey. No doubt, Toto was mischievous. He kept creating problems not only for animals but for the members of the family also. When Grandfather visited the stable he found Toto fastened on to Nana's long ears with his sharp little teeth. They could never become friends.
- e. On the fifth day, a military helicopter flew over the shelter and dropped some food parcels. It then didn't return. The youth task force gathered empty utensils from the

shelter and they devised a plan to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie there with empty utensils on their stomachs. This was done to communicate to the helicopters that they were hungry. The scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly.

- f. Sue helped Johnsy in all possible ways. She took care of all her medical and health-related needs. She tried her best to wash away the negative mind set as it was the main cause of her illness.
12. Santosh did not want to let norms dictate her life. She never wanted to adhere to the irrational, hackneyed customs and wanted to live life on her own terms. In fact, she believed that if she chose a correct and a rational path, others would have to change and align themselves to her choices. Santosh left home for Delhi when she turned sixteen because her parents had begun to pressurise her to get married in keeping with the tradition. She declared that she would not marry at all if denied proper education. She told them that she planned to work part-time in order to pay her fees. They realized that their daughter was independent, had a strong will-power and firm self-belief. However, she tried her best not to hurt her parents and wrote a letter of apology to her father for not having sought his permission before joining the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi. She thus managed to carve her own destiny.

OR

The root of the tree is moist anti-white when it is pulled out of its hiding, the earth-cave. They are tender and delicate as they have remained concealed for years together, away from sunlight and air. The root is not able to bear the light and heat of the sun and the open air and so when it is left exposed, it feels scorched and choked in the sun and the air. Due to this exposure, it starts to change its colour and becomes somewhat brown. Due to this discolouration, it starts losing its tenderness and thus begins the slow decline of the tree. The root becomes hard and its suppleness declines. Gradually, it withers away and becomes gnarled and twisted. This completely drains the life out of it and it leads to the death of the whole tree. Thus this exposure of the root is fatal to the life of the tree and destroys the very soul of the tree.

13. When he flew over the city, the swallow saw the stark contrast of wealth and poverty and the rich and poor. He saw the rich in their beautiful houses and the poor beggars sitting at the gates. In the dark lanes, he observed the white faces of hungry children. He saw the

watchman asking two hungry boys to run off. The two hungry boys then wandered out into the rain. Two little boys were trying to keep each other warm by hugging close under the archway of a bridge and the watchman was telling them not to lie there. Uncared for and unwanted, these boys wandered out into the rain. Thus, the swallow saw the same misery that made the Happy Prince weep. He saw rich men making merry, oblivious to the plight of the poor down the lane. He saw the condition of the poor when they were denied even a sound sleep by police patrolling the street.

OR

The child went to a village fair with his parents. He liked a beautiful toy. He asked his parents to buy him that toy. But his father called him away from that shop. Then he tried to catch a butterfly. But he did not succeed. After that, he saw a sweets-seller. He wanted to have some Burfi. But his father called him away from that shop. He would get attracted to these things and would stop in his way. Then, his parents would walk ahead and he would be left behind. Then he saw someone selling garlands of Gulmohur flowers. The child wanted to buy a garland. But this demand was also rejected. Then the child saw a juggler. He wanted to stop and hear the music of his flute. But he feared his father. In the end, he wanted to have a ride in a roundabout. He called his parents. But there was no reply. He turned back. His parents were nowhere to be seen. He started weeping.