

4

PROSE

Birth

—A.J. Cronin



In this excerpt from "The Citadel," Andrew Manson, a newly graduated doctor, learns the importance of practical experience in medicine. After a distressing encounter with his girlfriend, he is called to assist Joe Morgan's wife with her difficult childbirth. Through his expertise and determination, Andrew successfully resuscitates the lifeless newborn and ends up experiencing a profound sense of accomplishment. This moment becomes a pinnacle of fulfillment in his medical career, providing him with a genuine sense of purpose and validation.

Topic Notes

-  Characters in Brief
-  Chapter in Detail
-  Significant Morals
-  Dictionary





Characters in Brief

Dr. Andrew Manson– He is a dedicated and hardworking young medical graduate, who is working as an assistant to Dr. Edward Page in the small mining town of Blaenelly. On the call of Joe Morgan, a miner, he manages to help in a difficult birth and saves the baby's life using his medical knowledge and continuous efforts.

Joe Morgan– He is the husband of Susan Morgan. He approaches Dr. Andrew Manson to help with his wife's delivery and places full faith in the doctor.

Susan Morgan's Mother– She is a tall, grey-haired woman aged seventy. She is capable of making quick decisions with her years of experience. She is concerned about her daughter's life and, is also yearning to see her grandchild.

The Midwife– She is an experienced nurse who helps Dr. Andrew in the birth of the child. She is pessimistic about the child's survival when he is found to not be breathing, but still dutifully assists Dr. Andrew Manson in his work.



Chapter in Detail

Joe Morgan was Waiting for Dr. Andrew

Dr. Andrew had recently graduated from medical college. He was practising as an assistant to Dr. Edward Page in a small Welsh mining town of Blaenelly. One night, as he was returning home from a terrible evening with Christine, his girlfriend, he found Joe Morgan waiting for him outside his house. He had been there for more than an hour. He felt relaxed as soon as he saw Dr. Andrew. He requested Dr. Andrew's presence at his home as his wife was expecting to deliver a baby after almost 20 years of marriage. Dr. Andrew asked him to wait for a few minutes. He went inside, picked his medical bag, and set out for Joe Morgan's house.

The Case Demanded All the Attention of Dr. Andrew

Joe Morgan stopped outside the house and requested Dr. Andrew to go inside alone. He was tensed but he had full confidence in Dr. Andrew's work. Through a narrow staircase, the doctor reached a small, clean, but poorly furnished room. He found two women sitting beside the patient, Susan Morgan's mother, a tall, grey-haired woman of nearly seventy, and the stout, elderly midwife.

Susan's mother offered him a cup of tea and addressed him as "bach". Dr. Andrew sensed that she was worried about him leaving during the waiting period. Dr. Andrew made her feel relaxed by giving her a gentle smile. He assured her that he won't go anywhere. Although he was tired, he decided to stay.

An hour later, Dr. Andrew went to check upon the patient. He sat by the kitchen fire upon coming down. The restless footsteps of Joe Morgan and the slow - tick of the wall clock could be heard as the night was silent.



Character's Mood

➔ Observant, relaxed

Example 1. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Andrew, abruptly recalled from the contemplation of his own affairs, told Morgan to wait. He went into the house for his bag, then together they set out for Number 12, Blaina Terrace. The night air was cool, and deep with quiet mystery. Usually so perceptive, Andrew now felt dull and listless.

- (A) What do the given lines tell us about Andrew?
 - (a) His career had been unsuccessful so far.
 - (b) He was depressed and tired.
 - (c) He needed rest.
 - (d) He was a dull man.
- (B) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the extract.
By referring to the night air as mysterious, the poet is implying that something wrong is about to happen with Dr. Andrew.
- (C) Complete the sentence appropriately.
'Andrew, abruptly recalled from the contemplation of his own affairs', suggests that Andrew was
- (D) What opinion can be formed about Dr. Andrew after reading the story, 'Birth'?
- (E) Why is the chapter titled 'Birth'?
 - (a) Because the doctor specializes in childbirth.
 - (b) Because the child dies in the story.
 - (c) Because it is about birth of a child.
 - (d) Because it was Andrew's first operation.

Ans. (A) (b) He was depressed and tired

Explanation: Andrew was a doctor by profession and being one, his primary duty was to save the lives of people. He was depressed about his marriage with Christine. After seeing so many failed marriages, he feared for his own marriage with Christine. He was returning from a

disappointing evening with Christine and kept contemplating about it. He was usually energetic, but that day, he felt exhausted. Hence, (b) is correct.

- (B) The given statement is False. Dr. Andrew decided to take the case of Susan Morgan and assist her with the delivery of her child. The night has been described as calm and mysterious because the streets were silent. Since, it was midnight, everyone was asleep in their house.
- (C) 'Andrew, abruptly recalled from the contemplation of his own affairs', suggests that Andrew was lost in his thoughts about his relationship and marriage with Christine.
- (D) After reading the story, one can ascertain that Dr. Andrew is a dedicated and hard working human. He is aware of his responsibilities as a doctor. Despite all the troubles he faces, he remains optimistic and doesn't give up hope. He understands how eagerly the entire family is waiting for the child. He speaks with a comforting tone and is courteous.
- (E) (c) *Because it is about birth of a child.*

Explanation: The story is titled "Birth" because the entire plot revolves around the birth of Susan and Joe Morgan's baby.

Dr. Andrew's Mind Wandered

Dr. Andrew was still troubled by the incident he witnessed at Cardiff Station. He was contemplating about his friends who have had bad experiences in marriage. He reflected on his friend Bramwell, who had been duped by the woman he adored a great deal. Thinking of this, he started worrying about his own marriage with Christine. For a few moments, he kept thinking about Christine, until the old lady broke her silence.

She informed him that her daughter didn't want him to give her the chloroform if it would harm the baby. Dr. Andrew gave an assurance that the anaesthetic would do no harm. Suddenly, he heard the voice of the midwife calling from the top landing. It was half-past three and Dr. Andrew perceived that it was time for him to begin the procedure.

Example 2. Why was Andrew startled when Susan's mother addressed him?

Ans. Dr. Andrew was lost in his thoughts about his relationship with Christine. Susan's mother informed Dr. Andrew that her daughter didn't want him to give her chloroform. Due to the sudden disturbance in his deep thoughts, Dr. Andrew was startled.

The Horrifying Dilemma

After a long, harsh struggle for an hour, the child was born, a perfectly formed boy. Unfortunately, the child was not breathing. A shiver of horror passed down Dr. Andrew's spine. He was shattered. He had promised the family so much. He wanted to resuscitate the child, but the mother herself was in a desperate state. He felt perplexed. Instinctively, he gave the child to the midwife and turned his attention to Susan Morgan, the mother, who was lying unconscious. Her pulse was slow and her strength was weakening.

After a few minutes of continuous efforts, Dr. Andrew stabilised her condition by giving her an injection. As soon as he became confident that Susan was safe, he turned his attention to the child. The midwife had kept the child under the bed, presuming it to be dead. Dr. Andrew pulled out the child from beneath the bed. His head hung loosely on his weak neck and the limbs felt boneless. The child seemed white. He concluded that the child was suffering from Asphyxia Pallida (a condition arising when the body lacks oxygen, leading to blackout or sometimes, death).



Character's Mood

➡ Hopeful; determined

Dr. Andrew's Efforts to Save the Child

Dr. Andrew recalled a case he once had seen in the Samaritan (a medical journal) and the treatment that was used. He quickly instructed the nurse to get hot and cold water in separate tubs. The nurse felt hopeless. She thought that there was no use of saving the child now. It won't come back to life. Desperately, he splashed cold water into one basin, and hot water into the other.

In order to arise consciousness in the child, Dr. Andrew started plunging the child once into the icy water and then into the steaming bath. Fifteen minutes passed, but nothing happened. He was exhausted and disheartened. He thought that his efforts had failed. He could see the dubious expressions of the midwife and Susan's mother. He knew how badly the old lady was waiting for her grandchild. Therefore, he continued his efforts.



Character's Mood

➡ Persistent

The Miracle

The midwife requested Andrew to stop the procedure as it would not bring the child back. Dr. Andrew didn't pay attention to her words. He started rubbing the child with a rough towel and thumped his little chest with both his hands, trying to get breath into his limp body.

Then, a miracle took place. The little child took a breath. Dr. Andrew continued heaving, leaving him weak and nervous. He redoubled his efforts and the child was breathing now. The limbs were no longer boneless, and the head became erect. The child's skin gradually turned pink. The next moment, it let out a cry. The midwife exclaimed with tears of happiness in her eyes, "It's come - it's come alive".

Example 3. What was the reaction of Susan's mother when she heard the child crying?

Ans. Dr. Andrew's efforts had finally yielded a positive result. The child let out a cry and started breathing. Susan's mother felt grateful to God. She was standing against the wall, and praying silently.

Dr. Andrew felt Relieved

His efforts have finally paid off, and he felt a sense of achievement. The old woman, Susan's mother, was still standing against the wall, praying.

Andrew went downstairs and informed the nurse that he would fetch his bag later. He found Joe Morgan

still waiting with an anxious, eager face. Dr. Andrew shared the good news that both the mother and the baby were all fine.

Andrew was really happy and exclaimed, 'Oh, God! I've done something real at last,' he said with a sense of relief. He had accomplished something in medical history that would certainly brighten his future.



Character's Mood

→ Happy, satisfied

Example 4. Joe Morgan refused to go inside the house in the beginning of the story. Draw an inference about his personality.

Ans. Joe Morgan refused to go inside the house with Dr. Andrew. His wife, Susan, was about to deliver their first child after being married for nearly twenty years. One can infer that Joe is a caring man who loves his wife. He also gets tensed and worried easily. Hence, he chose to stay outside. He wanted everything to go smoothly.



Significant Morals

- (1) No matter how impossible a situation may seem, one should remain persistent.
- (2) Sometimes, following our instincts can clear the doubts in our heads and give you a solution.
- (3) One should keep his or her issues aside, and focus on the situation in the front.
- (4) With determination and hard work, one can clear any hurdle in life.



Dictionary

Word	Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
<i>Sordidly</i>	unpleasantly	nasty	pleasantly
<i>Dismal</i>	disappointing	gloomy	hopeful
<i>Wince</i>	feel pain	recoil	ease
<i>Idyllic</i>	perfect	blissful	flawed
<i>Broodingly</i>	worryingly	irritable	calm
<i>Collected</i>	calm	cool - headed	anxious
<i>Perceived</i>	recognize	discern	ignore
<i>Resuscitate</i>	bring back to life	revive	dead
<i>Dilemma</i>	difficulty	problem	solution
<i>Collapsed</i>	unconscious	pass out	consciousness
<i>Frantic</i>	agitated	panicky	calm
<i>Flaccid</i>	loose	soft	hard
<i>Sodden</i>	soaked	dripping (wet)	dry
<i>Pallid</i>	pale	white	glowing

<i>Respiration</i>	breathing	inhale – exhale	lifeless
<i>Frantically</i>	desperately	madly	normally
<i>Longing</i>	desiring	yearning	loathing
<i>Unavailing</i>	ineffective	useless	useful
<i>Hysterically</i>	uncontrollably	desperately	controllably

OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How does the author describe the bedroom in Joe's house?

- (a) Well-furnished
- (b) Poorly-furnished
- (c) Dirty
- (d) Luxurious

Ans. (b) *Poorly-furnished*

Explanation: As Andrew entered House Number 12, he saw a narrow passage which led up to a small bedroom. It was clean, but poorly furnished, and lit only by an oil lamp. Hence, (b) is correct.

2. Why did Andrew say, "Don't fret, mother, I'll will not run away"?

- (a) To reassure Mrs. Morgan's mother.
- (b) To fulfill his obligations.
- (c) To break the silence.
- (d) To handle a critical situation well.

Ans. (a) *To reassure Mrs. Morgan's mother.*

Explanation: Mrs. Morgan's mother had anticipated the waiting period, and was worried that Dr. Andrew would leave the case, saying he would return later. Hence, Dr. Andrew comforted her by saying that he wouldn't leave the house until everything was over. He said, "Don't fret, mother, I'll not run away." Hence, (a) is correct.

3. Dr. Andrew's mind was filled with:

- (a) worry for Susan's mother.
- (b) the thoughts about his relationship with Christine.
- (c) his future as a doctor.
- (d) the thoughts about Susan Morgan's child.

Ans. (b) *the thoughts about his relationship with Christine.*

Explanation: Dr. Andrew was contemplating about his friends, who have had terrible marriage experiences in the past. Thinking

about his friend Bramwell, who was deceived by his lover, he felt afraid. He started worrying about his relationship with Christine. He didn't want his marriage to fail. Hence, (b) is correct.

4. What dilemma did Dr. Andrew deal with?

- (a) Whether the child could be saved or not.
- (b) Whether the treatment would be successful.
- (c) Whether to attend the child or the mother.
- (d) Whether to inform Joe or not.

Ans. (c) *Whether to attend the child or the mother.*

Explanation: Susan Morgan's child was born lifeless. Dr. Andrew was in a state of conflict as he didn't know whom to address first, the lifeless born or the miserable mother. He gave the child to the midwife and started attending to Susan. Hence, (c) is correct.

5. The midwife made a frightened gesture because:

- (a) she had placed the child beneath the bed.
- (b) she thought that the child was dead.
- (c) Andrew yelled at her.
- (d) both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d) *both (a) and (b)*

Explanation: The midwife was frightened because she had put the baby under the bed assuming it was dead. Hence, (d) is correct.

6. The line, "Dr. Andrew had no premonition that the night would influence his whole future in Blaenelly" can be best classified as:

- (a) a fact
- (b) an opinion
- (c) a theme
- (d) a plot point

Ans. (d) *a plot point*

Explanation: The above-mentioned line is a plot point because it gives an indication of what will happen next in the story. It acts as a turning point for the protagonist of the story, Dr. Andrew Manson. Hence, (b) is correct.

7. What things were used by Dr. Andrew to treat the child?

- (a) Hot and cold water
- (b) A blanket
- (c) A soothing gel
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d) Both (a) and (b)

Explanation: In order to save the child, Dr. Andrew laid the child on a blanket. Then, he tried the hot and cold water treatment, dipping the baby alternately. Hence, d is correct.

8. "The child was gasping now, deeper and deeper." Which literary device has been used here?

- (a) Alliteration
- (b) Simile
- (c) Repetition
- (d) Personification

Ans. (c) Repetition

Explanation: Repetition is a literary device in which a word or a phrase is repeated multiple times. Here, the word 'deeper' has been repeated. Hence, (c) is correct.

9. After trying for fifteen minutes, Andrew felt:

- (a) accomplished
- (b) hopeless
- (c) hopeful
- (d) confident

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. (b) hopeless

Explanation: Dr. Andrew tried an unconventional method to bring the baby back to life. He tried submerging it into hot and cold water basins alternately. Fifteen minutes passed, but nothing happened. The baby was still not breathing. This made Dr. Andrew hopeless. Hence, (b) is correct.

10. How did Dr. Andrew try to save the stillborn?

- (a) Using a special method of respiration.
- (b) Calling Dr. Edward.
- (c) Taking him to the hospital.
- (d) Giving him blood. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. (a) Using a special method of respiration.

Explanation: Dr. Andrew tried to bring the child back to life by trying an uncommon method of respiration. He tried dipping the baby into hot and cold water tubs. Hence, (a) is correct.

Extract Based Questions

11. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

It was a conclusion which, in his present state, made him wince. He wished to consider marriage as an idyllic state; yes, he could not otherwise consider it with the image of Christine before him. Her eyes, shining towards

him, admitted no other conclusion. It was the conflict between his level, doubting mind, and his overflowing heart that left him resentful and confused. He let his chin sink upon his chest, stretched out his legs, and stared broodingly into the fire.

(A) Which emotional state of the character is being reflected in the extract?

(B) Select the statement(s) that is/are correct on the basis of your reading of Birth.

Statement (I): Dr. Andrew did not really want to marry Christine.

Statement (II): Dr. Andrew was confident he wanted to spend his life with Christine.

- (a) Both statements (I) and (II) are correct
- (b) Both statements (I) and (II) are incorrect
- (c) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect
- (d) Statement (II) is correct and (I) is incorrect

(C) Fill in the blank.

The word in the extract is an antonym of 'pleased'.

(D) What message do these lines highlight, in the context of marriages, and the character's sense of anxiety and fear towards his own marriage?

Ans. (A) One can conclude that Dr. Andrew was feeling dejected and irritated thinking about his marriage with Christine, his love. He wished to believe the institution of marriage as the one that brings happiness and peace.

(B) (b) Both statements (I) and (II) are incorrect.

Explanation: It is hard to infer whether Dr. Andrew wanted to marry Christine or he was sceptical. Although, he was afraid that his marriage with Christine might not sustain, he hoped to believe that the institution of marriage guaranteed peace and happiness. Hence, (b) is correct.

(C) resentful

(D) The above lines convey that marriages do not always lead to happiness and contentment. It is common for an individual to question the institution of marriage. Dr. Andrew was afraid that his marriage with Christine might not sustain. This left him feeling frustrated. He wanted it to bring long-lasting happiness.

12. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Though it was nearly midnight when Andrew reached Bryngower, he found Joe Morgan waiting for him, walking up and down with

short steps between the closed surgery and the entrance to the house. At the sight of him, the burly driller's face expressed relief. "Eh, Doctor, I'm glad to see you. I have been back and forward here this last hour. The missus wants ye —before time, too."

Andrew, abruptly recalled from the contemplation of his own affairs, told Morgan to wait. He went into the house for his bag, then together they set out for Number 12, Blaina Terrace. The night air was cool and deep with quiet mystery. Usually so perceptive, Andrew now felt dull and listless. He had no premonition that this night call would prove unusual, still less that it would influence his whole future in Blaenelly.

(A) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The comment "The missus wants ye-before time, too" suggests that

(B) What does the expression "walking up and down with short steps" signify about Joe Morgan's feelings?

- (a) He was worried.
- (b) He was calm.
- (c) He was impatient.
- (d) He was angry.

(C) Pick an evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the protagonist was committed to his profession.

(D) Pick out a word from the extract that means the opposite of 'neglect'.

Ans. (A) The comment "The missus wants ye-before time, too" made by Joe Morgan suggests that his wife, Susan, who was expecting their first child, needed Dr. Andrew to examine her before the delivery of her child as well. She wanted to make sure that there was no risk in delivering the baby, and the procedure takes place smoothly.

(B) (a) He was worried.

Explanation: At nearly midnight, Joe Morgan was worried and stressed as he was walking up and down, waiting for Dr. Andrew outside his house. His wife was expecting their first child. Hence, (a) is correct.

(C) An evidence from the extract that would help one infer that the protagonist, Dr. Andrew Manson, was committed to his profession would be that despite being dull and tired, he decided to take the case of Susan Morgan. He set out for Number 12, Blaina Terrace, which was Joe Morgan's house.

(D) The word that means the opposite of 'neglect' is contemplating. It means to think carefully about something for a long time.

SHORT ANSWER Type Questions (SA)

[2 marks]

Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words:

13. Who was Joe Morgan? Why was he waiting for Dr. Andrew Manson?

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Joe Morgan was a driller in Blaenelly, a mining town. He and his wife, Susan, had been married for nearly twenty years, and now they were expecting their first child. He was waiting for the doctor to help Susan with the delivery of the child.

14. Why did a shiver of horror pass over Andrew?

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Dr. Andrew struggled for more than an hour to help the mother, Susan Morgan, deliver the baby safely. But when the child was born, he was lifeless. As Andrew gazed at the still-born baby, a shiver of horror passed over him.

15. Was Dr. Andrew depressed about the thought of his marriage?

Ans. Yes, Andrew Manson was depressed about the thought of his marriage. He had seen many failed marriages and feared that his marriage with Christine might fail. He thought she was sweet. He wished the institution of marriage to be the one that would lead to long-lasting peace and happiness.

16. What was Andrew's view of marriage? Why was he resentful and confused?

Ans. Andrew had seen his friends' marriages fail. He thought of Bramwell, who was deceived by the woman he loved the most. He also contemplated upon the relationship of Edward Page, who was in relationship with a dominating woman. This made him uncertain about his own marriage to Christine. He was afraid that it might fail. He wanted it to be idyllic.

17. What dilemma did Andrew face when the child was born?

Ans. After a long struggle, the child was born. Unfortunately, it was born lifeless. Dr. Andrew

was in a dilemma whether to address the child first or the mother. The dilemma was so urgent that he could not make the decision consciously. He was confused for a while. He addressed the mother first as she was in a miserable state and gave the child to the midwife.

18. What did the nurse do with the child while Dr. Andrew was attending to the mother?

Ans. While Dr. Andrew's attention was on Susan Morgan's condition, the nurse placed the baby beneath the bed with sodden newspapers. The nurse had given up the baby for dead as it was not breathing.

19. What did the child look like when Andrew pulled it out?

Ans. The child looked in perfect shape white and limp with smooth and tender skin. The limp, warm body was white and extremely soft. The child's head lolled on the thin neck, and the limbs seemed boneless. Dr. Andrew stared at the child.

20. What was the child suffering from? What treatment did Andrew apply?

Ans. Dr. Andrew stared at the child, and thought about the reason behind the white skin. After a while, he concluded that the child was suffering from asphyxia pallida. In order to restore the child's health, he tried a special method of respiration. He plunged him into basins of hot and icy water alternately. He also pumped his heart and was able to revive him.

21. What efforts did Andrew make to revive the newborn baby?

OR

What did Andrew do to restore life to the still-born child?

Ans. After hours of continuous efforts, the baby was born. Unfortunately, the child was born lifeless. In order to bring the child back to life, Dr. Andrew rubbed the child with a rough towel and pumped his chest. He immersed the child in hot and icy water alternately. He finally succeeded in his efforts, and in the next moment, the child started crying.

22. Why was Susan opposed to getting the chloroform injected? (Delhi Gov QB. 2022)

Ans. Susan was expecting her first child after being married for nearly twenty years. She refused to take chloroform as she thought that it would harm the baby. However, Dr. Andrew gave her an assurance that it wouldn't harm the child and he administered the anaesthetic.

23. What unexpected miracle took place that turned Andrew's nervousness into joy?

Ans. Andrew's nervousness was turned into joy when the baby started breathing. The child's heart had started beating and the limp body was revived. Andrew was able to save both the mother and the child. He felt a sense of relief after hours of frantic efforts. He had finally achieved something great.

24. What was the condition of the room after Dr. Andrew had finished?

Ans. After Andrew had finished the treatment, the room was in a mess. The blankets, towels, basins, solid instruments, the hypodermic syringe, the ewer and the kettle were all in a terrible state.

25. How important was the evening's work in the career of Dr. Andrew?

Ans. The evening's work was extremely important in the career of Dr. Andrew. That evening, he solidified his reputation as an accomplished doctor because he had brought back the child from the point of death.

26. What were Andrew's thoughts after he had successfully overcome the crisis?

Ans. Dr. Andrew exhaled with relief after saving both the mother and the child. He was grateful to God. He was satisfied and happy that as a doctor, he had done something real at last. His heart was filled with contentment and joy.

27. Give a character sketch of Andrew Manson.

Ans. Andrew Manson was a dedicated doctor who believed in saving the lives of his patients. Even after the uninterrupted efforts, the child was born lifeless. However, Dr. Andrew remained persistent. He went beyond the normal expectations of a doctor to save the wife and baby of Joe Morgan. Although he was in a state of dilemma, he wasted no time in taking the correct decision.

28. Do you think the title of the story 'Birth' is appropriate? If yes, why?

Ans. One can certainly agree that 'Birth' is an appropriate title of the story. The entire story revolves around the birth of Joe Morgan's child and Dr. Andrew's continuous efforts to bring the child back to life. His dedication and determination to save the child and his success towards the end of the story are the main points of focus.

29. Do you think that at the end of the story Andrew is correct in saying "I've done something real at last?" Justify your answer appropriately.

Ans. Yes, Dr. Andrew was correct when he said, "I've done something real at last" because he had revived the still-born child using his knowledge

as well as his observation. The child was extremely important for Joe Morgan and his wife as it was their first child.

LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in about 120 - 150 words:

30. What impression do you form about Dr. Andrew Manson after reading the story 'Birth' ?

Ans. Dr. Andrew was a young doctor. He was trying to establish his practise in the small mining town of Blaenelly. He was a dedicated and responsible medical practitioner whose only goal was to restore the health of his patients. Despite being fatigued, he didn't refuse when Joe Morgan requested his presence at his home. Joe's wife was expecting their first child after being married for nearly twenty years. Although Dr. Andrew didn't have much experience, he remained optimistic even when the child was born lifeless. He didn't give up hope and was determined to bring the child back to life. He was also decisive, as when he was torn between the two conflicts, he took the correct decision without wasting any time. He used his knowledge as well as his observation to revive the stillborn child. One can also say that he understands the emotions of people around him. He felt quite worried about the family members when the child was born lifeless.

31. If you work to respect the feelings, yearnings and desires of others, success is always yours. Explain on the basis of the lesson 'Birth' by A. J. Cronin.

Ans. Dr. Andrew Manson respected the feelings of the Morgan family. In spite of his mental agony and tiredness, he decided to accompany Joe to his house. His wife was expecting their first child after being married for nearly twenty years. He had gone there to assist Mrs. Morgan in the birth of her child.

A shiver of horror passed over Dr. Andrew as the child was born lifeless. He instantly looked at Susan's mother. He understood how eagerly she was waiting for her grandchild. He also knew how precious was the child for the couple. This worried him as he didn't want the family to be disheartened. He spent the whole night saving the life of the child and finally succeeded in making the family happy. In the end, he emerged as a distinct human being

who gave his best to save the precious lives not out of money but because he considered it his moral responsibility.

32. How has the author expressed his thoughts on marriage in the chapter 'Birth'?

Ans. The author, A. J. Cronin has presented his opinions on marriage through the portrayal of Dr. Andrew Manson in the story. Dr. Andrew was a medical practitioner by profession. He was in love with a woman named Christine, but his mind and heart were at odds, leaving him confused and frustrated. After spending an unpleasant night with Christine, he began to question the institution of marriage. He thought of his friends, who have unsuccessful relationships and marriages. He thought of his friend, Bramwell, who was deceived by the woman he loved the most. He also thought of Edward Page, who was in a relationship with a cunning woman. All these examples frustrated him. He felt disappointed. According to him, marriage was supposed to bring contentment and happiness into a person's life. He was afraid that his marriage with Christine might fail.

Through the thoughts of Dr. Andrew Manson, one can conclude that, dishonesty, cheating, and mistrust can ruin a perfect marriage.

33. Why was Joe Morgan standing outside Dr. Andrew's home at midnight?

Ans. One midnight, when Dr. Andrew was returning home after spending a disappointed evening with his love, Christine, he caught the sight of Joe Morgan. He was walking up and down the road, waiting for Dr. Andrew to arrive from work. On seeing Dr. Andrew, he felt a sense of relief. Joe Morgan's wife was about to give birth to their first child. He didn't want to take any risks and wanted to make sure that everything went smoothly. Moreover, his wife wanted Dr. Andrew to examine her even before the time of her baby's birth. Despite being worn out, he chose to accompany Morgan to his house.

34. How does the story highlight the essence of true happiness and fulfillment through Dr. Andrew's experience? Discuss with reference to the story. [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Dr. Andrew was a medical practitioner by profession. Despite being dull and tired, he decided to take the case of Susan Morgan and ensured the safe delivery of her child. He did an exceptional work. Not only had he helped the mother with the safe delivery of her first child, but he also restored them to great health. When the child was born lifeless, Dr. Andrew used his knowledge and observation to revive the child. He immersed the baby alternately in hot and cold water. He went on pressing and releasing the baby's chest with both his hands. Although he was agitated, he didn't give up. At last, the baby started breathing. Dr. Andrew's happiness knew no bounds as he realised that he had the power and potential to actually save lives and make a difference through his work. He was really content with what he had accomplished because it had been done without any greed.

35. "Dr. Andrew had no premonition that this night would prove unusual, still less that it would influence his whole future in Blaenelly." How did it happen?

Ans. When Dr. Andrew made the decision to take the case of Susan Morgan and assist her with the safe delivery of her first child, he had no idea that the night would influence his whole future in Blaenelly.

When he saw that the child was unconscious due to a lack of oxygen, he tried an unconventional treatment by immersing the baby alternately in hot and cold water. Then, he pressed and released the baby's little chest. Miraculously, the baby started breathing. Dr. Andrew rejoiced and felt relieved for doing something, real, at last. He was now more confident in his capabilities as a doctor.

36. A doctor must remain committed to saving lives. Unfortunately, this commitment is rarely seen nowadays. Comment.

Ans. When a medical student receives his degree after completing his studies, he must take an oath that he will always work to save the lives of his patients. Becoming a doctor is a noble job, and doctors are widely respected. Unfortunately, it appears that doctors nowadays have forgotten their oath.

They see their patients as a source of income. They subject them to needless expenses by suggesting pointless treatments. Often, they conduct surgery that is not required and earn huge sums of money. Childbirth rarely takes place without surgery.

'Greedy' is the new adjective used to describe doctors. Their greed has given rise to illegal practises such as tricking patients into surgery and removing their kidneys for sale, sex determination of fetuses and illegal abortions.

We need to look at this situation seriously. Even though the entire society has grown extremely greedy, doctors cannot afford to compromise their moral beliefs because they deal with people's lives.

37. The greatest lesson, we can learn from Dr. Andrew's life is to never give up, do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Dr. Andrew was a dedicated doctor who was committed to his profession. He assisted Susan in giving birth to her child safely. The baby was delivered after hours of struggle, but it was not alive. Despite the nurse's assertion that the baby was dead, Dr. Andrew remained committed to saving the little one. He didn't hesitate to make a choice when faced with the conflict of whether to save the mother or the baby first. Any other doctor would have given up if the child was not breathing. However, Dr. Andrew revived the child using his expertise and observations. He alternately submerged the child in hot and cold water tubs, and finally, the child was breathing. During the treatment, he was agitated and sweating heavily, but not even for a split second did he consider giving up. This demonstrates that a person can overcome any hurdle in life by being positive.

38. In the story 'Birth', Dr. Andrew leaves Joe Morgan's house with a sense of relief. He is happy to have achieved something great in his professional career.

As Dr. Andrew, write a diary entry expressing your thoughts.

Ans. 13th November, 2012

Wednesday

Dear Diary,

As I record my thoughts and feelings in this diary, I can't help but smile. The wisest move I ever made was the case of Susan Morgan in assisting her with the safe delivery of her child. I had no idea what the evening had in store for me. I was terrified as I witnessed the baby being born lifeless. I was at a loss for words. However, as soon as I saw Susan and her mother's expression, I decided to save the child anyhow. Initially, I wasn't sure who needed saving first, the mother or the son. However, my gut prompted me to save the mother first. So I did! I used an uncommon method to save the child, and it worked. The baby finally started breathing. What a miracle it was! I am really proud of myself for being so dedicated and not giving up. I was really happy as I left Joe's place. I expressed my gratitude to God as I watched the sky. I'm happy to have the opportunity to practise medicine, and I'll work hard to uphold my duties in the future as well.

Andrew

