

Class X Session 2023-24
Subject - English (Lan & Lit)
Sample Question Paper - 9

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING & GRAMMAR and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION-A
READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

1. Read the following text.

(1) First introduced in 1927, The Hardy Boys Mystery Stories are a series of books about the adventures of brothers Frank and Joe Hardy, teenage detectives who solve one baffling mystery after another. The Hardy Boys were so popular among young boys that in 1930, a similar series was created for girls featuring a sixteen year-old detective named Nancy Drew. The cover of each volume of The Hardy Boys states that the author of the series is Franklin W. Dixon; the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories are supposedly written by Carolyn Keene. Over the years, though, many fans of both series have been surprised to find out that Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene are not real people. If Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene never existed, then who wrote The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries?

(2) The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew books were written through a process called ghostwriting. A ghostwriter writes a book according to a specific formula. While ghostwriters are paid for writing the books, their authorship is not acknowledged, and their names do not appear on the published books. Ghostwriters can write books for children or adults, the content of which is unspecific. Sometimes they work on book series with a lot of individual titles, such as The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series.

(3) The initial idea for both the Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series was developed by a man named Edward Stratemeyer, who owned a publishing company that specialized in children's books. Stratemeyer noticed the increasing popularity of mysteries among adults, and surmised that children would enjoy reading mysteries about younger detectives with whom they could identify. Stratemeyer first developed each book

with an outline describing the plot and setting. Once he completed the outline, Stratemeyer then hired a ghostwriter to convert it into a book of slightly over 200 pages. After the ghostwriter had written a draft of a book, he or she would send it back to Stratemeyer, who would make a list of corrections and mail it back to the ghostwriter. The ghostwriter would revise the book according to Stratemeyer's instructions and then return it to him. Once Stratemeyer approved the book, it was ready for publication. Because each series ran for so many years, Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys both had a number of different ghostwriters producing books; however, the first ghostwriter for each series proved to be the most influential. The initial ghostwriter for The Hardy Boys was a Canadian journalist named Leslie McFarlane.

(4) A few years later, Mildred A. Wirt, a young writer from Iowa, began writing the Nancy Drew books. Although they were using prepared outlines as guides, both McFarlane and Wirt developed the characters themselves. The personalities of Frank and Joe Hardy and Nancy Drew arose directly from McFarlane's and Wirt's imaginations. For example, Mildred Wirt had been a star college athlete and gave Nancy similar athletic abilities. The ghostwriters were also responsible for numerous plot and setting details. Leslie McFarlane used elements of his small Canadian town to create Bayport, the Hardy Boys' fictional hometown.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

- i. "The Hardy Boys" was first published in
- ii. Why are the authors of the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew series called ghostwriters? What is a ghost writer supposed to do?
- iii. The Hardy Boys mystery stories are a series of books that contain,
- iv. Why did Nancy Drew's character have athletic abilities?
- V. Which of these statements is true?
 - A. Hardy Boys came after the success of Nancy Drew.
 - B. Nancy Drew was based on a 15 year old boy detective.
 - C. In ghost writing, the writer gets no credit but only gets paid.
 - D. Mildred Wirt is from Canada.
- vi. Who developed the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew series? How did he help them to develop?
- vii. What is the first step in writing such types of books?
- viii. An apt title for the given passage is
 - A. Hardy Boys and Their Ghost Writers
 - B. Nancy Drew and Her Adventure
 - C. The Birth of Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew
 - D. Stratemeyer's Hard Work

2. Read the following text.

(1) Last week was spent glued to TV, watching India getting thrashed by a rejuvenated England

at Lord's. Like most Indians, I too was dispirited by India's inability to live up to its reputation as the number one team. But at least there was the immense satisfaction of watching the match live and - even listening to BBC's good humoured Test Match Special on Internet radio.

(2) It was such a change from my school days when you had to tune in to a crackling short wave broadcast for intermittent radio commentary. Alternatively, we could go to the cinema, some three weeks after the match, to see a two-minute capsule in the Indian News Review that preceded the feature film.

(3) It is not that there was no technology available to make life a little more rewarding. Yet, in 1971, when B.S. Chandrasekhar mesmerized the opposition and gave India its first Test victory at the Oval, there was no TV, except in Delhi.

(4) Those were the bad old days of the shortage economy when everything, from cinema tickets to two- wheelers, had a black market premium. Telephones were a particular source of exasperation. By the 1970s, the telephone system in cities had collapsed. You may have possessed one of those heavy, black Bakelite instruments but there was no guarantee of a dial tone when you picked up the receiver. The ubiquitous 'cable fault' would render a telephone useless for months on end.

(5) What was particularly frustrating was that there was precious little you could do about whimsical public services. In the early 1980s, when opposition MPs complained about dysfunctional telephones, then communications minister CM Stephen reported that phones were a luxury and not a right. If people were dissatisfied, he pronounced haughtily, they could return their phones!

(6) Inefficiency was, in fact, elevated into an ideal. When capital-intensive public sector units began running into the red, the regime's economists deemed that their performance shouldn't be judged by a narrow capitalist yardstick. The public sector, they pronounced, had to exercise 'social' choices. India, wrote Jagdish Bhagwati (one of the few genuine 'dissidents' of that era), "suffered the tyranny of anticipated consequences from the wrong premises."

(7) Being an Indian in those days was truly demeaning if you had the misfortune of travelling overseas. Government regulations decreed that a private citizen travelling overseas had the right to buy all of \$8. Subsequently, the ceiling was raised to \$500 every three years. This meant that Indians had to evolve innovatively illegal methods of buying a few extra dollars or scrounging off fortunate NRI relatives. No wonder, escaping from India became a middle class obsession, as did petty hawala.

(8) India was an object of mockery. We were mocked for leading a "ship to mouth" existence while preaching morality to the rest of the world. We were pitied, not least by rich Pakistanis who would compare their spanking new Impala cars to our creaking Ambassadors that were in perennial short supply.

(9) Enforced socialist austerity bred dishonesty and subterfuge. India's creative genius became

preoccupied with ways to bypass a system that in all seriousness demanded that the better-off 97% of their income in taxes, and where the remuneration of company directors had to be approved by babus sitting in a ministry in Delhi.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. What important event happened in 1971?

ii. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines?

"I too was dispirited by India's inability to live up to its reputation as the number one team."

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately:

"Telephones were a particular source of exasperation" because _____

iv. How can you justify the statement given below?

"Being an Indian in those days was truly demeaning."

V. Complete the following sentence.

"Running into the red" means

vi. Which of these statements is false?

A. Author felt immense satisfaction of watching the match live.

B. In 1971 there was no TV in India except in Delhi.

C. Jagdish Bhagwati was a dissident of his time.

D. B.S. Chandrasekhar was the communications minister during 1980s.

vii. When opposition MPs complained about dysfunctional telephones, what was the communications minister's reply?

viii. What was the most frustrating thing in the context of the shortage of economy by 1970s?

SECTION-B
WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)
GRAMMAR

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

i. Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.

We were running late for the movie so we _____ the short cut.

A. take

B. took

C. are taking

D. takes

ii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line.

When Saina Nehwal land in Hyderabad, her face was radiant of joy and happiness.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	land, was	landed, were
B.	when, land	as, landed
C.	land, of	landed, with
D.	was, of	were, with

iii. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

Leaves _____ during the autumn season.

- A. fall
- B. falling
- C. fells
- D. is falling

iv. Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.

For _____ tree we cut, we must plant at least 10 trees.

- A. each
- B. none
- C. all
- D. more

V. Complete the dialogue.

Ram: _____ me your English Reader?

Sita: I am sorry, I am doing my English homework.

vi. Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.

Karen _____ to dye her hair every 2 months.

- A. likes
- B. like
- C. liking
- D. has liked

vii. Choose the correct option to complete the given narration.

Sandeep said, "Wow! This is wonderful."

Sandeep exclaimed with _____

- A. excitement that that was wonderful
- B. joy that that is wonderful
- C. wonder that is it wonderful

D. surprise that was it wonderful

viii. Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.

Sanjay _____ living in Mangalore for the past 2 years.

A. have been

B. was

C. has been

D. need

ix. Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.

I _____ be late for the meeting so please make sure to inform the boss.

A. dare

B. ought

C. might

D. need

Fill in the blanks to complete the given conversation.

Minnie is running late for work and she dashed out of her flat. She is greeted by Mrs Kumar in the hallway. "Hello (x) _____ already running late for work?" Minnie replied. "Morning Mrs Kumar and yes, I am already 10 minutes late". "Oh honey you're always rushing like that in the morning, (xi) _____

said Mrs Kumar. Minnie, half annoyed at Mrs Kumar's observation, replied curtly. "Yes, thank you for the suggestion but (xii) _____

X. A. good morning, Minnie

B. good afternoon, Minnie

C. how have you been, Minnie

D. where are you going, Minnie

xi. A. maybe you should stop working

B. stop sleeping too much

C. maybe you should try waking up half an hour early

D. buy yourself a car

xii. A. I'm running late. So see you later, Mrs Kumar

B. I'll come to you for advice

C. please tell me more

D. I don't want to hear from you

WRITING

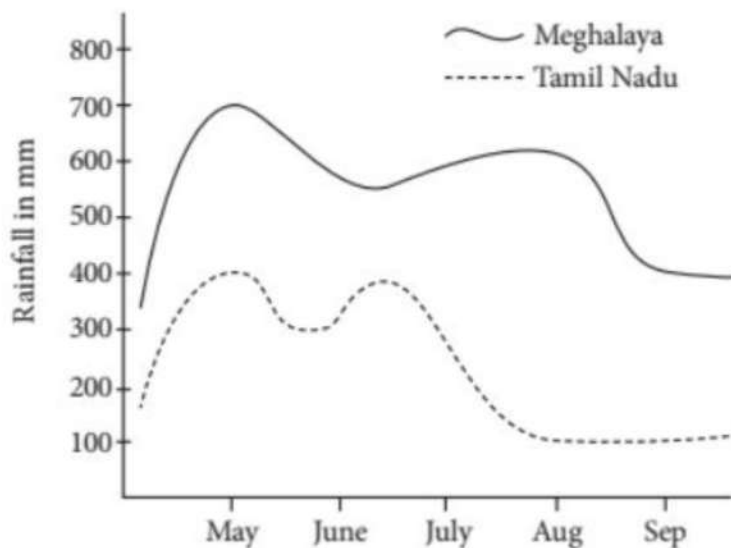
4. A. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the Manager of the showroom from where you have

recently purchased an LED TV, complaining that it is not functioning properly. Give details of the model of the TV and your purchase date. Also, ask for its replacement.

OR

4. B. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the Chief Minister of your state drawing his attention to the urgent need for a government hospital in your district. You are Mahi from Jila Road, Kanhya Nagar, Chhattisgarh.

5. A. The line graph below shows the comparison of rainfall in two different states of India that is Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya between the month, of May and September. Write an analytical paragraph studying the graph in about 120 words.



OR

5. B. Write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, discussing the pros and cons of online classes held for education because of the pandemic.

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

A. As she and her husband turned away in terror, the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits, and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture. "My poor mother used to sit in

that chair," she moaned! "To think it should rise up against me now!" The feeling among the neighbours was that the trouble was caused by witchcraft.

- i. What happened to Mr. and Mrs. Hall when they entered Griffin's room?
- ii. Pick the option that best describes how Mrs Hall must be feeling at the moment described in the extract.
 - A. Stunned and Furious
 - B. Shocked and Outraged
 - C. Outraged and Nervous
 - D. Stunned and Agitated
- iii. Pick the sentence that brings out the meaning of 'hysterics' as used in the extract.
 - A. My friend and I were in splits when we saw the clown's antics.
 - B. I don't know why I suddenly felt worried about flying home.
 - C. The sight of blood put the old man in a frenzy.
 - D. The people who had witnessed the accident were spellbound.
- iv. The neighbours thought it was 'witchcraft'. This tells us that the neighbours were

OR

B. "Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters might have vanished but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in these furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places."

- i. The narrator says that the furnaces were 'time-tested' because
 - A. they had been thoroughly tested each time, before being used
 - B. they had proved the test of time and were working well
 - C. they had been tested by modern day experts
 - D. they had the power to withstand inexperienced usage
- ii. The 'fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished' implies that
 - A. the furnaces are still being used to bake the loaves of bread.
 - B. The fire is in the process of being reviewed as a replaceable method for heating furnaces.
 - C. The furnaces are very strong and cannot be shifted for use in other areas.
 - D. The fire in the furnaces takes a long time to cease burning, once lighted.
- iii. Why do you think the baker came in with a thud and a jingle'?
- iv. Pick the idiom that brings out the same meaning of 'reminiscing' as used in the passage.

- A. Train of thought
- B. Commit something to memory
- C. A trip down memory lane
- D. Jog somebody's memory

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

A. I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open...

- i. The poet talks about the house as _____
- ii. The poet uses the indefinite article for 'Sky' instead of the definite one. What does the poet want to refer to?
- iii. The extract uses 'open' twice, suggesting different meanings. Pick the option that lists the correct meanings, respectively.
 - A. entry point-vastness
 - B. sharing a common space-great view
 - C. allowing access and vision-expanse of space
 - D. advantage-obstacles ahead.
- iv. Write the word that states the meaning of the underlined word. 'I scarcely mention

OR

B. An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down
All his young days into the harbour where
His ball went. I would not intrude on him;

- i. The poet uses the word 'ultimate' to describe the boy's reaction.
Pick the meaning that DOES NOT display what, 'ultimate' means in the context given.
 - A. consequent
 - B. final
 - C. conclusive
 - D. fateful
- ii. The boy is very young in this poem. As a mature, balanced grown-up, he might look back and think that his reaction of 'ultimate shaking grief' was

- (a) disproportionate to the loss.
- (b) pretension to procure a new toy.
- (c) according to his exposure and experience then.
- (d) a reaction to the failure of retrieving the toy.
- (e) justified and similar to what it would be currently.

- A. (e) and (b)
- B. (a) and (c)
- C. (b) and (d)
- D. (c) and (e)

- iii. Why does the speaker choose not to intrude?
- iv. Do you think 'T' in the poem is an observer or the poet?

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.

- i. What did Custard look like?
- ii. What is the course of second quarrel between Natalya and Lomov?
- iii. What do people and the poet think about the ending of the world?
- iv. What was the reason behind Rajvir's excitement?
- V. How did the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela change?

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

- i. Why did Sulekha start stammering?
- ii. Why did Matilda not like to visit her rich friend?
- iii. Describe Ausable's make-believe story of the balcony?

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. A. Parents often nag their children, wishing only the best for them. However, children often misunderstand them. Write a short paragraph in reference to Amanda!.

OR

B. Arguments and disputes seldom solve a problem. Describe the dispute between Natalya and Lomov over the dogs and their superiority.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

A. Think-Tank was indeed the mightiest and most intelligent being in the entire universe. Yes or No. Give a reasoned answer by taking instances from the book.

OR

B. Richard Ebright displayed a well-rounded personality. Do you agree? Elucidate in the context of the given text.

SOLUTIONS

1. i. 1927

ii. The authors of the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew were called as ghost writers as their books were written through a process called ghostwriting. A ghostwriter is supposed to write a book according to specific formula. Although these ghostwriters are paid for the books, their authorship is not acknowledged and their names do not appear on the published books.

iii. the adventures of brothers Frank and Joe Hardy

iv. Nancy Drew's character had athletic abilities because Mildred Wirt took the traits from her own personality for her character design.

V. C. In ghost writing, the writer gets no credit but only gets paid.

vi. The idea of Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew was developed by Edward Stratemeyer who had a publishing company. He noticed the increasing popularity of mysteries among adults and realize that children would enjoy reading mysteries about young detectives with whom they could identify.

vii. The first step to write these books is to develop an outline of the plot for the ghost writers to work on.

viii. C. The Birth of Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew

2. i. India beat England for the first time in a test match.

ii. Emotionally charged

iii. there was no guarantee of it working

iv. According to the author, being an Indian in those days was truly demeaning because a private citizen travelling overseas couldn't buy or spend more than \$8. As a result, the ceiling was raised to \$500 every 3 years. It meant that Indians had to evolve innovatively illegal methods of buying a few extra dollars.v. Incurring loss in business

vi. D. B.S. Chandrasekhar was the communications minister during 1980s.

vii. That telephones were a luxury and not their right.

viii. It is true that there was availability of technology to make life a little more rewarding. But the 1971s were the old bad days of the shortage of economy when everything had a black market premium. The telephone system in cities had collapsed. The most frustrating thing was that there was little the people could do about those public services.

3. i. B. took

ii.	Option No.	Error	Correction
	C.	land, of	landed, with

- iii. A. fall
- iv. A. each
- V. Could you lend
- vi. A. likes
- vii. A. excitement that that was wonderful
- viii. C. has been
- ix. C. might
- X. A. good morning, Minnie
- xi. C. maybe you should try waking up half an hour early
- xii. A. I'm running late. So see you later, Mrs Kumar

4. A.

10, Apna Ghar Society
Vikhroli
Allahabad
17th October, 20xx
The Manager
Golchha Electronics
Sagarpur
Allahabad

Subject : Complaint against Improper Functioning of TV

Dear Sir/Ma'am

This is to inform you that I had purchased an LED TV from your showroom last month on 5th September, 20xx. It has been only a period of a month and the TV is not functioning properly. There are some problems in its sound system. Also, it sometimes gets switched off automatically. The model of the television set I purchased is 40 Full HD LED TV K/V-40r-562 C-(2020 Model-Semi Smart). The bill no is RC-145.

I request you to replace the set with a new one as it is in warranty period.

Awaiting an early response.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Sumit Patel

OR

4. B.

Zila Road

Kanhya Nagar

Chattisgarh

17th June, 20xx

The Honourable Chief Minister

Government of Chattisgarh

Subject : Urgent Need for a Government Hospital in Kanhya Nagar

Respected Sir

This is to bring to your kind notice that five tehsils comprising fourteen villages in the Yamunanagar district are devoid of primary healthcare facilities. Many valuable lives are becoming victims of death every day due to the insufficiency of hospitals and doctors in our area. There are only two government hospitals in our district. In case of minor ailments, the poor people have to rely on private clinics in their or nearby villages. But, when there are serious cases or casualties, it is not only very difficult, but also risky to take the patient to the government hospital which is far away from their residence. Even these hospitals are not equipped with adequate facilities. Nor do they have sufficient number of capable doctors. Private hospitals charge very high fees which the poor peasants can't afford.

To check the increasing mortality and deteriorating health conditions in the district, a government hospital with all modern equipment is urgently required. This will cater to the basic needs of healthcare and medicine.

I hope you understand the gravity of the matter and will take necessary steps in this regard as requested.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Mahi

5. A. The linear graph illustrates the average monthly rainfall in the two states of India get during the rainy season. The data compares how the onset of monsoon and the rainy season also differs in time. The rainfall rate is measured in millimetres. For Tamil Nadu, the highest rainfall falls somewhere between the month of May-July. This means monsoon in South India begins early and stays for a few months. If we look at the graph of Meghalaya, the rainfall seems to be generally higher as compared to that of Tamil Nadu but its wettest month falls somewhere in the month of May-June. The descend in rainfall after the monsoon is not so drastic for Meghalaya as compared to that of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu gets around 100-200 mm before and after its peak rainfall season. Overall, we can also tell Meghalaya receives a lot more rainfall as compared to Tamil Nadu. When their wettest months are pitted against each other, Meghalaya still comes out far ahead. Meghalaya during the monsoon receives as much as 650 mm of rain while Tamil Nadu peaks at 400 mm only. For Tamil Nadu, after August there's very little rain barely around 100 mm while for Meghalaya, it continues to receive an average of 300-400 mm rainfall throughout the season. To conclude, monsoons arrive earlier in Tamil Nadu about a month or so and then remain fairly dry for the most part of the year. While in Shillong, monsoons start late but stay longer than Tamil Nadu and always receives wet spells evenly spread throughout the year round.

OR

5. B. In traditional classrooms, teachers can give students immediate face-to-face feedback. Students who are experiencing problems in the curriculum can resolve them quickly and directly either during the lecture or during the dedicated school hours. Personalized feedback has a positive impact on students, as it makes learning processes easier, richer, and more significant, all the while raising the motivation levels of the students. Due to the lack of face-to-face communication between peers, students and teachers in an online setting, the students might find that they are unable to work effectively in a team setting. Neglecting the communicational skills of the students will inevitably lead to many graduates who excel in theoretical knowledge, but who fail to pass their knowledge on to others. The E-Learning methods currently practised in education field tend to make participating students undergo contemplation, remoteness and a lack of interaction. In schools and colleges, students have a proper environment for study. They are committed to learning with discipline and ready to explore creativity. To explore creativity and discipline, we need to provide an environment for students to learn. When taking online classes at home, there are fewer chances to create an environment for study. It requires support from other family members. That's not possible in joint families. This is a big disadvantage to study at home. Even getting the notification and mobile calls also disturb students to focus on study. Offline class in front of the teacher is highly focused on the topic and no one can disturb the classroom.

6. A. i. When they entered into the room, the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs. Hall almost fell down the stairs.

ii. D. Stunned and Agitated

iii. C. The sight of blood put the old man in a frenzy.

iv. Superstitious

OR

B. i. B. they had proved the test of time and were working well

ii. A. The furnaces are still being used to bake the loaves of bread.

iii. The baker would come twice a day-once early in the morning and the second-time when he returned after selling his stuff. He wanted to make people aware that he had come around to sell his goodies. That's why he would come in with a thud and a jingle.

iv. C. A trip down memory lane

7. A. i. a safe sanctuary from predators

ii. The poet wants to refer to some part of the sky that is still left open for women to explore away from limitations set by patriarchal norms.

iii. B. sharing a common space-great view

iv. Hardly

OR

B. i. D. fateful

ii. C. (b) and (d)

iii. The poet does not want to intrude on him because it would be of no use. The boy loved his ball and there would be no effect of any advice on him. He suggests that the boy should not waste more money for ball.

iv. an observer

8. i. Custard looked really dangerous with spikes on his top and scales underneath. His mouth was like a fireplace and nose like a chimney. His toes looked like daggers.

ii. The second quarrel between Lomov and Natalya is about their dogs Guess and Squeezer respectively. Lomov starts praising the qualities of the dog, Guess. But Natalya says that her dog Squeezer was much better than Lomov's dog, Guess. Both of them praise the qualities of their dogs, which leads to a quarrel.

iii. There are some people who believe that some day fire will end the world, whereas there are other people who think that the world will see its doom by ice. The poet has tasted both fire and ice and he thinks that the world will end in fire as fire stands for the unending desires of humans.

iv. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. The beautiful scenery had completely caught him by surprise. As the train rolled by, vast stretches of tea gardens replaced the soft green paddy fields. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eyes could see. Tall sturdy shade-trees towered over the orderly rows of bushes, which were pruned to the same height, and amidst which the tea plucker moved busily. Rajvir couldn't contain his excitement at the sight of this magnificent view.

v. There is a change in the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela. They saluted him and pledged their loyalty. This change in their attitude is significant because during apartheid, the same military generals would have arrested him instead of saluting him.

9. i. Sulekha was a baby when she fell down from a cot. Her brain was damaged. She could not speak till the age of five years. She was mentally slow and lacked confidence. That is why she started stammering.

ii. Matilda had inferiority complex. Whenever she visited her rich friend, she felt dejected and

disappointed because of her poverty. She used to compare her lodgings to that of her friend's. She did not have attractive dresses and jewellery to adorn herself with. That is why, she did not like to visit her rich friends.

iii. Ausable weaves a credible description about how his office was a part of a bigger apartment and the next room had a direct access through the balcony. To make his story more believable, he further told how somebody broke into his room through the balcony earlier. Ausable also told Max

that there is police at the door to protect the important that there is police at the door to protect the important papers. Max believed his story and jumped into the balcony, which was not there and fell down.

10. A. Every child is special in itself, and it requires a great deal of patience and love to make them understand this. Parents should give proper space to children, as they learn through experiences as well. Children do tend to learn certain bad habits, to undo that requires great level of understanding and right approach. One cannot teach their child everything in one day and expect them to behave properly henceforth. It is natural for a child like Amanda to seek freedom at her place, to curb that freedom means to make her angry and moody. Growing up of child should not be about do's and don'ts only. To have nagging parents judging every action of child would do more harm

than good. Robin Klein points to the fact that Amanda is forbidden to do anything without seeking permission. Everything she does is corrected by her mother all the time, she cannot perform a single thing according to her will. She can't sit lazily around, she can't eat chocolate for that would cause acne. Life of Amanda is very suffocating and limited in itself. She yearns for freedom and choice. Her mother doesn't understand the fact that Amanda is innocent and naive, she is too small to understand the benefits of advice. Only thing that matters to Amanda's mother is what society will make of Amanda. We witness miserable failure of parents when Amanda wishes to be an orphan so that she could be free.

OR

B. Arguments and disputes seldom solve a problem especially when it is a silly argument over a petty matter. Lomov and Natalya too fiercely argue over the superiority of their dogs. Lomov says that his dog, Guess, unfortunately

became lame recently, yet, he is a first rate dog. Natalya contradicts Lomov by saying that Guess is not a pure breed like Squeezer, who is a high pedigree. Lomov calls Squeezer overshot and a bad hunter. Natalya disagrees with Lomov and claims that Squeezer is younger and healthier than Guess, therefore much better than him. Throughout the play, they argue about

petty matters. Amidst the heated argument, the very important matter of the marriage proposal gets sidelined and forgotten.

11. A. No, Think-Tank was not the mightiest and most intelligent being in the entire universe. Although he was the Commander-in-Chief of planet Mars, Think-Tank did not have the qualities possessed by a great leader. Think-Tank was a vain, self-obsessed, power-hungry Martian who considered himself to be always right and above everyone else. However, this was not the case. Think-Tank lacked intelligence and knowledge became evident when he did not recognise the books as books. He said with much certainty that they were sandwiches and meant for consumption. He even ordered his troop to eat the books/sandwich just to prove his point. Had it not been for the wise Noodle, who corrected him by saying that the books were some sort of communication devices, Think-Tank would have foolishly invaded Earth. Think-Tank's simple mindedness was further proven when he misinterpreted the poems. The simple children's rhymes seemed like threats to Think-Tank, which lead to him believing that the humans were a much advanced race as opposed to inhabitants of a primitive ball of mud. He assumed that the Earthlings planned to invade Mars and the Martians stood no chance of defeating them. Think-Tank once again proved that he wasn't the Mightiest of all when he got scared for his life and changed his mind about invading Earth. The Mighty Think-Tank turned out to be a coward as he ordered his crew to abort mission and return to Mars. He and the other Martians were going to evacuate the planet and flee to Alpha Centauri to escape the Earthlings.

OR

B. Richard's intelligence was obvious by the time he was in his second grade. He managed to collect all twenty-five species of butterflies around his hometown and classify them. He also loved to collect coins, fossils and rocks. Science was not his only passion. He was an active member of his school's oratory club and model United Nations club and was an effective debater and a public speaker. He loved photography as well. He was an enthusiastic canoeist and an all-round outdoor person. Learning was easy for him. So, he found it simple to devote time and energy to many other interests. He became a champion in whatever he did. He believed in the spirit of competition to win. But, he did not wish to defeat others just to win. He wanted to do his best to win. Thus, he displayed a versatile personality.