

4.3 Around The World In Eight Days – Jungle Gabriel Verne

BRAINSTORMING

CHARACTER:

(A1) (i) Which one of the following is not a major character of the novel? Choose the correct one and justify. (Select the correct one.)

(a) Phileas Fogg

(b) Aouda

(c) James Strand

(d) Jean Passepartout

Ans. James Strand is not a major character of the novel. He was the real bank robber whom Fix was searching for.

(ii) Complete the table highlighting the various traits of the major characters in the extract.

(The answer is given directly and underlined.)

(1) Phileas Fogg	<u>A solitary person; cared little about the opinions of others; honest, courageous, calm, honourable, proud; he had plenty of self-respect; was unselfish, non-materialistic, obstinate, generous.</u>
(2) Aouda	<u>Grateful, loving, concerned, sincere, sweet, noble, unselfish, non-materialistic, generous.</u>
(3) Passepartout	<u>Loyal, faithful grateful, loving, concerned, unselfish, repentant, conscientious.</u>
(4) Detective Fix	<u>Dutiful, stupid, repentant, unimaginative, stubborn.</u>

(iii) Phileas Fogg is as cool as a cucumber whereas Passepartout is as crazy as a loon. Explain the statement by citing some references from the extract.

Ans. Passepartout's personality is completely opposite to Fogg's. While Fogg is

serious and meticulous, Passepartout is comical and clumsy. Fogg is worldly, rational, and capable of making informed decisions after carefully studying any situation, while Passepartout is naive, gullible, and tends to get carried away on occasion. This is evident when he is easily manipulated by Fix into hiding Fix's true motives which result in the arrest of Fogg at Liverpool.

Passepartout is eager, energetic and excited by everything. This is vastly different from Fogg, who always remains calm even under trying circumstances. When Fogg is arrested at Liverpool, he realizes that he may no longer be able to win the bet and is devastated. In spite of having his victory snatched away from him at the last hour, Fogg does not display any anger or sorrow. He is calm and composed. Passepartout, on the other hand, wears his heart on his sleeve at all times. He is so burdened by his guilt of keeping a secret from Fogg that he "wept till he was blind, and felt like blowing his brains out". When it becomes clear that Fogg has lost the bet, Fogg bears this too, calmly and with restraint. Though he is depressed at having lost everything, he behaves rationally and maturely and begins to think about his next course of action. Passepartout, in contrast, is "tortured by remorse" and even besides his own guilt, is anxious and worried about his master. He urges Fogg to react to the situation with anger, but instead, Fogg chooses to remain calm.

Determined to make his master understand, Passepartout even asks Aouda to talk to him. As Fogg goes about making arrangements calmly, Passepartout is constantly keeping a watch on him because he fears that "something terrible might happen at any moment". He eventually gets so restless that "finding himself too wretched to remain alone" he knocks at Aouda's door for company. Thus, Passepartout's emotional, impulsive, and energetic personality is in definite contrast to Fogg's calm and contemplative nature.

(iv) Detective Fix tried hard but could not fix the charge of robbery on Fogg. Explain the statement from the point of view of Fix.

Ans. Detective Fix is a tenacious and determined inspector, who suspects Phileas Fogg of robbing the Bank of England. His suspicions are confirmed when a drawing of the robber bears a close resemblance to Fogg. However, Fix cannot arrest Fogg without a warrant. At the same time, he does not want Fogg to get away and thus follows him around the world on his travels, all the while waiting for the warrant to arrive. Even though Fix is sometimes identified as the 'antagonist' of the novel, his desire to catch Fogg is not motivated by enmity.

Instead, Fix's motivation is primarily professional. He deems it his duty to catch the robber and bring him to justice. However, it is also true that Fix desires the reward and the fame that awaits the detective who catches the robber. He succeeds in placing numerous obstacles in Fogg's path and does so without Fogg ever realizing his true motives. Though it is easy for the reader to detest Fix for delaying and disrupting Fogg's plans, his motive is somewhat justified as Fogg's innocence is never truly confirmed until the end of the novel and thus, the reader,

too remains suspicious of him. Fix is noble in his mission to catch a criminal, but also wavers from his morals when he tries to manipulate Passepartout. He is also focused and resilient as he leaves no stone unturned to achieve his goal. Though bound by duty, he is also objective in his view of Fogg as he begins to admire him through the course of their journey together and even begins to doubt whether or not Fogg is guilty. Even so, he continues to make efforts to arrest Fogg.

Eventually, his efforts are rewarded as the warrant arrives in time for him to arrest Fogg at Liverpool. This completely throws off Fogg's plans and ruins his chances of reaching the Reform Club in time. Though joyous at first, Fix soon realizes he has made a mistake when news of the actual robber being caught reaches him. This discovery leaves him feeling guilty and ashamed as is seen from his speechlessness when he releases Fogg and admits to him that he has made a mistake. When Fogg punches him in anger, Fix does not retaliate but instead accepts the beating as an indication of having deserved it. Thus, even though Fix travels the world in order to catch Fogg, places several obstacles in Fogg's path, goes against his instincts of believing Fogg's innocence, manipulates Passepartout and diligently performs his duty, all of which results in Fogg's arrest, he ultimately fails in fixing the charge of robbery on Fogg.

(v) Describe the character sketch of Aouda from Fogg's point of view.

Ans. Aouda is a charming, young woman, rescued from dangerous circumstances by Fogg, who then brought her all the way from India to London, to guarantee her safety. She is adventurous and tough in her decision to journey around the world with Fogg. Aouda seems to be the perfect companion for a man such as Fogg. She is beautiful, sophisticated and kind. Throughout their journey, she is grateful to Fogg for saving her. This gratitude soon turns into love. Fogg's cold, serious, and secretive nature is no match for Aouda's love. Slowly, she begins to penetrate his tough exterior and in the end, he is softened by her love. She is, therefore, perceptive, for she recognizes that even though on the surface Fogg seems mechanical and emotionless, he has a kind and gentle heart. She is loyal, for she weeps bitterly when Fogg is arrested and never doubts his integrity.

She is caring, for when she sees that he is disappointed and hurt, she asks Passepartout to never leave his side. Moreover, she is just as self-respecting as Fogg himself, for when she finds out that he has lost his fortune, her love for him does not change. She is also equally brave and bold, for she is the one to propose marriage to him. Through Aouda, Fogg learns the most important lesson of all, that of the importance of human connection. Even though the trip around the world earns Fogg nothing, he considers himself to be the "happiest of men" because Aouda's love has been his greatest reward. Thus, even though he wins the bet, his ultimate victory lies in attaining Aouda's love.

PLOT:

(A2) (i) Arrange the incidents in the correct sequence as per their occurrence in the extract.

- a. Aouda accepted Fogg's proposal of marriage.
- b. When set free, the first thing that Fogg did was he knocked Fix down.
- c. As a part of duty, Fix arrested, Fogg.
- d. At the fifty-seventh second, Fogg entered the Reform Club Saloon.

Ans.

- c. As a part of duty, Fix arrested Fogg.
- b. When set free, the first thing that Fogg did was he knocked Fix down.
- a. Aouda accepted Fogg's proposal of marriage.
- d. At the fifty-seventh second, Fogg entered the Reform Club Saloon.

(ii) There is a sudden twist in the climax of the novel. Explain by citing some lines and relevant examples from the extract.

Ans. When Fogg, Passepartout, and Aouda arrive in London on Saturday, 21st December, at 8:50 p.m., they are five minutes late and Fogg loses the bet. Disappointed and depressed, Fogg retires to his room. The night passes and the next morning (Sunday), Fogg decides to talk to Aouda. He apologizes to Aouda because he has lost his fortune and cannot provide her with a comfortable life.

Aouda, in turn, confesses her love for him and they plan to get married the next day (Monday). Until this point, the characters and the readers are under the impression that the bet is lost. However, in the very next chapter, it is revealed that Fogg had arrived just in time to win the bet. The missing explanation is provided in the last chapter, which serves as the climax of the novel. When Passepartout arrives at the Reverend's house to hire his services for Fogg and Aouda's marriage for the next day (Monday), he realizes that the next day is not Monday but is in fact, Sunday. He rushes back home to Fogg and conveys this to Fogg in the following line, "Because to-morrow—is Sunday!" Passepartout had quickly concluded that if tomorrow were in fact, Sunday, then today must be Saturday, 21st December. This meant that Fogg could still win the bet because the deadline for the bet is 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, 21st December. This is obviously a shocking turn of events and can be seen in the exciting interaction between Passepartout and Fogg as the truth is revealed in the lines, "You have made a mistake of one day! We arrived twenty-four hours ahead of time, but there are only ten minutes left!"

With only ten minutes left to spare, Passepartout pushes Fogg into a cab and they arrive just in time at the Reform Club and win the bet. What is most surprising about the climax is the error on the part of Fogg, who holds the reputation of being a master calculator and organizer. The narrator asks what the reader is thinking in the lines, "How was it that a man so exact and fastidious could have made this error of a day?" The cause of the error turns to be that Fogg had forgotten about the time he gained as he travelled eastward around the world. The sudden twist is then plainly explained in the line, "Phileas Fogg had, without suspecting it, gained one day on his journey, and this merely because he had travelled constantly eastward;" Thus, the climax offers a sudden turn of events and its shocking nature is apparent in the excited reactions of the main characters as the twist is revealed to them.

(iii) Which of the following is an appropriate reason for Phileas Fogg starting his journey around the world?

- (a) Fellow members bet Fogg**
- (b) Fogg bets his fellow members**
- (c) Fogg wants to marry Aouda**
- (d) Fogg committed robbery**

Ans. (a) Fellow members bet Fogg

SETTING:

(A3) (i) Which of the following are used as a means of transport in the novel? How do they help the character/s in the extract?

- a. Elephant**
- b. Horse**
- c. Train**
- d. Steamer**

Ans. All four of the given modes of transport are used by Fogg and his companions at some time or the other during the course of the journey. However, in the given extract, only the train has been used to travel from Liverpool to London. Worried that he might not make it in time to win the bet, Fogg, Passepartout and Aouda arrive at the station to catch the express train to London. However, the express train had already left the station. Desperate to reach London, Fogg then orders a special train and bribes the engineer to set out

for London as soon as possible. There is also mention of the Steamer (China) which the men at the Reform Club assume Fogg must have taken to come to Liverpool. However, this journey is not part of the extract and in reality, Fogg had missed the Steamer and ended up finding an alternative way to reach Liverpool.

(ii) The beginning of the extract is a scene in the prison at the custom house. From there the novel moves further from one place/spot to another. Pick and explain all the places/spots where the incidents took place.

Ans. From the prison at the custom house, Fogg and his companions go to Liverpool station to catch a train back to London, where Fogg lives and where the Reform Club is located. Once they reach London, thinking that they had lost the wager, they go to Saville Row, which is Fogg's residence. The next location is the preacher's house where Passepartout goes to make arrangements for Fogg's wedding. The last location is the Reform Club, which Fogg reaches in time to win his wager.

The most of the part of the setting in the extract is in London. Explain how the setting of the extract is suited to the theme of the novel.

Ans. The following is an outline of the places/spots mentioned in the extract:

The extract begins in the prison at the custom-house in Liverpool. Fogg has been wrongly imprisoned and the deadline of the bet is drawing near. Fogg's arrest at Liverpool proves to be the worst blow to his plans. Once released, Fogg and his companions rush to the station to take a train to London. Here, Fogg orders a special train and bribes an engineer to set out for London as soon as possible. This shows Fogg's desperation to reach London in time. However, they are too late when they arrive in London, Fogg loses the bet and they all retire to Fogg's house on Savile Row. Fogg's home is the only place where he allows himself to be truly upset. It is also a sanctuary for Aouda who has been provided with food and shelter. It is here, in Fogg's home, that Fogg and Aouda confess their love for each other and intend to marry, thereby sending Passepartout to hire a Reverend for the marriage ceremony to be performed the next day. Passepartout's interaction with the Reverend makes it clear that they have made a mistake in keeping time and that there is still some time left before the deadline. Passepartout then travels back home to Savile Row, quickly convinces Fogg to come along and they rush to the Reform Club where they arrive just in time to win the bet.

Importance of the Setting of London to the Theme of the novel:

The extract is set primarily in 1870s London. This setting is best suited for the novel because the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain led to the development of many modern means of transport. These made world travel a realistic goal and inspired Verne's story. The novel's theme of adventure and excitement are both directly related to the use of these marvelous inventions as the main character relies on them to undertake his adventures around the world. Another important aspect of the London setting is the Reform Club of England. The Reform Club

symbolizes the refined London society that Fogg and Passepartout must leave behind when they embark on their trip around the world. Thus, it acts as the threshold between ordinary life and the world of adventure. Lastly, the Victorian Era setting of London, England highlights the themes of morality and honour. During this era, the notion of a 'gentleman' was considered to be a matter of pride and honour. A 'gentleman' was considered to be typically associated with wealth and privilege, but also possessed the values of morality, generosity and proper etiquette. Because of this, it was very important for Fogg to uphold his reputation and was in fact, his primary motivation in making the bet. Even in difficult situations, Fogg does not give up on his morals and behaves honourably, as was expected of an English gentleman.

(iii) Describe the importance of the following places in the development of the plot and behaviour of the characters.

(a) Liverpool

Ans. Liverpool is the place where Fogg disembarks from his steamer, and from where he has to catch a train to London. Liverpool is also the place where he is arrested by Fix and thus misses his train. He arranges a special train in an attempt to reach London on time.

(b) London.

Ans. Fogg lives in London. The Reform Club, which Fogg frequented on a regular basis, is also in London. Fogg's accepts the wager in London; his journey starts from London and ends in London. Hence, London is the central place in the novel.

(c) Reform Club.

Ans. Reform Club is the place which Fogg frequented on a regular basis. It is at the Reform Club that Fogg gets involved in an argument over an article, and where the wager with his fellow club members takes place. It is the place where Fogg was supposed to return before 8.45 p.m. on 21 December, 80 days later. It is the place where his antagonists are waiting anxiously for him, and which he reaches at practically the last second to win his wager.

(d) Saville Row.

Ans. Phileas Fogg's residence is in Saville Row. This is also the place where he takes Aouda. Fogg has always stayed quietly at this place. When he returned from his trip around the world and thought he had lost the wager, he remained there so quietly that no one even knew he had returned.

(e) Edinburgh

Ans. Detective Fix arrested Phileas Fogg in Liverpool thinking that he was a bank robber. However, the real bank robber, James Strand, had been arrested on 17th December at Edinburgh.

(iv) Select the correct options:

Which of the following place/s in India is/are not mentioned in the extract of the novel?

a. Bombay (Now, Mumbai)

b. Allahabad

c. Chennai

d. Calcutta (Now, Kolkata)

Ans. b. Allahabad c. Chennai

THEME:

(A4) (i) Find and explain the significance of various exciting incidents in the extract.

Ans. The word 'exciting' refers to incidents that contribute to the development of action in the extract. There are five such 'exciting' incidents in the given extract:

Fogg's release: Fix arrests Fogg at Liverpool and severely delays his plans to reach London on time to win the bet. Fogg and the others are devastated. However, several hours later, Fix finally realizes his mistake and releases Fogg. This causes excitement as the tone of the extract changes from one of disappointment to sudden hope as Fogg races to make it to London on time.

Arrival at London: Fogg, Passepartout, and Aouda finally arrive in London after several delays and obstacles but realize that they are five minutes late and Fogg has lost the bet. This incident is exciting because it changes the tone of the extract from full of hope to sudden disappointment.

Aouda's proposal: At Savile Row, Fogg finally allows himself to be depressed and begins to believe that all is lost. Passepartout and Aouda, too, share Fogg's feelings and an atmosphere of gloom hangs over Savile Row. However, through these moments of sorrow, emerges a glimmer of happiness when Aouda confesses her love to Fogg and he, too, admits that he loves her. Aouda's proposal and their subsequent decision to marry are extremely significant because they highlight the message of the novel, that of true love and happiness, the idea of

which helps Fogg to come out of his state of deep depression. This incident is also exciting because it ultimately leads to the discovery of the true date, thus allowing Fogg to win the bet.

Passepartout's discovery: When Passepartout sets out to hire the services of a Reverend for Fogg and Aouda's marriage, he discovers that the deadline for the bet has not passed. This leads to a complete turn of events, which ultimately results in Fogg winning the bet. Thus, his discovery and its subsequent explanation are a source of great excitement to the reader.

Fogg's triumph: In the final moments of the bet, the five members of the Reform Club await Fogg's arrival. However, they are convinced that they have won the bet and that Fogg will not return on time. At this point, the climax has not been revealed to the reader. The readers and the major characters are under the impression that Fogg has lost the bet. However, Fogg arrives at the club, mere seconds before the deadline, leaving the members of the Club, and more importantly, the readers of the novel, in absolute shock at this turn of events.

(ii) Write 4-5 sentences on the 'Time' theme of the extract.

Ans. The most important theme of the novel is the concept of 'Time'. Through the given extract, the writer tries to convey to the readers that time cannot be controlled or manipulated. When Fogg is arrested at Liverpool, this causes a delay in Fogg's plans. Throughout his journey, Fogg is depicted as a particular, precise man, who is obsessed with planning for every moment. However, even he could not have predicted his arrest and therefore, could not have prepared for such an event in advance. This shows that no matter how many plans you make, whether time will work for you or against you is uncertain. Consequently, Fogg loses his bet because he is late by five minutes, an example of his defeat at the hands of time. Time also plays a crucial role in the climax of the novel, wherein Fogg wins his bet because he had 'gained time' by travelling eastwards on his journey around the world. However, he does not realize this on his own and almost loses the bet. Through sheer coincidence and luck, Fogg becomes aware of the additional 'day' that he had gained and wins the bet with just seconds to spare. Thus, the extract ultimately wishes to convey the lesson that no one can control time; it is an uncontrollable, random force and humans are at its mercy.

(iii) Write 4-5 sentences on the 'Morality' theme of the extract.

Ans. Fogg embarks on his journey to preserve his honour and prove his worth to the men at the Reform Club. He spends nearly all of his money along the way, showing that riches are not what he is truly out for. He is honourable when he thinks he is penniless, he does not want Aouda to marry him. Aouda, by proposing to him, shows that she is not materialistic. He forgives Passepartout his mistakes. Passepartout shows his loyalty and love for his master at every step. In the end, when he wins the bet, he divides whatever money is left between

Passepartout and Detective Fix, showing that he had no grudges against him. The writer shows that with human effort and willpower enormous obstacles can be overcome. The writer also tells us in the end that Fogg had won something more important than money, by travelling around the world. He had won a charming woman, who made him the happiest of men. The moral at the end is that love and its attainment is more important than all the challenges and money in the world.

(iv) Write the central idea of the given extract of the novel, 'Around the World in Eighty Days'.

Ans. The given extract focuses on the importance of human connection. Before undertaking a trip around the world, Fogg lived a lonely life. He was detached from society and did not care about what people thought of him. However, by the end of the trip, Fogg realizes the significance of human connection. In Passepartout, he finds a loyal and trustworthy friend and in Aouda, a wonderful and charming partner. Thus, through his many adventures, he gains an understanding and appreciation of interpersonal relationships, which he never had before and considers this to be his greatest reward from the trip. The ending of the novel is unexpected and leads to a sudden twist of events, which result in Fogg winning the bet. However, Fogg realizes that the long and dangerous journey that he has undertaken has been worthwhile, not because he won the bet, but because it led him to Aouda. Thus, through the ending, the author tries to convey to the reader that life holds more meaning than mere worldly desires and that sometimes, the prize is the relationships we form with people.

(v) Justice is served/done in the end. Explain.

Ans. The journey undertaken by Fogg and Passepartout, when they set out to circumnavigate the world in eighty days, is filled with dangerous obstacles and impossibly difficult situations. However, with Fogg's determination and wit, and Passepartout's clever ways, they manage to overcome the numerous challenges before them and still find time to do good for others. In addition, even under trying circumstances, Fogg does not compromise on his morals, proving time and again that he is truly a gentleman. While on their journey, Fogg rescues Aouda from a terrible fate in India and brings her along with him to England. They brave many dangers together and steadily inch closer to their goal till they finally arrive at Liverpool, which is their final stop before London. It is the last day of the bet and they have arrived in Liverpool just on time. Just when Fogg begins to believe that his hard work and labour will soon be paid off, he is arrested by Detective Fix, delivering a severe blow to Fogg's plans of reaching London on time. This arrest is particularly cruel, because not only is Fogg not the actual robber, but also because Fogg was so close to reaching his goal. Even though Fix eventually realizes his mistake and releases Fogg, they miss the deadline and Fogg loses the bet. At this point, one feels sympathetic towards Fogg because he is an honest, kind and honourable man, who worked so hard and came so far in this epic

journey; but in the end it all went to waste and for no fault of his own. However, through a series of events involving coincidence and sheer luck, Fogg realizes that the deadline has not passed and he reaches the Reform Club just in time to win the bet. Thus, the novel ends with Fogg being rewarded for his efforts. He not only wins the bet and defends his honour, but also earns the love of a charming woman, Aouda. Hence, one can say that justice was served in the end, because Fogg's win was truly well-deserved.

LANGUAGE:

(A5) (i) Elaborate the following quotes in the light of the extract of the novel, Around the World in Eighty Days'.

(a) "Quitters never win and winners never quit".

Ans. Even though Fogg loses time due to being wrongly arrested and imprisoned, he makes every effort to reach London on time. He arranges a special train from Liverpool He does not quit when he feels that there is some faint chance of a win. Later, when Passepartout discovers that it is Saturday and not Sunday, and that there is still a chance of winning, Fogg puts aside everything and rushes headlong to the Reform Club. He does not give up in spite of all the obstacles, and comes out a winner, both in winning the bet and the love of a good woman.

(b) "Time is the only solution to problems".

Ans. The most important theme in the extract is time. Fogg's wager is a race against time, and his adventures illustrate repeatedly that time is fickle, and either works for or against them. In many cases, time foils their plans, when the delays build up and the train to Liverpool leaves without them. In the end, though, it is time that helps wins Fogg his bet, since they gained a day when crossing the International Date Line. The ultimate message is that no one can control time; time will work the way it wants to work, and humans are at its mercy. Time is the only solution to problems.

(ii) Following are some dialogues of the major characters in the extract. Find out who the speaker is, his/her tone, style, significance, etc., of the dialogue.

(The answer is given directly and underlined.)

Ans.

Dialogue	Speaker	Who said to Whom	Tone, Style, Significance, etc.
"Why do you not curse me? It was my fault that"	Passepartout	Phileas Fogg	Tone: Guilty, Apologetic Style: Persuasive Significance: Believing himself to be the cause of his master's misfortune, Passepartout is

			overcome with guilt and utters this dialogue to Fogg, hoping it will make Fogg punish him and thus, help him to feel less shameful.
“If Phileas Fogg had come in the 7:23 train, he would have got here by this time. We can, therefore, regard the bet as won.”	Stuart	Fallentin, Sullivan, Ralph, Flanagan	Tone: Confident, arrogant Style: Expository Significance: As the five gentlemen wait to see if Fogg turns up before the deadline of the bet, Andrew Stuart argues that, although there are twenty minutes left to the deadline, they have already won the bet because the only train which could bring Fogg to London on time had been at 7:23 and if Fogg had boarded that one, he would have already reached the Club. Thus, the dialogue showcases Andrew’s confident tone and his belief that Fogg will not arrive on time.
“Sir-forgive me - a most- unfortunate resemblance - robber arrested three days ago- you-are free!”	Detective Fix	Phileas Fogg	Tone: Shocked, Apologetic, Guilty Style: Expository Significance: Having followed Fogg around the world and finally arresting him in Liverpool, Fix is shocked to discover that he has caught the wrong person. When he realizes this, he is so overcome with guilt at having wrongly imprisoned Fogg that he becomes speechless. The dialogue is, therefore, a string of random words tied together that don’t make much sense, showcasing that Fix is incredibly shocked and ashamed. His tone, though

			apologetic is one of absolute disbelief.
“Will you pardon me for bringing you to England?”	Phileas Fogg	Aouda	Tone: Courteous, Polite, Apologetic Style: Interrogative Significance: After having lost his riches and finding himself unable to offer Aouda the promise of a comfortable life, Fogg asks Aouda to forgive him, because he believes it was his duty to provide her with protection and comfort since he brought her to England.
“It is for me to ask that question. You were ruined, but now you are rich again.”	Aouda	Phileas Fogg	Tone: Direct, Bold, Dignified Style: Direct Significance: This dialogue is uttered by Aouda in response to Fogg’s offer of marriage. Though they had already agreed to marry each other, Fogg’s financial situation had since then changed. Fogg had won the bet and was now a rich man while Aouda had nothing new to offer. Thus, Aouda believed that instead of Fogg asking her if she still wanted to marry him, it should be her asking him that question.