



## 5 The Ailing Planet: The Green Movement's Role – Nani Palkhivala

### ❖ Word meanings:

- 1) Recall –remember
- 2) Grippped – controlled
- 3) Irrevocably – permanently
- 4) Stewards – caretaker
- 5) Catalogued – classified
- 6) Unsustainable – not possible to replace
- 7) Coercion – use of force



### Q-1.) Answer the following questions in 30 – 40 words:

#### a) What do you understand by the concept of sustainable development?

- The concept of sustainable development is linked with the survival of human race. It means to consume the resources of the earth in a manner that does not hamper the survival of the coming generations. We should use the resources for our present need without compromising the right of our children to use them in their need.

#### b) How are the earth's principal biological systems being depleted?

- The four principal biological systems of the earth are croplands, fisheries, forests and grasslands. Their productivity has become impaired because of human pressure on them. Forests have been cleared. Grasslands have been converted into wastelands. People are overfishing for protein. The world's increasing population is the cause behind the depletion of these biological systems.

#### c) Why does the author agree that growth of world's population is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society?

- The world's population has grown fast since the year 1800. At present the population of the world has reached 5.7 billion. Forest cover is deteriorated due to population pressure. It results in the expansion of deserts. Grasslands are becoming barren. Natural resources are depleting fast. The environment has deteriorated upto the critical point. The existence of man himself is threatened. Many species of life have faced

total extinction. Thus, the population growth is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society.

**Q-2.) Answer the following questions in 100 – 120 words:**

**a) Why does Nani Palkhivala call all the earth “The Ailing Planet?” How can the ailing planet survive?**

- The signs of the earth connected with life (necessary for staying alive) show that the earth is patient in declining health. Its deserts are advancing. Landscapes are being impoverished and environment had deteriorated very badly in many parts of the world, in fact, it has become critical in many parts of the world eighty eight countries investigated.
- The concept of sustainable development and Green Movement can help the ailing planet to survive. People must discharge their moral responsibility as stewards of the planet and trustees of the legacy of the future generations. The plundering of the natural resources should be controlled. These must be preserved for the future generations.

**b) We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers we have borrowed it from our children. Elucidate.**

- This statement is made by Mr. Lester Brown, the author of the book ‘The Global Economic Prospect’. Mr. Brown has in his mind the well known belief that the property which we inherit from our forefathers is ours and we can do whatever we like with it. So, he asks us to use or abuse as we like. It is something which we are duty-bound to preserve for the next generations. So while we use the earth and its resources for our present needs, it is our duty to see that we do not compromise the ability of the future generations to meet their needs.
- It is therefore, very important that we do not strip the natural world of resources future would need. Even more important is the fact that we do not pollute these resources which make them useless or harmful.

## **Chap. 6 The Browning Version – By Terence Rattigan**

### **❖ Word meanings:**

- 1) Excerpt – a short extract from a piece of writing
- 2) Criterion – standard
- 3) Muck – rubbish
- 4) Slackers – weak students
- 5) Aeschylus – a Greek dramatist
- 6) Sadist – person who gets pleasure from giving pain to others
- 7) Frantically – hurriedly

### **❖ Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

#### **a) What suggestions of Mr. Frank shocked Taplow ? Why ?**

Frank had suggested that Taplow could cut Crocker Harris because the latter was already ten minutes late. This suggestion shocked Taplow because he could not even think of doing such a thing.

#### **b) What leads Mr. Frank to comment, I'm sure you're exaggerating ?**

Taplow says that Mr. Crocker Harris seems to hate people to like him. Yes in spite of everything, Taplow does rather like him. He can't help him. He thinks that sometimes Mr. Crocker Harris notice it and that seems to shrivel him up even more. This observation of Taplow seems farfetched . so Mr. Frank remarks that he is exaggerating.

#### **c) What did Crocker Harris say when Taplow asked him his 'remove' ?**

Crocker Harris told Taplow that he had got what he deserved. However , he refused to tell him what exactly his remove was.

#### **d) How do Frank and Taplow react on the arrival of Millie Crocker ?**

Their reaction differ . Frank feels infinitely relieved at seeing her. May be, he was waiting for her. Taplow is, on the other hand, frightened. He wonders if Millie has heard what he spoke about her husband. He is afraid that if the matter is reported to Crocker Harris , he might not get his remove.

### **Q2 Answer the following questions in 100-150 words :**

#### **a) Give a character sketch of Crocker Harris from what you have read from 'The Brownian Version'.**

Crocker Harris is a teacher who teaches Greek to the lower fifth form a good school. He is the in-charge of the form and as such he alone knows about the

result of the students of his form which are to be officially announced the next day.

From Taplow's comments about Crocker Harris, we learn that he is a teacher who takes his teaching very seriously. We learn that even on the day when he is leaving the school for good, he has called a student for extra work because the said student has missed a day last week.

He is the one who doesn't like to be flattered. He will judge a student only by his merit and not because of any prejudice. It is a tribute to his character that although students like Taplow do not like his severity, yet they love and respect him from the core of their hearts.

**b) "This humorous piece is an extract from a play." "The Browning Version" What according to you make this extract humorous?**

The play presents a funny situation. Frank, a young science teacher, finds a sixteen years old Taplow waiting for his master Mr. Crocker Harris. The lower fifth form student has been asked to come in to do extra work on the last day of the school. Mr. Crocker Harris is leaving the school for good the next day. Being quite busy in settling his own affairs, he has not yet arrived there. Taplow's fear of adverse remarks about his results make him smile.

The interaction between Mr. Frank and Taplow is quite amusing. The young science teacher encourages Taplow's comment on Crocker Harris. The manner in which Taplow imitates his master's voice, manner of speaking and diction are quite amusing. The sudden arrival of Millie Crocker Harris in the midst of an imitation of a joke surprise Frank and makes Taplow nervous. Their reactions are quite amusing. Taplow's unwillingness to leave

The place and his fear of consequences in case his master returns before his arrival seems quite genuine but funny. He feels relieved only when Millie offers to take the blame. All these actions seem exaggerated and funny.

### P. 3 “The Voice of the Rain” – Walt Whitman

#### ❖ Word meanings:

- 1) Eternal – everlasting
- 2) Impalpable – unable to be felt by touching
- 3) Bottomless – very deep
- 4) Whence – from where
- 5) Vaguely – unclearly
- 6) Descend – fall downwards
- 7) Lave - wash

#### Q-1.) Answer the extract based questions:

A) *I am the poem of earth, said the voice of the rain,  
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,  
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd,  
Altogether changed, and yet the same,*

##### i. How is the speaker the poem of the earth?

The rain is the poem of the earth as it gives new life to the scorched earth.

##### ii. Explain “altogether changed, and yet the same”

The poet means that the rain changes many forms as it goes from the earth to the sky yet essentially it remains a form of water or rain.

##### iii. Name the poem and the poet.

➤ The poem is “The Voice of the Rain” and it is written by Walt Whitman.

B) *“I descend to have the droughts, atomies, dust-layers  
of the globe.  
And all that is in them without me were seeds only,  
latent, unborn.”*

##### i. What happens when “I” falls on the earth?

➤ When “I” i.e. the rain falls on the earth, it brings respite from the heat, washes away the dust and gives life to plants and trees.

##### ii. What will happen if “I” was not there?

➤ If “I” were not there, the seeds would have remained latent, unborn and would never have grown into new plants or trees.

**iii. Give the synonyms of (a) lave (b) latent**

- (a) pollute, dehydrate
- (b) existing

**Q-2.) Answer the following in 30-40 words:**

**a) What answer does rain give to the poet about its origin?**

- The rain answered the poet that it was the Poem of Earth. It rose eternally out of the land and the bottomless sea into the sky. There it is formed vaguely and changed its form. But it remains the same.

**b) Why is rain compared to music?**

- The poet compares the rain with music. The poet watches the falling showers of the rain. The showers are falling very lightly producing a soft music. Like music, rain too is life giving and inspirational. It spreads love and joy.

**Q 3 Give the central idea of the poem, "The Voice of the Rain".**

- The rain calls itself poem of earth. It is everlasting and perpetual. It is something that cannot be touched. It originates from the land and the deep sea. Then it rises upward to heaven where it changes its form into a cloud, yet remains the same in quality. From the sky it pours down on earth to wash the dry thin particles and dust layers of the earth. The rain helps the unborn seeds to sprout. These seeds lay hidden and unborn under the layer of earth. Rain gives back life to its origin making it pure and beautiful.



## L. 4 “Albert Einstein at School” – Patrick Pringle

### ❖ Word meanings:

- 1) Expulsion – forced removal
- 2) Squalor – filth, waste
- 3) Howling – crying
- 4) Briskly – quickly
- 5) Not mincing words – speaking frankly
- 6) Rebellion – opposition of the teacher
- 7) Stalked - march

### Q-1.) Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

a) Why did Albert hate his lodgings? What would he do to divert his mind?

- Einstein lived in a rented room in one of the poorest quarters of Munich. He did not like the place because of the atmosphere of slum violence. His landlady beat her children regularly. The wailing and howling of kids got on his nerves. In order to divert his mind he would listen to music as a ‘comfort’ because it provided him relief from the noise prevailing in the landlady’s house.

b) How did Yuri and Elsa comfort Albert Einstein in his moments of gloom and despair?

- Yuri tried to comfort Albert by telling him about the fight between the students in which one of them was killed. Elsa

tried to counsel Albert by saying that she knew a lot of boys who were much more stupid than him but got through it.

a) What did Mr. Koch think of Albert?

- Mr. Koch was quite impressed with Albert. He wrote that he was good at Maths and had learnt everything that was required to enter a college for the study of higher Mathematics. He was of the view that Albert could even teach Mr. Koch with his knowledge of Mathematics.

Q-1.) Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

a) Comment on the role of Yuri in the story.

- Yuri is the central figure in the story. Yuri was the only friend whom Einstein could rely upon in Munich. When he felt too miserable in school, he told his woes to him. One day he confided to him that if he could procure a medical certificate from a friendly doctor that he was suffering from nervous breakdown. Yuri ultimately enabled him to have the desired certificate that too without any charge. He advised and helped him from time to time.

b) Why did the Headmaster summon Albert? What was the outcome?

- Albert was quite fed up with the present school and the technique of education. He could not tolerate the insult done by his History teacher Braun. Albert got a medical certificate from Dr. Ernest Weil. Dr. Weil certified that he had a nervous breakdown and must stay away from school. Albert didn't need this certificate. The next day the head teacher called Albert to his office. He told Albert that his work was terrible.



So he was not prepared to have him in the school. Albert asked if he should think he was to be expelled. The head teacher told him that if he left the school of his own accord, the question won't arise. Albert asked what crime he had committed.

- The teacher told him that the teacher couldn't teach the class when he was in it. Also due to his presence, the students couldn't learn. Albert wanted to tell the head teacher what he thought of him and the school. But he didn't say anything. The head teacher asked him to close the door behind him. But Albert didn't do so. Nor did he have the last look at his school. He only met Yuri and saw Mr. Koch, got the certificate and left Munich.

## Lesson 5 Mother's Day – J. B. Priestly

### ❖ Word meanings:

- 1) Suburb – outlying area of a city
- 2) Settee – sofa
- 3) Dubiously – in an unsure manner
- 4) Go lax – looking like they are dead
- 5) Buck teeth – upper set of teeth sticking out
- 6) Barmy – insane
- 7) Guffaw – laugh loudly



### ❖ Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

#### a) How is Doris taught a lesson in behaviour ?

Ans: When Mrs. Fitzgerald remarks that Doris is going out with Charlie Spence that night, Doris feels annoyed and retorts that she has got nothing to do with it. Mrs Pearson

#### b) How does Mrs. Pearson propose to spend the evening? Is her proposal acceptable to the family ?

Ans: Mrs. Pearson proposes that they would have a nice family game of rummy. Then children could get supper ready while she has a talk with their father. Then looking sharply at the family, she ask them if they have any objection. All speak in one voice that it suits them. Thus, Mr. Pearson finally succeeds in keeping the family home that evening .

#### c) What picture of Mrs. Pearson emerges in the opening of the play ‘ Mother’s Day’?

Ans: Mrs. Pearson is in her forties. She is a pleasant looking woman. She is a typical housewife. She takes delight in serving her family, though the take no notice of her. Rven if they are thoughtless and selfish, she is very fond of them. She bears with them patiently as she does not want any unpleasantness in the house.

#### d) Compare and contrast Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Fitzgerald on the basis of the play “ Mother’s Day” .

Ans: The ladies are sharply contrasted. Mrs. Pearson is pleasant but worried looking woman in her forties. She speaks in alight, flurried sort of tone with a touch of suburban cockney. Mrs. Fitzgerald is older heavier and has a strong and sinister personality. She smokes she has a deep voice

rather Irish tone.

❖ **Answer the following questions in 100-150 words:**

**a) What role did Mr. Fitzgerald play to make Mrs. Pearson the boss of the family?**

Ans: Mrs. Pearson's problem is that she is neglected by her husband and children. She is very fond of her family. She runs after them all the time, takes their orders as if she was the servant in the house and stays at home every night while they go out enjoying themselves. She takes no holiday. They have come to believe that she is there simply to look after them and wait for them, so they take no notice of her.

Her neighbour Mrs. Fitzgerald, helps her solve this problem. She advises Mrs. Pearson to assert her rights as the mistress of the house if she wants them to treat her properly. Mrs. Pearson says that she does keep dropping a hint now and then but she can't be harsh with them as she does not want any unpleasantness in the house. Mrs. Fitzgerald asks her to let her do it. Mrs. Pearson wonders how it is possible. Mrs. Fitzgerald tells her that they would change their personalities with each other. She had learnt this trick when she was in East. Mrs. Pearson hesitates but she finally agrees. The two women change their personalities.

**b) The play "Mother's Day" is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the women in a family. Bring out briefly the elements of humour and satire.**

Ans : The play 'Mother's Day' is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of women in a family is shown in its serious theme treated in a light-hearted manner. The importance of the character about the personality they are facing also creates humour.

The following dialogues also provides a lot of fun. "Mrs. Pearson if you had to love my life it wouldn't be so bad. You'd have more fun as me than you've had as you".

"It's that silly old bag from next door Mrs. Fitzgerald."

"Tickling her off now, are you Annie?"

They call you Pompy- Ompy Pearson because they think you're so slow and Pompous"

The actions, gestures and reactions of the characters also provide humour. The house wife being given orders, treated like dirt and forced to stay Home every night .while other members go out to amuse themselves in sharply contrasted with the position at the end of the play where she is the

mistress of the house. The play also satires eight hours work culture and threats to go on strike . Even the house wife adopts this weapon.

## **L.7 Birth – A J Cronin**

### **❖ Word meanings:**

- 1) Burly – large and strong
- 2) Premonition – idea
- 3) Contemplation of – thinking about
- 4) Stout – strongly build
- 5) Shrewish – quarrelsome
- 6) Idyllic – perfect
- 7) Elapsed - passed

### **❖ Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words**

**a) Who was Joe Morghan ? Why had he been waiting for Dr. Andrew Manson ?**

**Ans:** Joe Morghan was a driller in Blaenelly a mining town. He was a big strong and heavy middle aged person. Joe and his wife Susan, who had been married for nearly twenty years and were expecting their first child. Joe was waiting for the doctor to help Susan in the delivery of the child.

**b) Describe briefly the efforts made by the doctor to revive the child.**

The doctor lay the child on a blanket and began the special method of respiration. Then he immersed it alternately in cold water and luke warm water. Fifteen minutes passed, but no breath came from the body of the child. Then the doctor made one last effort. He rubbed the child with a towel, crushed and released the chest with both his hands. Thus he tried to get breath into the limp body. His effort bore fruit . the little chest gave a short convulsive heave. The doctor redoubled his efforts . The child was gasping.

**c) What was the child suffering from?**

**Ans:** As soon as the doctor saw the child , he knew that this was a case of suffocation, the condition caused by lack of oxygen and excess of carbon-di -oxide in the blood.. It is accompanied by paleness of the skin ,weak pulse and loss of reflexes

**d) Why did Andrew say “ I’ll fetch my bag later nurse?”.**

**Ans** Andrew worked hard single headedly and constantly to save the mother and the still born from the jaws of death. The constant efforts,

tension, desperation caused by failure combined to make him weak and dozed. Being tired he told the nurse that he would fetch his bag later.

**Q2 Answer the following questions in 100- 150 words:**

**a) Why was Andrew Manson torn between two desires ? How did he resolve this delimma ?**

**Ans:** Andrew was a medical practitioner in a small mining town. One night he was attending a woman who was expecting her first child. After a long wait and an hour long hard struggle of Andrew, the women gave birth to a still child. Andrew was in dilemma. When he gazed at the lifeless child, he shivered with horror . Then he looked at mother who was in desperate state and needed immediate attention . He was torn between his desire to attempt to bring the child back to life and his obligation towards the mother who lay unconscious. She was almost pulse less. Her strength was ebbing fast. Andrew knew that it was a race against time. He made frantic efforts to restore the flabby woman. Instantly he smashed a glass ampoule and injected the medicine. After a few minutes her heart strengthened. Andrew knew that she was out of danger and he could safely leave her.

**b) What impression do you form of Andrew Manson on the basis of the story “ Birth”**

**Ans :**Andrew Manson was a young man who has recently qualified as a doctor and started his medical practice as an assistant to Dr. Edward Page in the small Welse mining town of Blaenelly. He is in love with Christine and thinks of marriage as an idyllic state. He is filled with love. His steady mind and reason help him see the marriages of many persons as dismal failures.

Andrew is mature enough to keep his private and professional lives apart. Once confronted with his responsibility, he discharges his obligations to the utmost capacity. He is duty conscious. He believes in practical approach and is not afraid to try unique methods. He has a tender heart too. He is aware of the feeling of others. He knows how deeply Susan loved her upcoming baby. He has polite manner and reassuring tone. On the whole Andrew is presented as a dedicated doctor.

## **Chap. 4 Childhood – Markus Natten**

### **❖ Word meanings:**

- 1) Ceased to be – stopped being
- 2) Preached – taught
- 3) Really mine – when not influenced by others' opinions

### **❖ Answer the following extract based questions:**

**A)** They talked of love and preached of love,  
But did not act so lovingly  
Was that the day?

**a) Name the poem and its composer.**

The poem's name is 'Childhood' and the composer is Markus Natten.

**b) Who are they?**

They are the adults who preach about love but never act accordingly.

**c) What does the poet observe about their behaviour?**

The adults were not what they were seemed to be . They pretend a lot  
They are hypocrites who preach love and all good things but behave in  
a different manner.

**B) When did my childhood go ?**

Was it the day I ceased to be eleven,  
Was it the time I realized that Hell and heaven,  
Could not be found in Geography,  
And therefore could not be , Was that the day!

**a) When did the poet leave his childhood behind?**

When he realised that hell and heaven exist in the minds of the  
People.

**b) What big change has taken place in the life of the poet?**

The poet has left behind his childhood.

**c) What does he know now about Hell and Heaven?**

Both exist in the mind of people.

### **Q2 Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

**a) What happened when Markus Natten completed eleven years of age?**

At eleven years the poet Markus Natten understood the difference between  
fact and fiction. He understood that the things such as hell and heaven are  
only figments of human imaginations.

**b) Why does the poet feel that Heaven and Hell are not real places?**

As the speaker grew mature, he acquired reasoning power. He realized that Hell and Heaven could not be found in Geography books or Atlas. Since they could not be located anywhere in the world map, he concluded that they did not exist. He would believe only what he could see and find.

**c) What does the child think about the adult in the poem 'Childhood' ?**

The poet of the 'Childhood' Markus Natten found the adults hypocrite. He says that these adults talked and preached of love but in their actions they did not practice it. Thus they were hypocrites.

**d) How did the realization of being the master of his own mind help him?**

The realization of being the master of his own mind and could use it in anyway he liked, filled with self confidence. He could now think independently and need not repeat parrot like thoughts of others.

**Q3 Answer the following questions in 100-150 words:**

**a) What according to the poem is involved in the process of growing up ?**

According to the poem, the process of growing up involves at least three Important steps . First the child begins to differentiate between truth and fiction. The second step is when he begins to understand the false pretensions of the people around him. The last and the most important step in the process of growing up is independent thinking.

**b) Which do you think is the most important step towards adulthood ?**

**Why ?**

Having an independent mind free from any outside influence is the most important step towards adulthood. That is why, the poet mentions it as the third and the final step. Other steps like being rational or learning hypocrisy show an outside influence while this step shows an internal awakening which is the chief quality of human and separates them from other animals.



## **. 8 Silk Road – Nick Middleton**

### **❖ Word meanings:**

- 1) *drokba* – nomad shepherd
- 2) *kora* – pilgrimage
- 3) void – empty space
- 4) *kyang* – wild asses
- 5) lurching – moving unsteadily
- 6) prone – inclined
- 7) paraphernalia – dress identifying his profession

### **❖ Answer the following questions in 30 – 40 words:**

**a) Why did the author take the short cut inspite of high mountain passes?**

Ans : The short cut would take them south west, almost directly towards Mount Kailash. Crossing high mountains pass posed breathing problems. Absence of snow meant a fairly good ride.

**b) What were drokbas doing in the “rocky wilderness “?**

Ans: Drokbas are the people, men, or women who were tending their flocks in the rocky wilderness. They wear long sleeved sheepskin coat to protect themselves from the cold of the high mountains.

**c) How did the author pass the first night at Darchen ?**

It was very troubled night. The author suffered from cold .He breathed through his mouth. His chest felt heavy. He tired his best to sleep but in vain.Almost the whole night, he had to keep awake.

### **❖ Answer the following questions in 100-150 words :**

**a) Describe the author’s journey from the top of the pass to his stay at Hor.**

Ans: The top of the pass was at 5,515 metres. It was marked by a cairn of rocks. The author along with two other persons took a turn round the cairn in a clockwise direction as is the tradition. The author was suffering from severe headache at this altitude. Now the car careered down to the other side of the pass. He was glad that his headache had now disappeared. At about 2 pm they stopped for the lunch. Then they started again and by late afternoon reached the small town of Hor. Here Daniel parted company. He went back to Lhasa in a truck that was going there.

Tsetan decided to repair his punctured tyres here. So he sent the author to a café

To pass about half an hour. Hor did attract the author. Though it sat on the shore of the sacred lake Mansarovar, it was dirty and full of refuse. When Tsetan came back, the author started on his journey again.

**b) What impression do you form of the author, Nick Middleton on the basis reading ' Silk Road'?**

Ans: The author is bald headed English knowing gentle man. He was keen on performing Kailash Kora. He undertook the hazardous journey to mount Kailash for his purpose, he hired Tsetan's car and took Daniel as companion for escorting him upto Darchen. He seems to be a lover of adventure who is not at all afraid of taking risks. This is evident from his assent to take a short-cut through high mountains passes involving the risk of slipping on snowy roads.

He is keen observer of men and manners. He has a sharp eye for details. He describes the hilly people quite sensitive. He gives a graphic account of difficulties faced during ascent. His headache and loss of sleep was caused by cold and high altitude. His observations about lake and Hor reveal the difference between legend And reality. He dislikes dirt and shabbiness.

He faces communication problem after Tsetan leaves and before he meets Norbu. However, he waits and takes correct decisions. He approves of

Norbu's practical suggestion to hire Yaks to carry luggage. In short, he is a sensitive and likable fellow.

