Class 12 English
L 4 The Rat Trap

By Selma Lagerlof

Q1 Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

a) In what sense was the world a big rat trap according to the peddler?

World was a big rat trap because it was full of temptations . Like a rat trap It offers riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing. When some one was tempted to touch them , it would close on him, and then, everything came to an end.

b) Why did peddler derive pleasure from his idea of the world as a rat trap ?

The peddler derived pleasure from his idea of the world as a rat trap because the world had never accepted him. Everyone had always been unkind to him. He got amused with the idea because he himself had never led a good life and envied others who led a better life than him.

c) How was the peddler received in the cottage?

The peddler knocked at the cottage to ask for shelter for the night . The crofter treated him kindly offered him shelter in his cottage, gave him food. He also played cards with him and smoked tobacco.

d) Why did Edla plead with her father not to send the vagabond away ?

Edla pleaded with her father not to send the vagabond away because she wanted him to stay there for the Christmas celebration. She understood how hard it must have been for him to wander from place to place and being homeless, she wanted him to stay and enjoy at least one day of peace, comfort and solace.

Moreover it was Christmas eve and Edla wanted to keep the spirit of Christmas . She told her father that they had invited him as a guest for Christmas, so they must keep their promise and not turn him away.

Q2 Answer the following questions in 100-150 words :

a) There is a saying, ‘ kindness pays, rudeness never’, In the story, The Rat trap’ Edla’s attitude towards men and matters is different from

her father's attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, 'The Rat Trap'?

The ironmaster, father of Edla Williamson is completely different from his daughter . When the ironmaster, who owned the Ramsjo Iron Works come for inspection there in night, he sees tall ragged rat trap peddler and considers him as his old comrade. The ironmater insists on taking the peddler to his home for the Christmas Eve, but the rat- trap peddler emphatically refuses to go to his house. He does so when Edla Williamson, the daughter of ironmaster is a very kind hearted, compassionate and noble young woman.

Though she was not pretty yet she seemed modest and shy. It was only due to her compassionate and friendly manner that she was successful in persuading the peddler to go to their home to celebrate the Christmas Eve. But when the rattrap peddler was bathed, shaved and dressed in the ironmaster's suit the ironmaster realised that he was not his regimental comrade Captain Von Stahle

Although the ironmaster wanted him to leave immediately. Edla requested the peddler to stay-back just to enjoy one day of peace with them. She asked the peddler to sit down and eat . She told him to keep her father's suit, which he was wearing as a 'Christmas gift' Her behaviour towards him transformed the rat-trap peddler and he returned the thirty kronors stolen by him requesting her to give the money back to the old crofter.

b) How does the peddler respond to the hospitality shown to him by the crofter ?

The peddler was ungrateful for the hospitality shown by the crofter. The crofter welcomed him in his house when he asked for the shelter. He took good care of him . he immediately put the porridge pot on the fire and gave him supper; then he carved off a big slice from his tobacco roll and gave it to him. Finally he brought out an old pack of cards and played 'mjolis' with him until bedtime. Not only this , the old man was just as generous with his 'confidence' as with his porridge and tobacco.

He told him at once that in his days of prosperity, his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo Ironworks and had worked on the land. And now he had thirty kronors, which he had earned selling the milk of his cow. He did all this because he was alone and felt happy to have his company. But the peddler betrayed the crofter's trust. After they both had left in the morning, the peddler came back to the crofter's house, broke open the window and stole thirty kronors, which he had earned by selling the milk of his cow.

Poem 4 A Thing Of Beauty

By John Keats

Q1. Answer the following extract based questions:

a) " A thing of beauty is joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into
Nothingness; but will keep
a "bower quiet for us".

i) 'A thing of beauty is joy forever' explain.

Beauty has long lasting impact on us. It never moves into emptiness. It leaves a lasting impression and always rescues us from our miseries.

ii) Why does a beautiful thing never 'pass into nothingness'?

Beauty has a long standing impression on us. It is not subject to time. It will continue for ever

iii) What does the poet mean by 'a bower quiet for us' ?

A bower means a shady place for us to ponder and dream.

iv) Whose loveliness keep on increasing?

Loveliness of beautiful things will keep on increasing.

b) "Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
a flowery band to bind us to the earth,
spite of despondence of the inhuman dearth of
noble natures , of the gloomy days.
Of all the unhealthy and over- darkened ways.
Made for our searching".

i) What for do we wreathe a garland of flowers every morning?

We weave a garland of flowers every morning to bind us to the beauties of the earth. Man and nature are inseparable. Every morning, fresh flowers refresh our eyes and we celebrate the day by making a garland.

ii) What makes human beings live life inspite of all sufferings?

Objects of beauty , some noble deed and some powerful narratives Remove our tensions and sadness.

iii) What are the things that cause pain and the sufferings?

The ingratitude and wickedness of man , the misfortunes and the

disease cause us mental and physical sufferings.

iv) Explain: Over-darkened ways made for our searching.

It refers to sorrow , grief and physical pain which are there to test a man's stigma.

Q2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

a) What makes human beings love life inspite of troubles and sufferings?

No doubt, that there are things in life that cause suffering and pain like despondence, death of noble people, gloomy days and over darkened ways. It is at such times, that objects of beauty, some noble deeds , some powerful narratives remove our tension and sadness and we learn to love life.

b) Which objects of nature does Keats mention as sources of joy in his poem, 'A Thing Of Beauty'

Keats mention the sun , the moon , the trees, flowers and clear rills as things of beauty.

c) Why is 'grandeur' associated with the 'mighty dead'?

Grandeur is associated with the mighty dead because the poet refers to the great tragic plays written by the great playwrights. We admire and worship our heroes and even the fall of our great heroes is described, as gloriously, as their lives. These stories inspire us to lead our lives and overcome our misery.

d) What does Keats consider as an endless fountain of immoral drink and why does he call it, immoral drink ?

Keats considers nature as an endless fountain of immortal drink. He calls it immortal because a man can get rest, relief and power in the company of nature and an endless beauty is hidden in her varied spice**s.**

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

a) Write the sum and the substance of the poem : 'A Thing Of Beauty'

On having a vision of moon, Goddess Cynthia, a young shepherd Endymion, resolved , to seek her because a thing of beauty is a joy for ever. It never passes into nothingness but helps us in having sweet dreams and healthy breaths. Our life is the sum total of both happiness and pain. Vices like spite, ill will, jealousy and cruelty overpower us but the beauty washes away this dark curtain. The natural objects like the sun, the moon, the trees, daffodils, the rose flowers and the rills spread their fairness, fragrance and beauty over all. During the scorching heat of the season , , we have divine nature to soothe us.

COMPREHENSION PARAGRAPH

COFFEE—HEALTHY BODY AND MIND?

1. The idea that coffee is bad for heart pops up periodically. It was found that regularly drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Researchers even isolated fatlike chemicals, cafestol and kahweol, responsible for the rise.

2 It turned out that the European brewing method—boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining – produces high concentrations of cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove all but a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee—five to six cups a day. Moderate coffee drinkers down only two cups.

3 Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not dangerously raise blood pressure. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.

4 "For heart disease, I think the issue is closed," says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has studied many aspects of coffee and health. "Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk."

5 Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson's disease. A 30-

year

study of 8000 Japanese-American men found that avid coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn't drink the brew.

6 Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, found indirect evidence that Caffeine- the habit forming stimulant in coffee – may actually combat Parkinson's disease. The caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells from depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine – the problem underlying Parkinson's disease in humans. However, these are preliminary findings; human studies have- not consistently supported caffeine's protective role.

7The studies on coffee and cancer have focussed on three organs – and are reassuring. You may remember a brief coffee scare in the early 1980s when a single study linked coffee with pancreatic cancer. A false alarm: Many studies since then have shown that the association is either extremely weak or non-existent.

8 If there's a connection between coffee and bladder cancer, it possibly applies just to coffee junkies. A reanalysis of ten European studies found an increased risk only among people who drank ten or more cups a day. And studies show that coffee seems to have no adverse influence on the risk of colon cancer.

9 Caffeine is such a powerful stimulant that the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association set limits on how much can remain in the blood during competition. In addition to boosting physical endurance, caffeine increases alertness and improves mood. The buzz may come at a price, though. People who drink more than they're used to may become restless and unable to sleep. Moreover, it's possible to become physically dependent on caffeine in days.

10 The question now arises: how much to drink? Those with heatburn and anxiety may want to see if cutting back coffee improves their condition. For most people, however, there's virtually no risk in consuming up to three normal cups a day. Harvard's Stampfer tries to keep his coffee drinking irregular enough to avoid habituation: "That way, I can get a buzz when I feel like it."

Questions:

A. Choose the most appropriate option:

(a) Coffee increases…….of those people who regularly drink very strong coffee.

1. cholesterol
2. tension
3. the amount of blood
4. fats

(b) A person should not drink coffee…….

1. less than 10 cups a day
2. more than ten cups a day
3. more than three cups a day
4. none of the above

(c) It has been proved that coffee does not have any adverse effect on the risk of…….

1. colon cancer
2. diabetes
3. lung cancer

4 none of the above

(d) Caffeine boosts

1. physical endurance
2. mental endurance
3. positive feelings
4. none of these

B. Answer the following questions briefly:

(a) In what respect does coffee harm human heart? How?
(b) What is the finding of latest researches about coffee and human heart?
(c) What problem causes Parkinson's disease? What is the role of coffee in this respect?
(d) Name the three types of cancer listed in the passage.
(e) 'Caffeine is a powerful stimulant'. What are the positive and negative effects of Caffeine?

C. Find words in the passage similar in meaning as:

(a) separated (Para 1)
(b) drug that increases physical or mental activity and alertness (Paras 6, 9)

Answers:

A.

(a) 1. cholesterol
(b) 3. more than three cups a day

(c) 1. colon cancer
(d) 1. physical endurance

B.

(a) Drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Fatlike chemicals—cafestol and kahweol are responsible for the rise.
(b) European brewing method produces high concentrations of cafestol and kahweol. The filter and percolation methods almost remove the chemicals. Regular, moderate drinking of coffee neither raises blood pressure nor causes abnormal heart rhythms.
(c) Depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine in nerve cells causes the disease. Caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells effectively. Caffeine's protective role for humans is yet to be established.
(d) (i) pancreatic cancer
(ii) bladder cancer
(iii) colon cancer
(e) (i) Advantages : boosts endurance, increases alertness and improves mood.
(ii) Disadvantages : restlessness and sleeplessness on drinking more than usual-possibility of becoming addicts and physically dependent.
(f) Studies reveal about moderate coffee drinkers that it does not dangerously affect their health. They may enjoy three cups of coffee per day without facing any health problem.

C.

(a) isolated
(b) stim

NOTICE

WHAT IS A NOTICE?

A notice is a written or printed news announcement or information. A notice may contain news/information about something that has happened or is likely to happen. It may be a formal announcement of public importance or an advance warning meant for compliance and information. A notice can be about a meeting, an event, an excursion/a historical trip/a picnic, lost and found, change of name/address/uniform/timings/venue etc.

PURPOSE

Notices are effective means of disseminating information related to different issues or occasions. They reach to a large number of persons in a short time. Hence; a notice is written in simple and formal language. It is clear, brief and to the point.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

(a) Format: It includes the word 'NOTICE', date, heading, writer's name and designation.
(b) Content: It must answer the questions What? When? Where? How? etc.
(c) Expression: It relates to the overall organisation and relevance of the content as well as grammatical accuracy and fluency.ulant

Question 1:
You are the Secretary of the English Literary Association of Tagore Memorial School, Patna. Write out a notice for noticeboard, inviting names of those who would like to participate in the proposed inter-house debate, oratorial and elocution contest.

Answer

English Literary Association

TAGORE MEMORIAL SCHOOL, PATNA

5 Aug. 20XX

NOTICE
INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

The English Literary Association invites participants in the following contests to be held in the school auditorium:
(a) Debate competition: 20 Aug. 20XX at 11.00 a.m.
(b) Oratorial skills: 21 Aug. 20XX at 11.00 a.m.
(c) Elocution contest 21 Aug. 20XX at 2.00 p.m.
Each house can send a team of two students per item.
Last date for submission of names: 10th August, 20XX
Ravi Mohan
Secretary
ELA

Question 2:
You are Rahul /Rashmi. As President of the Literary Club of your school; you have organised an inter-school debate competition on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of your school about the competition.
Answer:

Literary Club
ST. THOMAS PUBLIC SCHOOL, LUCKNOW

5 Dec. 20XX

NOTICE

The Literary Club is organising an inter-school debate competition on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations as per details given below:
Date : 18 Dec. 20XX
Time : 11 a.m. onwards
Venue : Saraswati Auditorium
Topic : "Nuclear Armament is India's best defence against cross-border terrorism"
Last date for receipt of names: 10 Dec. upto 4.30 p.m. in the Activities Room.

Rahul/Rashmi
President

Question 3: You to do it

You are Ravi/Rachna. As President of the Cultural Forum of your school, you have organised an inter-school orchestra competition on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of your school about this competition.