

QUESTION BANK
English Literature
Class VIII

Secrets

A. Choose the correct option.

1. Jo hesitates before entering the publisher's office because she

- a. is not happy with her work.
- b. sees Laurie outside.
- c. fears rejection.

Ans. c

2. Jo takes a roundabout way to the newspaper office because

- a. she does not want to be seen by her family.
- b. she does not know the short cut.
- c. the regular pathway is blocked.

Ans. a

3. The extract 'Secrets' is taken from the novel

- a. Little Women.
- b. Laurie and Jo.
- c. The little sisters.

Ans. a

B. Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. Jo looked at her friend Laurie as if she did not understand him, then began to laugh as if mightily amused at something.

- a. Explain the initial confusion.
- b. Why did Jo laugh?
- c. How did she respond to Laurie's question?

Ans. a. Laurie had seen Jo entering a building that had a dentist's clinic and assumed that Jo was going there to have a tooth extraction. When he asked Jo how many had been extracted, Jo was confused as she had intended to go to a newspaper office in the same building.

- b. When Jo realised that Laurie had mistakenly thought that she had been to the dentist, she laughed in amusement.
- c. c. She told Laurie that she was hoping to see two come out but that she would have to wait for a week for that.

2. Jo's breath gave out here, and wrapping her head in the paper, she bestowed upon it a few tears

- a. What was in the paper?
- b. What did Jo aspire to become?
- c. Why did she bestow upon it a few tears?

Ans. a. Jo's published story was in the paper.

- b. Jo aspired to become an author/writer and be financially independent.
- c. Jo was overwhelmed with joy and cried happy tears over her piece of writing.

C. Answer the questions.

1. Why does Jo initially keep her writing a secret from her family?

Ans. Jo keeps her writing a secret because she does not want her family members to feel disappointed if her stories are rejected. This shows her cautious optimism and determination to succeed on her own terms.

2. How did Jo's feel before and after submitting her story?

Ans. Jo was nervous and hesitated repeatedly before entering the office indicating her fear of rejection and self-doubt. After submitting her story, she kept rushing to the door whenever the postman rang the bell and appeared to be in constant tension.

3. How do Jo's sisters react to her story being published?

Ans. Each of Jo's sisters responds differently to her success. Meg is initially doubtful but becomes proud once she sees the story in print. Beth is genuinely happy and enthusiastic for Jo, showing her supportive nature. Amy, in contrast, takes a more critical approach, focussing on the artistic aspects of the story.

D. Think and answer.

How does Laurie's support highlight their friendship?

Ans. Laurie plays a crucial role in supporting Jo's ambition. His encouragement and eagerness for her success reflect his belief in her talent. He is in constant touch with Jo to know if there's been any news from the newspaperman and when he hears that her story has been printed, he immediately celebrates her achievement with equal enthusiasm. His reaction highlights the deep friendship they share, where he acts as a motivator and confident.

Bommakka

A. Choose the correct option.

1. Bommakka's first impression was that the beast was

a. fierce and dangerous.

b. ordinary -looking.

c. weak and sickly.

Ans. b

2. The herdsmen requested the Shikar party for help

a. for protection against a predator.

b. to find a cow that had gone missing.

c. to train them against dangers.

Ans. a

3. Bommakka gave birth to a

a. cow-calf.

b. bull-calf.

c. weak-calf.

Ans. b

B. Answer the questions with reference to the given context.

1. It was then that I noticed that the poor thing was quite blind in one eye, which was permanently closed.

a. Where is the speaker and who is he with?

b. Who is being described?

c. What is the significance of this detail later in the story?

Ans. a. The speaker is in a millet field and he is with his friend who is Bommakka's owner.

b. Bommakka, the buffalo cow, is being described.

c. This shows that although she had a disability, she displayed extraordinary courage and strength later when she fought the tiger.

2. She snapped her tether with a casual flick of her head and limped, painfully but with determination, to the watercourse nearby.

a. What situation had led to this?

b. Why did she go into the water?

c. What was the result of her action?

Ans. a. Bommakka was severely injured after fighting a tiger, and her swollen hock caused her unbearable pain, preventing her from resting.

b. She went into the water so that the buoyancy could support her weight and relieve pressure from her injured leg.

c. As a result, she could finally sleep and recover; eventually her wounds healed completely.

C. Answer the questions.

1. Why were the villagers afraid to approach Bommakka after the fight?

Ans. The villagers could see that Bommakka was in great pain and anger as she kept tossing her head, snorting, and glaring fiercely with her one eye. The beast would not tolerate any kind of disturbance and would attack them. This fear prevented them from going near her.

2. How did Bommakka's intelligence and instinct help her recover?

Ans. Despite the humans' efforts to help Bommakka, her hock would not heal and she was losing weight alarmingly. The pain and discomfort prevented her from resting or sleeping. Bommakka soon found her own solution by going into the water. The buoyancy lifted her weight off her injured leg, allowing her to rest and sleep, which sped up her healing. This showed her intelligence and instinctive ability to survive.

3. The narrator initially doubted Bommakka's greatness. How did his view change by the end of the story?

Ans. At first, the narrator saw Bommakka as ordinary and overrated by her owner. But after witnessing her courage in fighting the tiger and her resourcefulness in healing herself, he realised she was truly extraordinary. His respect grew, proving that appearances can be deceiving and true worth lies in action.

D. Think and answer.

What lesson can humans learn from Bommakka's story?

Ans. Humans can learn resilience, bravery, responsibility towards others, and the

importance of finding creative solutions to problems. Bommakka shows that even with limitations, one can overcome challenges with courage and intelligence.

The Toss of a Coin

A. Choose the correct option.

1. Why did the soldiers stop fighting in no-man's-land?

- a. They were tired of war.
- b. They wanted to rescue a horse.
- c. Their commanders ordered a ceasefire.

Ans. b

2. What did the coin toss decide?

- a. Which side would get the horse
- b. When the war should resume
- c. Which soldier would fight first

Ans. a

3. The term no-man's-land refers to

- a. the area between two enemy trenches.
- b. a safe zone where civilians would feel safe.
- c. a camp for the prisoners of war.

Ans. a

B. Answer the questions with reference to the given context.

1. Since I have been here the first, then the horse is mine.

- a. Who says this line and what is the situation?
- b. What does it reveal about the speaker's state of mind?
- c. How is the conflict resolved?

Ans. a. A German soldier says this during a war between the British and the Germans.

- b. It reveals his eagerness and sense of ownership.
- c. The conflict is resolved by a fair coin-toss, which both sides accept.

2. His face was creased with years, and his uniform was ill-fitting.

- a. Who is being described here; who is he facing and where is he?
- b. What does it tell us about him?
- c. How does it connect to the theme of war?

Ans. a. A German soldier is being described here. He is facing a British soldier in no-man's -land

- b. Suggested ans. It tells us that he is a weary, old, experienced soldier.
- c. Free response; Suggested answer. It conveys the thought that war is not a choice for ordinary soldiers who may be longing for peace and friendship between nations.

C. Answer the questions.

1. What message about war and humanity does the author convey? (The Toss of a Coin)

Ans. The story conveys that war is destructive, but human qualities like compassion, fairness, and respect can survive even in harsh conditions. It suggests that people are not naturally enemies but are forced into conflict. Deep down, they share common values that can bring them together.

2. How is irony presented in the story? (The Toss of a Coin)

Ans. The irony is that two soldiers who represent their respective warring nations stand on common ground to resolve a different matter amicably. It highlights the fact that though the men can resolve their differences peacefully over a horse, they are forced by war to fight each other soon after.

D. Think and answer.

Why do you think the soldiers, despite being enemies, agreed to a coin toss instead of fighting over the horse?

Ans. They chose fairness over violence because deep down, they valued humanity and understood the futility of fighting over a horse in an already destructive war.

To the Cuckoo

A. Choose the correct option.

1. The cuckoo reminds the speaker of his

- a. boyhood days.
- b. travels to other places.
- c. lessons in poetry.

Ans. a

2. Which word best reflects the speaker's feelings toward the cuckoo?

- a. Surprise
- b. Wonder
- c. Pity

Ans. b

3. The speaker used to search for the bird

- a. near hills.
- b. in meadows.
- c. through woods.

Ans. c

B. Answer the questions with reference to the given context.

1. From hill to hill it seems to pass, / At once far off, and near.”

- a. What effect of the cuckoo’s song is described here?
- b. When does the speaker hear the bird?
- c. Why does he call it a twofold voice?

Ans. a. The cuckoo’s song creates an echoing effect, making it sound both distant and close at the same time, adding to its mystery.

b. The speaker hears the bird while lying on the grass.

c. The poet is talking about the echoing effect of the cuckoo’s call. So, the poet hears two voices at once: The cuckoo’s actual call and the echo of that call from the surrounding hills.

C. Answer the questions.

1. What role does memory play in the poem?

Ans. Memory links the speaker’s present experience with his childhood days. The cuckoo’s song reminds him of the joy and excitement he felt as a boy searching for the bird. Through memory, the bird becomes timeless, uniting the past and present, and making him relive a “golden time” of innocence and wonder.

2. How does Wordsworth use imagery to highlight the effect of the cuckoo's call?

Ans. The poet uses imagery of hills, vales, sunshine, and flowers to show how the cuckoo's voice fills the landscape. Phrases like 'from hill to hill' and 'an unsubstantial, faery place' create a magical atmosphere, showing how the bird's call becomes one with nature and stirs the speaker's imagination.

D. Think and answer.

Why does the speaker describe the cuckoo as "No bird, but an invisible thing, A voice, a mystery"?

Ans. The speaker does not see the cuckoo. They only hear its distinctive call. This makes it seem like a mysterious presence, embodying both nature's beauty and the imagination's power to transform sound into meaning.