

SELECTIONS FOR SILENT READING

COMPILED BY

MORGAN AND NICHOLSON

63 Passages with Questions.

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ROBERT GIBSON & SONS (GLASGOW), LIMITED.

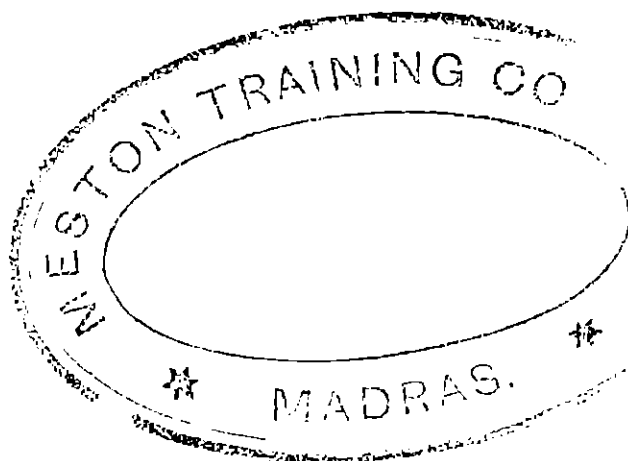
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ROBERT H. MORGAN and
THOS. G. NICHOLSON, M.A.

63 PASSAGES WITH QUESTIONS.



ROBERT GIBSON & SONS (GLASGOW), LTD.,
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We are indebted to Gregor MacGregor,
Esq., M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S., Education
Officer for Fifehire, for his most helpful
suggestions and valued criticism.

R H. M.

T. G. N.



THE idea of the book, as the title suggests, is to test the pupil's powers of observation and concentration—and to a certain extent, his intelligence—in selected Silent Reading passages. The material has, in many cases, been adapted to suit the ability of the 11 + pupil but much of it will be found suitable for the two subsequent years, that is, for the Senior School in England and the “Advanced Division” in Scotland. For this particular exercise the need of a glossary or dictionary has been rendered unnecessary by the adaptation of the passages. While many of the passages may be put to various uses in the English lesson, the primary object of the book is to test the *training* the child has received in the art of reading for “content.”

It is suggested that the pupil should be given ten minutes to read the passage (with the questions *covered*), and from 30 to 40 minutes, according to the length of the passage, to write the answers to the questions supplied, having the text open beside him for reference. Where alternative answers *may* be expected, it is left to the teacher, as part of the training, to show why the *one* and not the *other* is correct.

In the second part of the book a few passages are given apart from the questions for use as a test of memory as well as of comprehension, as occasional exercises of this kind help to develop the pupil's power of concentration. Both sections of the book have been graded, to a very limited extent, the easier passages coming first.

The marking, more or less, explains itself. When two or more obvious answers to an easy question are expected a *half* mark is allowed for each, but where greater skill is

needed to discern the answers the value for each is increased to *one* and sometimes to *two* marks.

There will be found in the Appendix, page 127, a paragraph explaining the “ Question and Answer ” type of paper which embodies some of the newer ideas in the testing of Silent Reading.

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ROBT. H. MORGAN.

THOS. G. NICHOLSON.

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PART I.

1.—The White Room.

(Tom, a chimney sweep's boy, was sweeping the chimneys at Harthover House.)

The room was all dressed in white : white window curtains, white bed curtains, white furniture, and white walls, with just a few lines of pink here and there. The carpet was all over gay little flowers ; and the walls were hung with pictures in gilt frames, which amused Tom very much. There were pictures of ladies and gentlemen, and pictures of horses and dogs. The horses he liked ; but the dogs he did not care for very much, for there were no bull-dogs among them, not even a terrier. One of the two pictures which took his fancy most was that of a man in long garments, laying his hands upon the heads of little children whose mothers stood round them. That was a very pretty picture, Tom thought, to hang in a lady's room. For he could see that it was a lady's room by the dresses which lay about.

The other picture was that of a man nailed to a cross, which surprised Tom much. " Poor man," thought Tom, " and he looks so kind and quiet. But why should the lady have such a sad picture as that in her room ? Perhaps it was some relation of hers, who had been murdered by the savages in foreign parts, and she kept it there for remembrance." And Tom felt sad, and awed, and turned to look at something else.

The next thing he saw, and that too puzzled him, was a washing-stand, with ewers and basins, and soap and brushes, and towels ; and a large bath, full of clean water—what a heap of things all for washing ! " She must be a very dirty lady," thought Tom, " by my master's rule, to want as much scrubbing as all that."

And then, looking towards the bed, he saw that dirty lady, and held his breath with astonishment.

Under the snow-white coverlet, upon the snow-white pillows, lay the most beautiful little girl that Tom had ever seen. Her cheeks were almost as white as the pillow, and her hair was like threads of gold spread all about over the bed. Tom marvelled at her delicate skin and golden hair, and wondered whether she were a real live person, or one of the wax-dolls he had seen in the shops. But when he saw her breathe, he made up his mind that she was alive, and stood staring at her, as if she had been an angel out of Heaven.

Adapted from " The Water-Babies." (Charles Kingsley).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Was everything in this room white ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 2. Where were the little flowers ? | 1 |
| 3. Which part of the furnishings amused Tom ? | 1 |
| 4. Which animal pictures did he like ? | 1 |
| 5. What do you think was Tom's favourite kind of dog ? | 1 |
| 6. What people appeared in one of the pictures which Tom liked best ? | 1½ |
| 7. To whom did Tom think this room belonged ? Why ? | 2 |
| 8. What was in the second picture ? | 1 |
| 9. When looking at this picture what did Tom remark ? | 2 |
| 10. Tell in your own words why, in Tom's opinion, the lady had this picture in her room. | 2 |
| 11. Tom did not know who was represented in this picture. Can you say who it was ? | 1 |
| 12. What was the next thing that puzzled Tom ? | 1 |
| 13. Name three of the things that stood <i>on</i> it. | 1½ |
| 14. Say what was placed <i>near</i> it. | 1 |
| 15. What did Tom think about the lady after seeing all these things ? | 1 |
| 16. When he saw her what did he do ? | 1 |
| 17. Was it because she was dirty ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 18. Why had he not seen her when he first entered the room ? | 1 |
| 19. There was something about her that surprised him. What was it ? | 2 |
| 20. What did these cause him to think ? | 1 |
| 21. When was all doubt concerning her removed from his mind ? | 1 |
| 22. How do you know that she was not like other girls that Tom had seen ? | 2 |

Total Marks.

30

2.—Adventures in New Guinea.

By dawn the next morning the savages were on foot, and having consumed the remains of their supper, began to shove off their boats. Macco managed to get hold of a little more sago and meat, with which we made a scanty breakfast. We were in hopes that they were going to leave us behind, but they had no such intentions ; and as soon as the boats were in the water, their mop-headed chief made signs to us to go on board—an order we obeyed with as good a grace as we could command.

The canoes paddled on the whole of the next day, the coast scenery being very similar to what we had previously passed. Towards evening we entered a large bay completely sheltered from the sea. On one side of it, towards which they directed their course, we came in sight of what appeared to be a village built out on the water.

Their dwellings, if such they were, were curious, dilapidated edifices. They stood on platforms supported by posts, placed apparently, without any attempt at regularity. Many of the posts were twisted and crooked, and looked as if they were tumbling down. The houses were very low, the roofs being in the shape of boats turned bottom upwards. They were connected with the land by long rude bridges, which seemed as if they could scarcely support the weight of a person going over them. As we drew nearer, we saw that the fronts of these dwellings were ornamented with rude carving, sometimes of the human figure, such as savages alone could wish to exhibit. Under the roofs of the houses were hung, as decorations, rows of human skulls : trophies, we concluded, of their combats with neighbouring tribes.

The canoes were received with loud shouts from the inhabitants of the village, who came out on the platforms to welcome them, lowering down some roughly made ladders to enable them to ascend. Our captors made a sign to us to follow them, and we now had to stand in a row and be inspected by their friends.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. When did the savages rise ? | 1 |
| 2. What did they have for breakfast ? | 1 |
| 3. What word tells us that Macco and the boys had very little to eat for breakfast ? | 1 |
| 4. What did the boys hope for ? | 2 |
| 5. Name the phrase which tells that the savages had other ideas. | 2 |
| 6. When did the chief make signs for the boys to go on board ? | 1 |
| 7. What sort of boats did the savages have ? | 1 |
| 8. The scenery showed little change. How do we know ? | 2 |
| 9. When did they reach their destination ? | 1 |
| 10. How do we know that the bay they entered would be calm ? | 1 |
| 11. Where did the village to which they came appear to be built ? | 1 |
| 12. Name the words which describe the dwellings. | 2 |
| 13. Where were the houses built ? | 1 |
| 14. The posts which supported the platforms were, evidently, placed anywhere. What words say so ? | 2 |
| 15. What made the posts look as if they were tumbling down ? | 1 |
| 16. How were the roofs of the houses shaped ? | 1 |
| 17. By what means did the people get from the land to the houses ? | 1 |
| 18. What decorations were on the front of the houses ? | 2 |
| 19. What phrase explains the skulls which hung from the roofs ? | 2 |
| 20. How were the men welcomed on their return ? | 1 |
| 21. As the houses were high up out of the water how were they reached from the canoes ? | 1 |
| 22. What happened to the boys when they reached the platform ? | 2 |

Total Marks.

30

3.—The Old Huntsman.

In the sweet shire of Cardigan,
Not far from pleasant Ivor Hall,
An old man dwells, a little man,
I've heard he once was tall.
Full five-and-thirty years he lived
A running huntsman merry ;
And still the centre of his cheek
Is red as a ripe cherry.

No man like him the horn could sound,
And hill and valley rang with glee,
When Echo bandied round and round
The halloo of Simon Lee.
In these proud days he little cared
For husbandry or tillage ;
To blither tasks did Simon rouse
The sleepers of the village.

He all the country could outrun,
Could leave both man and horse behind ;
And often, ere the chase was done,
He reeled and was stone-blind.
And still there's something in the world
At which his heart rejoices ;
For when the chiming hounds are out,
He dearly loves their voices.

But oh the heavy change !—bereft
Of health, strength, friends, and kindred, see
Old Simon to the world is left
In liveried poverty :
His master's dead and no one now
Dwells in the Hall of Ivor ;
Men, dogs, and horses, all are dead :
He is the sole survivor.

He has no son, he has no child ;
His wife, an aged woman,
Lives with him, near the waterfall
Upon the village common.

(William Wordsworth.)

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Who is named in the poem ? | 1 |
| 2. Where did he live ? | 1 |
| 3. In which Welsh county is this place ? | 1 |
| 4. How had he earned his living ? | 1 |
| 5. What words would make us think that, although old,
he looked healthy ? | 1 |
| 6. In what way would you say Simon was superior to
all other men ? | 1 |
| 7. What did hill and valley re-echo ? | 1 |
| 8. As a young man, what work did he dislike ? | 1 |
| 9. Name the blither task to which he roused the villagers. | 1 |
| 10. What was it that roused the sleepers ? | 1 |
| 11. What are we told about Simon's speed ? | 1 |
| 12. What was extraordinary about it ? | 1 |
| 13. So quickly did he run that what happened some-
times ? | 1 |
| 14. What was it, that, in spite of his age, he liked to hear ? | 1 |
| 15. What did this do for him ? | 1 |
| 16. The poem speaks of a " heavy change " in Simon's
life. Tell what caused it. | 2 |
| 17. What words tell us he was poor in his old age ? | 1 |
| 18. What reasons were there for his poverty ? | 1 |
| 19. Mention those who once took part in the hunt and
who are now gone. | 2 |
| 20. What words show he was the only one left ? | 1 |
| 21. How many of a family had he ? | 1 |
| 22. Who looked after his comfort ? | 1 |
| 23. Where was their house situated ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

25

4.—The Story of Redfeather (I.).

[*Note.*—The tale which follows was told to the author by a member of an American-Indian tribe called Chippewa, among whom she lived for some weeks. The story-teller was a Chippewa lady who lived at the village of Red Lake, and she told the tale in English, exactly as it appears below.]

There was a bad little boy called Redfeather. He lived with his great-grandfather. His great-grandfather taught him to shoot with his bow and arrows very skilfully. They lived in a nice village, and just a little way off there was a great big frog-meadow. The old grandfather told Redfeather stories about the different ways of creatures.

Springtime came, and in the evenings the old lady frogs would croak and sharpen their knives to butcher the craw fish. Every day Redfeather would go out with his bow and arrow and shoot and kill all the frogs he could get, and the craw fish too. One day a heron came along and told little Redfeather that she would give him the best feather in her body if he would leave the frogs alone; she had a nest of young ones to feed, and he was wasting her food. Redfeather said, "I wouldn't want your old dirty feathers. If you were an eagle I might have one of your feathers."

So the birds met together. There was an island that was heavily forested. On this island lived an aged wise owl. Each evening Redfeather would go out and refuse to come in to bed, and be noisy and disobey his great-grandfather. A crane and the owl and other birds were all complaining to each other about him, how he had scared away all the rabbits and small birds. They said he must be punished. The crane said that she was starving because he wasted the frogs, and killed the birds, and no one could live in peace.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What words describe Redfeather ? | 1 |
| 2. With whom did he stay ? | 1 |
| 3. What did this person do ? | 1 |
| 4. Name the words which tell you that Redfeather became a good shot. | 1 |
| 5. Where did they live ? | 1 |
| 6. There was a big frog-meadow. Where was it ? | 1 |
| 7. How did Redfeather learn about animals ? | 1 |
| 8. During what season did the frogs croak ? | 1 |
| 9. At what time of day did they croak ? | 1 |
| 10. What kind of frogs were they ? | 1 |
| 11. Tell what they did. | 1 |
| 12. Why did they do this ? | 1 |
| 13. Say what Redfeather did to the frogs and the craw fish. | 1 |
| 14. Who spoke to him one day ? | 1 |
| 15. What did she ask him to do ? | 1 |
| 16. If he did this what was he to get ? | 1 |
| 17. Why was this offer made to him ? | 1 |
| 18. What words tell that Redfeather did not think the offer a good one ? | 2 |
| 19. Tell what the birds did. | 1 |
| 20. What is said about the island ? | 1 |
| 21. Whose house was on it ? | 1 |
| 22. Say what Redfeather did each evening. Give a full answer. | 2 |
| 23. Name two of the birds that complained to each other. | 1 |
| 24. Why did they make this complaint ? | 1 |
| 25. Tell what they thought should be done to Redfeather. | 1 |
| 26. What words tell that the crane was not getting sufficient food ? | 1 |
| 27. Give the reason for this. | 1 |
| 28. Write down the words which show that Redfeather's conduct affected everyone. | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

5.—The Story of Redfeather (II.).

One evening the owl perched himself on a tree close to Redfeather's home, and said, "Hoo, Hoo!" Redfeather's great-grandfather said to him, "Redfeather, come in, don't you hear?" But Redfeather said—"I'll get the biggest arrow and shoot him." Then grandfather said, "The owl has large ears. He puts rabbits and other food in them. He might catch you too. You'd better come in and go to sleep." But Redfeather went out and shot the owl, and while he was looking for the arrow the owl came down and picked him up and stuck him in his ears, and flew off with him. He flew across the lake to the island, and up into an old oak tree where the baby owls were. He put Redfeather down there, and told his babies, "When you get big enough to eat flesh you shall eat Redfeather."

Then the owl flew away, and next day he told the crane and the other birds, and said, "When your babies are old enough we'll have a feast of Redfeather. I have him imprisoned in my oak tree." So Redfeather was kept a prisoner, and he cried, but he couldn't get down. And all the Indians knew Redfeather was lost. The great-grandfather asked all living beings to help him to find Redfeather. At last they found him a prisoner in the owl's tree. Then the spirits told the great-grandfather to give a great feast and ask the owl to return his great-grandson. So he did, and Redfeather was returned to his great-grandfather, and he promised that he would never again misuse the food that Manabazoo (the hero of these tales, and looked upon by the Indians as greater than human) had made for the birds.

From "Tales of the Chippewa Indians."

(Beatrice Blackwood).

(By kind permission of the Author.)

QUESTIONS.

1. Where was the tree ?	1
2. What did the owl make of this tree ?	1
3. How did he make his presence known ?	1
4. What do you think caused the old man to tell Redfeather to come in ?	1
5. What did Redfeather say he would do ?	1
6. According to the grandfather what use did the owl make of his ears ?	1
7. Tell what the grandfather said might happen to Redfeather.	1
8. What did he advise Redfeather to do ?	1
9. Did Redfeather take the old man's advice ? Give a reason.	2
10. How do you know that he missed the owl ?	1
11. When he was doing so what did the owl do ?	2
12. To what place was Redfeather taken ?	1
13. Where was this place ?	1
14. Can you say where the owl lived ?	1
15. When he arrived here with Redfeather, what did he do with him ?	1
16. Tell in your own words how Redfeather was to be punished.	2
17. When did the news of his imprisonment reach the other birds ?	1
18. How did they get to know about it ?	1
19. Why do you think Redfeather wept ?	1
20. Who knew that he was lost ?	1
21. Whose aid did the great-grandfather seek ?	1
22. What did he ask them to do ?	1
23. Write down the words which show that the search was successful.	1
24. What had the grandfather to do ?	2
25. Who told him to do these things ?	1
26. What was the result ?	1
27. Say what was the real use of the creatures that Redfeather had shot.	1
28. Who made them for this purpose ?	1
29. Describe in your own words Redfeather's promise.	2

Total Marks.

34

6.—Somebody's Mother.

The woman was old, and ragged, and gray,
And bent with the chill of the winter's day ;
The street was wet with a recent snow,
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.
She stood at the crossing, and waited long
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng
Of human beings who passed her by,
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of school let out,
Came the boys like a flock of sheep,
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.
Nor offered a helping hand to her,
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir,
Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet
Should crowd her down on the slippery street.

At last came one of the merry troop—
The gayest boy of all the group.
He paused beside her, and whispered low,
“ I'll help you across if you wish to go.”
Her aged hand on his strong young arm
She placed, and so, without hurt or harm,
He guided her trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.
“ She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
For all she's old, and poor, and slow ;
And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand,
If ever so poor, and old, and gray,
When her own dear boy is far away.”

Anonymous,

(Slightly re-arranged.)

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name two words that describe the woman. | 1 |
| 2. Was she bent because of her age ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 3. Why was the street wet ? | 1 |
| 4. How do we know there was no one in her company ? | 1 |
| 5. Where was she standing ? | 1 |
| 6. What words tell us there were crowds of people on the street ? | 1 |
| 7. What did they do ? | 2 |
| 8. How did the boys show they were glad to be free from school ? | 1 |
| 9. What words tell there was a large number of them ? | 1 |
| 10. With what did they appear to be pleased ? | 1 |
| 11. They, too, passed the old woman. What words tell us so ? | 1 |
| 12. Why was she still standing at the crossing ? | 1 |
| 13. Of what was she afraid ? | 2 |
| 14. How do we know that, at least, <i>one</i> boy stopped ? | 1 |
| 15. What is said about him ? | 1 |
| 16. What did he offer to do ? | 1 |
| 17. The old woman did something before leaving the pavement. What was it ? | 1 |
| 18. What words tell she crossed the street in safety ? | 2 |
| 19. Having crossed the street where did the boy go ? | 1 |
| 20. How did he feel ? | 1 |
| 21. What was his reason for guiding the old woman across the street ? | 1 |
| 22. Of whom had he been thinking ? | 1 |
| 23. What was his wish ? Tell in your own words. | 2 |

<i>Total Marks.</i>	28
---------------------	----

7.—The Pilot-fish.

A big hungry shark is the last kind of fish we should desire to meet with in the water when we consider that with his awful teeth he can bite a man in two. In spite of this, however, and in spite of the fact that nearly all the fish are fish-eaters, and that the big fish eat smaller fish and the smaller ones eat others still less in size, we find some who are quite unafraid of the voracious shark and who sometimes keep him company.

One of these is called the pilot-fish, a very famous little fellow, dark-blue in colour and about a foot in length. In olden times it was a common belief among some people, and especially sailors, that the pilot-fish used to guide and protect ships and perhaps this is how he got his name. It was supposed that when all was well and there were no signs of danger he swam in front of the ship, and in view of the sailors, but if rocks, hidden reefs, or land were near he disappeared at once. This, it was thought, was to warn sailors of the peril of running their ship aground. It is true that the pilot-fish does swim with ships and sharks, but not with any intention of guiding or protecting them.

When swimming with a shark the pilot-fish keeps just ahead, showing that he has no fear of being attacked, and if he finds food he dashes backwards and forwards and flops his tail on the top of the water to attract the shark's attention. Then when the latter comes up he shares the meal with him.

While in this way he shows himself a friend to the shark, the pilot fish sometimes proves himself an enemy as when, unknown even to himself, he leads the shark to his death. Often when sailors are fishing, they throw a hook overboard, baited with flesh and to this food the shark is led. The hook, hidden in the food, enters the shark and he is soon hauled on board out of sight, much to the amazement of his little friend, the pilot-fish.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Why would you be afraid to meet with a shark in the water ? | 1 |
| 2. What do nearly all fish feed on ? | 1 |
| 3. Which fish will have the best chance of getting a meal ? | 1 |
| 4. How do the very small fish feed ? | 1 |
| 5. Every fish is not afraid of the shark. How do they prove this ? | 1 |
| 6. What particular word shows that the shark is tremendously greedy ? | 1 |
| 7. Name one fish that is friendly with the shark. | 1 |
| 8. What is said about him ? | 1 |
| 9. Is he one of the bigger or one of the smaller fish ? | 1 |
| 10. What belief did sailors have, at one time, regarding this fish ? | 2 |
| 11. What was the result of this belief ? | 1 |
| 12. Name the words that seem to tell us that this is an old-fashioned belief. | 1 |
| 13. What did the pilot-fish do ? | 1 |
| 14. When ? | 1 |
| 15. Name the words that show the sailors saw him. | 1 |
| 16. What would make the fish disappear ? | 1 |
| 17. Why did he disappear ? | 2 |
| 18. Which belief regarding the pilot-fish is not true ? | 1 |
| 19. When the shark and the pilot-fish are swimming in company, who leads ? | 1 |
| 20. What does this show ? | 1 |
| 21. What does the pilot-fish do when he finds food ? | 2 |
| 22. Why ? | 1 |
| 23. Which words show that the shark does not eat <i>all</i> the food ? | |
| 24. How would you say the pilot-fish shows his friendship for the shark ? | 1 |
| 25. Tell in your own words how this act sometimes ends. | 1 |
| 26. What do sailors let down into the sea when fishing ? | 1 |
| 27. How should this cause death to the shark ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

8.—The Story of the Ganges.

Very long ago, though the mountains stood at the world's centre, and India lay at their feet, there was no Ganges river, and the plains lay bare and fruitless. The god Siva then lived on the top of a high mountain, and spent his time in thought. Up over his head above the mountains the Princess Ganga lived free as the wind. She was the daughter of King Himalaya, and the air nymph Menaka, and so her home was in the air among the heights.

At that time there lived a very wise man on earth, and, as he looked at the burning plains of India, and thought of the air princess, he said to himself, "If she would only give up her freedom and become a river, how she could enrich and purify the earth." And when he had thought this out he began to pray to the god Siva to send Ganga to earth. Siva granted his request, and the princess floated down to earth. She touched it first at the mountain top where the god sat, but he caught her in the tangled masses of his hair, and for ages she could not escape from them, so the wise man could not see the answer to his prayer. But long afterwards, she broke away from her prison on the mountain top, and flowed down under the glacier ice, and over the bare grey rocks. She made her way through the ravines, and the great pine woods sprang up as she flowed. Rhodo-dendrons grew on the banks at her coming, and at the foot of the mountains the jungle stretched down to be nourished by her waters. But it was out on the open plain that the Princess Ganga really showed her power. There, fields of wheat and rice and poppies and lentils grew up wherever she flowed, and wherever the streams that joined her from the mountains made their way to reach her. Groups of fruit trees and bamboos grew too, and men came to settle in villages beside them till the plain of the Ganges became a great, bright, busy place with herds of buffaloes watched by little boys, with oxen yoked to the plough, and other oxen carrying the precious river water to pour it on fields that were far from the banks.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Why would you have expected to find a river in this part of India ? | 1 |
| 2. Because there was no river what were the plains like ? | 1 |
| 3. Who lived on the mountain top ? | 1 |
| 4. How was he employed ? | 1 |
| 5. Who lived above him ? | 1 |
| 6. What is said of her ? | 1 |
| 7. Why was her home in the air ? | 2 |
| 8. What did the wise man on earth wish her to do ? | 2 |
| 9. For what reason ? | 2 |
| 10. Whose help did he seek ? | 1 |
| 11. Although his request was granted, why could he not see the answer to his prayer ? | 2 |
| 12. What was the prison of the princess ? | 1 |
| 13. What covered the mountain down which she flowed ? | 1 |
| 14. Through what did she flow ? | 1 |
| 15. What was the result ? | 1 |
| 16. What shrubs grew on the banks ? | 1 |
| 17. Tell what happened when she reached the jungle. | 1 |
| 18. Where was her best work done ? | 1 |
| 19. What crops were grown here ? | 2 |
| 20. What helped her in her work ? | 1 |
| 21. Name the trees that she caused to grow. | 1 |
| 22. What was the result of this ? | 1 |
| 23. What phrase describes the Ganges plain ? | 2 |
| 24. Name the animals that were found on the plain. | 1 |
| 25. Name the words which tell us that the plain was cultivated. | 1 |
| 26. How were the fields far from the banks watered ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

9.—Something about Lapland.

Away to the north of Scandinavia is a country of mountains, fells and steep-walled fiords. This is Lapland, the home of one of Europe's least known races.

A great many people know Lapland only in a vague sort of way, and in their minds associate it with Father Christmas and numberless herds of reindeer, for it is a fact that no picture of Lapland is complete that does not portray a reindeer yoked to a sledge, and a man in a fur coat ready to start off on a journey across some snowy waste. Few know much, if anything at all, about the customs, beliefs, and everyday lives of this unusual people for few have thought it worth while to spend much time in a country that has little to offer them in the way of pleasure.

One man among the people made up his mind (because this state of ignorance was doing the Lapps no good), to write a book setting forth all that he, a Lapp, could tell them of his country. So Johan Turi, who has the distinction of being the first Lapp author, wrote the "Book of Lapland," in which he tells of his countrymen's manners, customs and means of living.

It would appear that civilisation means little or nothing to the Lapps. It may have brought them a few additional comforts and luxuries, but on the whole the lives they now lead are very similar to the lives their ancestors led many centuries ago. Although they profess to be Christians they are still a prey to superstition and they believe, as our peasants used to believe, in evil spirits and their powers to change children. Turi relates that the Lapps have known through all the ages that the "Uldas," as the evil spirits are called, have changed, in a moment, any child left by itself in a tent and that the only way in which to force the Uldas to restore the child is for the parent to whip it with burning juniper twigs. The belief is that if this is not done at once the child will not grow, or if it does, it will be deformed.

QUESTIONS.

1. Where is Lapland ?	1
2. What phrase describes the nature of the country ?	2
3. The second sentence tells something particular about Lapland. What is it ?	1
4. What knowledge of the country do many people have ? Name the <i>word</i> .	1
5. What picture arises in their minds when thinking of Lapland ?	1
6. If you were shown a real picture of Lapland what would you expect to see ?	1
7. Why should the man wear a fur coat ?	1
8. What words tell us that some of the land must be uncultivated ?	1
9. If people are ignorant of the Lapps themselves, what else must they know little about ?	1½
10. Why is it that we know so little of this race ?	1
11. Why is it that more people do not visit Lapland ?	1
12. Who, in Lapland, was not content with this state of affairs ?	1
13. What did he do ?	1
14. And because he did this, what would you call him ?	1
15. What would appear to have made him famous ?	1
16. Among other things, what does he describe ?	1½
17. Since the Lapps became civilised do you think they have benefited much ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
18. Tell what civilisation has done for them.	2
19. Tell also how they compare with their ancestors.	1
20. How do they appear to be like our ancestors ?	1
21. What do you think should have changed this belief ?	1
22. Tell the name of the Lapps' evil spirit.	1
23. What do they believe it can do ?	1
24. How can the child be restored to its former state ?	1
25. If this is not done, what do the parents believe will happen to the child ?	2

Total Marks.

80

10.—After Blenheim.

It was a summer evening,
Old Kaspar's work was done,
And he before his cottage door
Was sitting in the sun :
And by him sported on the green
His little grandchild Wilhelmine.
She saw her brother Peterkin
Roll something large and round
Which he beside the rivulet
In playing there had found ;
He came to ask what he had found
That was so large and smooth and round.
Old Kaspar took it from the boy
Who stood expectant by ;
And then the old man shook his head,
And with a natural sigh,
“ 'Tis some poor fellow's skull,” said he,
“ Who fell in the great victory.”
“ I find them in the garden,
For there's many here about ;
And often when I go to plough
The ploughshare turns them out.
For many thousand men,” said he.
“ Were slain in that great victory.”
“ It was the English,” Kaspar cried,
“ Who put the French to rout ;
But what they fought each other for
I could not well make out.
But everybody said,” quoth he,
“ That 'twas a famous victory.”
“ My father lived at Blenheim then,
Yon little stream hard by ;
They burnt his dwelling to the ground,
And he was forced to fly ;
So with his wife and child he fled,
Nor had he where to rest his head.”
“ Great Praise the Duke of Marlbro' won
And our good Prince Eugene ” :
“ Why, 'twas a very wicked thing ! ”
Said little Wilhelmine ;
“ Nay—nay—my little girl,” quoth he,
“ It was a famous victory.”

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. How many people speak in this poem ? | 1½ |
| 2. What relation was Kaspar to the children ? | 1 |
| 3. Name the words that give us an idea as to what
the summer evening was like. | 1 |
| 4. What <i>word</i> would <i>you</i> use to describe the evening ? | 1 |
| 5. Where was old Kaspar's seat ? | 1 |
| 6. What phrase tells us that Wilhelmine was playing ? | 1 |
| 7. What was Peterkin doing ? | 1 |
| 8. Where had he found his plaything ? | 1 |
| 9. What did he do with it ? | 1 |
| 10. What three words describe what Peterkin found ? | 1½ |
| 11. There is a word which shows that the boy was
waiting on an answer to his question. What
is it ? | 1 |
| 12. The old man did two things before answering.
Name them. | 2 |
| 13. What great victory do you think he meant ? | 1 |
| 14. What had Peterkin found ? | 1 |
| 15. In which two places did the old man find things of
the same kind ? | 2 |
| 16. What would you say the old man did for a living ? | 1 |
| 17. What reason does he give for so many of these
things being around ? | 1 |
| 18. Name the two nations who fought in the battle. | 1 |
| 19. Quote the words which tell the French were beaten. | 2 |
| 20. Why was it that Kaspar could not explain the
reason for the fight ? | 1 |
| 21. Name the two ways in which the battle affected
Kaspar's father. | 2 |
| 22. What words tell us he became homeless ? | 1 |
| 23. Name the two people who became famous after
the battle. | 1 |
| 24. How did Wilhelmine describe the fight ? | 1 |
| 25. How did Kaspar describe it ? | 1 |

<i>Total Marks;</i>	30
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11.—On an African River.

It was noon : the breeze had dropped, and the sun was so strong that we gladly took refuge in the little cabin—a sort of hen-coop—at the stern. The stream and the tide were with us, and we had four native rowers, but our craft was so heavy that we accomplished less than two miles an hour. As the channel grew wider the bed became more shallow, and from time to time we grounded. When this happened, the native rowers jumped into the water and pushed or pulled the boat along. We encountered a strong easterly breeze and the big clumsy boat made scarcely any way against it, and stuck upon the sand so often that the Kafirs, who certainly worked with a will, were more than half the time in the water up to their knees, tugging and shoving to get her off.

Meantime the tide, what there was of it, was ebbing fast, and the captain admitted that if we did not get across those shoals within half an hour we should certainly lie fast upon them till next morning at least, and how much longer no one could tell. It was not a pleasant prospect, for we had no food except some biscuits and a tin of cocoa, and a night on the Pungwe meant almost certainly an attack of fever. Nothing, however, could be done beyond what the captain and the Kafirs were doing.

We moved alternately from stern to bow, and back from bow to stern, to lighten the boat at one end or the other, and looked to windward to see from the sharp curl of the waves whether the gusts which stopped our progress were freshening further. Fortunately they abated. Just as the captain seemed to be giving up hope we felt ourselves glide off into a deeper channel : the Kafirs jumped in and smote the dark-brown current with their oars, and the prospect of a restful night at Beira rose once more before us.

Adapted from “Impressions of South Africa,” by Viscount Bryce, M.P., published by Macmillan & Co.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why was the heat so great ?	1
2. Where did they shelter from the strong rays of the sun ?	1
3. With what is the shelter compared ?	1
4. What was it that helped them on their way ?	1
5. How was the boat propelled ?	1
6. Do you think they were sailing quickly ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
7. What happened as the channel grew wider ?	1
8. What was the result ?	1
9. What work did the rowers perform then ?	2
10. Name the word that tells us that the rowers belonged to Africa.	1
11. Why did they find it difficult to refloat the boat ?	1
12. From what direction did the breeze blow ?	1
13. What effect did the breeze have on their sailing ?	1
14. What happened to the boat ?	1
15. Name the words that tell us the Kafirs toiled hard.	1
16. What were they doing ?	2
17. As they were only to their knees in water, what does this tell us ?	1
18. What effect would the ebbing of the tide have on the depth of the river ?	1
19. Why were they so anxious to get on ?	1
20. What words tell us they would not have enjoyed this ?	1
21. What food had they with them ?	1
22. Tell what might have happened if they had been forced to spend the night on the river Pungwe.	1
23. What did they do when the stern of the boat stuck in the sand-bank ?	2
24. How were they judging the strength of the wind ?	2
25. Name the words that tell the wind had fallen.	1
26. Just as they were giving up hope, what happened ?	1
27. As they sailed off what crossed their minds ?	1

Total Marks.

32

12.—The Green Fowl.

One day a friend of mine who was going on holiday brought to my house, his parrot, with a request that I might look after it during his absence. The bird, feeling strange, in a strange house, climbed by the help of his beak to the top of his cage and rolled his eyes and blinked in a very frightened manner.

My cat had never, before, seen a parrot and this new kind of animal was evidently a cause for much surprise. She stood motionless and watched the antics of the bird as if she were trying to put together all the knowledge of natural history she had gathered on the roof, in the courtyard, or the garden. As I looked at her I could almost see the shadow of her thoughts passing across her eyes, and in my imagination, could read in them the result of her close inspection of the parrot. She was saying to herself, "That is certainly a green fowl."

All this time she had been sitting on the table, which place she had used as a post of observation, but having concluded she knew what the animal was, she jumped down and retired to a corner of the room where she flattened herself on the floor and made ready to spring at the cage. The parrot followed the cat's movements with feverish anxiety. He ruffled his feathers, raised one foot then the other and scratched his beak on the wires of his cage.

I watched the scene with interest, wondering what was to happen and ready to intervene if the necessity arose. The cat began to work her claws, half-closed her eyes, arched her back, and gradually drawing nearer the cage, made a sudden leap and alighted right over the parrot. Sensing his danger, the parrot at once exclaimed, "Have you had your dinner, John?"—words that caused the cat to spring, in terror, to the floor. As the parrot continued speaking, it was clear to me that pussy was saying to herself, "This is a man," and as my look did not seem to give her any comfort, she, for the rest of the day, lay hidden under the sofa. Until the parrot was returned to his owner, pussy accepted him as a man and treated him with respect.

"Gautier." (*Adapted*).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Why did my friend bring the parrot to my house ? | 1 |
| 2. Why do you imagine the bird felt strange ? | 1 |
| 3. What did he do when he got to the top of his cage ? | 2 |
| 4. What pet did I have ? | 1 |
| 5. Why was pussy surprised ? | 1 |
| 6. How did she act on first seeing the parrot ? | 2 |
| 7. What did she <i>appear</i> to be doing ? | 1 |
| 8. From what sources had she obtained her knowledge of birds ? | 1½ |
| 9. What did I seem to see in her eyes ? | 1 |
| 10. What words show I could not <i>really</i> tell the result of her inspection ? | 1 |
| 11. Where had the cat been all this time ? | 1 |
| 12. Why had she made use of this position ? Quote the words. | 1 |
| 13. When did she go to a corner of the room ? | 1 |
| 14. Tell what she did there. | 2 |
| 15. What words tell us that the parrot was alarmed ? | 1 |
| 16. What effects had the cat's movements on the parrot ? | 3 |
| 17. What was I doing during this time ? | 1 |
| 18. Why ? | 1 |
| 19. What did I purpose doing ? | 1 |
| 20. Name any three of the five things the cat did next. | 1½ |
| 21. What caused the cat to spring suddenly from the cage ? | 1 |
| 22. To what conclusion did the cat now come ? | 1 |
| 23. Why did she spend the rest of the day under the sofa ? | 1 |
| 24. Why, for the remainder of the time, did pussy treat the parrot with respect ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

13.—An Explorer's Adventure.

I came up on deck so early in the morning that it was still almost as dark as night. A fog added to the gloom. Jacob, the watch-dog, came running to me, and after leaping about me, dashed down the runway and disappeared off on the ice. I did not venture to follow him for fear of another fall, so made my way down the gangway, and proceeded alongside the ship. I had stood below the bow for only a few moments when I heard a faint sound, so odd, that I pricked up my ears to listen better. It seemed like the first faint souging of the wind in the rigging when a breeze springs up. In a moment it grew louder, and was clearly the sound of heavy breathing. Straining my eyes in the direction from which it came, I finally discerned Jacob headed for the ship at the best pace he could muster, and the next instant I saw behind him the huge form of a Polar bear in hot pursuit.

Instantly I realised the situation. This was a mother bear with her cub. Jacob had found them and teased the cub, and the mother's fury had quickly decided Jacob that he must rush on board the ship. The situation had its humorous side, but I did not pause to enjoy that, because I saw it had its dangers for me. When the bear saw me she sat down and gazed at me. I certainly did the same at her, but I think our feelings were different.

We were both about the same distance from the gangway. What should I do? I was alone—no assistance—only one whole arm—the left. I started to run as quickly as possible for the gang-plank, but the bear did the same thing. Now started a race between a healthy, furious bear and an invalid, with not much chance for the latter. As soon as I reached the gangway and turned to run on board, the bear stretched me to the ground with a well-aimed blow on my back. I fell on my broken arm—face down—and expected to be finished right away. But no—my lucky star had not stopped shining yet.

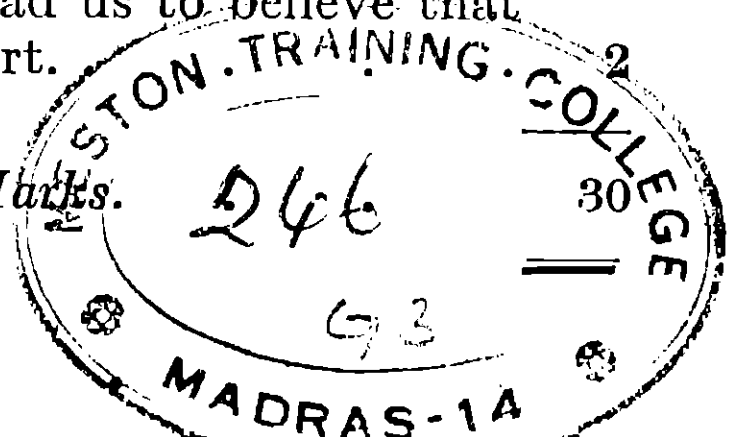
Jacob, who had been on board all this time, took suddenly into his head to return—probably to play with the cub. When the bear saw Jacob passing she jumped high in the air and left me for Jacob. It did not take me long to get up and disappear into safety.

Adapted from "My Life as an Explorer," by Roald Amundsen, copyright 1927, published by Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What words tell us that the explorer had risen very early ? | 1 |
| 2. What possibly made it still more dark ? | 1 |
| 3. What two phrases tell what Jacob did after greeting his master ? | 2 |
| 4. The man did not follow the dog. Why ? | 1 |
| 5. To which part of the ship did the explorer go after coming down the gangway ? | 1 |
| 6. What two words describe the sound he heard when standing there ? | 2 |
| 7. What phrase tells us what like the sound was ? | 1 |
| 8. What had the explorer really heard ? | 1 |
| 9. Quote the exact words which tell that Jacob was running quickly. | 1 |
| 10. What was it that forced Jacob to return to the ship ? | 1 |
| 11. The dog must have done something to rouse the bear. What was it ? | 1 |
| 12. What word tells us that the explorer saw something funny in all this ? | 1 |
| 13. When the bear saw the man, what did she do ? | 2 |
| 14. Which of them was nearer the gangway ? | 1 |
| 15. For three reasons the man was afraid. Name the reasons. | 3 |
| 16. What did he think was the best thing to do ? | 1 |
| 17. Why would you say it was not a fair race ? | 2 |
| 18. What happened when the explorer reached the gangway ? | 1 |
| 19. Why do you think he was hurt ? | 1 |
| 20. What saved him from further injury ? | 1 |
| 21. What did this cause the bear to do ? | 2 |
| 22. Give the exact words which lead us to believe that the man was not severely hurt. | 2 |

Total Marks.



14.—The Wreck of the Hesperus.

It was the schooner Hesperus,
That sailed the wintry sea :
And the skipper had taken his little daughter,
To bear him company.
The skipper he stood beside the helm,
His pipe was in his mouth,
And he watched how the veering flaw did blow
The smoke now West, now South.

Then up and spake an old sailor,
Had sailed the Spanish Main,
“ I pray thee, put into yonder port,
For I fear a hurricane.
Last night the moon had a golden ring,
And to-night no moon we see ! ”
The skipper he blew a whiff from his pipe,
And a scornful laugh laughed he.

Colder and louder blew the wind,
A gale from the North-East,
The snow fell hissing in the brine,
And the billows frothed like yeast.
Down came the storm, and smote amain
The vessel in its strength ;
She shuddered and paused, like a frightened steed,
Then leaped her cable's length.

Come hither ! come hither ! my little daughter,
And do not tremble so ;
For I can weather the roughest gale
That ever wind did blow.
He wrapped her warm in his seaman's coat,
Against the stinging blast :
He cut a rope from a broken spar,
And bound her to the mast.

And fast through the midnight dark and drear,
Through the whistling sleet and snow,
Like a sheeted ghost the vessel swept
Towards the reef of Norman's Woe.
At daybreak on the bleak sea-beach
A fisherman stood aghast,
To see the form of a maiden fair
Lashed close to a drifting mast.

From “ The Wreck of the Hesperus.” (H. W. Longfellow)

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. In which season of the year did the wreck take place ? | 1 |
| 2. Why did the captain of the Hesperus take his little daughter to sea ? | 1 |
| 3. In which part of the ship did he take up his position ? | 1 |
| 4. What was he doing ? | 1 |
| 5. The poem says he watched the smoke blow first, in one direction, then in another. From which directions was the wind blowing ? | 2 |
| 6. Who approached the skipper ? | 1 |
| 7. What words would show he had experience of the sea ? | 1 |
| 8. Of what was he afraid ? | 1 |
| 9. On account of this what suggestion did he make ? | 1 |
| 10. Name the two reasons that gave rise to his fear. | 2 |
| 11. How did the skipper meet his suggestion ? | 2 |
| 12. A gale blew from the north-east. Can you tell what name the sailors would give to it ? | 1 |
| 13. What did the beating of the wind cause the waves to do ? | 1 |
| 14. The vessel was struck by the sudden burst of the storm. Can you say what it did that made it act like a frightened horse ? | 1½ |
| 15. How do we know the child was afraid ? | 1 |
| 16. What did the father say to pacify her ? | 2 |
| 17. Say what he did for her comfort and safety. | 1½ |
| 18. To which rocks was the Hesperus heading ? | 1 |
| 19. Give the meaning of "like a sheeted ghost." | 2 |
| 20. Which word do you think gives some idea of the violence of the wind ? | 1 |
| 21. Who was the first to learn of the wreck ? | 1 |
| 22. How did he know a ship had been wrecked ? | 2 |
| 23. What word tells how he felt ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

15.—Sancho Visits His Uncle.

Sancho's uncle lived in an old balconied house of yellow stucco, set on the very bank of the river Douro. Looking up the river, Sancho counted a dozen bridges, and exclaimed with delight at the view of the city on the ocean's edge and the river's bank. Looking down the river, he could see the wharves crowded with boats of every kind and could even catch a glimpse of the deep blue of the Atlantic beyond.

The wharves delighted Sancho. His uncle was a seaman and owned a fine boat. It was lying at the wharf now, loading with merchandise for the next trip. Sancho spent many happy hours along the quays. At all hours they swarmed with life; there were men loading or unloading cargo; women carrying great loads of fish, fruit and grain; girls selling fruit or chestnuts; children playing underfoot everywhere.

Ox carts came rumbling along, filled with casks of wine. For centuries Oporto has been famed for its wines. Pack mules arrived almost buried beneath loads of fruit, grain, or oil, for all the country surrounding the city is either grain field, orchard, or vineyard. Then the river boats came to unload their noisy cargoes of hogs, sheep, or chickens. Sometimes an enterprising pig would make a dash for freedom, and then what a chase there was, in and out among the carts and the piles of baskets!

Sancho never tired of these busy scenes, and he wished more than ever that he might go to sea. His uncle watched the boy's longing eyes and began to consider a plan which he first mentioned one evening as they sat at supper. "This is to be only a short voyage, Maria," the uncle said to Sancho's mother, "just to Lisbon and back. Why not allow the boy to go with me? It will do him good to see more of the world than his own vineyards."

Sancho scarcely breathed while he waited for his mother's reply. "His brother, Manuel, is older, and I wish he might have gone first," she answered thoughtfully. "But since the opportunity comes to Sancho, I think it would not be wise to miss it. Travel will teach him more than books. Yes, he may go. Meanwhile I will remain here and keep Johanna company." They were to sail the next day at noon. Sancho was so happy and excited that he thought he could not go to sleep at all that night. From his window he watched the moon sink behind the tall black masts along the wharves. Presently his eyes closed and in his dreams he already sailed in the tall-masted merchantman with billowing sails.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Where was the house built in which Sancho lived ? | 1 |
| 2. What phrase describes it ? | 2 |
| 3. Tell what gave Sancho great joy. | 1 |
| 4. Give two reasons as to how you know Oporto was near the mouth of the river. | 2 |
| 5. Why was the boat belonging to Sancho's uncle lying at the wharf ? | 1 |
| 6. Where did Sancho spend most of his time ? | 1 |
| 7. What does " they swarmed with life " mean ? | 2 |
| 8. What people did Sancho see on the quay ? | 2 |
| 9. Goods were brought to the harbour by three different methods. Name them. | 1½ |
| 10. Why should grain, fruit, and wine be exported from this town ? | 2 |
| 11. Name the animals carried on the river boats. | 1½ |
| 12. What sometimes caused amusement on the quay ? | 1 |
| 13. What did Sancho's visits to the wharf create in him ? | 1 |
| 14. The uncle was aware of this. How did he know ? | 1 |
| 15. What did he do to please Sancho ? | 1 |
| 16. What arguments did the uncle use to persuade Maria to allow Sancho to go with him ? | 2 |
| 17. Sancho was excited when his uncle spoke to his mother. What words tell us this ? | 1 |
| 18. Why did his mother hesitate to give permission ? | 2 |
| 19. What reasons did she give for consenting ? | 2 |
| 20. After his mother's consent was given did Sancho have long to wait before he sailed ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 21. What effect did the thought of going to sea have on Sancho ? | 1 |
| 22. How was he able to see the tall masts along the wharves ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

16.—The Roc's Revenge.

[The “ I ” of the story is Sinbad the Sailor. A roc was a large bird that was supposed to feed its young ones with elephants.]

We arrived one day at a large island, destitute of inhabitants, but on it was an enormous white dome. We landed to amuse ourselves with a sight of it, and, lo, it was a great egg of a roc. Now when the merchants had landed, not knowing that it was the egg of a roc, they struck it with stones ; whereupon it broke, and the young roc appeared within it. So they pulled it forth from the shell and killed it, and took from it abundance of meat. I was then in the ship, and saw nothing of this, but one of the passengers told me, so I arose to take a view of the egg, and found the merchants striking it. I called out to them, “ Do not this deed ; for the roc will come and demolish our ship and destroy us.” But they would not hear my words.

And while they were doing this, behold, the day grew dark, and there came over us a cloud by which the sky was obscured. So we looked to see what had come between us and the sun, and saw that the wings of the roc were what veiled from us the sun's light. And when the roc beheld its egg broken it cried out at us ; whereupon its mate came to it, and they flew in circles over the ship, crying out at us with a voice louder than thunder. So I called out to the master, “ Push off the vessel, and seek safety before we perish.” The master therefore hastened, and, the merchants having embarked, he loosed the ship, and we departed from that island. And when the rocs noticed this they left us for a while. We made speed desiring to escape from them and to quit their country ; but, lo, they had followed us, and they now approached us, each having in its claws a huge mass of rock, from a mountain ; and the male bird threw his rock upon us. The master, however, steered away the ship, and the mass of rock missed it by a little space. Then the mate of the male roc threw upon us the rock that she had brought, which was smaller than the former one, and it fell upon the stern of the ship, and crushed it, and all who were in the ship became submerged in the sea.

Adapted from “ Sinbad the Sailor.” (Anonymous).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What phrase tells that nobody lived on the island ? | 1 |
| 2. Why did the merchants land on the island ? | 1 |
| 3. What did the dome prove to be ? | 1 |
| 4. In their ignorance what did the merchants do to it ? | 1 |
| 5. Write down two results of their actions. | 2 |
| 6. What did they do to the young roc ? | 3 |
| 7. Where was Sinbad when this happened ? | 1 |
| 8. How did he get to know about the merchants' conduct ? | 1 |
| 9. Why did he advise them to stop ? | 1 |
| 10. Write down the words which indicate that the merchants continued their rash actions. | 1 |
| 11. What happened next ? | 1 |
| 12. In the merchants' opinion what caused the darkness ? | 1 |
| 13. What really caused it ? | 1 |
| 14. Which roc cried out first ? | 1 |
| 15. Tell what the rocs did when they came together. | 2 |
| 16. Who gave the order to push off the vessels ? | 1 |
| 17. What words tell that the master caused the anchor to be raised ? | 1 |
| 18. Name the word which tells that the merchants were now on board. | 1 |
| 19. Why did the master of the ship make speed ? | 1 |
| 20. Where had the rocs been ? | 1 |
| 21. How do we know ? | 1 |
| 22. Why did the rock thrown by the male bird miss the ship ? | 1 |
| 23. Which bird threw the larger rock ? | 1 |
| 24. On which part of the ship did the smaller rock fall ? | 1 |
| 25. What effect had this on the ship ? | 1 |
| 26. How do you know that Sinbad was not drowned ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

17.—The Village Blacksmith.

Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands ;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands ;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp and black and long ;
His face is like the tan ;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow ;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys ;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.

H. W. Longfellow.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. A shop is mentioned in the poem. What is it ? | 1 |
| 2. Which word seems to show that this was the only shop of its kind in the place ? | 1 |
| 3. Why do you think the shop must have looked picturesque ? | 1 |
| 4. The smith is strong. What word tells us so ? | 1 |
| 5. What words describe his hands ? | 1 |
| 6. With what are his arm muscles compared ? | 1 |
| 7. Three words describe his hair. Name them. | 1½ |
| 8. Why would you say he looked healthy ? | 1 |
| 9. Why would you call the sweat on his brow “ honest sweat ” ? | 1 |
| 10. What wage does he get for his work ? | 1 |
| 11. Because he paid his debts, what can he do ? | 1 |
| 12. How long does he work each day ? | 1 |
| 13. What makes the noises in his shop ? | |
| 14. What is a heavy sledge ? | 1 |
| 15. How does he swing it, and why ? | 2 |
| 16. What sound does it make ? | 1 |
| 17. Who look in at the door ? | 1 |
| 18. They do this for three reasons. Name them. | 1½ |
| 19. Where do you think the sparks will come from ? | 1 |
| 20. Where does the smith go on Sunday ? | 1 |
| 21. Why ? | 1 |
| 22. Who go with him ? | 2 |
| 23. Do they all sit together ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 24. What does his daughter do in church ? | 1 |
| 25. What words tell us this makes him happy ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

18.—Paul Alexis, a Russian Prince.

“Colossal!” exclaimed Steinmetz beneath his breath. With a little trick of the tongue he transferred his cigar from the right-hand to the left-hand corner of his mouth.

For a moment Paul looked up from the papers spread out on the table before him, then returned to his occupation. He had been at this work for four hours without a break. It was nearly one o'clock in the morning. Since dinner Karl Steinmetz had consumed no less than five cigars, while he had not spoken five words. These two men locked in a small room in the middle of the Castle of Osterno had been engaged in the addition of an enormous mass of figures.

The room had the appearance of an office. There were two safes, a huge writing-table, a double table at which Paul and Steinmetz were seated, sundry stationery cases, and an almanac or so suspended on the walls which were oaken panels. A large white stove—common to all Russian rooms—stood against the wall. The room had no less than three doors, with a handle on no one of them. Each door opened with a key, like a cupboard.

Steinmetz had apparently finished his work. He was sitting back in his chair contemplating his companion with a little smile. He was evidently amused to watch this prince doing work usually given to clerks.

The silence of the room was almost oppressive. A Russian village after nightfall is the quietest human habitation on earth for the moujik—the native of this part—cannot afford to light up his humble abode and therefore sits in darkness. But had the village of Osterno possessed the liveliness of a Spanish hamlet, the sound of voices and laughter could not have reached the castle perched high on the rock above. When, therefore, the clear, coughing bark of a wolf was heard both occupants of the room looked up knowing well who had made the sound.

Steinmetz, when the sound was repeated, slowly rose from his seat, quitted the room, and in a short time returned, closely followed by Starosta, whose black eye twinkled and gleamed in the sudden light of the lamp. He dropped on his knees when he saw Paul, but with a jerk of his head Paul bade him rise. The man did so, and placing as great a distance between himself and the prince as the room would allow, stood with his back to the panelled wall.

From “The Sowers,” by H. Seton-Merriman, published by Mr. John Murray.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Which hand did Steinmetz use to shift his cigar ? | 1 |
| 2. About what time did Paul begin his work ? | 1 |
| 3. In what work was he engaged ? | 1 |
| 4. What two phrases tell us he had stopped work for a short time ? | 2 |
| 5. Besides helping Paul what had Steinmetz done during the four hours mentioned ? | 1 |
| 6. What words tell us he worked quietly ? . | 1 |
| 7. Where was the room in which they worked ? | 1 |
| 8. What did it look like ? | 1 |
| 9. Name four <i>separate</i> articles in the room that gave it this appearance. | 2 |
| 10. What article do we find here that we find in most Russian houses ? | 1 |
| 11. There were three doors in the room. How many handles were there ? | 1 |
| 12. Name two phrases that indicate that Steinmetz had finished his work. . | 2 |
| 13. What made him smile ? | 1 |
| 14. Was there any reason why Paul should not have been engaged in this kind of work ? If so, name it. | 1 |
| 15. Why is a Russian village, after nightfall, so very quiet ? | 1 |
| 16. What name does the native of this Russian district have ? . | 1 |
| 17. In what European country do we find great liveliness in the villages at night ? | 1 |
| 18. Why could no night-sound from the village reach the castle ? . | 1 |
| 19. What words show that the village was quiet ? | 1 |
| 20. What sound broke the silence in the castle ? . | 1 |
| 21. When the sound was repeated Steinmetz did two things. Name them. . | 2 |
| 22. When he returned who came with him ? . | 1 |
| 23. Because he came in from the dark, what happened ? | 1 |
| 24. What words show that Starosta held Paul in high esteem ? | 1 |
| 25. How did the Prince show he desired Starosta to rise ? | 1 |
| 26. How far from the Prince did Starosta stand ? | 1 |

<i>Total Marks.</i>	30
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19.—The Weasel.

The weasel is found in all districts of Scotland. In some parts of the land it is known as the "Whitret," while in northern shires it is often spoken of as the "Futret." In length it is about eight inches, with two to three inches of a tail, and it is nearly three inches in height. The body is extremely lithe, slender and arched, the head small and rather flat, and the neck long. In colour it is of a bright reddish-brown over the back, and white over the breast and under parts.

It hunts by scent, and can work a rabbit burrow as well as any trained ferret. It can climb obstacles where a ferret would be at fault, and even cross a brook which the domesticated animal would turn from. Its chief quarry is small mammals, such as mice, voles, rats, etc., but it is very fond of a partridge or pheasant chick should such come its way.

The weasel's nest will often be found in the most peculiar situations. Sometimes a rabbit's burrow is taken possession of, but any hole in a wall, or under a hedge among rubbish, or in the stumps of a decaying tree, will serve equally well. It is seldom, however, that weasels live in the neighbourhood of dwelling houses. A dyke-side where broom and whin abound, or in a moor are favourite situations, and the drier the ground the more kindly the weasels take to it for domestic purposes. The young number three to six in a nest, and two or even three litters are not unusual every year. If a weasel is disturbed it will fight desperately on behalf of its young, and will even give up its own life to save them. Dogs do not, as a rule, care for attacking weasels. Time and again I have seen weasels defy them, and on one occasion, while accompanied by a collie and a Scottish terrier, a family of eight weasels—disturbed while hunting—turned on the dogs so viciously that the latter fled. On the other hand, I have owned terriers that would instantly dash at a weasel and kill it.

While a blood-thirsty creature, the little animal deserves to be protected in some way, for the good it does in keeping down the numbers of small animal pests of the fields.

Adapted from "Familiar Scottish Animals," by A. Nicol Simpson, published by Alexander Gardner, Ltd.

QUESTIONS (Not in Sequence).

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Name the trained animal mentioned in the passage. | 1 |
| 2. For what purpose is this animal trained ? | 1 |
| 3. In what ways does the weasel show itself superior to it ? | 2 |
| 4. Where is the weasel known as the “ Futret ” ? | 1 |
| 5. What words tell that it is a vicious animal ? | 1 |
| 6. What feathered animals does it enjoy ? | 1 |
| 7. Copy the words which describe the weasel’s body. | 1½ |
| 8. A certain sense is highly developed in the weasel. What is it ? | 1 |
| 9. Which parts of the animal are white ? | 1 |
| 10. What colour would you see looking from above ? | 1 |
| 11. Should a weasel be disturbed, what would it do ? | 1 |
| 12. How might it show its great love for its young ? | 1 |
| 13. Give two examples of mammals hunted by the weasel. | 1 |
| 14. Because the weasel hunts these animals what name is given to them ? | 1 |
| 15. What kind of dog is mentioned twice ? | 1 |
| 16. Why did the dogs turn tail ? | 1 |
| 17. Do dogs always turn away from weasels ? Give a reason for your answer. | 1½ |
| 18. Give two favourite situations for a nest. | 2 |
| 19. Name the places where we might also look for a weasel’s nest. | 2 |
| 20. How do you know that weasels avoid marshy ground ? | 1 |
| 21. When making its nest the weasel usually avoids another neighbourhood. What is it ? | 1 |
| 22. What was the family of weasels doing when disturbed ? | 1 |
| 23. In what way does the weasel do good ?. | 1 |
| 24. For this reason what does it deserve ? | 1 |
| 25. What is probably the largest number of young weasels in a nest ? | 1 |
| 26. Write the name given to a number of young ones. | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

20.—The Red-Room.

The red-room was a square chamber, very seldom slept in. I might say never, indeed, unless when the unexpected arrival of visitors at Gateshead Hall made it necessary to use all the rooms of the house. Yet it was one of the largest and stateliest chambers in the mansion. A bed, supported on massive pillars of mahogany, hung with curtains of deep red damask, stood out like a tent in the centre. The two large windows, with their blinds always drawn down, were half shrouded in curtains of similar colour. The carpet was red, and the table at the foot of the bed was covered with a crimson cloth. The walls were a soft fawn colour with a blush of pink in it, while the wardrobe, the toilet-table, and the chairs were of darkly polished old mahogany. Out of these deep surrounding shades rose high, and glared white, the piled-up mattresses and pillows of the bed spread with a snowy white counterpane. Standing near the bed was an ample cushioned easy-chair, also white, with a footstool before it, and looking, as I thought, like a pale throne.

This room was chill because it seldom had a fire ; it was silent, because it was remote from the nursery and kitchen ; solemn, because it was known to be so seldom entered. The housemaid alone came here on Saturdays, to wipe from the mirrors and the furniture a week's quiet dust : and Mrs. Reed herself, at far intervals, visited it to review the contents of a certain secret drawer in the wardrobe, where were stored many papers, her jewel-case, and a small picture of her late husband. And in these last words lies the secret of the red-room—the reason why it was lonely in spite of its grandeur. Mr. Reed had been dead nine years : it was in this chamber he breathed his last.

Adapted from " Jane Eyre." (Charlotte Bronte).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. For what reason do you think this story got its name ? . | 1 |
| 2. What was this room ? . | 1 |
| 3. What phrase tells that it was not often used ?. | 1 |
| 4. Which word describes the kind of house ? . | 1 |
| 5. What forced the owner of this house to use this particular room ? | 1 |
| 6. How did this chamber compare with the other rooms in the house ? . | 1 |
| 7. What words tell that the bed was a large one ? | 1 |
| 8. In which part of the room did it stand ? | 1 |
| 9. What made the bed look like a tent ? | 1 |
| 10. Very little light was allowed into the room. How do you know ? . | 2 |
| 11. What was on the floor ? . | 1 |
| 12. Where was the table, and what was on it ? . | 1 |
| 13. How was the red effect brought out on the walls ? | 1 |
| 14. Besides the chairs what articles of furniture were dark-red ? . | 1 |
| 15. Of what particular wood were they made ? . | 1 |
| 16. What articles were of a colour that contrasted with the red shades of the room ? | 2 |
| 17. What particular colour did these have ? . | 1 |
| 18. Name the word that shows that the easy-chair would be comfortable. | 1 |
| 19. Tell the phrase which gives us the idea that it was a very big chair. . | 1 |
| 20. Why was the room chill ? . | 1 |
| 21. The room was far away from the nursery and kitchen. What did this fact make it ? | 1 |
| 22. Why do you think it might be called solemn ? | 1 |
| 23. For what purpose did the housemaid visit it on Saturdays ? . | 1 |
| 24. Explain in your own words—"a week's quiet dust." . | 2 |
| 25. Who was Mrs. Reed ? . | 1 |
| 26. Why did she visit the room ? | 1 |
| 27. What articles of special interest to her are mentioned? | 3 |
| 28. Why was the room lonely in spite of its grandeur ? | 1 |
| 29. For how long had it been more or less unoccupied ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

34

21.—A Visit to My Childhood's Home.

My next visit was to the front-gate of Sunny Bank, where I stood for some minutes looking up at the beautiful quiet house. How would my old godmother and the others have looked, I wondered, had they known who was there so near them? I longed to go in and kiss them once more, but I felt that their demonstrations of affection would break me down into a torrent of tears, for which there was no time: so I contented myself with kissing the gate and returned to my inn, it being now near dark.

Surely it was the silentest inn in the whole world! Not a living being, male or female, was to be seen in it except when I rang my bell, and then the landlord or waiter (both old men) did my bidding promptly and silently, and vanished again into space. On my re-entrance I rang for candles, and for a glass of sherry and hot water. My feet had been wetted amongst the long grass of the churchyard, and as I was afraid of taking cold I made myself negus to ward it off. Then it struck me I would write to my friend one more letter from the old place, after so much had come and gone. Accordingly I wrote till the town clock (the first familiar voice I had heard) struck eleven, then twelve; and near one I wrote the Irish address on my letter, and finally put myself to bed in the "George Inn" of Haddington.

At half after five I put on my clothes and began the business of the day by destroying in a moment the long letter which I had written the night before. Soon after six I was haunting our old house, while the present occupants still slept. And as one breathed freer in the churchyard, with the bright morning sunshine streaming down on it, I went straight from one to the other. The gate was still shut, so I made a dash at the wall, some seven feet high, I should think, and dropped safe on the inside.

It was still but eight o'clock, so I should have time to look at Sunny Bank from the back gate, and went off in that direction: but passing my dear old school-house, I observed the door a little ajar, walked in, and sat down on my old seat, to the great astonishment of a decent woman who was sweeping the floor.

Adapted from "Letters of Jane Welsh Carlyle."

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. At what time of the day did the lady, the writer of the story, make this visit ? | 1 |
| 2. To which place was the visit made ? | 1 |
| 3. Which word shows that a visit had been made elsewhere ? | 1 |
| 4. Can you tell of what she was thinking ? | 2 |
| 5. What did she desire to do ? | 1 |
| 6. Why did she not carry out her desire ? | 2 |
| 7. What do you think that "the kissing of the gate" showed ? | 1 |
| 8. Why did she think that the inn was the quietest in the world ? | 2 |
| 9. Name the two words that tell how she was served at the inn. | 1 |
| 10. When she returned from her walk for what did she ask ? | 2 |
| 11. Can you tell what other place she had visited ? | 1 |
| 12. What had happened to her there ? | 1 |
| 13. Of what was she afraid ? | 1 |
| 14. What did she do to prevent this ? | 1 |
| 15. Do you know what "negus" is ? | 1 |
| 16. She wrote a letter. Say in your own words why you think it must have been a long one. | 1 |
| 17. What was the <i>last</i> thing she did after the letter was written ? | 1 |
| 18. Where was she staying ? | 1 |
| 19. How do we know she had met no one whom she knew ? | 2 |
| 20. What did she do after dressing in the morning ? | 1 |
| 21. Name the words which tell of her second visit to Sunny Bank. | 1 |
| 22. What reason is given for her visit to the churchyard ? | 1 |
| 23. How did she enter it ? | 1 |
| 24. On making her way to Sunny Bank for the third time, what place did she pass ? | 1 |
| 25. As the door of this place was open what did she do ? | 1 |
| 26. Was the room empty ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |

Total Marks.

32

22.—A Leap for Life.

Old Ironsides at anchor lay,
In the harbour of Mahon ;
A dead calm rested on the bay—
The waves to sleep had gone ;
When little Hall, the Captain's son,
A lad both brave and good,
In sport, up shroud and rigging ran,
And on the main truck stood !

A shudder shot through every vein ;
All eyes were turned on high !
There stood the boy, with dizzy brain,
Between the sea and sky.
No hold had he above, below ;
Alone he stood in air ;
To that far height none dared to go—
No aid could reach him there.

We gazed, but not a man could speak !
With horror all aghast—
In groups, with pallid brow and cheek,
We watched the quivering mast.
The atmosphere grew thick and hot,
And of a lurid hue ;
As riveted unto the spot,
Stood officers and crew.

The father came on deck. He gasped,
“ O God ! Thy will be done ! ”
Then suddenly a rifle grasped,
And aimed it at his son.
“ Jump, far out, boy, into the wave !
Jump, or I fire,” he said,
“ That only chance your life can save ;
Jump, jump, boy ! ” He obeyed.

He sank—he rose—he lived—he moved,
And for the ship struck out.
On board we hailed the lad beloved
With many a manly shout.
The father drew, in silent joy,
Those wet arms round his neck,
And folded to his heart his boy—
Then fainted on the deck.

Geo. P. Morris.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What was the name of the ship ? | 1 |
| 2. Where was it anchored ? | 1 |
| 3. Why would you say that a dead calm rested on the bay ? | 1 |
| 4. What was the name of the captain's son ? | 1 |
| 5. Tell what he did. | 2 |
| 6. What effect had his action on the crew ? | 1 |
| 7. Where did the lad seem to stand ? | 1 |
| 8. Was there anything by which he could save himself from falling ? | 2 |
| 9. Why could no aid reach him ? | 1 |
| 10. What words tell that there was a great silence ? | 1 |
| 11. What did the crew do ? | 1 |
| 12. Tell what were the signs of fear. | 1 |
| 13. How do you know that officers and crew were so afraid that they could not move ? | 1 |
| 14. Who was the first to speak ? | 1 |
| 15. When did he speak ? | 1 |
| 16. What word shows that he, too, was terrified ? | 1 |
| 17. What did he then do ? | 2 |
| 18. He shouted an order to his son. What was it ? | 2 |
| 19. Why was this order given ? | 1 |
| 20. Name four things that the boy did when he reached the water. | 2 |
| 21. When he rose to the surface what did he do to reach the ship ? | 1 |
| 22. How do you know that the crew was no longer silent ? | 1 |
| 23. What word shows that the boy was well liked ? | 1 |
| 24. Who remained silent ? | 1 |
| 25. Tell in your own words how the father showed happiness at his son's safe return. | 2 |
| 26. What words show that the incident had been a severe strain on the captain's nerves ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

23.—Rip's Return.

Rip Van Winkle unknown to himself had been asleep in the Kaatskill Mountains for twenty years. At the end of that time he awoke, and thinking he had slept for only one night, started off home.

As he approached the village he met a number of people, but none whom he knew, which somewhat surprised him, for he had thought he knew everyone in the country round. Their dress, too, was of a different fashion from that to which he was accustomed. They all stared at him with equal marks of surprise, and, whenever they looked at him, stroked their chins. The constant repetition of this action made Rip do likewise—when, to his astonishment, he found his beard had grown a foot long !

He had now entered the skirts of the village. A troop of strange children ran at his heels, looking after him, and pointing at his grey beard. The dogs, too, not one of which he recognised, barked at him as he passed. The very village was altered ; it was larger and more populous. There were rows of houses which he had never seen before, and those which he had known had disappeared. Strange names were over the doors—strange faces at the windows—everything was strange. Surely this was his native village, which he had left but the day before. There stood the Kaatskill Mountains—there ran the silver Hudson at a distance—there was every hill and dale precisely as it had always been. Rip was sorely perplexed.

It was with some difficulty that he found his way to his own house, which he approached in fear, expecting any moment to hear the shrill voice of Dame Van Winkle. He found the house gone to decay—the roof fallen in, the windows shattered, and the doors off the hinges. A half-starved dog, that looked like Wolf, was skulking about it. Rip called him by name, but the cur snarled, showed his teeth, and passed on.

“ My very dog,” sighed poor Rip, “ has forgotten me ! ”

He entered the house, which to tell the truth, Dame Van Winkle had always kept in neat order. It was empty, and apparently abandoned. The loneliness overcame all his fears, and he called loudly for his wife and children. The lonely chambers rang for a moment with his voice, and then all again was silence.

Adapted from “ Rip Van Winkle.” (Washington Irving).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Before his long sleep where had Rip lived ? | 1 |
| 2. Why do you think the people he met would be strange to him ? | 1 |
| 3. What words show that at one time Rip was well known in the district ? | 1 |
| 4. What, along with the people, seemed strange ? | 1 |
| 5. The people, too, were suprised. Tell how you know. | 1 |
| 6. When they looked at him what did they do ? | 1 |
| 7. On Rip's doing the same what did he find ? | 1 |
| 8. Write down the phrase which shows this was another cause for surprise. | 1 |
| 9. When he met the children, where was he ? | 1 |
| 10. Tell what they did. | 1½ |
| 11. What shows that the dogs did not know him ? | 1 |
| 12. What two words tell us that the village had changed ? | 2 |
| 13. Tell what you learn about the houses. | 2 |
| 14. Where did he see strange faces ? | 1 |
| 15. Which words show that he did not know he had slept for twenty years ? | 1 |
| 16. Tell what had not changed. | 1½ |
| 17. What effect had all this on Rip's mind ? | 1 |
| 18. Write down the words which tell that it was not easy for him to find his own house. | 1 |
| 19. Why did he approach the house in fear ? | 1 |
| 20. What facts show that the house was in a state of decay ? | 1½ |
| 21. What was the first word spoken by Rip ? | 1 |
| 22. The dog did three things after Rip called him. Name them. | 1½ |
| 23. What effect had these actions on Rip ? | 1 |
| 24. How do you know that Rip's wife was a good housekeeper ? | 1 |
| 25. What words describe the house as Rip saw it ? | 1 |
| 26. What made him bold ? | 1 |
| 27. Whose company did he seek ? | 1 |
| 28. The lonely chambers rang for a moment with his voice. Explain this in your own words. | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

24.—Mungo Park Discovers the Niger.

Just before it was dark we took up our lodging for the night at a small village, where I bought some food for myself and some corn for my horse at the moderate price of a button, and was told that I should see the Niger early the next day.

The lions are here very numerous. The gates are shut a little after sunset, and nobody is allowed to go out. The thoughts of seeing the Niger in the morning and the buzzing of mosquitoes prevented me from sleeping, and I had saddled my horse and was in readiness before daylight; but on account of the wild beasts, we were obliged to wait until the people were stirring and the gates opened.

As this happened to be a market day at Sego, the roads leading to the town were crowded with people carrying different articles to sell. We passed four large villages, and at eight o'clock saw the smoke over Sego.

As we drew near the town I was fortunate enough to overtake a party of Kaartans. These natives agreed to introduce me to the King, and we rode together through some marshy ground, where, as I was anxiously looking around for the river, one of them called out, "Geo affili!" ("See the water!").

Looking forwards, I saw with infinite pleasure the great object of my mission—the long-sought-for, majestic Niger, glittering in the morning sun, as broad as the Thames at Westminster, and flowing slowly to the eastward.

I hastened to the brink, and having drunk of the water, gave thanks to the Great Ruler of all things for having thus far crowned my work with success.

Sego, at which I had now arrived, consists of four distinct towns—two on the northern bank of the Niger, and two on the southern bank. The houses are built of clay, of a square form, with flat roof; some of them have two storeys, and many of them are white-washed.

The King of Bambarra constantly resides at Sego. When we arrived at the ferry, with a view to pass over to that part of the town in which the King resides, we found a great number waiting for a passage. They looked at me with silent wonder as I sat upon the bank of the river to await my turn of crossing.

Adapted from "Travels in the Interior of Africa."

(Mungo Park).

QUESTIONS.

1. When did we reach the village ?	1
2. What did I pay for the food ?	1
3. How do you know that I was not far from the Niger ?	1
4. What should give you the idea that the village was walled or fenced-in ?	1
5. What rule had the natives to obey after sunset ?	1
6. For what reason was this rule made ?	1
7. Why could I not sleep ?	2
8. How did the rule affect our way-going in the early morning ?	2
9. To what town were we journeying ?	1
10. Why were the roads busy ?	1
11. What signs of habitation did we pass on the road to Sego ?	1
12. What told us that Sego lay ahead ?	1
13. Where did we meet the Kaartans ?	1
14. Why was I fortunate ?	1
15. What was the nature of the ground near the Niger ?	1
16. Who was the first to see the river ?	1
17. What word shows that I was exceedingly pleased ?	1
18. What was the special object of my mission ?	1
19. Write down the word you would use to describe the morning.	1
20. How did the river compare with the Thames ?	1
21. Had we wished to discover the source of the river in which direction would we have travelled ?	1
22. What did I do when I saw the river ?	3
23. How would the natives of the two Northern towns travel to visit those in the other towns ?	1
24. Of what material were the houses built ?	1
25. How did some differ from others ? Give two answers.	
26. For what part of the year did the King reside at Sego ?	1
27. Why did we wish to cross the ferry ?	1
28. Why had we to wait ?	1
29. What effect had my appearance on the natives ?	1
30. What did I do during the time of waiting ?	1

Total Marks.

35

25.—The Young Cavalier.

Edward had refused to take the pony, as Humphrey required it for the farm work, and the weather was so fine that he preferred walking—the more so as it would enable him on his return across the forest to try for some venison, which he could not have done if he had been mounted on Billy's back.

Edward walked quickly, followed by his dog, Holdfast, which he had taught to keep to heel. His heart was as light as his step as he walked along, the light summer breeze fanning his face. His thoughts, however, which had been more of the chase than anything else, suddenly changed and he became serious. For some time he had heard no political news of importance, or what the Commons were doing with the King. This dreaming naturally brought to his mind his father's death and the burning of his property. His cheeks coloured with indignation and his brow was moody. Then he built castles for the future.

He imagined King Charles released from his prison and leading an army against his oppressors: he fancied himself at the head of a troop of cavalry, charging the Parliamentary horse. Victory was on his side. The King was again on his throne and he was again in possession of his estate. He was rebuilding the Hall and it seemed to him that Miss Patience was standing by his side as he gave directions to the builders, when his reverie was suddenly disturbed by Holdfast barking and springing forward in advance.

Edward, who by this time had got over more than half his journey, looked up, and perceived himself confronted by a powerful man, apparently about forty years of age, and dressed as a verderer of the forest. He thought at the time that he had seldom seen a person with a more ugly and forbidding countenance. "How now, young fellow, what are you doing here?" said the man, walking up to Edward and cocking his gun, which he held in his hand as he advanced.

Edward quietly cocked his own gun which was loaded, when he perceived the hostile preparation that was being made by the other person, and then calmly replied, "I am walking across the forest, as you may perceive."

Adapted from "Children of the New Forest."
(Captain Marryat).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What was the name of the pony ? | 1 |
| 2. To what use did Humphrey put it ? | 1 |
| 3. Give two reasons why Edward preferred walking. | 2 |
| 4. What animal did he expect to kill ? | 1 |
| Who accompanied Edward on his journey ? | 1 |
| 6. Which words tell that Edward was happy ? | 1 |
| 7. By what was he cooled on his walk ? | 1 |
| 8. What did he do ? | 1 |
| 9. What had he been thinking of ? | 1 |
| 10. Name the two reasons for his serious thought. | |
| 11. Of what did these things make him think ? | 2 |
| 12. What words tell he was angry when he recalled these things ? | 2 |
| 13. Say where he was building the "castles for the future." | 1 |
| 14. In his imagination he saw King Charles doing something. What was it ? | 1 |
| 15. What part did Edward see himself playing ? | 2 |
| 16. What two results did this supposed victory have ? | 2 |
| 17. Just as he saw himself directing the building of his mansion, what happened ? | 2 |
| 18. What phrase tells us that this shattered his dream ? | 1 |
| 19. How far had Edward got on his journey ? | 1 |
| 20. Whom did Edward see when he looked up ? | 1 |
| 21. What did he appear to be ? | 1 |
| 22. What did Edward think about him ? | 2 |
| 23. As he came near, what did this person do ? | 1 |
| 24. What did Edward do to defend himself ? | 1 |
| 25. What caused him to do it ? | 1 |
| 26. Would you say Edward was afraid ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |

<i>Total Marks.</i>	35
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26.—Fidelity (abridged).

A barking sound the shepherd hears,
A cry as of a dog or fox ;
He halts—and searches with his eyes
Among the scattered rocks :
And now at distance can discern
A stirring in a brake of fern ;
And instantly a dog is seen,
Glancing through that covert green.

The dog is not of mountain breed ;
Its motions, too, are wild and shy ;
With something, as the shepherd thinks,
Unusual in its cry :
Nor is there any one in sight
All round, in hollow or on height ;
Nor shout, nor whistle strikes his ear ;
What is the creature doing here ?

Not free from boding thoughts, a while
The shepherd stood ; then makes his way
O'er rocks and stones, following the dog
As quickly as he may ;
Nor far had gone before he found
A human skeleton on the ground ;
The appalled discoverer with a sigh
Looks round, to learn the history.

From those abrupt and perilous rocks
The man had fallen, that place of fear !
At length upon the shepherd's mind
It breaks, and all is clear :
He instantly recalled the name,
And who he was, and whence he came ;
Remembered, too, the very day
On which the traveller passed this way.

Yes, proof was plain that, since the day
When this ill-fated traveller died,
The dog had watched about the spot,
Or by his master's side :
How nourished here through such long time
He knows, who gave that love sublime ;
And gave that strength of feeling, great
Above all human estimate !

W. Wordsworth.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What two men are mentioned in the poem ? | 1 |
| 2. What did the first of these hear ? | 1 |
| 3. The shepherd was not sure what made this. What words tell us so ? | 1 |
| 4. In order to make sure what two things did he do ? | 2 |
| 5. After looking for a while what did he see ? | 1 |
| 6. What caused the movement ? | 1 |
| 7. What do the words " covert green " describe ? | 1 |
| 8. Tell what the shepherd noted about the dog. | 3 |
| 9. Did he see anyone with it ? Give a reason. | 2 |
| 10. Supposing someone had been with the dog what would the shepherd have expected to hear ? | 1 |
| 11. Having seen the movement what did the shepherd do for a time ? | 1 |
| 12. What words show that he began to realise that something unusual had happened ? | 2 |
| 13. How do you know that the dog led the shepherd to a certain spot ? | 1 |
| 14. Say what would keep the shepherd from walking quickly. | 1 |
| 15. What did he discover ? | 1 |
| 16. Name the word which shows that the shepherd was frightened. | 1 |
| 17. Give the meaning of the words " to learn the history." | 1 |
| 18. What did the shepherd think had happened ? | 1 |
| 19. Write down the words which show that " that place of fear " was dangerous for travellers. | 1 |
| 20. Tell in your own words what is meant by " At length upon the shepherd's mind it breaks, and all is clear." | 2 |
| 21. Besides the name what other facts did the shepherd remember ? | 3 |
| 22. For how long had the dog been about the spot ? | 1 |
| 23. What could the shepherd not understand about the dog ? | 1 |
| 24. In the words " He knows," to whom does the " He " refer ? | 1 |
| 25. What had " He " given the dog ? | 2 |
| 26. What words show that no ordinary man could understand this ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

35

27.—The Landing of Columbus.

As soon as the sun arose, all their boats were manned and armed. They rowed towards the island with their colours displayed, with warlike music, and other martial pomp. As they approached the coast, they saw it covered with a multitude of people, whose attitudes and gestures expressed wonder and astonishment at the strange objects which presented themselves to their view. Columbus was the first European who set foot in the New World which he had discovered. He landed in a rich dress, with a naked sword in his hand. His men followed, and, kneeling down, they all kissed the ground they had so long desired to see. They next erected a crucifix, and bowing before it, returned thanks to God for conducting their voyage to such a happy ending.

The Spaniards, while thus employed, were surrounded by many of the natives, who gazed with silent admiration upon actions which they could not understand. The dress of the Spaniards, the whiteness of their skins, their beards, their arms, appeared strange and surprising. The vast machines in which they had crossed the ocean, that seemed to move upon the waters with wings, and uttered a dreadful sound like thunder, accompanied with lightning and smoke, struck them with such terror that they thought that their new guests were children of the Sun, who had descended to visit the earth.

The Europeans were hardly less amazed at the scene now before them. Every herb, and shrub, and tree was different from those which flourished in Europe. The soil seemed to be rich but bore few marks of cultivation. The climate, even to the Spaniards, felt warm, though extremely delightful. The inhabitants appeared in the simple innocence of nature, entirely naked. Their long black hair floated upon their shoulders, or was bound in tresses around their heads. They had no beards, and every part of their bodies was perfectly smooth. Though not tall, they were well shaped and active. Their copper-coloured faces and several parts of their bodies were fantastically painted with glaring colours. They were shy at first, through fear, but soon became familiar with the Spaniards, and with signs of great delight received from them hawks'-bells, glass beads, or other trifles, in return for which they gave such provisions as they had, and some cotton yarn.

Adapted from "The History of America."

(William Robertson).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. When were the boats manned ? | 1 |
| 2. On their way to the island what did the voyagers do ? | 1 |
| 3. What did they see as their boats approached the coast ? | 1 |
| 4. Give a reason for the natives' astonishment. | 1 |
| 5. How did they show their wonder ? | 1 |
| 6. Who was the first European to land ? | 1 |
| 7. Name what he wore, and what he carried. | 2 |
| 8. State two actions performed by the Europeans whenever they landed. | 2 |
| 9. They had been a long time on sea. What words indicate their eagerness to land ? | 1 |
| 10. How did they express their thanks to God ? | 1 |
| 11. Who were these Europeans ? | 1 |
| 12. Meanwhile what had the natives done ? | 1 |
| 13. What were the actions which the natives could not understand ? | 2 |
| 14. What things appeared strange to them ? | 2 |
| 15. In what vast machines had Columbus crossed the ocean ? | 1 |
| 16. What, in the minds of the Indians, caused the sound like thunder ? | 1 |
| 17. Say what <i>you</i> think caused this sound. | 1 |
| 18. What effect had this noise on the natives ? | 1 |
| 19. What conclusion did they reach regarding the Spaniards ? | 2 |
| 20. The Spaniards were also amazed. What did they first note ? | 1 |
| 21. Write down the adjective that describes the soil. | 1 |
| 22. How do you know that there were few crops ? | 1 |
| 23. What words show that the climate of <i>Spain</i> was warm ? | 1 |
| 24. How were the natives dressed ? | 1 |
| 25. How did their faces differ from the Spaniards' ?
Give two answers. | 2 |
| 26. What took the place of decorative clothes ? | 1 |
| 27. Why were they shy at first ? | 1 |
| 28. Name the special articles they received from the Spaniards. | 1 |
| 29. What were given in exchange ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

35

28.—A Rugby International.

Every year fifteen chosen Scotsmen oppose England's best team at rugby-football. One year this international game is staged in Scotland, and in the following year in England, and the meeting of the "Big Two," as the two countries are called, never fails to produce tremendous excitement. The day of the match is known as "Calcutta Cup Day," because the winning team becomes, for the year, holders of this trophy.

Although the international championship had been won by Wales, this game appeared to create more interest than ever. Saturday was a day that will never be forgotten by the huge crowd that thronged the magnificent ground of the Scottish Rugby Union at Murrayfield, on the outskirts of Edinburgh. The morning was fine and all roads led to Edinburgh. Long heavily-laden trains brought the English supporters, while from the South of Scotland trains carried crowds of noisy Borderers, sporting thistles in their button-holes, and multi-coloured Tam o' Shaners on their heads. The ever-ready hawkers did a brisk trade in the sale of emblems, and Rose jostled Thistle in the crowds.

Tramcars, buses, motor-cars, and cabs formed one continuous stream of traffic on the roads leading to the ground, and thousands of people walked to see the match. A band was there to help to while away the time before the game commenced, and familiar airs of both countries were played. How splendid the turf looked ! But for an hour or more dark clouds covered the sky, and a little rain fell ; there was no wind, however, to spoil the game by playing tricks with the ball. A roar from 70,000 throats greeted the teams as they came out of the pavilion ; silence followed, and the players stood stiffly to attention while the band played the National Anthem. A sharp note was whistled by the referee, and the game started.

Scotland won ! The sides were very equally matched, and thirty men, playing the game for the honour of their country, never for one minute lessened their efforts. Rugby is a game for strong men, and it needs great skill and abundance of courage. Both of these qualities were displayed at Murrayfield, and the crowd cheered the good work of friend and foe alike. They left the field well satisfied, for they had seen what history now calls one of the greatest Rugby Internationals.

QUESTIONS (Not in Sequence).

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Where was the match played ? | 1 |
| 2. What words tell that the ground was in good condition ? | 1 |
| 3. Name any two methods of travelling to the ground. | 2 |
| 4. Where is this ground situated ? | 1 |
| 5. To whom does it belong ? | 1 |
| 6. How many people were present ? | 1 |
| 7. Why was the band there ? | 1 |
| 8. What made the scene look dull ? | 1 |
| 9. Write down the words which tell that people came from all parts of the country. | 1 |
| 10. What words indicate that there were many English supporters ? | 1 |
| 11. Copy the phrase which shows that there was much traffic on the roads. | 1 |
| 12. How do you know that Scots and English mingled in the crowds ? | 1 |
| 13. Is this match always played in the same country ?
Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 14. What words show that the two countries are important in a rugby sense ? | 1 |
| 15. What might have lessened the interest in this game ? | 1 |
| 16. How might wind have affected the play ? | 1 |
| 17. In which trains were the Borderers ? | 1 |
| 18. What form of head-dress did many of them wear ? | 1 |
| 19. Quote the words which show that this is always an exciting match. | 1 |
| 20. What do people now say about this International ? | 1 |
| 21. Can you say what name is given to this particular Saturday ? | 1 |
| 22. Why is it so called ? | 1 |
| 23. How do you know that the good work of both sides was admired ? | 1 |
| 24. Write the phrase which shows that neither side gave in before the end. | 1 |
| 25. Which words tell that one team was almost as good as the other ? | 1 |
| 26. Name the qualities shown by both sides. | 2 |
| 27. What was the signal for the game to start ? | 1 |
| 28. Why did the players stand to attention ? | 1 |
| 29. How many men are in a rugby team ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

29.—Spitzbergen.

Around Spitzbergen the Gulf Stream dies,—that great artery from the south that carries life and warmth into the heart of the long winters of so many northern lands. But even in this severe climate the Gulf Stream imparts some warmth, and so one discovers in the sheltered valleys of Spitzbergen a group of miniature flower-bearing plants that bravely struggle to hold up their tiny heads in the chilling winds. From a distance the bleak hills, mostly snow-covered, would seem to offer nothing whatever of growing vegetation ; but in the more protected valleys, where shines the constant light of the unsleeping summer sun, and where the snow entirely disappears in July and August, a great variety of Arctic vegetation—mostly of the flowering moss species—springs up to a height of two or three inches, and often puts forth tiny blossoms of fine shape and colouring. These struggling flowers of the Arctic Isles, among the glaciers and snow-fields of Spitzbergen, seem to add to the dreariness and waste of the polar latitudes.

No less surprising is the presence of the reindeer on these bleak plains. One constantly comes upon the cast-off horns of reindeer in Spitzbergen, and explorers tell us these Arctic animals are found in great numbers in the interior, where they live by digging in the snow for the moss and lichens that grow upon the rocks underneath. One would think that such an existence would seem uncertain, but from the earliest records of the islands these hardy animals have constantly been mentioned. Several reindeer taken by early explorers were marked by having certain portions of the ear snipped off, which led hunters to believe that Spitzbergen was in some way connected with the mainland. Besides the reindeer, however, the only other animals found in Spitzbergen are the ice fox and polar bear ; and since the latter depend upon seals and fish, and the former upon sea fowl, for their living, their presence here is not so remarkable, for the Arctic Ocean furnishes marine food of considerable variety and abundance.

QUESTIONS.

1. Where does the Gulf Stream seem to end ? 1
2. In which direction does it flow ? . . . 1
3. Can you say how it influences the climate of northern lands ? . . . 2
4. Name the word that describes the climate of Spitzbergen. . . . 1
5. What proof have we that the influence of the Gulf Stream is felt there ? . . . 2
6. Write the word which shows that these plants are very small. . . . 1
7. To what are they exposed ? . . . 1
8. Would you expect to find vegetation among the hills ? Give a reason for your answer. . . . 2
9. Where does one find the vegetation ? . . . 1
10. Why is it found there ? Try to answer fully. . . . 2
11. What kind of vegetation is it ? . . . 1
12. Describe the blossoms in the words of the passage. . . 2
13. Can you say what is meant by " polar latitudes " ? . . 2
14. Try to answer this question :—Why should the sight of these struggling Arctic flowers seem to add to the sense of dreariness and waste of polar latitudes ? . . . 3
15. Why is the presence of reindeer surprising ? . . . 1
16. What signs of reindeer does one find ? . . . 1
17. Can you give another word to take the place of " horns " here ? . . . 1
18. Where are many reindeer found ? . . . 1
19. How do they exist ? . . . 1
20. What is the nature of the soil in the interior ? . . . 1
21. What do the records of the islands tell us ? . . . 1
22. Something was done to some reindeer by explorers. What was it ? . . . 1
23. Owing to this, hunters came to a certain conclusion. Write it down. . . . 1
24. Name the other animals found in Spitzbergen. . . . 1
25. Explain in your own words why it is not surprising to find these animals there. . . . 2
26. Which animal lives on seals and fish ? . . . 1

Total Marks. . 35

30.—The Death of a Famous Soldier.

Soon we heard a challenge-trumpet sounding in the pass
below,

And the distant tramp of horses, and the voices of the foe :
Down we crouched amid the bracken, till the Lowland ranks
draw near,

Panting like the hounds in summer, when they scent the
stately deer.

From the dark defile emerging, next we saw the squadrons
come, [drum ;

Leslie's foot and Leven's troopers marching to the tuck of
Through the scattered wood of birches, o'er the broken
ground and heath,

Wound the long battalion slowly, till they gained the field
beneath.

Then we bounded from our covert. Judge how looked the
Saxons then,

When they saw the rugged mountain start to life with
armed men !

Like a tempest down the ridges swept the hurricane of steel,
Rose the slogan of Macdonald, flashed the broadsword of
Lochiel !

Vainly sped the withering volley 'mongst the foremost of
our band— [hand ;

On we poured until we met them, foot to foot, and hand to
Horse and man went down before us—living foe there
tarried none [done !

On the field of Killiecrankie, when that stubborn fight was
And the evening star was shining on Schiehallion's distant
head,

When we wiped our bloody broadswords, and returned to
count the dead.

There we found him gashed and gory, stretched upon the
cumbered plain,

As he told us where to seek him, in the thickest of the slain.

And a smile was on his visage, for within his dying ear
Pealed the joyful note of triumph, and the clansmen's
clamorous cheer : [flame,

So, amidst the battle's thunder, shot and steel and scorching
In the glory of his manhood, passed the spirit of the Graeme !

(Slightly rearranged.) *From Aytoun's "Lays of the
Scottish Cavaliers."*

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. How did the Highlanders learn of the approach of the enemy ? | 3 |
| 2. Who was the enemy ? | 1 |
| 3. In what manner did the former await the latter's approach ? | 1 |
| 4. What words show they were excited ? | 1 |
| 5. Where did they see the enemy ? | 1 |
| 6. Of what was the army of the enemy made up ? | 1 |
| 7. Through what did the army come ? | 1 |
| 8. Why, later, did they march slowly ? | 2 |
| 9. Where did they arrive ? | 1 |
| 10. What did the Highlanders do then ? | 1 |
| 11. What astonished the enemy ? | 2 |
| 12. What phrase gives us an idea as to how the Highlanders charged ? | 1 |
| 13. A battle-cry was shouted. What was it ? | 1 |
| 14. Say what the Saxons did. | 1 |
| 15. Name the word that tells this had no effect on the rush. | 1 |
| 16. In what manner did they fight when they met ? | 2 |
| 17. Tell what the charge of the Highlanders did. | 1 |
| 18. Tell in your own words the meaning of—"living foe there tarried none." | 2 |
| 19. Where was the battle fought ? | 1 |
| 20. When did the fight finish ? | 1 |
| 21. What two things were done by the Highlanders after the battle ? | 2 |
| 22. Whom did they find among the slain ? | 1 |
| 23. How did they know where to look for him ? | 2 |
| 24. What two things had he evidently heard before he died ? | 2 |
| 25. How did he look in death ? | 1 |
| 26. Do you think Graeme was an old man ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |

Total Marks.

36

31.—Melanthe.

Melanthe was the name of an old black thoroughbred mare that had entered the service of a lady to make one of a pair of horses to be used for carriage work. In the stable was the lady's favourite saddle-horse, but soon after Melanthe's arrival something had gone wrong with this animal and it was sold. The thoroughbred had never been very satisfactory in harness owing to a habit of rearing after being yoked to the machine, so she was tried and found perfect as a lady's saddle-horse. Her mouth was excellent, but a tight curb or heavy hands she neither could nor would endure. It can be imagined, therefore, how she resented being driven with a bearing-rein which was the fashion of the day.

Her colour was really brown, but of so deep a shade as always to be spoken of as black, and it was in consequence of this that she was called "Melanthe," which means the "Dark One." When I first remember her she was already getting old, but when aroused it was astonishing how quickly she could get over the ground. Jumping was not in Melanthe's line; if asked to take a ditch she would blunder through it by choice. Bogs she abhorred, and we had good reason to believe she had been bogged soon after coming to us, for on reaching a boggy spot, she would stop short, paw the ground with her fore-foot, snorting the while, and decline to trust herself to any place which she did not consider strong enough to bear her. Though very high-spirited, she was not given to tricks, the only one I can recall being that of shying habitually at a certain tumble-down cottage to which she had taken a dislike, and at another house where she had been startled by some white garments flapping in the wind.

Melanthe's loose-box commanded a view of her mistress's bedroom window. A strong friendship existed between Melanthe and her mistress, and at the latter's call, the mare would, at any time, leave her food and come across the yard or field. Each morning when the faithful creature heard the window opened and her name uttered she would come to the door of her box and whinny; nor did she forget the voice she loved, though months passed without her hearing it.

Adapted from "Stories from Lowly Life," by C. M. Duppa, published by Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

QUESTIONS.

1. Who was Melanthe ?	1
2. Why had the lady bought her ?	1
3. What other animal was in the same stable ?	1
4. Was this animal sold because of Melanthe's arrival ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
5. Name the words which tell that Melanthe did not make a good carriage-horse.	1
6. Give the reason for this.	2
7. After a satisfactory trial what did she prove to be ?	1
8. What words tell us she responded easily to the reins ?	1
9. What annoyed her ?	1
10. What did she resent most of all ?	1
11. When they knew she resented this, why did they . persist in using it ?	1
12. How did the mare get her name ?	1
13. What words tell us she was very fast ?	1
14. Why would you not expect her to be fast ?	1
15. If asked to jump a ditch what did she prefer to do ?	1
16. She hated bogs. Which word says so ?	1
17. Why did she hate bogs ?	1
18. How did she look after her own safety when she came to a boggy spot ?	4
19. She was a lively animal in spite of her age. What words tell us this ?	1
20. What two places frightened her ?	2
21. Why had she taken a dislike to the second of the two places ?	2
22. With whom was she most friendly ?	1
23. How did she show it ?	2
24. What did she do each morning when she heard her mistress's window opened ?	2
25. How did she prove that she knew the voice of her mistress better than any other voice ?	2

Total Marks.

35

32.—A Haven of Rest.

On arriving at the village Malcolm was cordially welcomed by the farmer's wife and daughters. The guest-chamber was instantly prepared for him, and refreshments laid on the table, while the maids, under the direction of the farmer's wife, at once began to cook a bounteous meal in readiness for the arrival of the soldiers. A spot was chosen on some smooth turf under the shade of trees for the erection of tents, and trusses of clean straw carried there for bedding.

Malcolm, as he sat in the cool chamber in the farm-house, felt the change delightful after the hot dusty journey across the plain. There was quite an excitement in the little village when the waggon drove up. The men lifted the arms and baggage from the waggon. The woman offered fruit and flagons of wine, and fresh cool water to the soldiers. There was not only general pleasure throughout the village caused by the novelty of the arrival of the party from the outer world, but a real satisfaction in receiving these men who had fought so bravely against the oppressors of the Protestants of Germany. There was also the feeling that so long as this body of soldiers might remain in the village they would be able to sleep in peace and security, safe from the attacks of any marauding band. The tents were soon pitched by the peasants under the direction of Sergeant Sinclair, straw was laid down in them, and the canvas raised to allow the air to sweep through them.

In an hour two men came up from the farm-house carrying a huge pot filled with strong soup. Another brought a great dish of stew. Women carried wooden platters, bowls of stewed fruit, and loaves of bread; and the soldiers, seated upon the grass, fell to with an appetite such as they had not experienced for weeks. With the meal was an abundant supply of the rough but wholesome wine of the country.

To the Scottish soldiers after the hardships they had passed through, this sheltered valley seemed a perfect paradise. They had nought to do save to eat their meals, to sleep on the turf in the shade or to wander in the woods or gardens, free to pick what fruit they fancied. Under these circumstances they rapidly picked up strength, and in a week after their arrival would hardly have been recognised as the feeble band who had left the Swedish camp at Old Brandenburg.

From "The Lion of the North," by G. A. Henty, published by Blackie & Sons, Ltd.

QUESTIONS.

1. What words tell us that the farmer's wife and daughters were pleased to see Malcolm ?	1
2. How did they show their joy at his appearance ?	2
3. Who else were expected ?	1
4. What preparation was made by the servants for them ?	1
5. Were they to stay in the house ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
6. What was provided so that they might sleep comfortably ?	1
7. Why was the cool room in the farm-house refreshing to Malcolm ?	1
8. What words tell us that the arrival of the soldiers was an event of importance ?	1
9. How did the men employ themselves ?	1
10. How did the women show kindness to the soldiers ?	2
11. What word tells us that the village had not been visited by soldiers before ?	1
12. Where was the village ?	1
13. To what religion did the villagers belong ?	1
14. What had the soldiers done for the villagers ?	1
15. What feeling did the presence of the soldiers bring to them ?	2
16. What was it that had threatened their safety ?	1
17. Who took charge of the work of the peasants ?	1
18. What was the work ?	1
19. Why were the tents not closed ?	1
20. What food did the men carry from the farm-house ?	1
21. What did the women bring ?	1
22. How do we know that the food pleased the soldiers ?	2
23. What words tell us that vines grew in this part of the country ?	2
24. To which country did the soldiers belong ?	1
25. How did they look on this village after the hardships they had borne ?	1
26. Tell in your own words how they passed the time.	2
27. What did this allow them to do ?	1
28. What words tell us that the food and rest improved their health ?	2

Total Marks.

36

33.—One Way of Killing a Wolf.

Wolves are still plentiful in some parts of Europe, while they are also found in certain districts of America. They are swift of foot, crafty, and cruel, and are dangerous enemies to the sheep-cote and farmyard. In general, wolves are cowardly and stealthy, but as they often hunt in packs, they, when hard pressed with hunger (as they are during the severe winters), have been known to attack travellers and even to enter villages and carry off children. The people of those districts where wolves abound have continually to be on the alert for their attacks, and, according to locality and opportunity the methods employed in the capture or death of the wolf vary greatly.

Pitfalls, traps, and spring-bows do good service; actual driving is seldom successful. A favourite method is to pursue the wolf with sledges, and to shoot him from the sledge. To attract the wolf within range, a clever device is resorted to. An old, steady horse is yoked to a heavy sledge, in which four comrades—the driver, two marksmen, and a fair-sized sucking pig—take their places. The driver, whose sole duty it is to look after the horse, takes the front seat: the marksmen sit behind, and the pig lies in a bag between their feet.

Towards evening the mixed company sets off along a well-beaten road to a part of the forest where, during the day, fresh wolf-tracks were seen. On to the track one of the hunters throws a bag stuffed with hay, and fastened to the sledge by a long line; while this trails along, the other hunter teases the young pig, and makes it squeal. Isegrim, as the wolf is named, hears the complaint, and probably thinking that it comes from a young boar separated from its mother, draws near, making sure he is hidden from the road. He perceives the bundle trailing behind the sledge, supposes this to be the squealing pig, and, after some consideration, determines to put an end to its sufferings. With a great bound he leaps out on the road and eagerly rushes after the sledge.

What does he care for the threatening forms which it bears? Such he has often inspected close at hand, and robbed before their very eyes. Nearer and nearer he comes gaining on the now quickened sledge: crueller tormenting makes the pig utter louder and louder squeals: they are maddening to the robber: just another bound, and—two rifles ring out, and the wolf rolls over, gasping in death.

Adapted from Brehm's "From North Pole to Equator."

QUESTIONS.

1. Name the words which tell that many wolves still exist.	1
2. What do they sometimes raid ?	1
3. Give the phrase that describes the wolves.	2
4. What word tells us the wolf is not a bold animal ?	1
5. For this reason what do the wolves do ?	1
6. When do they suffer most from hunger ?	1
7. What have they been known to do then ?	2
8. What words tell us the people of those places have to keep a careful watch ?	2
9. By what is the method of capturing or killing the wolf determined ?	2
10. Name four methods that are used.	2
11. What method is most liked ?	2
12. What must be done before the wolf can be shot ?	1
13. How do they manage this ?	1
14. What animal is used to lure the wolf from his hiding ?	1
15. Who are the marksmen ?	1
16. When does the company set out ?	1
17. How do they know where to go ?	1
18. What does the first hunter do ?	2
19. What is done by his friend ?	2
20. Tell in your own words what the wolf thinks of this.	2
21. How does he show his cunning ?	1
22. Tell why you think he rushes after the sledge.	2
23. What reasons are given as to why the wolf does not fear the men in the sledge ?	2
24. Is the horse going fast or slow ? What words tell us so ?	2
25. What is done to make the wolf more eager to get his prey ?	1
26. What happens just as he is about to jump on the bag ?	1

Total Marks.

38

34.—The Cricket Match.

For the last three weeks our village has been in a state of great excitement, occasioned by a challenge from our north-western neighbours, the men of B., to contend with us at cricket. Now we have not been much in the habit of playing cricket. Three or four years ago, indeed, we encountered the men of S., with a sort of doubtful success, beating them on our own ground, whilst they, in the second match, returned the compliment on theirs. As this discouraged us the sport had almost been abandoned until the present season, when under another change of circumstances the spirit began to revive.

Half a dozen active lads, of influence among their comrades, had grown into men and now yearned for cricket, and practice recommenced, but until the challenge was received no one had thought of playing any but friendly games. We resolved not to decline the combat and a youth, William Grey by name, said that although they did not profess to be great players, being little better than schoolboys, they would try their skill with the men from B., as it would be no disgrace for them to be beaten.

Having accepted the challenge, our champion began, forthwith, to collect his forces and rally them as often as possible for practice. He was a fine youth—tall, active, slender, and yet strong, with a piercing eye and a smile full of good humour—a farmer's son by station, and accustomed to hard work. Moreover he was admitted on all hands to be an excellent cricketer.

At last the eventful day arrived and large crowds assembled on H. Common, the ground where the great match was to take place. The men of B. had first innings. The challengers laughed to think how easy it would be for them to defeat this team of boys. But listen to what happened! Their total number of runs was twenty-two, thanks to the splendid fielding of our boys and the excellence of our bowlers, who completely deceived the batsmen and made them fail miserably.

Rain fell heavily during the game; but in spite of the wretched ground where the ball would not run a yard, and the showers that soaked our boys to the skin, we beat our rivals by one hundred and forty-seven runs—an achievement that no one had thought possible.

Adapted from "Our Village." (Mary R. Mitford.)

QUESTIONS.

1. What challenge did our north-western neighbours send us ?	1
2. Who were our north-western neighbours ?	1
3. What did this challenge create in the village ?	1
4. Why should it have done so ?	1
5. With whom had we played our last matches ?	1
6. When did they take place ?	1
7. What words tell we were not fully satisfied with the result ?	1
8. In your own words give the reason for this.	2
9. What effect did this have on us for a time ?	1
10. How did it affect our cricket ?	1
11. Who created a new desire for the games ?	1
12. What words tell us that these were leaders among our village lads ?	1
13. What was at once begun ?	1
14. Quote the words which tell that, so far, the boys had had no desire to play matches.	1
15. How do we know the boys accepted the challenge ?	1
16. Why did William Grey think it would be no disgrace to be beaten by the men from B. ?	2
17. What words of Grey tell us they intended to play ?	1
18. What did our champion do ?	2
19. Name four words that describe this youth.	2
20. How do we know he would not be easily tired out ?	1
21. How did people look on him as a player ?	1
22. What tells us that many of the villagers watched the game ?	1
23. Who batted first ?	1
24. How did the men of B. look on our team ?	2
25. What did the excellence of our bowling and fielding do ?	2
26. What effects did the rain have ?	2
27. In spite of this, what happened ?	1
28. What words tell us that this was an unexpected result ?	1

Total Marks.

35

35.—Marmion.

The livelong day Lord Marmion rode :
The mountain path the Palmer showed,
By glen and streamlet winded still,
Where stunted birches hid the rill.
They might not choose the lowland road
For the Merse foragers were abroad,
Who, fired with hate and thirst of prey,
Had scarcely failed to bar their way.
Oft on the trampling band, from crown
Of some tall cliff, the deer looked down ;
On wing of jet, from his repose
In the deep heath, the black-cock rose ;
Sprung from the gorse the timid roe,
Nor waited for the bending bow
And when the stony path began
By which the naked peak they wan,
Up flew the snowy ptarmigan.
The noon had long been passed before
They gained the height of Lammermoor ;
Thence winding down the northern way
Before them, at the close of day,
Old Gifford's towers and hamlet lay.

The village inn seemed large, though rude ;
Its cheerful fire and hearty food

Might well relieve his train.

Down from their seats the horsemen sprung,
With jingling spurs the courtyard rung ;
They bind their horses to the stall,
For forage, food, and firing call,
And various clamours fill the hall.
Weighing the labour with the cost,
Toils everywhere the bustling host.

Sir Walter Scott.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. For how long had Marmion and his troops been travelling ? . | 1 |
| 2. Who was their guide ? | 1 |
| 3. On which road were they travelling ? | 1 |
| 4. Why do you think the birches would be stunted in their growth ? . | 1 |
| 5. Why did the troops not choose an easier way ? | 1 |
| 6. Which would have been the easier road ? . | 1 |
| 7. What made their enemies so eager to prevent them getting through this part of the country ? . | 1 |
| 8. What words show that their enemies had almost caught them ? | 2 |
| 9. Who was it that occasionally saw the troops ? | 1 |
| 10. Where was he ? | 1 |
| 11. What two animals were roused from the heath and gorse ? | 1 |
| 12. Name the animal that was roused at the foot of the stony path. | 1 |
| 13. What words tell us that the soldiers were climbing upwards ? | 2 |
| 14. Which hills were they climbing ? . | 1 |
| 15. When did they reach the summit ? . | 1 |
| 16. What village was seen in the distance ? . | 1 |
| 17. In which direction were they travelling in coming to the village ? | 1 |
| 18. When did they reach the village ? . | 1 |
| 19. Were they travelling up or down hill now ? Name the words that tell you. | 2 |
| 20. What word shows that the inn was rough ? | 1 |
| 21. What, in the inn, cheered the troops ? . | 1 |
| 22. What did the troopers do as soon as they reached the inn ? | 1 |
| 23. If you had heard, but not seen them, how might you have known they were horsemen ? | 1 |
| 24. When they dismounted, what did the soldiers do and for what did they call ? | 2 |
| 25. What words tell us that many were shouting different things at the same time ? . | 1 |
| 26. How do we know that the landlord of the inn was doing his best to serve them all ? | 1 |

<i>Total Marks.</i>	30
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36.—Mr. Buxton's House.

At last Mrs. Browne and her daughter reached Mr. Buxton's house. It was in the main street, and the front door opened upon it by a flight of steps. Wide on each side extended the stone-coped windows. It was in reality a mansion, and did not need the neighbouring contrast of the cottages on either side to make it look imposing.

When they went in, they entered a large hall, cool even on that burning July day, with a black and white flag-stone floor, and old settees round the walls and great jars of curious china, which were filled with pot-pourri. The dusky gloom was pleasant, after the glare of the street outside; and the necessary light and cheerfulness were given by the peep into the garden, framed, as it were, by the large door-way that opened into it. There were roses and sweet-peas and poppies—a rich mass of colour, which looked well set in the somewhat sombre coolness of the hall.

All the house told of wealth—wealth which had accumulated for generations, and which was shown in a sort of comfortable grand, quiet way. Mr. Buxton's ancestors had been yeomen: but two or three generations back they might, if ambitious, have taken their places as country gentry, so much had the value of the property increased, and so great had been the amount of their savings. They, however, continued to live in the old farm, till Mr. Buxton's grandfather built the house in Combelhurst of which I am speaking, and then he felt rather ashamed of what he had done; it seemed like stepping out of his position.

He and his wife always sat in the best kitchen, and it was only after his son's marriage that the entertaining rooms were furnished. Even then they were kept with closed shutters and sheeted furniture during the lifetime of the old couple, who nevertheless took a pride in adding to the rich-fashioned ornaments and grand old china of the apartments. But they died and young Mr. and Mrs. Buxton reigned in their stead. They had the good taste to make no sudden change, but gradually the rooms assumed an inhabited appearance, and their son and daughter grew up in the enjoyment of much wealth and great happiness.

(Slightly adapted.) “The Moorland Cottage.”
(E. C. Gaskell).

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. How many people are mentioned in the first sentence? | 1 |
| 2. Tell where the house was situated. | 1 |
| 3. What kind of house was it? | 1 |
| 4. What were there on each side of the front door? | 1 |
| 5. What were on each side of the house? | 1 |
| 6. What was unnecessary to make the house look imposing? | 1 |
| 7. About what season of the year does the story tell? | 1 |
| 8. What two words show the difference between the inside and outside atmosphere? | 2 |
| 9. Name three things to be seen in the hall. | 1½ |
| 10. Name the words that tell us the light of the hall must have been poor. | 1 |
| 11. Why was this light pleasant to the eye? | 1 |
| 12. What seemed to make the garden like a picture in a frame? | 1 |
| 13. Tell what made the rich mass of colour. | 1½ |
| 14. Where were they? | 1 |
| 15. Of what did the appearance of the inside of the house tell? | 1 |
| 16. How long had the gathering of this taken? | 1 |
| 17. Tell how you know there was nothing <i>showy</i> in it all. | 2 |
| 18. From what type of people was Mr. Buxton descended? | 1 |
| 19. What might they have been if they had cared? | 1 |
| 20. Why did they not take their place as such? | 1 |
| 21. As years went on what made the family become richer? | 2 |
| 22. How did Mr. Buxton's grandfather feel after building the house? | 1 |
| 23. Tell why. | 1 |
| 24. Was the house completely furnished after it was built? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 25. How do we know these rooms were never used? | 2 |
| 26. Although the old couple occupied only the best kitchen how did they show they loved the beauty of the inside of their house? | 2 |
| 27. When young Mr. and Mrs. Buxton inherited the house, how did they show a respect for their parents' way of living? | 1 |
| 28. What words tell us the rooms gradually began to look as if they were used? | 1 |

Total Marks.

35

37.—A New Flower.

In a wild place under some trees, a primrose and a cowslip grew near each other. Their leaves were so much alike that you could see they were relations, but when their flowers came there was a difference. The primroses were wide-petalled, delicately scented blossoms, each set on its own soft stalk. The cowslips had taken a different plan. Their flowers, too, were yellow, but they hung in bunches on thick strong stalks that held them high above the leaves, so that the bees could see them. Their flowers turned down, too, so that spring showers should not spoil their pollen. Of course, their faces did not show quite so plainly hung down like this ; but they made up for that by sending out a scent so strong and sweet that no bee could pass them by unvisited.

The bees did things in a proper manner. They carried pollen from primrose to primrose and from cowslip to cowslip, and so the seeds came true. But one day that foolish wind came blowing over the ground just when some of the primrose pollen was ripe for the bees. He banged the flowers about so much that he burst the pollen-boxes and carried the pollen away.

Off he went next into the cowslip bells. Of course the pollen grains stuck to the gummy pistils of the cowslips. They grew little tubes, and down went the grains to the seed-eggs. Then the seeds began to grow.

In the spring the flowers came. They were bunched high, on a strong thick stem as the cowslips were, but when they opened out they were wide and full-faced like the primroses. They had the cowslip's height, the primrose's beauty. They were handsomer, stronger, more showy than either flower ; yet they had not quite the exquisite scent of the cowslip nor the exquisite delicacy of the primrose.

A man passed by. He stopped to look at the flowers. "Oxlips !" he said. He noticed the primroses blooming on one side, the cowslips on the other. "Now I know how oxlips are started," he said. "I will start some in my garden."

Reaching home, he carried pollen on a feather from primrose to cowslip, from cowslip to primrose, mixing the colours and kinds. Next year he had rows of handsome many-shaded flowers standing high on splendid stalks. He called them polyanthuses.

From "Rainbow Children," by Edith Howes, published by Christy & Moore, Ltd.

QUESTIONS.

1. Where were the primrose and the coswlip growing ?	1
2. How could you see that they were relations ?	1
3. In what way were the plants different ?	1
4. Give the words that describe the primroses.	1
5. What colour was each flower ?	1
6. Compare the stalks of the two flowers. .	1
7. Why were the cowslip's flowers held high above the leaves ?	1
8. What prevented showers of rain from spoiling their pollen ?	1
9. Why could the bees not pass them by ?	1
10. Tell what the bees did.	1
11. What resulted from this ?	1
12. Say what happened one day.	1
13. What was the state of the primrose pollen at this time ?	1
14. Tell what the wind did to the flowers.	1
15. What was the result of this ?	1
16. Where next did the wind visit ?	1
17. What did the pollen do there ?	1
18. How did the pollen-grains reach the seed-eggs ?	1
19. What effect had the pollen on the seeds ?	1
20. When did the flowers appear ?	1
21. In what way were they like the cowslips ?	1
22. How did they differ from the cowslips ?	2
23. What features of the cowslip and the primrose did the new flower take ?	2
24. In what ways were they better than either flower ?	2
25. How were they not so good as the cowslip and the primrose ?	2
26. What did the man call the new flowers when he first saw them ?	1
27. From what flowers did he think they came ?	1
28. What was used to carry the pollen from flower to flower in his garden ?	1
29. Why were his next year's flowers many-shaded ?	1
30. Name the new flower.	1

Total Marks.

34

38.—The Glove and the Lions.

King Francis was a hearty king, and loved a royal sport,
And one day as his lions fought, sat looking on the court ;
The nobles filled the benches, with the ladies by their side,
And 'mongst them sat the Count de Lorge, with one for
whom he sighed :

And truly 'twas a gallant thing to see that crowning show,
Valour and love, and a king above, and the royal beasts
below.

Ramped and roared the lions, with horrid laughing jaws ;
They bit, they glared, gave blows like bears, a wind went
with their paws ;

With wallowing might and stifled roar they rolled on one
another,

Till all the pit with sand and mane, was in a thunderous
smother ;

The bloody foam above the bars came whizzing through the
air ;

Said Francis then, “ Faith, gentlemen, we're better here than
there.”

De Lorge's love o'erheard the king, a beauteous lively dame,
With smiling lips and sharp bright eyes, which always
seemed the same ;

She thought, the Count my lover is brave as brave can be ;
He surely would do wondrous things to show his love of me ;
King, ladies, lovers, all look on ; the occasion is divine ;
I'll drop my glove, to prove his love ; great glory will be mine.

She dropped her glove, to prove his love, then looked at
him and smiled ;

He bowed, and in a moment leaped among the lions wild ;
The leap was quick, return was quick, he has regained his
place,

Then threw the glove, but not with love, right in the lady's
face.

“ By Heav'n ! ” said Francis, “ rightly done ! ” and he rose
from where he sat :

“ No love,” quoth he, “ but vanity, sets love a task like that.”

Leigh Hunt.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name the king who is mentioned in the poem. | 1 |
| 2. What do you think was the royal sport which he loved ? | 1 |
| 3. Who made up the king's court ? | 1 |
| 4. What particular member of the court is named ? | 1 |
| 5. Who was beside him ? | 1 |
| 6. To whom do the words, " valour and love," refer ? | 2 |
| 7. What words show that the king and his court looked on the show from a height ? | 1 |
| 8. What are the lions called ? | 1 |
| 9. Name the words which show that the lions made a great noise. | 1 |
| 10. With what did they give blows ? | 1 |
| 11. What else did they fight with ? | 1 |
| 12. At the start what covered the floor of the fighting pit ? | 1 |
| 13. What phrase shows that clouds of sand and lions' hair arose as the fight proceeded ? | 1 |
| 14. What do you think caused these ? | 1 |
| 15. How do you know that the king thought the fight a fierce one ? | 1 |
| 16. Who heard the king's remark ? | 1 |
| 17. What are you told about this person ? | 2 |
| 18. Write down the words which show that she had a high opinion of De Lorge. | 2 |
| 19. What did she decide to do ? | 1 |
| 20. Why ? | 1 |
| 21. After she had done this what else did she do ? | 1 |
| 22. Before De Lorge leaped among the lions what did he do ? | 1 |
| 23. How do you know that he acted promptly ? | 1 |
| 24. What had he with him when he regained his seat ? | 1 |
| 25. Tell what he did with this. | 1 |
| 26. What phrase shows that this action was not done in jest ? | 1 |
| 27. Write down the words which show that the king approved of De Lorge's conduct. | 1 |
| 28. What, in the king's opinion, had made the lady drop her glove into the lions' pit ? | 1 |
| 29. To what task did he refer ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

39.—The Moorland Cottage.

Having crossed the marsh, I saw a trace of white over the moor. I approached it and found that it was a road or a track leading straight up to a light, which now beamed from a sort of knoll, amidst a clump of trees. My guiding star vanished as I drew near; some obstacle had come between me and it. I put out my hand to feel the dark mass before me: I made out the rough stones of a low wall—above it, something like a fence, and within, a high and prickly hedge. I groped on. Again a whitish object gleamed before me. It was a gate—a wicket, and it moved on its hinges as I touched it. On each side stood a dark bush—holly or yew.

After entering the gate and passing the shrubs, the outline of a house rose to view; black, low and rather long; but the guiding star shone nowhere. All was dark. In seeking the door I turned a corner: there shot out the friendly gleam again, from the panes of a very small latticed window, within a foot of the ground, and made still smaller by the growth of ivy. The opening was so screened and narrow, that curtain or shutter was unnecessary; and when I stooped down and put aside the spray of foliage shooting over it, I could see all within. I could see clearly a room with a sanded floor, clean scoured; a dresser of walnut, with pewter plates arranged in rows, reflecting the redness of a glowing peat-fire. I could see a clock, a white deal table and some chairs. A candle burnt on the table, and by its light an elderly woman was knitting a stocking.

A more interesting group appeared near the hearth. Two young, graceful women sat, one on a low rocking-chair, the other on a lower stool. A large old pointer dog rested its massive head on the knee of one girl, while in the lap of the other lay a black cat. A stand between them supported a second candle and two great books, to which they often referred, comparing them with the smaller books they held in their hands. This scene was as silent as if all the figures had been shadows; so hushed was it I could hear the cinders fall from the grate, the clock tick in its corner, and I even fancied I could make out the click-click of the old woman's knitting needles.

Adapted from Jane Eyre." (Charlotte Bronte.)

QUESTIONS.

1. Across what kind of country had this person walked ?	1
2. What did she see in front of her ?	1
3. What did it turn out to be ?	2
4. Tell what was in the clump of trees.	1
5. Say what seemed to come from it.	1
6. As she drew near what happened ?	1
7. What was the reason for this ?	1
8. As she was now left in darkness what did she do ?	1
9. Name the three things which made up the dark mass.	1½
10. What words show that she now <i>saw</i> something ?	1
11. How do we know that the gate was not bolted ?	1
12. What were the shrubs mentioned ?	1
13. What did she see next ?	1
14. Name the three words which describe it.	1½
15. For what was she looking ?	1
16. As she turned the corner what came into view ?	1
17. Where did it come from ?	1
18. Was it high up ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
19. What did the growth of ivy do ?	1
20. Why did the window not require a curtain or shutter ?	1
21. What had the traveller to do before she could see inside ?	2
22. What pieces of furniture did she see in the room ?	2
23. What reflected the redness of the fire ?	1
24. How many people were in the room ?	1
25. Tell of what the group on the hearth was composed.	2
26. What stood between the girls ?	1
27. What was on it ?	2
28. What were the girls doing ?	1
29. Give the words which tell that all was quiet.	2
30. Tell what the watcher <i>imagined</i> she heard from the outside.	1

Total Marks.

38

40.—Life in the Open.

The children had not yet returned from their search after figs, and, as supper was ready, I was about to set out after them when I heard a startled cry ; rushing in the direction from which it proceeded, I saw a large cobra, one of the most beautiful, though most dangerous, of all reptiles, winding its way through the tangled grass. As with head erect and forked tongue extended it approached the alarmed group, Fritz, whose presence of mind rarely forsook him, hit it a heavy blow on the head with his gun, and so well directed was the stroke that in a few minutes it lay dead at our feet.

This incident increased our anxiety to take up our abode in the tree as soon as we could, but, as the evening was pretty far advanced, it was impossible to have our arrangements completed before nightfall. We therefore decided to make the best possible use of the hour of daylight that remained to us, and provide ourselves with a shelter from the dew and insects. When the preparation for our comfort and safety during the night was finished I went down to the beach with Fritz and Ernest to find some pieces of wood.

Seeing at no great distance a thick bed of reeds, I directed my steps towards it in order to cut some, that I might use the hard ends as heads to my arrows. We were approaching with that caution which past experience had taught us to use when treading on unknown ground, when Topsy ran past us like a mad thing, and immediately a large flock of flamingoes rose and flew off with extreme swiftness. Fritz had just time to level his gun and fire before they were out of range. Two of the birds fell, one quite dead, the other only slightly wounded in the wing. The latter made use of its long legs, which gave it the appearance of being mounted on stilts, and, hurrying through marsh and reeds, would probably have made its escape had not Bill bounded off in pursuit. The dog soon overtook it, and, seizing it by the wing, held it till I came to the rescue. Fritz was wild with delight at the idea of possessing this strange creature alive, and turned his attention to examining its wounds, which he was happy to see were very trifling.

From "Swiss Family Robinson."

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What were the children doing ? | 1 |
| 2. Why was I about to set out for them ? | 1 |
| 3. What made me rush out in a certain direction ? | 1 |
| 4. In what direction did I go ? | 1 |
| 5. To what class of animals does the cobra belong ? | 1 |
| 6. What two words tell something about it ? | 1 |
| 7. Where was the cobra ? | 1 |
| 8. What words show that it was ready to attack ? | 1 |
| 9. Name the word which shows that my children were
frightened. | 1 |
| 10. What words tell that Fritz remained cool ? | 1 |
| 11. Tell what he did. | 1 |
| 12. What resulted from his actions ? | 1 |
| 13. Say what effect this incident had on us. | 1 |
| 14. Why was it impossible to complete our arrangements
before nightfall ? | 1 |
| 15. What did we decide to make for ourselves ? | 1 |
| 16. What words tell us that we had to make haste to
do this ? | 1 |
| 17. When did we go down to the beach ? | 1 |
| 18. For what purpose did we go there ? | 1 |
| 19. Was the bed of reeds near us ? Give a reason for
your answer. | 2 |
| 20. Why did I walk over towards it ? | 1 |
| 21. Which part of the reeds did I want ? | 1 |
| 22. For what purpose did I want them ? | 1 |
| 23. What had past experience taught us ? | 1 |
| 24. Who was not cautious ? | 1 |
| 25. What words show that there were many flamingoes ? | 1 |
| 26. Write down the sentence which shows that these
birds did fly off with extreme swiftness. | 2 |
| 27. What was the first effect of the firing ? | 1 |
| 28. Which bird made use of its long legs ? | 1 |
| 29. How did it look when doing this ? | 1 |
| 30. Who was Bill ? | 1 |
| 31. What did he do ? Give a full answer. | 2 |
| 32. Tell what delighted Fritz. | 1 |
| 33. What took up his attention ? | 1 |
| 34. Do you think he would be able to have the flamingo
for a pet ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |

Total Marks.

38

41.—An Evening Storm.

The sky has but one solitary cloud
Like a dark island in a sea of light,
The parching furrows 'twixt the corn-rows ploughed
Seem fairly dancing in my dazzled sight,
While over yonder road a dusty haze
Grows luminous beneath the sun's fierce blaze.

That solitary cloud grows dark and wide,
While distant thunder rumbles in the air,—
A fitful ripple breaks the river's tide,—
The lazy cattle are no longer there,
But homeward come, in long procession slow,
With many a bleat and many a plaintive low.

Darker and wider spreading o'er the west,
Advancing clouds, each in fantastic form,
And mirrored turrets on the river's breast,
Tell in advance the coming of a storm,—
Closer and brighter glares the lightning's flash,
And louder, nearer sounds the thunder's crash.

The air of evening is intensely hot,
The breeze feels heated as it fans my brows,—
Now sullen rain-drops patter down like shot,
Strike in the grass, or rattle 'mid the boughs.
A sultry lull, and then a gust again,—
And now I see the thick advancing rain.

It fairly hisses as it drives along,
And where it strikes breaks up in silvery spray
As if 'twere dancing to the fitful song
Made by the trees, which twist themselves and sway
In contest with the wind, which rises fast
Until the breeze becomes a furious blast.

And now, the sudden, fitful storm has fled,
The clouds lie piled up in the splendid west,
In massive shadow tipped with purplish red,
Crimson, or gold. The scene is one of rest ;
And on the bosom of yon still lagoon
I see the crescent of the pallid moon.

J. B. Hope.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What word shows there was only one cloud ? | 1 |
| 2. Tell what this cloud was like. | 1 |
| 3. What would represent the sea ? | 1 |
| 4. Why would you speak of <i>the parching furrows</i> ? | 2 |
| 5. What did the furrows appear to be doing ? . | 1 |
| 6. Can you tell why the poet's sight would be dazzled ? | 1 |
| 7. Say what hung over the road. | 1 |
| 8. It seems that the sun's fierce blaze made this full
of lights. What word tells us so ? | 1 |
| 9. In what ways did the clouds change ? | 1 |
| 10. What words say that a storm was coming on ? . | 2 |
| 11. Mention the words which tell that even the surface of
the river was affected. | 2 |
| 12. Where were the cattle ? | 1 |
| 13. Write down the phrase that tells they were not
hurrying. | 1 |
| 14. As they went along what did they do ? | 2 |
| 15. From which direction was the storm coming ? | 1 |
| 16. As the clouds moved with the wind how did they
change ? | 2 |
| 17. Which word shows they were of peculiar shape ? . | 1 |
| 18. Name the word which tells that they were reflected
in the water. | 1 |
| 19. Of what did the reflection remind one ? | 1 |
| 20. What is said about the lightning ? | 1 |
| 21. Write down a word which would describe the state
of the atmosphere. | 1 |
| 22. With what is the sound of the falling rain-drops
compared ? | 1 |
| 23. What word tells us they appeared to be angry ? . | 1 |
| 24. How do we know that the rain ceased for a while ? | 1 |
| 25. What two things did the driving rain do ? | 2 |
| 26. What did it appear to be doing ? | 1 |
| 27. Tell what effect the wind had on the trees. | 1 |
| 28. Name the words which tell that a sudden storm
was now raging. | 1 |
| 29. The storm passed. What change was seen in the
dark clouds ? | 2 |
| 30. What words seem to tell us that all is now quiet ? | 1 |
| 31. The lake is smooth. How do you know ? | 1 |
| 32. What was reflected in its waters ? | 1 |
| 33. Try to draw what was reflected in the lake. | 1 |

Total Marks.

40

42.—William Cobbett's Boyhood.

At eleven years of age, my employment was clipping of box-edgings and weeding flowers in the garden at the Castle of Farnham. I had always been fond of beautiful gardens ; and a gardener, who had just come from the King's garden at Kew, gave such a description as made me instantly resolve to work there. The next morning, without saying a word to anyone, off I set, with no clothes except those on my back, and with thirteen half-pence in my pocket.

A long day (it was June) brought me to Richmond in the afternoon. Twopenny-worth of bread and cheese and a penny-worth of small beer, which I had on the road, and one half-penny that I lost somehow or other, left threepence in my pocket. With this for my whole fortune, I was trudging through Richmond, in my blue smock frock, and my red garters, tied under my knees, when, staring about me, my eyes fell on a little book in a bookseller's window, " Tale of a Tub," price 3d. The title was so odd that my curiosity was excited. I had the threepence, but then I could have no supper. In I went, and got the little book, which I was so impatient to read that I got over into a field, at the upper corner of Kew Gardens, where there stood a haystack. On the shady side of this I sat down to read. I read on till dark, without thought about supper or bed. When I could read no longer, I put my little book in my pocket, and tumbled down by the side of the stack, where I slept till the birds in Kew Gardens awakened me in the morning. Then I started off to Kew, reading my little book. There the gardener took pity on me, gave me food, found me lodgings, and set me to work.

The gardener, seeing me fond of books, lent me some gardening books to read ; but these I could not relish after my " Tale of a Tub," which I carried about with me wherever I went ; and when I, at about twenty-four years old, lost it in a box that fell overboard in the Bay of Fundy, in North America, the loss gave me greater pain than I have ever felt at losing thousands of pounds.

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. At what age did the boy begin to earn a living ? | 1 |
| 2. In what work was he employed ? | 1 |
| 3. Where did he work ? | 1 |
| 4. Why had he chosen this occupation ? | 1 |
| 5. About which garden was he told ? | 1 |
| 6. What did he make up his mind to do ? | 1 |
| 7. Which words tell he put off no time in seeking this place ? | 1 |
| 8. Who was told of his going ? | 1 |
| 9. What words tell he had no change of clothing with him ? | 1 |
| 10. Why was the day called <i>long</i> ? | 1 |
| 11. To which town did he come ? | 1 |
| 12. Of what did he make a meal ? | 2 |
| 13. How was it that having started his journey with 6½d. and having spent 3d. for food, he had only 3d. left ? | 1 |
| 14. What words tell that this was all the money he had in the world ? | 1 |
| 15. What was there about his dress that would make people look at him ? | 2 |
| 16. When looking about him what did he see ? | 1 |
| 17. What was its name ? | 1 |
| 18. What, about it, made him keen to purchase it ? | 1 |
| 19. Which did he desire more, the book or his supper ? Give a reason. | 2 |
| 20. Which word shows he was eager to read the book ? | 1 |
| 21. Where did he go for quiet to read ? | 1 |
| 22. How do we know he was sheltered from the sun ? | 1 |
| 23. What words tell us of the great interest he had in his reading ? | 2 |
| 24. When darkness fell what did he do ? | 2 |
| 25. How was he awakened in the morning ? | 1 |
| 26. When he reached Kew what did he get from the gardener ? | 2 |
| 27. As the gardener noticed his fondness for books what did he give him ? | 1 |
| 28. What words tell that he did not like those so well as his own ? | 1 |
| 29. How did he show his fondness for the "Tale of a Tub" ? | 1 |
| 30. How and where was the book lost ? | 2 |
| 31. How did the loss affect him ? | 2 |

Total Marks.

40

43.—On the Caribbean.

I witnessed the death of a manatee, "mermaid," or sea-cow, nine feet long, and weighing many hundred pounds, which was harpooned from a small boat by a couple of Pedro fishermen. It looked very like an immense seal, with a great flat tail, tiny eyes so sunk in flesh as to be almost invisible, a very tough, elastic skin, fully one inch thick, and a head very like a cow's, with stiff bristles all round the mouth.

Skinning the carcase was a tremendous labour, and took three men more than a couple of hours, the perspiration pouring off their bodies under the broiling sun, but the hide is very valuable as it furnishes leather unsurpassed for boot soles. The next procedure was to cut the meat off in great chunks from the bones, and finally to divide these into strips, which are salted, and find a ready sale among the fishermen along the coast. The meat looks beautiful, being very fine-grained and pale pink in colour, but it tastes like exceptionally tough horse-meat. The liver is about the same size as a cow's, and is considered a great delicacy. I tried a piece, fried fresh on board the fishermen's little sloop, but I cannot say that it appealed to me. It took nearly seven hours to deal with the carcase, and it was not until three in the afternoon that the fishermen abandoned it on the shore.

All this time countless John Crows, the horrible black vulture of Central America, had been collecting. The earlier arrivals perched on the surrounding mangrove and cocoanut-trees, till not even standing room was left, and they overflowed on to the beach, getting ever bolder and bolder, till they ventured at last within a few yards of the fishermen. As soon as the carcase and head had been abandoned they swooped down on both, tearing and rending the flesh, and fighting each other fiercely with wings and beaks for each scrap of meat, till both head and body were quite invisible beneath a great mass of flapping black wings, snapping beaks, and ugly, bald snake-like necks. I tried to get the launch up close enough for a good photograph, but most of them made off, though some of the boldest actually let me get within six feet before taking wing. They did not go far, however, and hardly had the launch turned than they were back again at the feast.

(Slightly adapted.) From "Mystery Cities," by Thomas Gann, published by Gerald Duckworth & Co., Ltd.

QUESTIONS.

1. What three names are given to this animal ?	1½
2. Who killed it ?	1
3. What weapon was used to kill it ?	1
4. Name the animal it resembled.	1
5. Tell three things that are said of it.	1½
6. Why was it difficult to see its eyes ?	1
7. Can you tell why the manatee would be called a sea-cow ?	1
8. What was done after the animal was killed ?	1
9. What phrase tells this was hard work ?	1
10. Say what you think would make this work tiring.	1
11. What result did it have ?	2
12. Name the words which tell the purpose for which the hide is used.	2
13. Which word says that this is the best of its kind ?	1
14. Name two things that were done to the meat.	2
15. How do we know the latter were not used at once ?	1
16. To whom are they sold ?	1
17. What makes the meat look nice ?	2
18. How does it taste ?	1
19. What words tell us that the liver is prized ?	1
20. Did the writer like the liver after it was cooked ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
21. About what time did they begin to work upon the carcase ?	1
22. Having taken all they wanted, what did the men do ?	1
23. When the men were working what were gathering ?	1
24. Where did those who arrived first sit ?	2
25. To which place did they, for whom there was no room in the trees, go ?	1
26. How did they show that they were becoming braver ?	1
27. Name the four things done by those animals as soon as the men left.	2
28. Name the phrases that tell what hid the carcase.	3
29. What did the writer desire ?	2
30. How do we know that the birds were eager for the food ?	2

Total Marks.

42

44.—Gulliver and the Monkey.

Glumdalclitch, my nurse, had locked me up in her closet, while she went somewhere upon business. The weather being very warm, the closet window was left open, as well as the windows and the door of my bigger box, in which I usually lived, because of its largeness and conveniency. As I sat at my table, I heard something bounce in at the closet window, and skip about from one side to the other. Although I was much alarmed I ventured to look out, without stirring from my seat, and I saw this frolicsome animal leaping up and down. At last he came to my box, which he seemed to view with great pleasure and curiosity, for he peered in at the door and at every window. I retreated to the furthest corner of my room, but the monkey so frightened me that I lacked presence of mind to hide myself under the bed, as I might easily have done. At last he espied me, and reaching one of his paws in at the door, as a cat does when she plays with a mouse, he seized the lappet of my coat, and dragged me out. He took me up in his right forefoot, and when I struggled he squeezed me so hard that I thought it wiser to give in. Perhaps he took me for a young one of his own kind for he often stroked my face very gently with his other paw. In the midst of these actions he was interrupted by a noise at the closet door, as if somebody were opening it; whereupon he suddenly leaped up to the window, and thence upon the leads and gutters, walking upon three legs and holding me in the fourth. I heard Glumdalclitch give one shriek when he was carrying me out, and soon the palace was in an uproar. The servants ran for ladders; the monkey was seen by hundreds in the court, sitting upon the roof, holding me like a baby in one fore-paw.

The ladders were now mounted by several men, and the monkey, finding himself almost surrounded and not able to make speed enough with his three legs, let me drop on a ridge-tile, and made his escape. Here I sat for some time, five hundred yards from the ground, expecting either to be blown down by the wind or to fall from my own giddiness, but one of my nurse's footmen climbed up, and putting me into his breeches-pocket, brought me safely down.

Adapted from "Gulliver's Travels."
(Jonathan Swift.)

QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What words tell that Glumdalclitch was not in the house ? | 1 |
| 2. Tell what she did to Gulliver. | 1 |
| 3. In what did he live ? | 1 |
| 4. Why ? | 2 |
| 5. The windows were left open. Say why. | 1 |
| 6. What happened as Gulliver sat at the table ? | 2 |
| 7. In spite of his fear what did he do ? | 1 |
| 8. Tell what he did <i>not</i> do. | 1 |
| 9. What word is used to describe what he saw ? | 1 |
| 10. Tell what feelings the monkey seemed to have when he saw the box. | 2 |
| 11. How did he show those feelings ? | 1 |
| 12. Gulliver was now alarmed. How do we know ? | 1 |
| 13. Why did he not hide under the bed ? | 1 |
| 14. What three things did the monkey do when he saw Gulliver ? | 3 |
| 15. Which foot did the monkey use to hold Gulliver ? | 1 |
| 16. What word shows that Gulliver did not enjoy the treatment ? | 1 |
| 17. Why did he give in ? | 1 |
| 18. With which paw did the monkey stroke Gulliver's face ? | 1 |
| 19. Which words show that the monkey did not know what Gulliver was ? | 2 |
| 20. About this time what happened ? | 2 |
| 21. Tell what the monkey did. | 2 |
| 22. Why did he not walk on all four legs ? | 1 |
| 23. What did the nurse do when she saw the monkey ? | 1 |
| 24. Give the words that tell the result. | 1 |
| 25. How do we know that there were lots of people in the palace ? | 1 |
| 26. What did the servants do ? | 1 |
| 27. Tell what the monkey was doing now. | 2 |
| 28. What use was made of the ladders ? | 1 |
| 29. The monkey was not completely shut in. Why then could he not get away ? | 2 |
| 30. What did he do with Gulliver ? | 1 |
| 31. Of what two things was Gulliver afraid ? | 2 |
| 32. Who saved him ? | 1 |
| 33. How did he do it ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

44

45.—In Search of Treasure.

The path to the treasure cave was lined with guards, all silent and rigid as graven images. As I stumbled over the stones I felt that my appearance scarcely fitted the dignity of a royal messenger. Among the splendid men-at-arms I shambled along in old breeches and leggings, and a torn flannel shirt. My mind was no better than my body, for now that I had arrived I found my courage gone. Had it been possible I would have turned tail and fled, but the boats were burned behind me, and I had no choice.

At the entrance to the gorge the guards ceased, and I went on alone. Here there was no moonlight, so I moved very slowly, feeling my way by the sides. The heat of the ride had gone, and I remember feeling my shirt hang clammy on my shoulders. Suddenly a hand was laid on my breast, and a voice demanded, "The word?"

"Immanuel," I said hoarsely.

Then unseen hands took both my arms, and I was led farther into the darkness. The password had proved true, and at any rate I should enter the cave. I could see nothing, but I judged that we stopped before the stone slab which, as I remembered, filled the extreme end of the gorge. My guide did something with the right-hand wall, and I felt myself being drawn into a kind of passage, which was so narrow that two could not go abreast, and so low that the creepers above scraped my hair. Soon I saw a gleam of light ahead which was not the moon. It grew larger, until suddenly the roof rose, and I found myself in a gigantic chamber. So high it was that I could not make out anything of the roof, though the place was brightly lit with torches stuck round the wall, and a great fire which burned at the farther end. But the wonder was on the left side where the floor ceased in a chasm. The left wall was one sheet of water, where the river fell from the heights into the infinite depth below.

There were two hundred men or more in the chamber, but so huge was the place that they seemed only a little company. They sat on the ground in a circle, with their eyes fixed on the fire, and on a figure which stood before it. The glow revealed the old man I had seen on that morning a month before moving towards the cave. A robe of some shining white stuff fell from his shoulders, and was clasped round his middle by a broad circle of gold, while on his forehead was bound a disc of carved gold. I saw from his gaze that his old eyes were blind.

QUESTIONS.

1. Why would you say the guards were like graven images? 1
2. Name the words which tell that the writer did not look like the messenger of a king. 2
3. How do we know he had not a smart appearance? 2
4. What phrase describes the guards? 1
5. Which word tells that the writer did not walk smartly? 1
6. How did he feel now that he had arrived at the cave? 1
7. Can you tell the meaning of *the boats were burned behind me*? 2
8. Who went with him after he entered the gorge? 1
9. What had he to do here? 2
10. By what means do you think he had arrived at the cave? 2
11. What was he asked for in the darkness? 1
12. By giving this what was he allowed to do? 1
13. Although he could not see where did he *think* he was? 2
14. Do you think he had been here before? Give a reason. 2
15. After the guide had done something to the wall where did the writer find himself? 1
16. Describe the place. Give a full answer. 2
17. Where did he soon find himself? 1
18. Can you say how high this place was? 2
19. What provided the light? 2
20. Say what you think he means by "the wonder." 2
21. What words tell that no one could say how deep the chasm was? 1
22. Why do you think that the company of 200 men would look small in this chamber? 1
23. Upon whom were they gazing? 1
24. How do you know that the writer had seen one of the company before? 2
25. How was this man dressed? 1
26. What was there about his dress to show there must have been treasure in this place? Give two answers. 2
27. How did he differ from the others? 1

Total Marks.

40

PART II.

46.—A Strange Creature.

As we continued our journey along the banks of the lake, I observed a number of beautiful black swans floating about proudly, and now and again gazing admiringly at the reflection of their graceful forms in the unruffled water. Their appearance pleased me so much that I could not find in my heart to interfere with them, though I should gladly have been the possessor of one of the splendid creatures.

But my dog's admiration was not strong enough to overcome her love of slaughter. She dashed into the lake, but before she had reached the birds her attention was distracted from them by the appearance of a curious-looking animal that had escaped my notice before. She seized it, and was about to tear it to pieces when I prevented her.

The prize measured about a foot and a half in length ; it was covered with short brown hair, and had a bill like a duck's. Both its fore and hind feet were webbed, and the latter were provided with strong spurs. For some time I considered the animal attentively without being able to come to any conclusion regarding it, for it was utterly different from anything I had ever seen, and my knowledge of natural history gave me no clue as to what it was.

At last I remembered a description of a curious creature called the duck-billed platypus that I had read of a few days previously in one of the captain's books, and I recognised it to be one of the species. It was first discovered on a lake in New Zealand, and has puzzled naturalists not a little. As it was such a rarity, I decided to take it home, and try to preserve it if possible.

From "Swiss Family Robinson."

For Questions, see page 111.

47.—The Death of Arthur.

King Arthur being sorely wounded said unto Sir Bedivere, "Take thou Excalibur, my good sword, and go with it unto yonder water-side ; and when thou comest there throw it into that water, and come again and tell me what thou shalt see there." And so Sir Bedivere departed, and by the way he beheld that noble sword, where the pommel and the haft were all of precious stones. And then he said to himself, "If I throw this rich sword into the water thereof shall come no good, but harm and loss." And then Sir Bedivere hid Excalibur under a tree, and as soon as he might, he came again unto King Arthur, and said he had been at the water, and had thrown the sword into the water.

"What sawest thou there ?" said the King. "Sir," said he, "I saw nothing but waves and wind." "That is untruly said of thee," said King Arthur, "therefore go thou lightly and do my command." Then Sir Bedivere returned again and took the sword in his hand, and again he thought it sin and shame to throw it away ; so he hid it and returned again to the King. Then the King asked, "What saw ye there ?" "Sir," said he, "I saw nothing but the water lap and the waves wan." "Ah ! traitor, untrue," said King Arthur, "now hast thou betrayed me twice for the rich sword." And he commanded him again ; so Sir Bedivere departed, and went to the sword and took it up and went to the water's side. Then he threw the sword into the water as far as he could, and there came an arm and a hand above the water, and met it and caught it, and shook it thrice. And then the hand vanished with the sword in the water.

So Sir Bedivere came again to the King and told him what he had seen. Then the King told Sir Bedivere to carry him upon his back to the water's side. When they reached this place, there fast by the bank was a little barge, with many fair ladies in it ; and they all wore black hoods, and they wept and shrieked when they saw King Arthur.

"Now put me into the barge," said the King. And the Knight did so softly ; and three queens with great mourning received him, and sat down, and in one of their laps King Arthur laid his head. And so then they rowed from the land.

Adapted from "Mort d'Arthur." (Sir Thomas Malory.)

For Questions, see page 112.

48.—Black Cattle.

Roxburgh was once a very large castle, situated near where two fine rivers, the Tweed and the Teviot, join each other. Being within five or six miles of England, the English were very anxious to retain it, and the Scots equally eager to capture it.

It was upon the night of what is called Shrovetide, a holiday which Roman Catholics celebrated with much gaiety and feasting. Most of the garrison of Roxburgh Castle were drinking and carousing, but still they had set watches on the battlements of the castle, in case of any sudden attack, for Douglas was known to be in the neighbourhood.

An English woman, the wife of one of the officers, was sitting on the battlements with her child in her arms, and looking out on the fields below she saw some black objects, like a herd of cattle, straggling near the foot of the wall. She pointed them out to the sentry and asked him who they were. "Pooh, pooh," said the soldier, "it is farmer B.'s cattle. The good man is keeping a jolly Shrovetide, and has forgot to shut up his bullocks in their yard." Now these creeping objects were no real cattle, but Douglas himself and his soldiers, who had put black cloaks above their armour, and were creeping about on hands and feet, in order, without being observed, to get so near to the foot of the castle wall as to be able to set ladders to it. The poor woman, who knew nothing of this, sat quietly on the wall, and began to sing to her child. Now the name of Douglas had become so terrible to the English that the women used to frighten their children with it, and this soldier's wife was singing to her child :—

"Hush ye, hush ye, the Black Douglas shall not get ye."

"Do not be so sure as that," said a voice close beside her, and, when she turned round, she saw the very Black Douglas she had been singing about, standing close beside her, a tall, swarthy, strong man. At the same time another Scotsman was seen climbing the walls, near to the sentinel. The soldier gave the alarm, but the rest of the Scots followed up, and soon the castle was taken. Many of the soldiers were put to death, but Douglas protected the woman and the child.

Adapted from "Tales of a Grandfather." (Walter Scott.)

For Questions, see page 113.

49.—A Father's Love.

There was a man who had two sons, and the younger said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me." So he divided his means among them. Not many days later, the younger son sold off everything and went abroad to a distant land, where he squandered his means in loose living. After he had spent his all, a severe famine set in throughout that land, and he began to feel in want; so he went and attached himself to a citizen of that land, who sent him to his fields to feed swine. And he was fain to fill his belly with the pods the swine were eating; no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, "How many hired men of my father have more than enough to eat, and here am I perishing of hunger! I will be up and off to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you: I don't deserve to be called your son any more; only make me like one of your hired men.'"

So he got up and went off to his father. But when he was still far away his father saw him and felt pity for him and ran to fall upon his neck and kiss him. And when the son spoke as he had planned the father said to his servants, "Quick, bring the best robe, and put it on him, give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet, and bring the fatted calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for my son here was dead and he has come to life, he was lost and he is found."

Now his elder son was out in the field, and as he came near the house he heard music and dancing, so summoning one of the servants, he asked what this meant. The servant told him and this angered him, and he would not go in. His father came out and tried to appease him, but he replied, "Look at all the years I have been serving you! I have never neglected any of your orders, and yet you have never given me so much as a kid, to let me make merry with my friends." The father said to him, "My son, you and I are always together, all I have is yours. We could not but make merry and rejoice, for your brother here was dead and has come to life again, he was lost but he has been found."

(Slightly adapted.) *From* A New Translation of The Bible," by James Moffat, published by Hodder & Stoughton, Ltd.

For Questions, see page 114.

50.—Cawnpore.

Cawnpore is very much in our minds to-day by reason of the rioting that took place there recently. The town and district of Cawnpore are situated in the Allahabad division of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The town itself is on the south bank of the Ganges, about forty miles south-west of Lucknow.

From earliest times it has formed a frontier outpost of the people of Oudh and Bengal, against their northern neighbours. Its population in 1921 was in the region of 213,000, but, like many other Indian cities, its growth has been frequently checked by outbursts of plague. At one time it was the chief British frontier station of the East India Company, while in Clive's time it was used by him as quarters for the brigade of troops lent him by the Nabob of Oudh. To-day, Cawnpore is chiefly known as an important railway junction.

As every child in Britain knows, it was here, in July, 1857, that some 600 women and children were slain by Nana Sahib, in spite of his promise to protect them. At this time it contained about 1,000 Europeans, of which 560 were women and children. The Europeans threw themselves into hastily-made entrenchments, but these were speedily besieged by the mutineers. For three weeks they held out, but at last yielded under a promise of safe conduct to Allahabad.

They were accompanied by the Sepoys to the banks of the Ganges but no sooner had they embarked on the boats than they encountered a murderous fire. Only four men escaped, while 125 women and children were carried back to Cawnpore, but met a cruel fate. Hearing that General Havelock was on his way with his men, Nana Sahib advanced to meet him. He was driven back, however, and immediately gave orders for the massacre of the prisoners.

A memorial church marks the site of the entrenchments, while the scene of the massacre is occupied by a memorial garden.

For Questions, see page 115.

51.—Kindness by the Wayside.

After a sound night's rest in a chamber under the thatched roof in which it seemed the sexton had for some years been a lodger, but which he had lately deserted for a wife and a cottage of his own, the child rose early in the morning and descended to the room where she had supped the night before. As the schoolmaster had already left his bed and gone out, she bestirred herself to make it neat and comfortable and had just finished its arrangement when the kind host returned. He thanked her many times and said that the old woman who usually did such offices for him had gone to nurse a little scholar who had turned ill suddenly.

The child asked leave to prepare breakfast, and the grandfather coming downstairs, they all three partook of it together. During the meal their host remarked that the old man seemed much fatigued and evidently stood in need of rest. "Because the journey you have before you is a long one," he said, "and you are not pressed for time, you are very welcome to spend another night here."

It required no great persuasion to induce the child to answer that they had better accept the invitation and stay for another night as she, too, was very tired. During the day she showed her gratitude by performing such household duties as the schoolmaster's little cottage stood in need of, and when these were done took some needlework from her basket and sat down on a stool near the window where the honeysuckle and woodbine entwined their tender stems and, stealing into the room, filled it with their delicious breath.

Her grandfather enjoyed the rest. He sat outside basking in the sun, breathing the perfume of the flowers and idly watching the clouds as they floated on before the light summer wind. Next morning the old man and his grandchild left on their journey taking with them the good wishes of their kind host.

Adapted from "The Old Curiosity Shop." (Dickens.)

For Questions, see page 116.

52.—Adventures of a Shilling.

“ I was born on the side of a mountain, near a little village of Peru, and made a voyage to England in an ingot, under the convoy of Sir Francis Drake. I was, soon after my arrival, taken out of my Indian habit, refined, naturalised, and made into the British mode, with the face of Queen Elizabeth on one side and the arms of the country on the other. Being thus equipped, I found in me a desire to ramble and visit all parts of the new world into which I was brought. The people very much favoured my wish and shifted me so fast from hand to hand, that before I was five years old, I had travelled into almost every corner of the nation. But in the beginning of my sixth year, to my unspeakable grief, I fell into the hands of a miserable old fellow, who clapped me into an iron chest, where I found five hundred more of my own quality.

“ The only relief we had was to be taken out and counted over in the fresh air every morning and evening. After an imprisonment of several years, we heard somebody knocking at the chest and breaking it open with a hammer. This we found was the old man’s heir, who, as his father lay a-dying, was so good as to come to our release. He separated us that very day. What was the fate of my companions I know not : as for myself I was sent to the apothecary’s shop for a pint of white wine. The druggist gave me to an herbswoman, the herbswoman to a builder, the builder to a brewer, and the brewer to his wife, who made a present of me to a preacher. After this manner I made my way merrily through the world, for, as I have told you, we shillings love nothing so much as travelling.

“ In the midst of this pleasant progress which I made from place to place, I was arrested by a superstitious old woman, who shut me up in a greasy purse because she believed in a foolish saying, ‘ That while she kept a Queen Elizabeth’s shilling about her, she should never be without money.’ I continued here, a close prisoner, for many months, till at last I was exchanged for eight and forty farthings.”

(Slightly adapted.) *From Joseph Addison’s “ Essays.”*

For Questions, see page 117.

53.—The Landing of William of Orange.

On the evening of Thursday, the first of November, William, with his fleet, set sail from Holland for the second time, and ran before a strong easterly breeze. For twelve hours they sailed in a north-westerly direction, which caused the light vessels sent out by the English Admiral, for the purpose of obtaining intelligence, to take back word that the enemy was likely to land in Yorkshire. Very soon, however, on a signal from the Prince's ship, the whole fleet tacked, and made sail for the English Channel. The same breeze which favoured the voyage of the invaders prevented the English Admiral from coming out of the Thames, and two of his frigates which had gained the open water were shattered by the violence of the weather, and driven back into the river. The Dutch fleet ran fast before the gale, and on Saturday reached the Strait of Dover.

When Sunday, the fourth of November dawned, the cliffs of the Isle of Wight were in full view of the Dutch ships. That day was the anniversary both of William's birth and of his marriage. Sail was slackened during part of the morning, and divine service was performed on board the ships. Torbay was the place where the Prince intended to land, but the Monday morning was hazy, and the pilot of the "Brill" could not discern the sea-marks, and carried the fleet too far to the west. Plymouth was the next port, but a garrison under Lord Bath had been posted there, and, if the landing were opposed, a check, with serious consequences might be produced, and more especially, as it was possible that the Royal fleet would, by this time, be in the Channel.

The Dutch ships hove to, and in a short time the wind changed: a soft breeze sprang up from the south, which dispersed the mist, and under the mild light of an autumnal moon the fleet turned back, and soon rode safe in the harbour of Torbay. The peasantry of the Devonshire coast crowded down to the sea shore with provisions and offers of service. Mackay was sent on shore first, with the British regiments, and the Prince, who soon followed, landed where the quay of Brixham now stands. A fragment of the rock on which the deliverer stepped from his boat has been carefully preserved, and is set up as an object of public veneration in the centre of that now busy wharf.

From Macaulay's "History of England."

For Questions, see page 118.

54.—A Wonderful Invention.

The English began to cultivate cotton very soon after their arrival in America. The plants grew well, and when autumn came the opening pods revealed a wealth of soft white fibre, embedded in which lay the seeds of the plant. The quantity of cotton produced excited the wonder of the planters, but the seeds clung firmly to the fibre. Before the fibre could be used the seeds had to be removed, and this was a slow and costly process. It was as much as a man could do in a day to separate one pound of cotton from the seeds. Cotton could never be abundant or cheap while this was the case.

Three or four years before Richard Arkwright invented his spinning frame and James Watt his steam engine—inventions which made England ready to weave cotton for the world—there was born in a New England farm-house a boy whose work was needed to complete theirs. His name was Eli Whitney. Eli was a born mechanic. As a boy he made nails, pins, and walking-canes by new processes, and thus earned money to keep himself at college. In 1792 he went to Georgia to visit Mrs. Greene, the widow of General Greene. Eli constructed marvellous amusements for her children, and Mrs. Greene soon believed nothing was impossible for him. During one of her parties the conversation turned upon the sorrows of the Planter—how the cotton seeds clung so firmly to the fibre. With an urgent demand from England for cotton, with boundless lands which grew nothing so well as cotton, it was hard to be so utterly baffled.

Mrs. Greene begged Eli to invent a machine which should separate the seeds from the fibre, but Eli was of Northern upbringing, and had never even seen cotton in seed. He walked to Savannah, and there obtained a quantity of uncleaned cotton. He shut himself up in his room and brooded over the difficulty which he had undertaken to conquer.

All that winter Eli laboured. He had no help; he could not even get tools to buy, but had to make them with his own hands. At length his machine was finished—rude looking, but able to do the work. Mrs. Greene invited the leading men of the State to her home, and led them in triumph to the building which housed the structure. The machine was put in motion. It was evident to all that it could do the work of hundreds of men. Eli had gained a great victory for mankind.

Adapted from "America," by Robert Mackenzie, published by Thos. Nelson & Sons, Ltd. For Questions, see page 119.

55.—The King of the Winds.

The next day Ulysses and his companions set sail. After a while they came to a floating island where the King of the Winds had his home. Ulysses told the King all his story, how he had fought against Troy, and what had happened to him afterwards. For a whole month the King made him welcome, and when he wished to go home, he did what he could to help him. He took the hide of an ox, very thick and strong, and put in it all the winds that would hinder him in getting to his home, and fastened it to the deck of his ship. Then he made a gentle wind blow from the West. For nine days it blew, till the ships were very near to the Island of Ithaca—so near that they could see the lights on the cliffs. But just before dawn on the tenth day, Ulysses, who had kept awake all the time, for he would not let anyone else take the rudder, fell asleep. And the crew of his ship said to each other : “ See that great bag of ox hide. It must have something very precious in it—silver and gold and jewels. Why should the chief have all the good things to himself ? ” So they cut the bag open, and all the winds rushed out, and blew the ship away from Ithaca. Ulysses woke up at the noise, and at first thought that he would throw himself into the sea and die. Then he said to himself, “ No ! it is better to live,” and he covered his face and lay still, without saying a word to his men. And the ships were driven back to the island of the King of the Winds.

Ulysses went to the King's palace with one of his companions, and sat down outside the door. The King came out to see him, and said, “ How is this ? Why did you not get to your home ? ” Ulysses said, “ I fell asleep, and my men opened the bag. I pray you to help me again.” “ Nay,” answered the King, “ it is of no use to help the man whom the gods hate. Go away ! ”

From “ The Children's Odyssey,” by A. J. Church, published by Seeley, Service & Co., Ltd.

For Questions, see page 120.

56.—Alberta.

The weather in Britain is often spoken of as the worst in the world, but there are many other places where the weather conditions are just as uncertain and often much worse than they are in our country. This is especially the case in those parts of Alberta which lie close to the foot of the Rocky Mountains where it is sometimes difficult to say just when spring begins. However, although the weather in March is often as stormy as that of January, the temperature generally shows a slight increase towards the middle of the month, and the people of that part of the world know it is time for them to take in their final supply of ice which they store for use in summer.

The ice is cut from the small lakes or frozen rivers and this entails a great amount of hard labour. First of all a hole is made in the ice with an axe and then a cross-cut saw is used to cut the ice out in square blocks. These blocks are then pushed to the edge of the lake or river, loaded on sledges, and drawn across the frozen snow to the hillside near which the homestead has been built. On the side of the hill is the storehouse—a deep hole or cave cut out of the earth—in which the ice is placed and covered over with sawdust (or sometimes with hay, if sawdust is scarce), in order to exclude the air. Thus stored, the ice is ready for use during the warm days of July and August.

It is April before the first real signs of spring appear, when the poplars show their tiny green buds, and green blades begin to push themselves through the tangled mass of apparently dead grass. The hillsides are gay with beautiful wild crocuses, which sometimes appear before the grass is plentiful and form a grave danger to sheep, which sometimes die through eating them.

May is the month when the log drives on the river start. The trees, which during the winter were felled and trimmed by lumbermen on the mountain slopes, are floated down to the nearest town by the spring floods. Sometimes the log drive lasts well into June. This disappoints the angler as the fish will not rise in the muddy water churned up by the logs. In July and August, however, there are trout in plenty, and as the water is clear, good sport is obtained by those who enjoy fishing.

For Questions, see page 121.

57.-- A Wreck.

When I awoke it was broad daylight and a storm was raging while someone was knocking and calling at my door.

“What is the matter?” I cried.

“A wreck! Close by!”

I sprang out of bed, and asked what wreck, and wrapped myself in my clothes as quickly as I could, and ran into the street. Numbers of people were there before me, all running in one direction, to the beach. I ran the same way, outstripping a good many, and soon came facing the wild sea.

I looked out to sea for the wreck, and saw nothing but the foaming heads of the great waves. A half-dressed boatman, standing next me, pointed with his bare arm. Then I saw it close in upon us.

There was a bell on board and as the ship rolled and dashed, like a desperate creature driven mad, the bell rang; and its sound—the knell of these four unhappy men—was borne towards us on the wind. Again we lost her, and again she rose. Two men were gone. The agony on shore increased. Men groaned and clasped their hands; women shrieked and turned away their faces. Some ran wildly up and down the beach crying for help where no help could be. Another cry arose on shore; and looking to the wreck, we saw the cruel sail, with blow on blow, beat off the lower of the two men, and fly up in triumph round the active figure left alone upon the mast.

The life of this solitary man upon the mast hung by a thread; still he clung to it. He had a singular red cap on, and as the few planks between him and destruction rolled and bulged, he was seen by all of us to wave it. When I saw him do it the action brought an old remembrance to my mind of a once dear friend.

Ham watched the sea until there was a great retiring wave, when with a backward glance at those who held the rope which was made fast round his body he dashed into the sea, and in a moment was buffeting with the water. The storm made the strife deadly, but with a superhuman effort he nearly reached the wreck, when a vast hillside of water moving shoreward from beyond the ship, leapt into it with a mighty bound and the ship and man were gone.

Adapted from “David Copperfield.” (Charles Dickens.)

For Questions, see page 122.

58.—The Fate of a Famous General.

The battle of Waterloo which, for a time, brought peace to Europe, was fought in June, 1815. The French army under Napoleon was defeated by the combined forces of Britain and Prussia, under Wellington and Blucher. After the battle Napoleon fled to Paris and then retired to a country mansion a few miles from the city where he stayed for a short time, endeavouring to make plans for his future safety. He had thought of going to America, but as British ships were lying off the French coast he saw at once the difficulty of his leaving France. Having a high opinion of the honour and justice of the British, he, at last, made up his mind to surrender himself to the enemy in the hope that he might be given a safe refuge in England. In 1810 his brother had been captured and for a time had been confined in a town in Shropshire, with liberty to walk and ride, and it is possible that the thought of this caused Napoleon to expect similar treatment at the hands of the British.

This was not to be, however, for he was not allowed to land in England. Along with a number of officers and servants he was, by order of the British Government, sent to exile to St. Helena, a lonely island lying eight hundred miles to the west of Africa. He looked on this order as cruel and unjust as he had, of his own free will, surrendered himself to the British on the suggestion of the captain in whose ship he had sailed for England.

In August he set sail for St. Helena, where he landed in October. The house to which he was taken was situated high up, in the very centre of the island; it was a cheerless dwelling, being draughty and over-run with rats, and little comfort was to be got inside. Nor did Napoleon obtain much cheer outside its walls. If he went riding during the day he was followed by a British officer, while at night the house was surrounded by British sentries. To make matters worse he quarrelled with the Governor, and as the friends who were with him often quarrelled among themselves, we can imagine how unhappy Napoleon became.

He had suffered too, for a long time, from a very painful disease, which in the end caused his death. In May, 1821, after nearly six years of exile the great Napoleon died at the age of fifty-two.

For Questions, see page 123.

59.—A Winter Sleeper.

One day in the middle of January we decided to go on a dormouse hunt, not because we had much hope of finding one of the creatures, but because, in the first place, it provided us with an object for the afternoon, and secondly, it would take us through some beautiful woods.

As this was the season when dormice spend most, if not all, their time in sleep, we did not expect to see any of them on the move, though the weather was very mild, so we began to search diligently for their nests. These look like mere balls of coarse long grass which grows so freely in damp woods and bogs and which is known as tussock-grass. After patiently searching for a long time we were rewarded by finding a sodden ball lying among the dead leaves under a laurel bush on the very edge of the waste ground. Another second, and we were both on our knees, tenderly opening up the wet grass, in the heart of which, lay, fast asleep, and stone-cold, a large very handsome dormouse.

That it was a young one, we saw at once by its greyish-yellow coat. The beautiful reddish chestnut tint does not appear till the animal has passed through its first winter, and we were delighted to think that if we could keep it alive, we would be able to watch its development through the various stages of its growth.

We carefully deposited it in a pocket and took it home at full speed. On arriving there we placed our friend, till a cage could be procured, on a shelf in a cup-board under a glass case which was really a large strong tumbler. In order that the animal might not be stifled we tilted the glass up slightly at one side. In about half an hour after its introduction to the warm house, the soft round ball of fur began to heave violently and gradually to uncurl. The delicate round ears, which had been flattened against the head, gently came forward and then stood erect, and the nose appeared from behind the shelter of the long slender tail. Then the eyes partially opened (that seemed to be a terrific effort), disclosing a pair of slits, and the long black whiskers next began to move. The tiny pink hands opened and shut after the fashion of a baby's, and presently the whole, sleepy, lukewarm creature began to crawl and totter and fumble in a helpless sort of way along the shelf.

Adapted from "Stories from Lowly Life," by C. M. Duppa, published by Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

For Questions, see page 124.

60.—A Useful Animal.

Elephants which are captured young are truly valuable allies, combining as they do such marked intelligence with mighty strength. For dragging heavy machinery or clearing new ground they are invaluable, as Sir Samuel Baker proved on his farm in Ceylon. He had brought out a "cultivator" large enough for twenty of the small native bullocks, but a splendid elephant worked it as though it had been a toy, cutting through the coarse roots of rank turf as a knife peels an apple. Then a long wooden plough drawn by eight bullocks did its work: and finally, when the seed was sown, the original elephant appeared on the scene dragging a pair of heavy harrows, attached to which and following behind, were a pair of light harrows, and after these came a roller. Thus were time and labour economised.

When not required for farm work, this useful creature was employed in building a dam across a stream. The newly felled forest was distant only about fifty yards, and the rough stems of trees furnished suitable logs about fifteen feet long and eighteen inches in diameter. Under the direction of her driver, she lifted these one at a time in her mouth, after testing the point at which she secured an excellent balance, and then steadying it with her trunk, she carried each to the stream, and laid them in exactly parallel rows. The larger logs she rolled gently over with her head and foot, guiding each with her trunk till she had arranged it exactly to her own satisfaction and that of her driver.

Of course, however wise the creature may be, such practical usefulness as this is only attained by a long course of most patient training: but it is well worth the trouble of teaching an animal which lives about a hundred years. The average term of life is eighty years, but there have been cases of elephants known to have worked in India for a hundred and fifty years.

Most of the tame elephants in Ceylon are employed in connection with felling jungle, dragging timber, and making roads. They are also valuable assistant masons, and I have often watched with the greatest interest the tame elephants' share in building stone bridges and the wonderful sagacity and skill with which they contrive to place very heavy stones, and then with their heads shove them into exact position.

(Slightly adapted.) *From "Two Happy Years in Ceylon."*
(Miss Gordon-Cumming).

For Questions, see page 125.

46.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Where were we journeying ? | 1 |
| 2. As we went along what did I observe ? | 1 |
| 3. Can you remember what they seemed to be doing ? | 2 |
| 4. Try to remember the <i>word</i> which shows that the water was perfectly calm. | 1 |
| 5. Why did I not interfere with the birds ? | 1 |
| 6. Nevertheless what would I have been pleased to have ? | 1 |
| 7. How did my dog show that her love of slaughter was greater than her admiration ? | 1 |
| 8. Did she reach the birds ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 9. Tell what she did to the strange-looking animal. | 1 |
| 10. Had I not interfered what would she have done with it ? | 1 |
| 11. Can you give the length of this curious creature ? | 2 |
| 12. What was its colour ? | 1 |
| 13. In what two ways was it like a duck ? | 2 |
| 14. How did it differ from a duck ? Try to answer fully. | 2 |
| 15. Two reasons are given to explain why I could not tell what it was. Can you give them ? | 2 |
| 16. Write down its name. Correct spelling will give you an extra mark. | 2 |
| 17. How and when had I first heard of it ? | 2 |
| 18. Where had it been first discovered ? | 1 |
| 19. Why did I decide to take it home ? | 1 |
| 20. What did I intend to do with it ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

28

47.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name the two men mentioned in the story. | 1 |
| 2. What had happened to the King ? | 1 |
| 3. To what does the name Excalibur refer ? | 1 |
| 4. Tell what was to be done with the sword. | 1 |
| 5. When this was done what was the knight told to do ? | 2 |
| 6. What was peculiar about the sword ? | 1 |
| 7. Did Sir Bedivere carry out the King's order ? Give
a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 8. When he returned and told the King that he had
done as he was ordered, what question was he
asked ? | 1 |
| 9. What caused the King to think that Sir Bedivere
lied ? | 2 |
| 10. Why did the knight hide the sword a second time,
rather than throw it into the water ? | 1 |
| 11. On his return what did he say he had seen ? | 2 |
| 12. What did this cause the King to say ? | 2 |
| 13. On the third command what did Sir Bedivere do ? | 1 |
| 14. Tell what happened as he did this. | 1 |
| 15. What did they do ? Give a full answer. | 2 |
| 16. What did Sir Bedivere now do ? | 2 |
| 17. On his return the King issued an order. What
was it ? | 1 |
| 18. Tell what was seen by the water's side. | 2 |
| 19. What was peculiar about the dress of the ladies ? | 1 |
| 20. How did the King's presence affect them ? | 1 |
| 21. The King expressed a wish. What was it ? | 1 |
| 22. How was he received by the three queens ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

48.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Where was Roxburgh Castle built ? | 1 |
| 2. By whom was it held ? | 1 |
| 3. Why were they anxious to keep this castle in their hands ? | 1 |
| 4. For the same reason what did the Scots desire to do ? | 1 |
| 5. Why were most of the garrison drinking and carousing ? | 1 |
| 6. When was this taking place ? | 1 |
| 7. Did this make them forget to keep a sharp look-out ?
Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 8. Why did the English fear a sudden attack ? | 1 |
| 9. What Englishwoman is mentioned ? | 1 |
| 10. How do you know that she was not alone ? | 1 |
| 11. What did the black objects appear to be ? | 1 |
| 12. Where were they when she saw them ? | 1 |
| 13. What did she do ? | 2 |
| 14. What, according to the sentinel, had the farmer forgotten to do ? | 1 |
| 15. Why ? | 1 |
| 16. What were the creeping objects ? | 1 |
| 17. What was below their black cloaks ? | 1 |
| 18. Why did they creep on hands and feet ? | 2 |
| 19. What must they have carried ? | 1 |
| 20. For what purpose did they intend to use these things ? | 1 |
| 21. Where was the woman at this time ? | 1 |
| 22. How do you know that the English feared Douglas ? | 1 |
| 23. How did the woman seek to soothe her child ? | 1 |
| 24. Who said, “ Do not be so sure as that ” ? | 1 |
| 25. Where was this person ? | 1 |
| 26. Douglas was tall. Can you give two other words that describe him ? | 1 |
| 27. When did the sentinel give the alarm ? | 1 |

<i>Total Marks.</i>	30
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49.--QUESTIONS.

1. Which of the two sons was dissatisfied ?	1
2. What did he desire ?	1
3. Having got what he wanted what did this son do ?	2
4. How did he conduct himself in this place ?	1
5. Can you give the words which lead us to believe that, at last, he became poor ?	2
6. What happened about this time ?	2
7. Tell what this son did for a living.	1
8. What was he almost forced to do at times ?	1
9. As he considered his own condition of whom did he think ?	1
10. How did they compare with himself ?	2
11. What did he determine to do ?	1
12. For what did he make up his mind to ask ?	1
13. When his father saw his poor condition how did he feel towards him ?	1
14. What actions of the father show that he welcomed his son ?	2
15. Tell in your own words what the servants were ordered to do.	2
16. When these orders were carried out what was to happen ?	1
17. Who objected to the merry-making ?	1
18. How did the return of the younger son affect this person ?	2
19. Tell what the father did.	2
20. Can you remember the words which tell that the elder son had been faithful to his father ?	2
21. Had a feast ever been prepared for him ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
22. Can you give <i>one</i> word that would account for the elder son's conduct ?	1
23. How do you know that the father intended to reward the elder son for his faithful work ?	1
24. What reason did the father give for the merry-making ?	2

Total Marks.

35

50.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What event has caused us to think of Cawnpore ? | 1 |
| 2. When did it take place ? | 1 |
| 3. Where, in India, is Cawnpore <i>district</i> ? | 2 |
| 4. Where is the <i>town</i> of Cawnpore situated ? | 1 |
| 5. What expression would make you think it was an old town ? | 1 |
| 6. To whom has it always belonged ? | 1 |
| 7. Of what use was it to them ? | 1 |
| 8. What pays periodical visits to many of the cities of India ? | 1 |
| 9. What is the result ? | 1 |
| 10. By whom was Cawnpore made into a frontier station in later years ? | 1 |
| 11. What did Clive make of it ? | 1 |
| 12. To whom did the troops belong ? | 1 |
| 13.* Whose name is associated with a dreadful deed that took place in Cawnpore ? | 1 |
| 14. What was this deed ? | 1 |
| 15. What made the deed appear even more terrible than it was ? | 1 |
| 16. Were all the white people in Cawnpore British ?
Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 17. How did these people try to protect themselves ? | 1 |
| 18. Why was this of little avail ? | 1 |
| 19. How long did the siege last ? | 1 |
| 20. What, perhaps, persuaded the besieged people to give in ? | 1 |
| 21. Why did they accompany the Sepoys to the Ganges ? | 1 |
| 22. What happened as soon as they were on the river ? | 1 |
| 23. Tell what happened to the women who escaped. | 2 |
| 24. What command was given by Nana Sahib when his army was overcome by the British ? | 1 |
| 25. Who was the British leader ? | 1 |
| 26. What was done to mark the place where the entrenchments had been ? | 1 |
| 27. What do the memorial gardens in Cawnpore mark ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

51.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. To whom did the house mentioned in the story belong ? | 1 |
| 2. In which part of the house had the child slept ? | 1 |
| 3. Who had occupied the room before ? | 1 |
| 4. Why had he given it up ? | 2 |
| 5. When did the child rise ? | 1 |
| 6. Where did she go ? | 1 |
| 7. Tell what particular work she did for the schoolmaster. | 1 |
| 8. How was this possible ? | 2 |
| 9. Name the word that tells she put off no time. | 1 |
| 10. Because he had entertained the child what is the schoolmaster called ? | 1 |
| 11. How did he show his gratitude for what the child had done ? | 1 |
| 12. Who usually did this work ? | 1 |
| 13. Had she forgotten to do it this morning ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 14. Name the people who partook of breakfast. | 1½ |
| 15. When they were having breakfast what did the schoolmaster notice ? | 2 |
| 16. What did he suggest ? | 1 |
| 17. Name the two reasons he gave for making the suggestions. | 2 |
| 18. The child was tired. On account of this what did she think was the best thing to do ? | |
| 19. How did she repay the schoolmaster for the kindness shown to her ? | 1 |
| 20. How did she occupy the rest of the day ? | 1 |
| 21. What plants did she see from where she sat ? | 1 |
| 22. Give in your own words the meaning of—"filled the room with their delicious breath." | 2 |
| 23. As briefly as you can name three things the grandfather did during the day. | 1½ |
| 24. How do we know that the schoolmaster wished them well ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

32

52.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. In which country was the shilling born ? | 1 |
| 2. Where was the mine from which it was dug ? | 1 |
| 3. In which form did the shilling reach England ? | 1 |
| 4. Name two things that were done to it after its arrival in England. | 2 |
| 5. What did it have, to show it was an English coin ? | 1 |
| 6. What desire did the shilling have ? | 1 |
| 7. Who helped its travel ? | 1 |
| 8. How did they do it ? | 1 |
| 9. What stopped its rambles for a time ? | 1 |
| 10. When did this happen ? | 1 |
| 11. With whom did it now keep company ? | 1 |
| 12. How often did it see the daylight ? | 1 |
| 13. How long do you think it was with the miser ? | 1 |
| 14. Who gave it its freedom ? | 1 |
| 15. How did he do it ? | 1 |
| 16. Into whose hands did the shilling now fall ? | 1 |
| 17. What was given in exchange for it ? | 1 |
| 18. Name three of the people who handled the shilling before the old woman got it. | 3 |
| 19. Can you remember what was said to show that it liked passing through many hands ? | 1 |
| 20. Who stopped its travelling ? | 1 |
| 21. How was it done ? | 1 |
| 22. Why was it done ? | 1 |
| 23. What word explains this belief ? | 1 |
| 24. How do you know that the shilling was not often out ? | 1 |
| 25. What did the old woman get for it ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

28

53.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. How often had William set sail for England ? | 1 |
| 2. If you think the easterly breeze would help his sailing ships write " Yes." If you think it would not, write " No." | 1 |
| 3. Why did the crew of the English light vessels imagine that the Dutch fleet would land in Yorkshire ? | 1 |
| 4. Why did the English Admiral send out the light vessels ? | 1 |
| 5. Tell what the Dutch did, on a signal being given. | 1 |
| 6. On which day did the fleet sail toward the Channel ? | 1 |
| 7. Why did the English Admiral not leave the Thames ? | 1 |
| 8. How do you know that the weather must have been very stormy ? | 2 |
| 9. What point of their journey did the Dutch reach on Saturday ? | 1 |
| 10. At what time on Sunday did the cliffs of the Isle of Wight come into view ? | 1 |
| 11. What two circumstances made the 4th of November particularly interesting to William ? | 2 |
| 12. What two things were done during the forenoon ? | 2 |
| 13. When did the fleet approach Torbay ? | 1 |
| 14. Three things prevented a landing. Name them. | 3 |
| 15. What was likely to hinder William's landing at Plymouth ? | 1 |
| 16. Why did he wish to land without opposition ? | 1 |
| 17. What other danger did he fear ? | 1 |
| 18. The change of wind produced three results. Name them. | 3 |
| 19. How do we know that the English did not try to prevent a landing ? | 2 |
| 20. How do we know that all the troops were not foreign ? | 1 |
| 21. What marks the place where the Prince stepped on shore ? | 1 |
| 22. Where is it ? | 1 |

Total Marks. 30

54.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. When did the English settlers first cultivate cotton in America ? | 1 |
| 2. How do you know that the soil was suitable ? | 1 |
| 3. When were the pods ripe ? | 1 |
| 4. How do you know that the cultivation of the plant had been successful ? | 1 |
| 5. With what were the planters pleased ? | 1 |
| 6. What process had to take place before the cotton fibre could be used ? | 1 |
| 7. What is said to prove that this was a slow process ? | 2 |
| 8. Why was cotton not grown so abundantly as it might have been at this time ? | 1 |
| 9. Why was England ready to weave cotton for the world ? | 1 |
| 10. Who was it that completed the work of Arkwright and Watt ? | 1 |
| 11. In which country was he born ? | 1 |
| 12. "Eli was a born mechanic." How did he show this in early life ? | 2 |
| 13. What did this help him to do ? | 1 |
| 14. In what State did he meet Mrs. Greene ? | 1 |
| 15. What led her to believe that Eli could make <i>anything</i> ? | 1 |
| 16. In what particular conversation was Eli interested during his visit ? | 1 |
| 17. Why were planters so annoyed at not being able to remove the seeds easily ? Try to give a full answer. | 2 |
| 18. What did Mrs. Greene desire Eli to do ? | 1 |
| 19. Why could Eli not start this at once ? | 1 |
| 20. In order to overcome this difficulty where did he go ? | 1 |
| 21. What had he with him when he was shut up in his room ? | 1 |
| 22. How long did he take to make his machine ? | 1 |
| 23. What hindered him ? | 2 |
| 24. Who were present to see the machine put in motion ? | 2 |
| 25. In what way had Eli gained a great victory for mankind ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

30

55.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What words tell you that Ulysses and his companions were in boats ? | 1 |
| 2. What was strange about the island they reached ? | 1 |
| 3. Who lived there ? | 1 |
| 4. What were the main parts of Ulysses' story ? | 2 |
| 5. Write down the words which show that the King was pleased to have Ulysses and his companions as his guests. | 1 |
| 6. For how long did they stay ? | 1 |
| 7. Which part of an ox did the King take ? | 1 |
| 8. What words describe this part ? | 1 |
| 9. Tell what the King did with it. | 2 |
| 10. In which direction did Ulysses wish to sail ? | 1 |
| 11. When were the ships very near the island of Ithaca ? | 1 |
| 12. How near were they ? | 1 |
| 13. When did Ulysses fall asleep ? | 1 |
| 14. Why had he kept awake all the time ? | 1 |
| 15. Who began to speak to each other when he slept ? | 1 |
| 16. What was the subject of their conversation ? | 1 |
| 17. What did they say about it ? | 2 |
| 18. When they cut the bag open what happened ? | 2 |
| 19. What wakened Ulysses ? | 1 |
| 20. When he awoke what were his first thoughts ? | 1 |
| 21. Can you write down the words which show that he changed his mind ? | 1 |
| 22. What did he do ? | 2 |
| 23. How do you know that he did not rebuke his men ? | 1 |
| 24. Tell what happened to the ships. | 1 |
| 25. Who went to the King's palace ? | 1 |
| 26. Where was Ulysses when the King came out to see him ? | 1 |
| 27. How do you know that the King was surprised ? | 1 |
| 28. What did Ulysses ask from the King ? | 1 |
| 29. Why did the King refuse to give his aid ? | 1 |
| 30. What command did he give Ulysses ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

35

56.—QUESTIONS.

1. What is sometimes said of British weather ?	1
2. What is said of the weather conditions in other places	2
3. Which word shows that we cannot be sure of the weather in those parts ?	1
4. In which parts of Alberta do these conditions occur ?	2
5. What is made difficult by those weather conditions ?	1
6. What change does the weather take in the middle of March ?	1
7. What does this cause the people to do ?	1
8. Why do they do this ?	1
9. Can you name the words that tell us that the cutting of the ice is not easy work ?	2
10. Name the tools used in the work of cutting.	1
11. Why is the saw used ?	1
12. What is used to carry the ice away ?	1
13. To which part of the hillside is it taken ?	1
14. Where is the ice stored ?	2
15. How do they keep the air out ?	1
16. When do they use hay ?	1
17. When do they make use of the stored ice ?	1
18. What two plants are the first to show that spring has come ?	1
19. Tell how they do it.	2
20. What makes the hill-sides gay in April ?	1
21. What happens if these appear before the grass begins to grow ?	2
22. Say what work begins in May.	1
23. Where have the trees grown ?	1
24. How are they taken to the town ?	1
25. Who cut down the trees ?	1
26. If the log-drive lasts too long what happens to the fish ?	2
27. The fisher obtains good sport in July and August. Explain this.	2

Total Marks.

35

57.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What time of day was it when the story opens ? | 1 |
| 2. Tell what may have awakened the sleeper. | 2 |
| 3. What news was he given by the person who knocked at his door ? | 1 |
| 4. Name three of the four things the sleeper did after waking. | 8 |
| 5. Tell how you know that he was not the only person on the street. | 1 |
| 6. In which direction were they all hurrying ? | 1 |
| 7. What tells us that the man was a better runner than some ? | 1 |
| 8. Why could he not see the wreck when he looked out to sea ? | 1 |
| 9. What tells us that the boatman who pointed out the wreck must have come out in a hurry ? | 1 |
| 10. Where was the wreck ? | 1 |
| 11. What was the ship like as it was tossed about on the angry waves ? | 2 |
| 12. As the bell on board was kept ringing by the motion of the ship what did the sound of it seem like ? | 1 |
| 13. How do we know the wind was off the sea ? | 1 |
| 14. As the ship rose after a great wave had struck her, what was noticed ? | 1 |
| 15. How did this affect the men on shore ? | 1 |
| 16. What did the women do ? | 1 |
| 17. For what were many of the people calling ? | 1 |
| 18. Why was this useless ? | 1 |
| 19. On looking towards the wreck what did some on shore notice ? | 2 |
| 20. Try to remember the words which seem to tell us that the sail gloried in what it had done. | 2 |
| 21. What did the man who was left have which made him easily picked out ? | 1 |
| 22. What did he do with it ? | 1 |
| 23. Why did this action make the man on shore feel sad ? | 1 |
| 24. Who tried to rescue the sailor ? | 1 |
| 25. When he got the rope tied to his body what helped him to get as near as possible to the wreck ? | 1 |
| 26. What phrase tells us that this man did his very utmost to reach the sailor ? | 1 |
| 27. Why was he prevented from reaching the wreck ?
Tell in your own words. | 2 |

Total Marks.

34

58.—QUESTIONS.

1. Name the three generals mentioned in the story.	1
2. By whom were the French defeated ?	1
3. What effect did the battle have on Europe ?	1
4. To which place did Napoleon retire ?	1
5. Where was it ?	1
6. Why did he stay here ?	2
7. Where had he thought of going ?	1
8. What prevented him ?	2
9. What caused him to surrender himself to the British ?	2
10. For what did he hope ?	1
11. How do we know his brother was not shut up in prison in England ?	1
12. What did the thought of his brother cause Napoleon to expect ?	2
13. Did he get it ? Give a reason for your answer.	2
14. Where was he sent ?	1
15. By whose command ?	1
16. Who went with him ?	1
17. Where is this island ?	1
18. How did Napoleon look on this treatment ?	1
19. Why ?	1
20. Say who had advised him to surrender to the British.	1
21. About how long did they take to reach St. Helena ?	1
22. Where was the house to which he was sent ?	1
23. What things are said of it ?	2
24. Can you name the words which say he was not happy even outside ?	2
25. Why would the British officer follow Napoleon on his rides ?	1
26. For the same reason what was done at night ?	1
27. Name other two circumstances that made Napoleon unhappy.	2
28. What caused his death ?	1

Total Marks.

36

59.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. In which season did the dormouse hunt take place ? | 1 |
| 2. What were the reasons for the hunt ? | 2 |
| 3. Why do you think they did not expect to find a dormouse ? | 1 |
| 4. What reason is given as to why the dormouse <i>might</i> be awake ? | 1 |
| 5. As the animal itself was not likely to be found what was searched for ? | 1 |
| 6. What does the nest look like ? | 1 |
| 7. Can you name the material of which the nests are made ? | 1 |
| 8. Where is it found ? | 1 |
| 9. Did their patient search bring any luck ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 10. Where had the dormouse made its nest ? | 1 |
| 11. What did the searchers do when they found the nest ? Two answers are wanted. | 2 |
| 12. Where did they find the animal ? | 1 |
| 13. What words might mean that it was dead ? | 1 |
| 14. How did they know that this was a young dormouse ? | 1 |
| 15. What change appears on the coat after the animal is older ? | 1 |
| 16. Tell in your own words why they were pleased with their find. | 2 |
| 17. Where did they put it for safety ? | 1 |
| 18. How do we know they were in a hurry to get home ? | 1 |
| 19. Where was the animal put when they got home ? | 2 |
| 20. What was this case ? | 1 |
| 21. Why did they not put the animal in a cage at once ? | 1 |
| 22. What was done so that the dormouse might get air ? | 1 |
| 23. What did the heat of the room do ? | 2 |
| 24. The ears appeared first. Now, tell in what order the various parts of the body came into view. | 4 |
| 25. Can you remember the word which tells that the eyes were not opened full just at once ? | 1 |
| 26. Do you know of any reason as to why it was an effort for the dormouse to open its eyes ? | 1 |
| 27. Which word shows the dormouse was not now so cold as it was at first ? | 1 |
| 28. What was the first thing it did as soon as it became fully awake ? | 2 |

Total Marks.

38

60.—QUESTIONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is it that makes elephants such useful allies of man ? | 2 |
| 2. What must be done if they are to be trained properly ? | 1 |
| 3. What was proved by Sir Samuel Baker on his farm in Ceylon ? | 2 |
| 4. As a farmer, what machine did he have in use ? | 1 |
| 5. It was a large one. How do we know ? | 1 |
| 6. Say for what it was used. | 1 |
| 7. Tell in your own words how the elephant that pulled this machine showed her great strength. | 2 |
| 8. After the turf was cut what implement was used ? | 1 |
| 9. Did the elephant pull it ? Give a reason for your answer. | 2 |
| 10. Name the implements that were put into use after the seed was sown, and say who dragged them. | 2 |
| 11. What did the use of all these at the one time do ? . | 2 |
| 12. When the farm work was done, to what other work was the elephant put ? | 1 |
| 13. What was used in this work ? | 1 |
| 14. Where were they procured ? | 1 |
| 15. What did she do before lifting these in her mouth ? | 2 |
| 16. Who gave the elephant instructions as to what was to be done ? | 1 |
| 17. To what use did she put her trunk ? | 1 |
| 18. What was done when those were taken to the stream ? | 1 |
| 19. How far had she to carry them ? | 1 |
| 20. Tell in your own words how she managed the heavy logs. | 2 |
| 21. Who had to be satisfied by the arrangement of these ? | 2 |
| 22. What is it that is required to make the elephant so useful ? | 1 |
| 23. Why would you say that it pays to teach this animal, more than any other, to be useful ? | 2 |
| 24. In what other occupations are tame elephants employed ? | 2 |
| 25. What do they show in the last of these ? | 2 |
| 26. What use do they make of their heads in it ? | 1 |

Total Marks.

38

PREFACE TO APPENDIX.

It is to be noted that the book has been compiled as a pupil's book, where answers to questions are expected to be written on a separate sheet. In the Appendix are given specimens of other methods of questioning that may be employed by the teacher on any of the passages already given in the book, either as oral or written tests.

In No. 61 the pupil is asked to supply the missing word in the *second* half of the passage, and is assisted in his efforts by having read the *first* part of the story. In No. 62 he is asked to supply the word without this preliminary help—an exercise a little more difficult than the first.

No. 63 provides a completed specimen of what may be called a “ Question and Answer ” sheet—a type where the pupil must write his answers on the *sheet* itself. The difficulty and expense of procuring sheets of this type, however, which can be used only once, may preclude the general use of a most valuable exercise, unless the blackboard is brought into use and the lesson taken orally.

In the specimen “ Question and Answer ” sheet, where the Answer is expected in words, the words in “ Small Capitals ” are those the pupil should write in order to form a correct answer. The other types of questions require no explanation.

R. H. M.

T. G. N.

A prime minister, who had displeased his master, an eastern king, was placed as a prisoner in the top storey of a very high tower. As escape seemed impossible from such a height, the base of the tower was left unguarded at night, and the iron bars of the top window had not been kept in good repair. In the silence of the night the prisoner heard the moans and sobs of his wife at the foot of the tower. He spoke cheerfully to her from above, and told her to come back again next night and bring with her a live black-beetle, a little sour butter, a skein of the finest silk, a ball of linen thread, a ball of string, and a coil of rope. She brought all these things with her next night, not at all knowing what use her husband was going to make of them. Speaking to her from the top of the tower, he said, "Tie one end of the silk thread round the beetle's body, touch its head with the butter, and place the insect on the wall with its head turned upwards directly towards this window."

Now it is the of a beetle to move straight in the of any strong scent. Smelling the rancid on its head, and thinking it came from a point above it, the beetle on, dragging the thread after till it reached the window. The then took hold of the end of the silk thread and let the go. "Now," said the prisoner to his below, "the end of the silk thread to one end of the thread." She did so. Having drawn up one of the linen thread, he told her to fasten the other end to one end of the Having drawn up one end of the string, he told her to the other end to one end of the rope. Having drawn up one end of the he it round one of the bars of the window, and having managed to remove another, which had become rusty and brittle, he let himself out through the, slid gently down the rope, and

QUESTIONS.

1. Who was imprisoned ?
 2. Tell why he was put in prison.
 3. Where was his prison ?
 4. Why was the base of the tower not guarded at night ?
 5. What guarded the top window ?
 6. How was it possible for the prisoner to hear his wife's sobs ?
 7. Where was she ?
 8. She was evidently unhappy. Was he ? Give a reason for your answer.
 9. When was she to return to the tower ?
 10. How many things had she to take there ?
 11. Was she aware of the use to which those things were to be put ? Give a reason for your answer.
 12. What was she to do with the silk thread ?
 13. Copy the words which show what was to be done with the butter.
 14. Write the word used instead of beetle.
 15. What particular instruction was given as to the position of the beetle ?
-

16. Read the second paragraph carefully, and write *one* word which might be put in each blank space to make good sense.
-

Now think.

17. What was the use of the butter ?
18. Why was a beetle chosen ?
19. Can you say why the *silk* thread was tied to the beetle ?
20. Why was the rope used last ?
21. Copy another word used instead of *sour*.
22. The husband gave instructions to his wife by word of mouth. Why does this seem almost impossible ?
23. What happens to iron bars after they have been exposed to the weather for a long time ?
24. Give the story a suitable title

After dinner they their labours, and commenced
clearing away a path to the ⁽¹⁾....., where the cows were
..... in, and before nightfall they had ⁽²⁾..... their
⁽³⁾....., as far as the bridge over the ⁽⁴⁾....., which was
⁽⁵⁾about half way. It had been a day of great fatigue, and
they were glad to to rest. Mrs. Campbell and the
girls had put an ⁽⁷⁾..... supply of blankets and skins
upon the beds, for the ⁽⁸⁾..... was now ⁽⁹⁾....., and the
⁽¹⁰⁾..... stood far below the freezing point.

⁽¹¹⁾The morning they their task; the
⁽¹²⁾..... was still unclouded, and the sun shone out ⁽¹³⁾.....
⁽¹⁴⁾and bright. By dinner-time the to the cow-house ⁽¹⁵⁾
had been ⁽¹⁶⁾....., and the men then employed ⁽¹⁷⁾..... in
carrying as much firewood as they ⁽¹⁸⁾..... before it was
⁽¹⁹⁾dark.

The of the week was away in practising
⁽²⁰⁾upon the snow-shoes by the ⁽²¹⁾..... of the party, the
women scarcely ever ⁽²²⁾..... out of doors, as the cold was
very severe. Mary and Emma were ⁽²³⁾..... by Alfred for
the first or four days; and after that, notwith-
⁽²⁴⁾standing that the of the wolves was heard every
night, they took ⁽²⁵⁾..... when they found that the
⁽²⁶⁾never made their by daylight, and they went, as
⁽²⁷⁾before to the cows by themselves. ⁽²⁸⁾
⁽²⁹⁾
⁽³⁰⁾

(Exercise.)

After reading this passage carefully try to supply *one*
suitable word for each blank space, in order to make sense.

‘Pulkas’ are built for fast travelling and have keels about two and a half inches thick. The higher these are the more difficult it is to learn how to balance one’s self, and consequently not to upset. All have on the forward part a strong leather ring, to which the trace is fastened. Each is drawn by one reindeer, and carries a single person. The harness generally consists of a collar around the neck, at the lower end of which a single strong twisted leather trace is fastened, to which the conveyance is attached. No bit is used, and the rein is made of strong plaited leather strips, and fastened to the base of the horns. The harnessing must always be done with very great care, for the reindeer is very easily scared, and often makes sudden springs at slight noises.

The rider seats himself, holding the rein twisted around the right hand. The line must not be held tightly, and the middle part should not quite touch the snow, for it is dangerous should the rein get under the sleigh. In this case the driver’s arms may become entangled, and he be dragged some distance before he can loosen the cord around his hands. If you want the reindeer to stop, the rein is thrown to the left; if you wish to go fast then to the right; as for myself I have never been able to make a deer go slow—they never walk unless very tired. You must be prepared to be upset a great many times before you learn to drive reindeer.

The most difficult and dangerous time is when descending steep hills, as the speed of the sleigh is greater than that of the reindeer. The Lapps sit astride with their knees bent, using their feet as rudder and drag. I used a short stick, the point of which I would force into the snow with all my might, this acting as a drag. When the hills and mountains are very steep the reindeer is tied behind the conveyance; it cannot bear to be pulled by the horns, and makes strong efforts to free itself, and in doing so greatly lessens the speed. It is also very difficult to learn how to balance one’s self so as to keep the equilibrium of the ‘pulka’ and to prevent upsetting; the greater the speed the more difficult is the task. For example, when a deer, after swiftly going down a hill, turns suddenly in a sharp curve, the rider must bend to the other side, or he will be overturned.

63.—QUESTION AND ANSWER PAPER.

1. Write another word for 'pulka.' SLED, or SLEDGE,
or SLEIGH. 1
2. On what kind of pulkas is it most difficult to balance
one's self? THE ONES WITH HIGH KEELS. 1
3. What use is made of the leather ring? THE TRACE
IS FASTENED ON TO IT. 1
4. How may people ride in a pulka? ONE. 1
5. Cross out *one* word that is not *true*. The harness
consists of a collar—trace—rein—bit. 1
6. Draw a line under the word that makes the following
sentence correct:—The rein is fastened to the
base of the seat—keel—horns—conveyance. 1
7. Say what is incorrect about the statement:—The
reins are made of strong plaited leather strips.^o
THERE IS ONLY ONE REIN. 1
8. Why must the reindeer be harnessed carefully?
THE REINDEER IS EASILY SCARED, AND OFTEN
MAKES SUDDEN SPRINGS AT SLIGHT NOISES. 2
9. Write one word in each space to make this sentence
correct:—The *rider* seats himself holding the rein
twisted around the right *hand*. 3
10. Name *two* precautions that the rider must take when
holding the rein. THE REIN MUST NOT BE HELD
TIGHTLY. THE MIDDLE PART SHOULD NOT QUITE
TOUCH THE SNOW. 2
11. Put a bracket round the word that tells over what
the pulka is being drawn—grass—ice—sand—
[snow]. 1
12. How does the rider stop his reindeer? HE THROWS
HIS REIN TO THE LEFT. 1
13. In the writer's experience the deer seldom runs—
gallops—walks ✓—trots. Put a check (✓) after
the right word. 1
14. Before being able to drive, what happens to
most learners? THEY ARE OFTEN UPSET. 1

15. When is the speed of the sleigh greater than that of the reindeer? WHEN DESCENDING STEEP HILLS. 1
16. For what purposes do the Lapps use their feet? As A RUDDER AND AS A DRAG OR BRAKE. 2
17. Say what the writer used for *one* of these purposes. A SHORT STICK. 1
18. Write the correct word on each dotted line. The *reindeer* cannot bear to be *pulled* by the *horns*. 3
19. When is the animal tied behind the conveyance? WHEN THE HILLS OR MOUNTAINS ARE VERY STEEP. 1
20. Say what you think "equilibrium" means. (Mark according to answer given). 2
21. If the reindeer turns sharply round a curve after going downhill what must the rider do? HE MUST BEND TO THE OTHER SIDE. 1
22. Why must he do this? TO PREVENT BEING UPSET OR OVERTURNED. . 1

Total Marks.

30

