

PROSE

EXAM
DRILL

SOLUTIONS

Chapter 1 : The Portrait of a Lady

1. (i) (b) When they moved to the city.
(ii) (c) They still shared a room with each other.
(iii) It refers to the point in time when situations change because of the circumstances.

2. (i) Narrator's family
(ii) (b) Because grandmother was no more there to feed the birds.
(iii) (c) Alliteration

3. The last sign of physical contact between the author and his grandmother was when she kissed narrator's forehead as he was going abroad for five years for higher studies. That kiss seemed to the author as the last sign of physical contact between them because his grandmother was an old lady and in her age, she might not be able to survive for five years.

4. The author's grandmother had died peacefully. The author's family was mourning her death, and at the same time thousands of sparrows came and sat in the verandah next to her body. There was no chirping or any noise caused by them as usual. They were silent. When the narrator's mother threw some bread crumbs to them, they did not notice it. When her body was carried off, they flew away quietly. This is how the birds mourned the death of the grandmother.

5. After five years, when the author returned home, his grandmother was there to receive him at the station. When they reached home, she gathered all the ladies of the neighbourhood. She endlessly sang songs about the homecoming of warriors. That was the first time since the author had known her, that she did not pray.

6. Khushwant Singh draws a very heart-warming pen-portrait of his grandmother whom he loved and admired. According to him, she was not pretty but always beautiful. She was always telling the beads of her rosary while her lips were moving in an inaudible prayer. The author described her as a winter landscape, breathing peace and contentment.

The author shared a beautiful bond with his grandmother. When they were in the village she used to wake him up, bathe and dress him, make him breakfast and escort him to the school. On their

way back home she used to feed stale chapattis to the village stray dogs and during her stay in the city, she took to feeding the sparrows, which shows that she was a kind-hearted lady.

The author remembers the memories of his grandmother when he went abroad for higher studies and how on his return, his grandmother came to receive him at the station. When they reached home, she gathered all the ladies of the neighbourhood and sang songs of the homecoming warriors on an old dilapidated drum. This was the first time she missed her prayers. The author, through the portrayal of his grandmother, makes the old lady endearing and unforgettable.

7. Old age is the most sensitive phase of a person's life. It definitely needs more attention and care. It is said that old people are just like kids. In this age, old people become more sensitive and their emotions get heightened. They feel all the emotions more intensely and they get physically weak and are mostly dependent on their family members, because they are unable to do most of the daily work on their own.

This is the time when they need full support from their family members. They need someone to be there to look after them with whom they could share everything. But sometimes, it is the loneliness that kills them emotionally. It makes them accept this phase of life silently.

In "The Portrait of a Lady", the author's grandmother was also going through the same phase. She was happy when he was living with her in the village and at that time they were very close to each other.

After few years, when they moved to the city with the author's parents they started seeing less of each other. But the old lady accepted this without any objection. She accepted her loneliness peacefully.

This shows that the old age people need proper love, care and attention from their loved ones. They are emotionally unstable at this phase and need someone to be there with them.

Chapter 2 : We're Not Afraid to Die....
if We Can All Be Together

1. (i) (b) This was his last hope.
(ii) The narrator was tired of braving the storm and taking care of the ship during the storm.
(iii) (c) Their sail was damaged.

2. (i) The first leg of their journey was pleasant.
 (ii) (a) West coast of Africa to Cape Town
 (iii) (c) Indian Ocean
3. She hurt herself on the head and got a deep cut on her arm. She got hurt when the enormous wave hit the ship. She did not get scared of the injuries and kept a strong face during the disaster. She initially did not tell her parents about the cut on her arm as she didn't want to worry them. Later she even made a card to cheer her father up.
4. The narrator saw a torrent of green and white water break over the ship. His head smashed into the wheel, he flew overboard and sank below the waves. He was losing consciousness and thought he was dying. He accepted his approaching death. He was feeling quite peaceful, probably because he was losing his consciousness.
5. The first leg of their planned three-year 105,000 kilometre journey passed pleasantly. They sailed down the west coast of Africa to Cape Town. They even hired two crewmen. On their second day out of Cape Town, they encountered strong gales which blew continuously for the next few weeks. The author was worried about the size of the waves, they were up to 15 metres, as high as their main mast.
6. The narrator was a 37-year old businessman, who had dreamt of sailing in the wake of the famous explorer Captain James Cook and duplicate the round-the-world voyage. He was dedicated to his dream and spent time honing his seafaring skills. He proved as a great captain and father during the challenging and trying times after the irreparable damage done to their ship. He did not lose composure when a huge wave hit his ship and he almost died. He accepted his fate peacefully. But as soon as he discovered he had survived, he went to his children's cabin to check on them. He used his skills to repair his ship as much as he can and calculated the route to a small island without proper equipment. He continuously comforted his children and was determined to find a safe spot out of the storm for them. After reaching the island, he was thankful to the crewmen Larry and Herb and his family.
7. The story 'We're not afraid to Die...' demonstrates that determination and courage can help us face any adversity. The story beautifully describes the courage of people on the ship 'Wavewalker' in the face of a terrible storm. The narrator, who is also the captain of the ship, keeps calm in trying times and uses his intelligence to calculate a survival plan. The crewman

Larry and Herb both showed determination to get through the adversity. They pumped the water out of the ship like madmen. Mary and the children also played their part in surviving through the storm. Mary took turns with the narrator on the wheel and provided meal out of whatever she could find. The children were surprisingly courageous during the disaster. Both underplayed their own injuries and fears. Sue did not inform her parents about her injuries as she did not want to stress them. Jonathan was not afraid to die if he and his family were together. The narrator was determined to get through the storm and find land for his children. Everybody held on and survived the disaster with the help of their determination and courage.

8. The reaction of the children and the crew members gives us an insight into the human mind. The crew showed us amazing fighting spirit and optimism during the disaster. They did not lose hope when the huge wave hit the ship and water filled in. They started pumping the water out promptly. They were quick to respond and kept their calm. They worked all night and got the water level sufficiently under control.

The children showed amazing maturity and resilience during the disaster. Sue underplayed her injury and did not tell her parents about it so as to not stress them. She also made a card to cheer her father up. Jonathan was very brave and mature during the storm. He told the narrator that he was not afraid to die if the family could all be together. After reaching Ile Amsterdam, both of them thanked their father and called him the best captain. They knew their father had tried hard and they were thankful towards him.

Chapter 3 : Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues

1. (i) (c) It had a gilded face
 (ii) (a) These were murals painted on the walls
 (iii) Carter
2. (i) Egyptian Mummy Project
 (ii) (b) Scanning the mummies in a CT machine
 (iii) (c) 1,700
3. When King Tut's mummy was taken from his resting place in the ancient Egypt cemetery known as the Valley of Kings, an angry wind stirred up ghostly in the desert. Dark-bellied clouds that has scudded across the desert sky all day, now veiled the stars in grey. It was as though nature was furious for moving King Tut. Later when the CT scans were done and King Tut's mummy was laid to rest, all was well in nature too. The wind has stopped, the winter air lay cold and still, like death itself.

4. In the late sixties, archaeology had changed its approach by focusing more on fascinating details of life and intriguing mysteries of death. It also used more sophisticated tools. In 1968 an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and revealed a startling fact beneath the resin that caked King Tut's chest, his breast bone and front ribs were missing.

5. King Tut's death was big event because he was the last of his family's line and his funeral was the death rattle of a dynasty. It was a big event as the particulars of his passing away and its aftermath were unclear. In his reigning years, he was a revolutionary ruler and his sudden death was a significant event.

6. King Tut died unexpectedly in his teens. His death is a mystery many archaeologists want to solve. Since archaeology in modern days has started using more sophisticated tools and machines, a CT scan of Tut's mummy was done. It was carried out on the evening of 5th January 2005 under the supervision of Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. King Tut's mummy was brought in a trailer equipped with a portable CT machine and the scan was done. The CT machine scanned the mummy head to toe, creating 1,700 digital X-ray images in cross sections. The scan produced astonishing image of Tut's head, neck vertebrae, hand, rib cage, etc.

7. Archaeologists and historians have been fascinated by King Tut's life and death. Ever since the discovery of Tut's mummy in 1920s, it has sparked human curiosity. As a king, Tut was buried with precious artefacts and things of regular use as per the funerary practices of the time. Although it is true that studying these artefacts and the mummies give us a valuable insight into the ancient civilisation, it also disrespects and defiles the dead. After the discovery, Tut's mummy was severed into pieces to remove the gold adornments instead of letting the mummy be. These sites of relics are now turned into tourist spots which further disrespects the dead.

Chapter 4 : The Adventure

1. (i) Prof. Gaitonde was surprised because there was no chairperson.

(ii) (b) They were sick of them.

(iii) (d) He was confident in handling the crowd.

2. (i) (c) That he made a transition from one world to another and back again.

(ii) (a) That they offer radically different alternative.

(iii) One

3. Prof. Gaitonde was reading history books in the other reality to know more about that world. He discovered that the Marathas

had won the battle of Panipat and Abdali was chased back to Kabul. The Marathas were then able to establish their supremacy in northern India which later expanded to all over India. The East India Company had to give up on its plan of expansion and was reduced to pocket of influence near Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

4. The vital piece of evidence was a page torn out of a book. The page was from Bhausahebanchi Bakhar which gave the account of Vishwasrao escaping the bullet and surviving to win the Battle of Panipat. This account was a vital evidence as Vishwasrao was shot dead in the real world. To have a written account of the Different reality proved that Prof. Gaitonde had experienced a different reality.

5. In the twentieth century India had moved towards a democracy. By then, the Peshwas had lost their enterprise and they were being gradually replaced by democratically elected bodies. The Peshwas were not able to keep up with the changing times in the 20th century.

6. Professor Gaitonde and Khan Sahib were going to Bombay by Jijamata Express. Both had different purpose of going to Bombay. Khan Sahib was going to Peshawar. He was to go to Delhi then to Lahore and then Peshawar. Whereas Professor Gaitonde had gone to Bombay to meet his son who worked there. He finds himself in this parallel reality and is unable to figure out why. He is also curious about how things work in this world. Khan Sahib informs him that there is British Raj in Bombay. He tells him further about his business and that was fascinating for the Professor. It also gave him some insight about this other reality. Khan Sahib was going to Peshawar via Delhi as there had been no partition of India in this reality. Prof. Gaitonde had also planned to go to a big library in Bombay and browse through history books to figure out how the present state of affairs was reached.

7. Prof. Gaitonde was taking a stroll towards Azad Maidan after having a frugal meal in the parallel world. He spotted people moving towards a pandal and concluded that a lecture was about to take place. When he reached the pandal, he saw a lecture was already taking place but people kept coming and going. He then spotted that the presiding chair was empty. Since he had presided over 999 lecture in the real world, he could not bear to see the presiding chair empty and moved towards the chair and occupied it. The speaker was shocked at this and stopped mid-sentence. The audience demanded him to vacate the chair at once. They expressed their dissent but the Professor kept advocating for the need to preside the chair. The audience then threw tomatoes, eggs & other things but the professor was undeterred. He was behaving so out of habit and because he truly believed in the need for a presiding dignitary in a lecture up till the point.

Chapter 5 : Silk Road

1. (i) The author
(ii) (a) Darchen's cold weather
(iii) (b) Tibetan doctor
2. (i) They were washing their hair.
(ii) (a) Products of basic need
(iii) (c) Absence of pilgrims
3. The author, Nick Middleton, started from Ravu early in the morning. He started on his journey in a car which was being driven by Tsetan. He took a short cut to take the author almost directly towards Kailash. This short cut took them across vast open plains with nothing except a few gazelles in them. Stony plains followed these arid pastures. There, the author saw herds of wild asses which Tsetan called kyang.
4. These salt flats are the remains of the Tethys ocean, which bordered Tibet before the great continental collision that lifted the whole Tibetan plateau skyward millions of years ago.
5. As the author started his journey from Ravu to his pilgrimage to Mount Kailash, a woman named Lhamo gave him a farewell present. It was a long sleeved sheep skin coat that was normally worn by shepherds.
6. The narrator, in his travelogue, Silk Road finds it refreshing to

traverse such vast tracts of the natural world that remain largely untamed. He gives a graphic detail of the mountain terrain, the snow covered mountains. When the author was on the way of Mount Kailash, he could see snow-capped mountains gathering on the horizon. Then they entered a valley where the river was wide and mostly clogged with ice, brilliant white and glinting in the sunshine. The narrator became fascinated to see the beauty of snow. But on the other hand, snow has become dangerous for their journey as they had to move away from the icy river, labouring through steeper slopes. Beneath the rocks, hunks of snow clung on in the near-permanent shade. A swathe of the white stuff was laid across the track, stretching for maybe fifteen metres. The snow continued on either side of the track. Smoothing the abrupt bank on the upslope side. The snow didn't look too deep to the author, but the danger wasn't its depth, but so much of its icy top layer. If they flipped off, the car could turn over. Hence, he could say snow is beautiful as well as dangerous.

7. Tibetan mastiffs were huge black dogs also used as watchdogs. These shaggy monsters, blacker than the darkest night, usually wore bright red collars and barked furiously with massive jaws. These mastiffs were popular in China's imperial courts as hunting dogs. They were brought along the Silk Road in ancient times as payment of tax from Tibet. They exploded into action like bullets when roused. They were furious and fearless.

POETRY

EXAM
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SOLUTIONS

Chapter 1 : A PHOTOGRAPH

1. (i) Twelve years back
(ii) (a) She is saddened by her grief and is not able to say anything.
(iii) (d) Alliteration

2. In the line, "The sea holiday was her past, mine is her laughter", two parallels are being drawn. The first line is about the mother's recollection of her childhood days and the second line is the poet's recollection of her mother's smiling face. Both the parallel recollection are about the past, a sense of loss and the passing of time. Time is the only thing that seems to be a constant feature of their changing lives.

3. Shirley, as she is looking at her mother's photograph, is filled with grief and a sense of loss. She is reminded of her mother who is no more. She mentions about it indirectly in the poetic lines. And the photograph has made her speechless and silent.

4. In the poem "A Photograph" several poetic devices are used. The poem has three stanzas with no particular rhyming scheme. In the very beginning of the poem, an allusion is used. An allusion is a poetic literary device that is used to refer or to incidentally mention something directly or indirectly. Here, 'cardboard' is an indirect reference to a photograph attached to the cardboard. There are several alliterative phrases used in the poem. Some of them are 'stood still to smile', 'terribly transient feet', 'It's silence silences' etc.,. They give the rhythmic effect in the poem. In the phrase, 'transient' feet, the word i.e., the epithet 'transient' is used to describe feet and imply that the lack of permanence of human life. The oxymoron is also used in the line 'With the laboured ease of loss'. Both 'laboured' and 'ease' are opposites. Laboured means with 'great difficulties' and 'ease' means 'comfortable'. But these two words are used together. All these poetic devices enhance the meaning of the poem.

Chapter 2 : The Laburnum Top

1. (i) Goldfinch
(ii) (a) The flapping movement caused by the birds.
(iii) (b) Alliteration
2. An engine is the source of running the machine. The bird is compared to the engine as she is the feeder of her family. As

a machine cannot work without an engine, her family can't last without her.

3. The Laburnum tree top is silent and still in the afternoon of September sunlight. When the goldfinch arrives at the tree her young ones start chirping. This is followed by all the goldfinches chirruping loudly and the whole place is filled with music. Chittering and trilling is heard everywhere because of the goldfinches.

4. In the afternoon of September sunlight, the laburnum top appears silent and quite still. A few leaves of the tree are turning yellow. All the seeds of the tree have fallen. When the goldfinch starts chirruping loudly, the scene becomes musical. Chittering and trilling is heard all around. The whole tree seems to be trembling because the tree has become a live engine of great power.

5. 'The Laburnum Top' is a poem about the Laburnum Tree that symbolises nature. It is also about the goldfinches that come to the tree and feed its young ones.

It is a bright autumn afternoon. The tree is silent and still and its leaves have fallen down. The goldfinch arrives to the tree making high-pitched sounds. The goldfinch has her nest in the tree so she comes to feed her young ones and the tree is filled with the chirping voices of the birds. The poet compares the goldfinch to a lizard, because of its alert, abrupt and sleek movements. After feeding the young finches the bird flies to one end of the tree branch and she remains concealed behind the yellow flowers and leaves. Here, nature plays an important role in setting the mood of the poem. Nature enlivens the whole atmosphere and makes life worth-living.

Chapter 3 : The Voice of the Rain

1. (i) (c) To remove drought, atomies and dust
(ii) Seeds
(iii) (a) To wash away famines
2. The rain descends on the hot, dry earth. All the dust that has accumulated on the Earth gets washed away. The nature acquires a new fresh look. The seeds that are lying latent still, germinate with the help of rain and new trees and plants start growing.

3. The poet Walt Whitman compares the process of formation of rain to the process of formation of song. He observes that just as the song travels through its singers to reach others, the rain that originates from Earth after spreading its beauty and relief, returns to its origin. So, the sound of rain is itself a poem/song.

4. Rain makes a place beautiful by giving life to the dormant seeds and enabling them to grow. It also removes the dust accommodated on earth and wipes away drought and hunger. The music travels from a singer, wanders and returns to the singer with all the love. Thus the beauty and love of both the nature and the song make the places of their birth more beautiful.

5. In 'The Voice of the Rain' Walt Whitman emphasizes the importance of rain. The poem begins as a conversation between the rain and the poet. The poet enquires the rain about its identity. The rain replies by saying "I am the poem of Earth". It continues to talk about its role in nature and its significance in all natural process like plant germination and growth. It explains how it originates on Earth and travels back to Earth in the form of rain after evaporation and condensation and when it rains, the seeds germinate and become saplings. The nature gets a new lease of life with rain. The poet compares it to a song. Rain maintains a harmonious relationship with nature and sustains life on earth. So, rain is important in maintaining balance in the ecosystem.

Chapter 4 : Childhood

1. (i) (c) In an infant's face
- (ii) abba
- (iii) (b) Personification

2. The main theme of the poem is about childhood. It centers around the question of lost childhood. The poet is wondering about his first step to maturity or loss of childhood when one is able to think logically and rationally.

3. The poet is wondering about when he transitioned from being a child to being an adult. He becomes nostalgic about his childhood. He feels that it is an innocent period during which one is not able to distinguish between truth and imagination. He is suffering from a sense of loss in losing his childhood because it will never come back again.

4. In the poem "Childhood" several poetic devices are used. The poem has four stanzas opening with the same sentence. The sentence "When did my childhood go?" is a rhetorical device employed in the beginning of the four stanzas. Similarly, the concluding line "Was that the day!" is used in the ending of three stanzas. Throughout the poem alliteration is used. A number of

words having the same first consonant sounds occur close together in a series. Some of them are 'Hell and Heaven' 'that the day', 'my mind', 'whichever way', etc., They provide rhythmic effect to the entire poem. There is a formulaic method used in the poem. The first line is a question and the rest of the stanza is an answer built around it and concludes with a concluding line. Several contrasting ideas/images are built into the poem such as Hell and Heaven, childhood and adulthood, innocence and experience, etc. The poem also uses enjambment and the lines in the poem move from one line to another without any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop. For example., "Was it the time I realised that adults were not/all they seemed to be,".

Chapter 5 : Father to Son

1. (i) (d) Both of them want to rebuild their relationship.
- (ii) (a) They want to forgive each other.
- (iii) The son
2. The father feels anguished and helpless at his situation because the relationship between him and his son is non-functional. The father-son don't understand each other. The father is sad that he has never been able to understand his son from his point-of-view. His son has distanced himself away from him.
3. The father is unhappy with his son because he is not able to understand him. They do not communicate with each other and behave like strangers. He doesn't want his son to create and live in a world of his own. He is willing to forgive his son and restart their relationship.
4. Prodigal means wastefully extravagant. This is a reference to the story in the Bible in which a father gives inheritance to his sons but the younger brother leaves home, spends his fortune and returns back to his father's home. The father is ready to forgive him and take him back so that they can live together peacefully again.
5. The poem 'Father to Son' deals with the question of generation gap. Generation gap is an emotional and psychological gap between parents and children. It creates misunderstanding and distance between older people and the younger people. In a fast-paced society such as ours, parents or elders do not have much time to spend with the youngsters. Parenting is crucial to resolving issues related to generational differences. The key is to not avoid or ignore these differences but to embrace and understand these differences. They should approach these differences with an open mind so that they can guide them effectively. Parents should keep themselves informed about the new advancements and trends in society. Staying up-to-date is one way to cope with generation gap. Being accommodative of difference of opinion is important as well. One can try to reason and understand any changes in behaviour.

Supplementary Reader

EXAM
DRILL

SOLUTIONS

Chapter 1 : The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

1. (i) Aram
(ii) (c) He was delighted about the horse but also scared about it being stolen.
(iii) The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse by William Saroyan.
(iv) (c) Mourad
2. (i) Uncle Khosrove.
(ii) (d) Because both had crazy streaks.
(iii) (d) unpredictable
(iv) Zorab is the narrator's uncle.
3. The Garoghlanian tribe are people who prided themselves of their honesty. Upholding certain specific morals, they do not go astray from them. Even though they are poor, they stayed true to their beliefs and did not let anything hinder them from being morally just. Despite adversities and poverty, they chose goodness over evil.
4. According to the narrator, stealing a horse for a ride was something different from stealing money. If you were crazy about horses, it was not stealing at all. It would amount to stealing only if you intended to sell the horses.
5. Cousin Mourad had a crazy streak. He was quite crazy about horses. He kept the stolen white horse for about six weeks, rode it, loved it, fed it well and hid it in a deserted yard. When he sang in the open countryside, it seemed as if he were roaring.
6. The boys Aram and his cousin Mourad had acquired a white horse and were ecstatic about it. At the same time, they know deep in their hearts that they are not thieves and that they cannot just ignore their family's age old tradition of being honest. Being of the famed Garoghlanian tribe, they felt it was also part of their duty to uphold the moral duty of honesty despite any circumstance. So, the white horse may have given them their desired wish, but they know it wasn't theirs to keep.
Amidst their conflicting conscience, their encounter with the white horse's owner, farmer John Byro, led them to come to the conclusion of what to do with the horse. John Byro's revelation that the horse is the twin of his horse' and that the family's

honesty is well known to him helped seal the deal. The boys decided to let go of their own happiness and instead maintain their family's reputation. Therefore, we can conclude that the boys had contemplated about doing the right thing, their encounter with John Byro helped them decide to return the horse to its owner.

7. Before the narrator had met or seen the horse, Mourad had already had the white horse with him for a month. During those days, he had trained it and learnt how to control it. At the same time, the horse had also learned how to be with Mourad and both had developed an understanding of each other. So, when Aram first saw the horse, Mourad had already 'tamed' the horse. This enabled Mourad to ride the horse easily while Aram had difficulty dealing with it. Mourad's sensitive, tender and affectionate behaviour towards the white horse enabled the two to bond, which Aram didn't have. Mourad's patience in dealing with the horse resulted in it being better tempered and stronger than ever, of which the owner John Byro was surprised about.

Chapter 2 : The Address

1. (i) The narrator did not go further because she did not want to upset herself. She had memories attached to that part of the town from before war.
(ii) (c) It was the narrator's memory about Mrs. Dorling,
(iii) (a) She had a broad back.
(iv) to escort someone to the door when they are leaving.
2. (i) The narrator had remembered Mrs. Dorling's address.
(ii) The narrator was afraid of confronting the things her mother had possessed because her memories were attached with those things.
(iii) (c) Because they were taken away by Mrs. Dorling.
(iv) (b) Marga Minco
3. The narrator has gone to Number 46, Marconi street to see Mrs. Dorling. Mrs. Dorling's daughter invited her in and asked her to sit in the living room. The living room was filled with the narrator's mother's belongings, but was displayed tastelessly. Seeing the belongings there, made her feel she knew the room but their tasteless display made her feel she did not know the place.

4. Mrs. Dorling had suggested to the narrator's mother at the beginning of the war that she could keep the narrator's mother's belongings safely for her. When the narrator came to see Mrs. Dorling, she knew that the narrator had come to collect those items. She did not want to give them back and hence refused to recognise the narrator.

5. Since the narrator had come to see Mrs. Dorling, she sensed that the narrator had come to collect her mother's belongings and take them back with her. Mrs. Dorling did not want to give them back. She was cautious of opening the door and letting the narrator have a look of the inside of the house in case the narrator spots any of her mother's items in there. That's why Mrs. Dorling did not open the door fully and even refused to recognise the narrator.

6. When the narrator first visited 46, Marconi street, she was not sure she was at the right address. She was not recognised at first by Mrs. Dorling and kept standing at the step outside. She was made to feel unwelcomed. Mrs. Dorling asked her to come another day and stated she couldn't help her. Mrs. Dorling seemed displeased by the narrator's visit, she seemed reluctant to let the narrator see inside the house and did not open the door wide. Mrs. Dorling gives the impression of a selfish woman. She clearly recognised the narrator and her mother from her name but did not want to admit it. She gives the impression of someone who is hiding something.

7. Mrs. S, the narrator's mother, had a lot of things as her belongings. Her home used to be filled with silverwares, Antique plates, large vases and other crockeries. When the narrator has visited her home, she immediately realised that there were various things missing. Such was the collection that Mrs. S had pre-war. The narrator even mentioned that Mrs Dorling had trouble lugging off these items in a full suitcase or bag. All these show that Mrs S was evidently living well as she had lots of belongings.

On the other hand, the narrator lived in a small rented room where the shreds of black-out paper still hung along the windows with no more than a handful of cutlery that can fit in the narrow table drawer.

Chapter 3 : Mother's Day

1. (i) Mrs. Pearson was smoking when Doris came home.
 (ii) (a) Because she thought that her mother did not smoke.
 (iii) (c) Because she was going to meet her boyfriend.
 (iv) Mrs. Pearson was behaving unapologetic & smoking as she wishes.

2. (i) (b) That she doesn't like mending things.
 (ii) Cyril's behaviour at home is ignorant as he does not do what he does not want to do.

(iii) They get the Union to bar it.

(iv) (c) That there are changes happening in the house.

3. When Mrs Pearson's son, Cyril, comes home, she tells him, "I've joined the movement". She says so in response to her son asking about his tea & clothes. Mrs Pearson had not made him tea nor mended his clothes. She wanted to let him know that things are changing in the house and he cannot order her around anymore. She tells about joining the movement as a reference to how the workers stir up a movement at his work place if they don't like something and get it banned. She is suggesting that she is doing a similar movement and getting the family to stop the disrespectful behaviour towards her.

4. George Pearson is laughed at, at the club. Mrs Pearson informs him that he is one of the standing jokes of the club members. They call him 'Pompy – Ompy Pearson' because they think he is slow and pompous. His wife thinks the club members might stop laughing at him if he did not go to the club so often.

5. Mrs Fitzgerald advised Mrs Pearson to not go soft on her family after they changed back personalities. She reminds her that any apologies or explanations will reverse the work she has done by giving Mrs Pearson's family a rough treatment. She also suggests to give them a look or tone every now and then to suggest that Mrs Pearson would go tough on them again. Mrs. Fitzgerald reminds Mrs Pearson to have a firm hand, one last time before leaving her house.

6. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs Pearson change personalities with one another with the help of Mrs. Fitzgerald's magic trick. They do this because Mrs Pearson feels her family takes her for granted and doesn't respect her or her wishes. She finds herself at a deadlock and doesn't know how to change her situation at home. Mrs Fitzgerald, after changing personalities, gives Mrs Pearson's family a rough treatment to get them to respect her. After doing so, they change back into their original personalities. In the end Mrs. Fitzgerald warns Mrs. Pearson that she should not be soft with her family now. Mrs. Fitzgerald tells her that if she apologised or explained anything to her family now, she might get back to square one. She also suggests that Mrs Pearson should use a firm hand with her family every now and then to retain the effect of rough treatment that day.

7. Mrs Annie Pearson and Mrs Fitzgerald have contrasting personalities. Mrs Pearson is pleasant but a worried looking woman in her forties, whereas Mrs Fitzgerald is older, heavier and a strong and sinister personality. Mrs Pearson is taken for granted by her family. She works all day to meet her family's demands and is not well respected by them. Mrs Fitzgerald, on the other hand, is a fortune-teller and knows some magic tricks

as well. She plays card, smokes and drinks as she wishes. Mrs Pearson has a light, flurried sort of tone, with a touch of suburban cockney when she talks. Mrs Fitzgerald has a deep voice, which is rather Irish in tone. Mrs Pearson knows that her family treats her wrong but doesn't know how to bring this up with them. Whereas, Mrs Fitzgerald is a bold woman, she does not hesitate in proposing a personality switch and gives the family a rough time as Mrs Pearson. She knows how to stand up for herself and others.

Chapter 4 : Birth

1. (i) He was horrified.
(ii) (a) To save the mother or to resuscitate the child
(iii) (c) She was almost pulseless
(iv) He solved it instinctively.
2. (i) (a) She was hesitant.
(ii) (b) He dipped the baby into the water alternately.
(iii) No it did not work.
(iv) For at least fifteen minutes.
3. Andrew Manson was asked by Joe Morgan to help with his wife's delivery. After the baby was born he was found lifeless. Andrew exerted a lot of effort in bringing the baby back to life. By the time the baby gave its first cry Andrew was very tired and exhausted. He quickly took his jacket and went out of the house. He told the nurse that he will fetch his bag later as he was overcome by a sense of joy and achievement as he had done something unusual.
4. When the child gave a convulsive heave after Andrew crushed and released its little chest, Andrew turned giddy at the first sign of life in the baby. He was exerting a lot of effort in bringing the child back to life for quite sometime by then and the heave of baby almost made him faint.
5. The room lay in a shuddering litter : blankets, towels, basins, soiled instruments, the hypodermic syringe impaled by its point in the linoleum, the ewer knocked over, the kettle on its side in a puddle of water. The room was a mess in contrast to the clean state when Andrew had first come in to check on the mother.
6. Joe Morgan had been waiting for Andrew for about an hour. He was relieved to finally see Andrew because his wife had gone into labour before time and Joe wanted Andrew to deliver the baby. Andrew correctly justifies Joe's hope as he put all his effort in keeping both the mother and the child safe. Joe's wife was almost pulseless after delivering the baby. Andrew quickly gave her medicine to restore back her heartbeat. The child was born lifeless. Andrew had exerted a lot of effort in resuscitation of the

child as well. He tried a method he read in a medical journal, when it failed he tried rubbing the child with a rough towel. After that failed as well, he tried crushing and releasing the child's chest to pump some air into it and it finally worked. He justified Joe's hope in him as he did not give up in dire circumstances.

7. When Andrew asked the midwife where the child was, she made a frightened gesture under the bed of the mother. She had put the baby under the bed in some newspapers thinking that the baby is stillborn. Andrew quickly took the baby out and asked for hot and cold water and basins. He had diagnosed asphyxia pallida. He tried a method he had read in a medical journal to dip the baby in hot and cold water alternately. When that did not work even after doing so for 15 minutes, he switched to rubbing the baby with a rough towel. Then he tried to pump air into its lungs by crushing and releasing its little chest. At last the baby heaved and Andrew doubled his effort and the baby gave its first cry.

Chapter 5 : The Tale of Melon City

1. (i) "He" refers to the idiot who passed the city gate.
(ii) They carried the melon to the throne as the idiot decided that the melon would be the next king.
(iii) (a) It was customary choice.
(iv) (d) Disapprove
2. (i) (a) The king
(ii) (b) The dignity of the crown was saved.
(iii) The king was hanged for the low arch in an ironic turn of events.
(iv) The figure of speech used is irony.
3. The selection process of the new king tells us that the ministers were a bunch of fools. They were not concerned about having well governed state. They only wanted someone occupying the position of the ruler of the state. They let the important decision of choosing the new ruler be decided by anyone who passed the city gate next. They seem to rely on luck in governing the state.
4. After the whole debate with the arch and the hanging of the king, the ministers decided that whoever passed through the city gate next would decide who would be the next king. And the person who happened to come through was an idiot who could think of only melons, loved melons and replied 'melons' to all questions asked. So, when the ministers asked him who they should crown as the new king, the idiot said 'a melon'. Obeying the man, the people took a melon, crowned it king and set it down on the throne. Thus, the melon became the new king of the city.
5. There seemed to be the custom of 'laissez faire' in the state in the poem. It means leaving things to take their own course. We

can see it in action when the king decides to hang anyone who fits the noose and in the end is hanged himself. No one objected his hanging. The people were okay with their king being hanged, as long as there was a hanging. Further, we see the selection of the next king is left to fate. The ministers decide whoever passes the city gate next should decide the next king. And thus, a melon becomes the next king. The citizens are unfazed by this and accepted it wholeheartedly. It fits well to their custom of *laissez faire*.

6. The king asked to build an arch to motivate onlookers but the arch was built too low and it knocked the king's crown on the inauguration day. As the events unfolded, the king was hanged

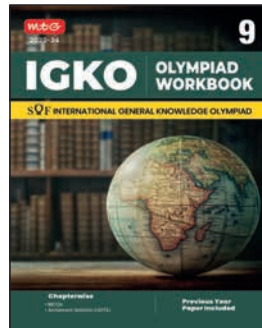
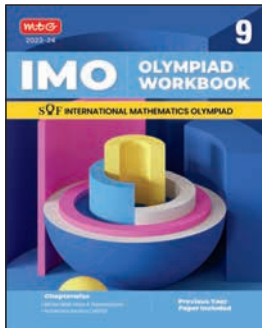
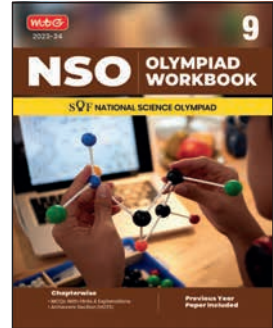
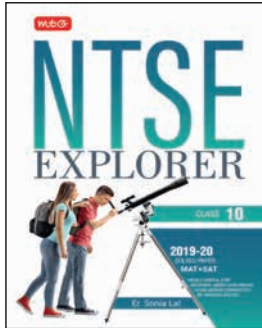
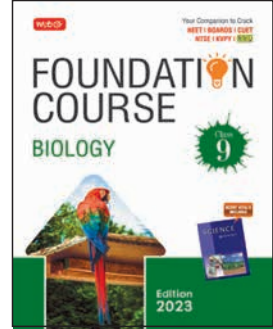
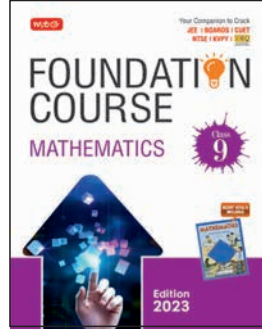
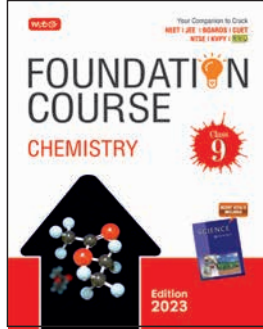
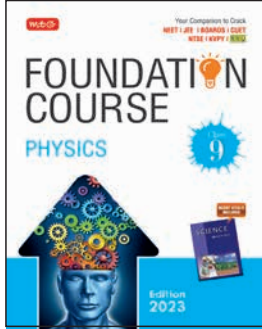
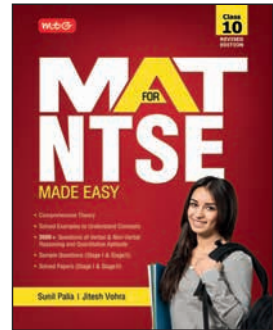
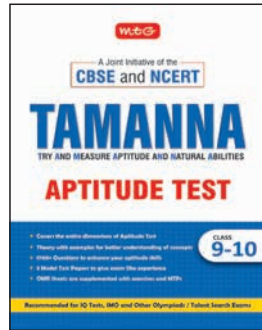
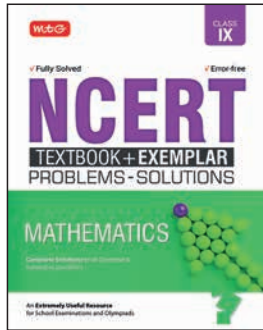
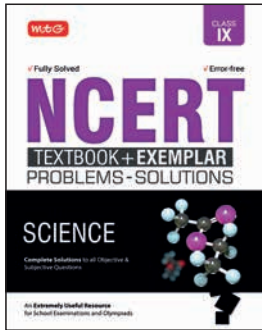
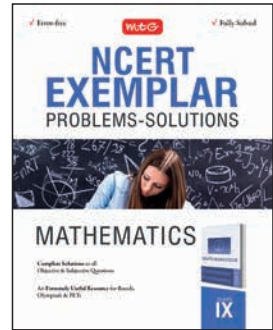
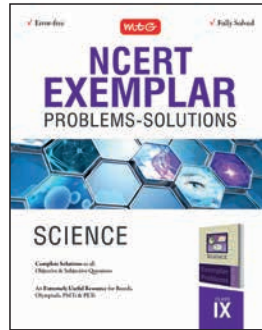
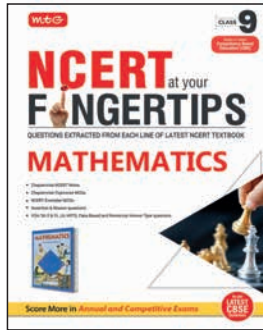
for the low arch. Now, the ministers pondered over the task of appointing the new king. They collectively decided that the next person to pass the city gate would decide on who would be the next king. An idiot passed through the city gate and decided that a melon should be the next king. The ministers agreed without any objection and crowned a melon with proper ceremony.

On the basis of their actions, we can safely say that the ministers were a group of fools. They did not hesitate to hang the king nor did they object on crowing a melon as their next king. They were more concerned about hanging someone regardless of who he is and were afraid of the people turning against the crown, which is ironic as the very person crowned was hanged.

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