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JINENDER SONI
Founder, MISSION GYAN

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why was it an absurd thought for the narrator for his grandmother to be young and pretty once when he was a child?

(a) Because she wasn't beautiful at all.
(b) Because she had always been old.
(c) Because she was a widow.
(d) Because she was an image of misery.

2. What made the grandmother unhappy about the author's new English School?

(a) Because she could not help him with the lessons.
(b) Because they were in the city.
(c) Because she didn't like English.
(d) Because she didn't understand English and could no longer help him with the lessons.

3. Grandmother used to sit inside the temple to –

(a) Listen to morning prayers.
(b) Read the scriptures.
(c) Keep watching the author's activities.
(d) Teach other students.

4. What was the turning point of the friendship between grandmother and author?

(a) When they stopped talking.
(b) When his parents called them both to the city.
(c) When he became an adult.
(d) When he left her to live in the city with his parents.

5. What could Khushwant Singh not believe about his grandmother?

(a) She went abroad for studies.
(b) She was once a school topper.
(c) She was once young and pretty.
(d) She was a classical dancer.

6. How did the grandmother spend her time in the city?

(a) Feedings dogs
(b) Talking to neighbours
(c) Spinning the wheel
(d) Reading scriptures

7. Khushwant Singh's village school was attached to –

(a) a railway station
(b) a temple
(c) a veterinary hospital
(d) an asylum

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8. **How did the sparrows express their sorrow at the death of their grandmother?**
   (a) They came and sat silently in the verandah.
   (b) They didn't come that day.
   (c) They ate the bread crumbs.
   (d) They chirruped a lot.

9. **What made grandmother think differently?**
   (a) She was angry with the members of her family.
   (b) She was feeling unwell and sleepy.
   (c) She knew her death was near.
   (d) She was tired and she wanted to sleep more.

10. **What happened when the grandmother didn't pray for the first time?**
   (a) She fell ill the next day.
   (b) She made this her routine.
   (c) She was unpleasant next day.
   (d) She took a break and went to the village.

Fill in the blanks :

11. The narrator's common link of friendship with his grandmother snapped when they were given _____ rooms at the university.

12. The author had a thick, stale chapatti with a little _____ and sugar spread in it before going to school.

True / False

13. The narrator found the idea of his grandmother being young and pretty to be delightful.

14. The grandmother was happy with the English school because she could help the author with his lessons.

Very Short Type Questions

15. Mention the ways in which the sparrows expressed their sorrow when the author's grandmother died.

16. 'Grandmother had always been short and fat and slightly bent'. Is this true?

Short Type Questions

17. Which thought about the grandmother was often revolting and for whom?

18. How did the grandmother spend her whole day during author's childhood? Answer in the context of The Portrait of a lady.

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Essay Type Questions

19. Mention three ways in which the author's grandmother spent her days after he grew up.

20. Describe the friendship between Khushwant Singh and his grandmother.

HOTS

21. **Assertion (A) :** The grandmother was distressed when the author started attending the English school in the city.

Reason (R) : She did not understand English and believed the school did not teach about God and scriptures.

(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

(c) A is true, but R is false.

(d) A is false, but R is true.

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1. **(b)**

The narrator said that his grandmother had always been old for the twenty years that he had seen her. She was beautiful but the thought of her being young and pretty was almost revolting. As a child, the narrator had felt that it was impossible for someone so terribly old to be young and pretty once.

2. **(d)**

Grandmother was unhappy about the author's new English School because she didn't understand English and could no longer help him with the lessons. Also, she did not believe in the things they taught at the English school and was distressed that there was no teaching about God and the scriptures.

3. **(b)**

She enjoyed reading holy scriptures sitting inside the temple adjoining to the narrator's school.

4. **(b)**

When his parents called them both to the city that was the turning point of the friendship between grandmother and author because although they shared the same room, grandmother no longer came to school with him.

5. **(c)**

It was really hard for the author to believe that his grandmother had once been young and pretty.

6. **(c)**

From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers.

7. **(b)**

Writer's school was attached to a temple where priest taught the children. His grandmother always accompanied him to the school.

8. **(a)**

They came and sat silently in the verandah. They took no notice of the bread which the author's mother threw and they flew away quietly when grandmother's corpse was carried off.

9. **(c)**

Narrator's grandmother knew that her death was near and only a few hours of her life were left.

10. **(a)**

When the grandmother didn't pray for the first time she fell ill the next day.

11. separate

12. butter

13. False

14. False

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15. Thousands of sparrows came to the place where Grandmother lay dead. They were all quiet. They didn't chirp at all. The authors' mother threw some bread crumbs but the sparrows took no notice of them. They flew away quietly when the corpse of the grandmother was carried away.

16. No, it is not true. We are told that the grandmother was once young and pretty. We are also told about the games she used to play as a child.

17. The narrator's grandmother was very old and wrinkled for the last twenty years that he had known her. People said that once she was young and pretty and even had a husband. The thought was revolting to the narrator.

18. The grandmother of the author used to wake him up in the morning gave him breakfast and help him to get ready for school. Then she would fetch author's wooden slate, a tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen tied all in a bundle. She used to accompany the author to school. While the children studied in the school attached to the temple, she sat inside reading the scriptures. While returning home she would feed stale chapattis to the stray dogs.

19. She spent most of her time at the spinning wheel, and reading scriptures. In the afternoon, she used to feed the sparrows and that used to be the best half an hour of the day.

20. Khushwant Singh's grandmother was closely involved in bringing him up when the author lived with her in the village during his early life. She used to wake him up early in the morning. While bathing and dressing him, she sang her prayers. She hoped that the young boy would learn it by heart. She then gave him breakfast-a stale chapatti with butter and sugar. Then they would go together to the temple school. While the author learnt his lesson, the grandmother would read holy books. They returned home together. A turning point came in their friendship when his parents called them to the city. Although they shared a room, she could not help him much. She hated music, Science and Western education. The common link of their friendship was gradually snapped.

21. **(a)**

The text clearly states that the grandmother was unhappy because she couldn't help with English lessons and disapproved of the lack of religious teaching in the new school, thus both the assertion and reason are true and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

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