

CHAPTER-2 | My Three Passions

QUIZ-01

1. What are the three passions that governed Russell's life?

- A. Fame, Wealth, Power
- B. Love, Knowledge, Pity
- C. Science, Philosophy, Politics
- D. Art, Education, Justice (B)

Explanation: Russell lists love, knowledge, and pity for mankind as the central passions of his life.

2. Why did Russell seek love?

- A. To gain power
- B. To escape death
- C. To find joy, avoid loneliness, and see heaven in union
- D. To gain intellectual fulfillment (C)

Explanation: He sought love for ecstasy, relief from loneliness, and its spiritual union.

3. What does Russell compare his life's journey to?

- A. A climb up a mountain
- B. A calm river
- C. A wayward course over an ocean of anguish
- D. A stable, peaceful walk (C)

Explanation: His life was tossed around by passions like great winds over an ocean of anguish.

4. How does Russell view the passion for knowledge?

- A. As a burden
- B. As a political tool
- C. As a path to understanding hearts, stars, and numbers
- D. As a distraction from emotions (C)

Explanation: He desired to know the hearts of men, stars, and mathematical truths.

5. Which passion grounds Russell back to the earth?

- A. Love
- B. Fame
- C. Pity
- D. Curiosity (C)

Explanation: While love and knowledge uplift, pity for human suffering brings him back to reality.

6. What is the 'unfathomable abyss' Russell refers to?

- A. The depths of the ocean
- B. The mystery of space
- C. The isolation and lifelessness of extreme loneliness
- D. A scientific phenomenon (C)

Explanation: The abyss symbolizes the despair and loneliness felt without love.

7. According to the text, how does Russell feel about his life overall?

- A. Regretful
- B. Unfulfilled
- C. Grateful and willing to live it again
- D. Frustrated with humanity (C)

Explanation: He ends by saying he found life worth living and would live it again if given the chance.

8. Which of the following best describes the tone of Russell's essay?

- A. Bitter and accusatory
- B. Logical and detached
- C. Reflective and passionate
- D. Humorous and satirical (C)

Explanation: The essay is deeply personal, emotional, and reflective.

9. What is the symbolic meaning of 'great winds' in the essay?

- A. Natural disasters
- B. Challenges of society
- C. Russell's three overwhelming passions
- D. The unpredictability of politics (C)

Explanation: The 'great winds' are metaphors for love, knowledge, and pity.

10. What does Russell mean by 'mockery of what human life should be'?

- A. That life is funny
- B. That humans are perfect
- C. That suffering and injustice distort the true potential of human life
- D. That philosophy is meaningless (C)

Explanation: He expresses sorrow that pain, oppression, and poverty make a mockery of life's ideal.