

## **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY**

1. Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

When I went up to university, I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning while to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset, she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers.

- i. Name the story and the author.
- A. Kulwant Singh
  - B. Khushwant Singh
  - C. Khushwaha Singh
  - D. None of these
- ii. Who does 'I' refer to in the above line?
- A. The author
  - B. The grandmother
  - C. The son
  - D. None of these
- iii. What was the common link between the speaker and the grandmother?
- A. They lived in the city and spent time with each other.
  - B. They lived in the village and spent time with each other.
  - C. They went to a park and spend time together.
  - D. Both 'a' and 'c'

- iv. What was the daily routine of the grandmother regarding to animal before coming to the city?
- A. She fed the sparrows in the village.
  - B. She fed the people in the village.
  - C. She fed dogs in the village.
  - D. None of these.

2: Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

We stopped half-way in the courtyard. All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. We felt sorry for the birds and my mother fetched some bread for them. She broke it into little crumbs, the way my grandmother used to, and threw it to them. The sparrows took no notice of the bread.

- i. Why did the sparrows gather at the verandah?
- A. They had hated the grandmother
  - B. They had love for grandmother
  - C. They had both love and hate for grandmother
  - D. None of these
- ii. Why didn't the sparrows take no notice of the birds?
- A. The crumbs was given by the mother of the author
  - B. The crumbs were not given by the Grandmother
  - C. To express their sorrow for the mother
  - D. Both 'B' and 'C'.

iii. What is the meaning of 'shroud' in the above passage?

- A. A type of utensil
- B. A sheet
- C. A bed
- D. A type of food

iv. What is the word 'chirruping' mean:

- A. A sound made by dogs.
- B. A sound made by sparrows
- C. A book
- D. A house.

3. Answer the following questions in 30 to 40 words:

- i. How was the reaction of the grandmother when she came to know that the author was learning music?
- ii. Mention the three reasons why the grandmother was disturbed when the author started going to the city school?
- iii. Why was it really hard for the author to believe that grandmother had once been young and pretty?
- iv. Mention the way sparrow expresses their sorrow when the grandmother died?
- v. How did the sparrows / nature mourn the death of the grandmother?
- vi. What was the list sign of the physical contact between the author and the grandmother?

4. Answer the following questions in 120 to 150 words:

- i. Write a character sketch of the grandmother.
- ii. Describe the changing relation between the author and the grandmother.

5. Answer any five of the following questions in 120 to 150 words:

i. Where was the portrait of the grandfather hung in the house?

- A. Next to the mantelpiece.
- B. Above the mantelpiece.
- C. Below the mantelpiece
- D. None of these

ii. What was the usual breakfast for the author?

- A. Parathas with a glass of buttermilk
- B. Stale Chapatis with butter and sugar spread on it.
- C. Bread with Milk
- D. None of these

iii. Did the author bother about learning the prayer sung by the grandmother while getting him ready for the school.

- A. Yes.
- B. No
- C. He listened but did not care to learn
- D. He felt irritated by the song.

iv. Why did the grandmother not pray for the first time?

- A. Because she was busy feeding the sparrows.
- B. Because she did not feel like praying

- C. Because she had no time for it that day.
- D. Because she was ill and bedridden

v. What is the meaning of 'mourning' in the following line?

"After a few hours of mourning we left her alone to make arrangement for her funeral"

- A. Express satisfaction
- B. Express excitement
- C. Express happiness
- D. Express grief and sorrow

vi. How many years the author spends in abroad?

- A. 10 years
- B. 2 years
- C. 5 years
- D. 4 years