

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN A SLUM

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

On sour cream walls, donations. Shakespeare's head,
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map
Awarding the world its world. And yet, for these
Children these windows, not this map, their world,
Where all their future's painted with a fog.

i. What does the expression-'sour cream walls'- suggest?

- A. a.A beautiful wall showing hope
- B. b. A poor choice of paint showing human error
- C. c. A poorly maintained wall showing apathy
- D. d. None of these

ii. The map of the world in the classroom symbolizes:

- A. A world ruled and controlled by capitalists
- B. hopes and aspirations of the children
- C. a world that is unconnected to the children
- D. Both, 'A' and 'C'

iii. The expression, Shakespeare's head is an example of:

- A. Pun
- B. Satire
- C. Parody
- D. Irony

iv. In the extract, 'future painted with a fog' suggests that the:

- A. Classroom is as foggy just like the sour cream wall
- B. There is a painting showing fog covering a sea beach
- C. These slum children have bleak and uncertain future
- D. All of these

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Unless, governor, inspector, visitor,
This map becomes their window and these windows
That shut upon their lives like catacombs,
Break O break open till they break the town

i. Who are these 'Governor, inspector, visitor'?

- A. Advocates of socialism
- B. Advocates of capitalism
- C. Advocates of human rights
- D. Critics of child labour.

ii. Which map does the poet talks about that will become a window for these government officers?

- A. The map that represent the world.
- B. The map that represent the rich members of society.
- C. The blotted map that shows the presence of these slum dwellers.
- D. None of these

iii. How do these windows shut upon these slum children like catacombs?

- A. They will grown and prosper in these catacombs
- B. They will wither and die in these catacombs.
- C. They will learn and grown in these catacombs
- D. All of these.

iv. Why does the poet ask these slum children to break the town?

- A. Because town does not give them proper facilities.
- B. Because the town is a dirty polluted area.
- C. Because the town represent the rich members of society.
- D. Because the town is a far away place and hard to reach.

3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"So blot their maps with slums as big as doom."

i. Who is the poet of the above line?

- A. Stephen Hawkins
- B. Stephen Stuart
- C. Stephen Spender
- D. Stephen Selvin

ii. What does the poet mean with, 'their map'?

- A. The map belongs to the school authority.
- B. The map belongs to a democratic society.
- C. The map belongs to poor deprived people of society.
- D. The map belongs to the rich capitalist members of society.

iii. Why does the poet want these slum children to blot this map?

- A. To deface the map
- B. To show their present in the world.
- C. To make the map more attractive.
- D. To show the capital of a country

iv. Why will the children blot the map with 'Doom'?

- A. Doom shows the ruinous state of living of these poor slum dwellers.
- B. Doom shows the healthy state of living of these slum children.
- C. Doom Shows the new school building in slum
- D. None of these

4. Answer any four out of the following questions in about 30 to 40 words:

- i. Why is the head of the tall girl weighed down?
- ii. What does the windows of the classroom signify?
- iii. Why is the Shakespeare called wicked?
- iv. Who is sitting at the end of the class and why his eyes live in dream?
- v. What does the poet mean when he says, "let their tongue run naked into book, the white and green leaves open history their whose language is sun"

5. Explain the followings with poetic devices used in them:

- A. Paper seeming boy with rat's eyes
- B. Awarding the world, it's world.
- C. Root weeds

6. Answer any five out of the followings:

i. What is the colour of the school wall and what does it signify?

- A. Red showing revolution
- B. White showing peace and brotherhood.
- C. Sour cream showing negligence and apathy.
- D. Green showing nature.

ii. Identify the poetic device used in, 'Rat's eye'

- A. Imagery
- B. Simile
- C. Metaphor
- D. Consonance

iii. What does 'Blot' and 'Doom' mean in the following lines?

"So blot their maps with slums as big as doom"

- A. A white mark and peace
- B. A green mark and nature
- C. A Black mark and destruction
- D. None of these

iv. What does the poet want to convey when he says, "Far far from gusty waves"?

- A. These children are far away from their parents.
- B. These children far away from their relatives.
- C. These children are far away from a better civilized world.
- D. None of these

v. What does the word, 'sun' denote in the following lines:

"let their tongues run naked into books

The white and green leaves open history

Their whose language is sun.

- A. Power
- B. Height
- C. Energy
- D. All of these

vi. What does the image of, 'Spectacle of steel with mended glass' imply?

- A. Comedy
- B. Irony
- C. Satire
- D. None of these