



## **New Broadway**

### **Question Bank - Literature Reader 8**

#### **Chapter1: After Twenty Years**

1. Describe the scene on the New York street at 10 o'clock at the beginning of the story.

2. Arrange the following in the correct order.

( i ) The waiting man pulled out a handsome watch.

( ii ) There was a drugstore in the corner.

( iii ) The note was rather short.

( iv ) The neighbourhood was one that kept early hours.

( v ) 'For a time we corresponded.'

( vi ) The man from the West unfolded the piece of paper.

( vii ) The pin on his scarf was a large diamond.

( viii ) The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively.

3. What does the man from the West tell the policeman? Was he telling the truth?

4. Write about the friendship of the two young men in the early years. What did they promise each other?





5. What does the man from The West say about New York? How, according to him, is it different from the West?

6. Do the two friends grow up into what they do partly because of the places they live in? Do you feel that our surroundings affect our personality and character?

7. 'Twenty years.....not long enough to change a man's nose from a Roman to a pug.' Who says this and when? What does he mean?

8. 'Going quietly are you? That's sensible.' Where is the person spoken to going to go?

( i ) home

( ii ) to the West

( iii) to the restaurant

( iv ) to the police station

( v ) to the railway station

9. Was the ending expected? Do you agree that in the end there is a twist in the tale? Could the story have ended in some other equally interesting way?

10. Was Jimmy Wells a good honest, man or did he let his friend down? Give reasons for your answer.

### **The Listeners**

1. 'Is there anybody there?' How does this sentence make you feel?

Mark the answers in the box below.

happy	curious	frightened
feeling of suspense	anxious	inquisitive





suspicious

insecure

scared

2. What do you understand by the following phrases? Explain in your own words.

( a ) moonlit door

( b ) forest's ferny floor

( c ) leaf-fringed sill

3. Who are the 'phantom listeners' in the poem? Are they human beings? How do you know?

4. 'Tell them I came.....that I kept my word.' What makes the traveller say this? What do you think could have happened earlier that led to the present situation. Imagine a chain of events and write about it briefly.

5. What would you call this poem? You must have reasons for choosing the answers.

( a ) happy

( b ) morose

( c ) dark

( d ) gloomy

( e ) comic

( f ) scary

( g ) ghostly

( h ) humorous





- ( i ) jovial
- ( j ) sarcastic
- ( k ) unreal

6. Are there any light moments in the poem? If the scene described here were to be re-created in a film or on the stage would you enjoy watching that show? Why / Why not?

7. Pick out and list all house-related words from the poem. For example, door.

8. Do you think that the traveller was upset that no one opened the door for him? Did he think there were people inside the house? Give reasons for your answer.

9. In your own words, describe the house and its surroundings.

## **Chapter 2: Chasing the Rainbow**

1. Why is the narrator upset with his guardians? What does he mean by ‘five long years’?

2. What ‘vital issues’ did the narrator and Appu discuss?

3. Why did Appu shout – ‘Run away boy...’? What did he tell the narrator about the tall, fair man?

4. What did Appu and the narrator see inside ‘that dreadful cabin’? Describe in your own words.

5. ‘Would the sweetmeats taste sweeter if I could read? Would the rainbow or the hills or the river look more charming if I could write?’ Do you have answers to these questions put up by the narrator in the story?





6. What happened when the narrator and the tall man came face to face? Was either of them frightened of the other? Why?
7. What made the narrator think he was going to be sacrificed? Who did he think would perform the sacrifice?
8. Where did the man actually take *Huzoor Sahib's* boy? Was this expected?
9. What does the story teach us? Tick the correct answers.

We should not judge people by their

- ( a ) looks
- ( b ) clothes
- ( c ) actions
- ( d ) religion
- ( e ) habits
- ( f ) profession
- ( g ) language

### **Geography Lesson**

1. In the first line 'the jet sprang into the sky'. Do you think this is an accurate description or poetic use of language? Do jets really 'spring' into the sky or do they take off differently?
2. What looks 'haphazard' to the poet on the ground? How does it look from above?
3. What is the 'logic of geography' mentioned in stanza 2? Is this factually correct?





4. What becomes clear to the poet when the jet rises to a height of six miles? What remains unclear?

5. The poet raises certain questions / issues in the last stanza. What are these? Do you have an answer to any of them?

6. Do you think this poem is

( a ) funny

( b ) thought provoking

( c ) serious

( d ) comical

( e ) philosophical

( f ) a geography lesson

( g ) a lesson on flying

Note: You can choose more than one option.

7. The thoughts that cross the poet's mind in the last stanza made him *sad* / *thoughtful* / *curious*. Tick the correct answer.

8. Do you like the poem? Why / Why not? Do you think ideas like these can make us better human beings?

### **Chapter 3: The Maths Teacher, Mr Pink and Tipu**

1. What was Tipu fond of doing? What did the Maths teacher catch him doing?

2. Narrate the conversation between Bishnuram and Narahari babu. Who is called Pegasus in the story? Where did he come from?





3. Why does Mr Pink ask Tipu to come to the field on full moon night?  
What does Tipu see there?
4. Why was Mr Pink banished from his land? Was he a violent person?  
Support your answer with reasons.
5. According to a Greek tale, how was Pegasus born? Who was his mother?
6. 'You may take your books from my cupboard.' Who says this to Tipu?  
Why does he say it?
7. In the end when Tipu goes looking for Mr Pink does he find him? What  
does he see instead? Do you think this is significant? What are chameleons  
known for?
8. 'Tipu began to go numb with fear'. Why?
9. Could the events in this story happen in real life? Why / Why not?

### **The Village Schoolmaster**

1. Did the schoolmaster's 'morning face' reveal anything to the students?  
Describe. Does this happen in real life too? Do our facial expressions mean  
anything?
2. What did the schoolmaster love most of all? Quote the line/s that tell you  
so.
3. There are several archaic words, i. e. words that are no longer in use, in  
the poem. List them out and write a modern day substitute across each.
4. Were the master's jokes really funny? Why did the students laugh at  
them?
5. Do you think 'noisy mansion' is an interesting description of a school?  
Think of at least two more such phrases and write them down.





6. 'That one small head could carry all he knew.' Is the amount one knows really in proportion to the size of one's head? Why does the poet say so? Does he want us to take this literally?
7. Is the poet fond of the schoolmaster? Does he love him / admire him, or both?
8. Do you think the place where the poem is set had very learned people living there? How do you know? Give reasons for your answer.
9. Could anyone else in the village speak almost as well as the schoolmaster? Who was it? Was there any rivalry between the two?

#### **Chapter 4: A Tiger in the School**

1. Who is the narrator of the story? At what point does the reader come to know his identity?
2. 'You won't have much use for such violent gestures any more.' Who said this to whom? What violent gestures is he talking about?
3. What was 'familiar life' for the tiger? Did he miss it? Was he comfortable being where he was when the narrated events happened?
4. Write a short note describing the headmaster. What sort of a person does he come across as? Would you say his behaviour is odd, normal or funny?
5. What does Swamiji tell the tiger about yoga? Does the tiger understand and follow the instructions he is given?
6. How did the tiger's training at the circus help him? Give examples to support your answer.
7. Describe Alphonse's reaction when the tiger and swamiji walked past him. Was Alphonse really dreaming? Narrate in your own words.





8. Fill in the blanks using words and phrases from the story.

( a ) Every .....is born with a .....store of violence.

( b ) His presence .....all my strength.

( c ) You cannot continue to be .....forever.

( d ) I was .....of human beings.

( e ) The situation is ....., and you must do nothing to .....it.

( f ) There was a .....in which he seemed to exist.

9. 'You must realize that human beings .....are timid creatures....and likely to get into a panic ....' Do you agree with the statement? Can you think of any incident when people got into a panic?

10. Do you find the story interesting? Give reasons for your answer. Comment on swamiji's instructions and the tiger's unusual obedience. Do you think this could happen in real life?

## **Chapter 5: My Elder Brother**

1. 'He wanted to lay a firm foundation for that edifice.' What does this line mean? Is there any humour or sarcasm here?

2. What games did the narrator like to play with his friends? Write briefly about them.

3. '...you'll be studying for the rest of your life and you won't get it right.' Who is the speaker and who is he addressing? Is what he is saying correct and does it actually come true?

4. What were the elder brother's views about studies in general? What did he think about English, Algebra and Geometry in particular?





5. Would you say that the elder brother was hard-working? What could be the reasons for his slow progress in school?
6. Who between the two brothers put in more hard work? Did both of them get equal success? Why / Why not?
7. 'The experience I have of life and the world, you can never catch up with...' Comment on this statement. Do you agree?
8. Was the elder brother a responsible person? Could he in any way be held responsible for his poor performance? Do you / Do you not sympathize with him? Give reasons for your answer.
9. Write a short note on the character of the narrator. Is he a likeable boy?

### **Harry Pushed Her**

1. Why do you think Harry had no friends? You can tick more than one answer.

- ( a ) no one liked Harry
- ( b ) he had no time for friends
- ( c ) he took care of his sister in his free time
- ( d ) he did not like other children
- ( e ) he felt his sister needed him

2. Were the other children kind to Harry and his sister? How do you know? Did it affect Harry?

3. 'She smiled strangely  
And never said a word.'





What do these lines tell you about Harry's sister? Did she have problems beyond what one could see?

4. Why could Harry never have a childhood? Was he unhappy about it?
5. Pick up words from the box to describe Harry. You can add more words to your list if you like.

mean	balanced	bitter	unhappy
selfish	caring	gentle	self-less
brotherly	demanding	kind	large-hearted

6. What do you think the children should have learned from Harry?
7. Did Harry's sister have a temporary illness or was it something long-term? How do you know?
8. When you first read the title of the poem did you think the poem is going to be about love and caring? Elaborate.

### **Chapter 6: Cricket for the Crocodile**

1. How did Ranji's mother try to convince him to study for his exams? Write in your own words.
2. The two main characters in the story are called Ranji and Nakoo. Do these names have any significance? Discuss. Are the names appropriate?
3. Fill in the blanks using words and phrases from the story.

( a ) The match was to be held the following .....





( b ) The .....the boys threw at .....had no effect.

( c ) The bank manager produced a new.....

( d ) The innings ended with a .....total of .....runs.

( e ) .....opened the bowling for the village team.

( f ) Fathers helped to provide .....and.....and.....

4. Describe Nakoo and his activities. Did he enjoy cricket? Elaborate.

5. Name the speaker of the following.

( a ) ‘As long I don’t have to remember the date on which I make it.’(.....)

( b ) ‘Have you got the stumps.’ (.....)

( c ) ‘We’ll wait until he goes away.’ (.....)

( d ) ‘A fly got into my eye.’(.....)

( e ) ‘Get me off!’(.....)

( f ) ‘You’d better keep out of reach of his tail and jaws!’(.....)

5. Which parts of the story did you enjoy the most? Describe.

6. Do you think the events in the story could have happened in real life or is it just the writer’s imagination?

7. ‘Revenge was sweet.’ Explain with reference to context.

8. What could Nakoo smell when he crept half way up the river bank? Elaborate. What events followed this?

9. ‘Flies everywhere!’ Were there really flies everywhere? Why did the speaker say what he did?





## **The Louse and the Mosquito**

1. 'Growing plump and smooth and white.' Who is the poet referring to here? Explain the statement.
2. Whose signal did the lice wait for? What did they start doing once the signal came?
3. 'I'm the guardian of this house.' Who is the speaker? Describe the house mentioned here.
4. How is the mosquito's bite different from the way the lice bite?
5. According to the mosquito what all does the royal blood contain? Of what use could this be to the mosquito?
6. Who is Sir Leap? Is it an apt name? Why? Can you suggest some other name which may be equally suitable?
7. What was the 'rash attack'? How did it come about?
8. 'The mosquito foiled detection.' Explain. Who got caught instead?
9. Was the mosquito upset about what happened to the family of lice? How can you say?

## **Chapter 7: The Little Prince**

1. Why was the little prince puzzled when the king recognized him? Did the king really recognize him?
2. How was it that the king had not seen anybody yawning for years? Give reasons for your answer.
3. 'But as he was kind, he gave reasonable orders.' Who is being referred to here? How do giving reasonable orders show his kindness?





4. The king was 'not only an absolute monarch but a universal one.' What does the statement mean? Was it true?

5. What did the little prince think he could do if he had the power that the king did?

6. ( a ) Fill in the blanks using words from the story.

'One must .....of each and ...one what they are .....of. ....is first and foremost based on .....If you order your .....to throw themselves into the ....., you will have a .....on your.....I have a right to demand.....because my .....are .....ones.'

( b ) Do you agree with the king?

( c ) Did the king actually do what he said? Give examples to support your answer.

7. The prince never forgot a question once he had asked it. What does this tell us about his character? You can tick more than answer.

The prince was

( i ) inquisitive

( ii ) persistent

( iii ) irritating

( iv ) curious

( v ) demanding

( vi ) rude





( vii ) sly

( viii ) dishonest

8. Who did the king say the little prince will have to judge? Elaborate.
9. Why does the king want the rat to be punished and yet stay alive?
10. 'Grown-ups are very strange.' Why does the little prince say this? Do you agree with him?

### **Chapter 8: The Quality of Mercy**

1. Portia uses the phrase 'twice bless'd'. What does she mean by it? Find the meaning in the remaining lines of the same speech.
2. Write the following lines in English as you speak it today.
  - ( a ) 'Is he not able to discharge the money?'
  - ( b ) '...there is no power in Venice can alter a decree...'
  - ( c ) 'I pray you, let me look upon the bond.'
  - ( d ) 'Take thrice thy money; bid me tear the bond.'
  - ( e ) 'Give me my principal, and let me go.'
3. What does Portia plead for in the beginning? Does she succeed?
4. How does Shylock react when he is offered thrice the amount of money in return for what he had given? Does he accept the offer?
5. Who does Shylock address as 'O excellent young man'? Why is that person disguised as a man of law?
6. Who presided over the trial? Did he have a difficult job to do? Was he a fair judge?





7. What condition does Shylock lay down while lending money to Bassanio? Is there anything unusual about this case? Have you heard of bonds like this one being signed in today's world?
8. Write a short note on Portia. Does she impress you in any way?
9. Why does Portia say – ‘Your wife would give you little thanks for that.’ Explain with reference to context.
10. Which are the characters in the story you think you will remember till long after you have read the play?

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