

UGBA/BSc Sem. – 6
2019- 20

General English
Title – *India: A Journey through Stories*

6. *A Duel in Lucknow*
Satyajit Ray

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. **From when and where did duelling spread as a practice? What change took place in terms of the weapon used by duellists in the eighteenth century?**

Ans: The practice of duelling spread from Italy to the rest of Europe in the sixteenth century. In the eighteenth century, the pistol replaced the sword as the weapon to be used by the duellists.

2. **Why were duels fought? What were the basic rules for the duellists?**

Ans: According to Uncle Tarini, if a person was insulted by someone, he would immediately challenge the other to a duel in order to save his honour. Whether the honour was saved or not that depended on the challenger's skill as a swordsman. A duel was fought according to the set rules. Both parties had to use identical weapons; each had to have his referee to see that no rules were broken. An obligatory gap of twenty yards was necessary between the two opponents, and both pistols had to be fired the moment the challenger's referee gave the command.

3. **What caught the attention of Uncle Tarini in the auction house in Lucknow and how much did he pay to procure the item?**

Ans: At the auction house in Lucknow, Uncle Tarini saw a brown mahogany box lying amongst the items to be sold. It was a foot and a half long, about eight inches wide and three inches high. It contained a pair of duelling pistols made by the famous firm Joseph Manton. Uncle Tarini wished to procure it at any cost. He paid one thousand rupees to win the bid and own the pistols.

4. **Who visited Uncle Tarini in the evening after auction in Lucknow? When did he come to know the real identity of the stranger?**

Ans: The person who visited Uncle Tarini was the ghost of George Drummond, who played the role of 'second' of John Illingworth in the duel between John Illingworth and Charles Bruce held a hundred years ago. It was only by the end of the story that Uncle Tarini realised the real identity of the stranger.

5. **Who was John Illingworth? Why did he challenge Charles Bruce to a duel?**

Ans: John Illingworth was a young portrait painter by profession. He was invited by Doctor Hudson to paint a portrait of a beautiful young girl, Annabella. Unfortunately he fell in love with her. She was even the love interest of Charles Bruce, who was a captain in the Bengal Regiment. Charles Bruce's insulting behaviour towards Illingworth in front of Annabella forced him to challenge Charles for a duel.

6. **What happened when George Drummond gave Illingworth the command to fire?**

Ans: George Drummond played the role of 'second' or referee in the duel between John Illingworth and Charles Bruce. After the two men stood face to face and took the aim to start the duel, the silence was broken by George's command, "Fire". The shots rang out, and George was astonished to see both Bruce and Illingworth fall to the ground.

7. **Why did Annabella shoot Charles Bruce ?**

Ans: Annabella was loved by both John Illingworth and Charles Bruce, but she secretly loved George Drummond. She knew that Charles being a soldier would easily kill Illingworth in the duel and then she will be forced to marry Charles. So she hid behind a tamarind tree and aimed at Charles and shot him. Thus both Charles and John were killed and she was free to marry George.

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II. Write short notes:

1. The supernatural element in the story *A Duel in Lucknow*

The story *A Duel in Lucknow* by Satyajit Ray is about an interesting narration of an exciting and adventurous experience of Uncle Tarini. Uncle Tarini is an interesting and lovable character, created by Satyajit Ray, whose adventures mostly have a touch of supernatural element. This is also one such story.

Uncle Tarini narrates an experience, to the author and his friends, which he had when he was in Lucknow in 1951. After winning a lottery of one and a half lakh rupees, Uncle Tarini wins a pair of duelling pistols in an auction bid. After reaching home, he sits and examines the pistols; just then the door bell rings and a stranger, an English man, in mid-forties, arrives to meet him. The man informs Uncle Tarini that he was aware of those who had used these pistols in a duel about one hundred years ago. Seeing Uncle Tarini's curiousness, he tells him the story of Annabella, John Illingworth and Charles Bruce. He tells that the duel was fought between John Illingworth and Charles Bruce for the beautiful Annabella and the entire duel can be seen actually happening every year on the same day. This was exciting, as how was it possible that those who died hundred years ago come every year to fight the same duel. Uncle Tarini is invited to Dilkhush, by the stranger, to watch it all by himself. Uncle Tarini goes to Dilkhush on the day and become a part of the chilling experience of seeing the ghosts of John and Charles fighting a duel and also Annabella's ghost, secretly killing Charles from behind a tamarind tree just for her love George Drummond. After the completion of this horrifying experience, Uncle Tarini turns towards the English man and get almost frozen to see him dressed in the clothes of hundred years ago. He then realizes that the stranger whom he was talking to was the ghost of George Drummond.

Thus the entire story is about and revolves around the supernatural elements.

2. Annabella's love for George Drummond

Annabella was a beautiful daughter of Doctor Hudson. Once a painter named John Illingworth arrived in Lucknow and got an invitation to paint a portrait of Annabella. While doing his job he fell in love with the lady. But, Annabella was also the love interest of Charles Bruce who was a captain in the Bengal Regiment. Bruce regarded painters with scant respect and to add to it he found that John was showing love towards Annabella. Thus he insulted John and this resulted into a call for a duel between John Illingworth and Charles Bruce with an understanding that the one who won would marry Annabella. But, no one cared to ask Annabella that whom did she love. Annabella love George Drummond who was a government employee and who had showed his readiness to become the 'second' of John Illingworth in the duel. Annabella was sure that Charles being a soldier would easily kill John and then she will be forced to marry Charles. So she decided to hide behind a nearby tamarind tree and aimed at Charles. She shot exactly when John and Charles fired at each other. Thus Charles bullet killed John and Charles was shot by Annabella. Thus Annabella finally found her love George Drummond.

III. Complete the statements by choosing the correct option from those given under them:

- In the eighteenth century the _____ replaced the sword as the duelling weapon.
 - rifle
 - pistol**
 - knife
 - missiles
- According to Uncle Tarini, the famous duel that took place in Calcutta was between _____.
 - Warren Hastings and Philip Francis**
 - John Illingworth and Charles Bruce
 - Charles Bruce and Philip Francis
 - John Illingworth and Warren Hastings

3. Uncle Tarini had won _____ in the Rangers Lottery.
- two lakh rupees
 - one lakh rupees
 - fifty thousand rupees
 - one and half lakh rupees**
4. What was the name of the firm that made the pair of pistol used in the duel in Lucknow ? _____
- Philip Manton
 - Charles Manton
 - Joseph Manton**
 - John Manton
5. The famous duel of Lucknow was fought on _____, 1851.
- 2nd October
 - 10th October
 - 14th October
 - 16th October**
6. Annabella was the daughter of Doctor _____.
- George Drummond
 - Jeremiah Hudson**
 - Charles Bruce
 - Joseph Manton
7. John Illingworth was a _____ by profession.
- doctor
 - soldier
 - painter**
 - writer
8. 'Dilkhush' was once _____ country house.
- Uncle Tarini's
 - Charles Bruce's
 - Nawab Pataudi's
 - Nawab Sadat Ali's**
9. When Uncle Traini returned home after watching the duel, he found the _____.
- mahogany box missing from its place
 - pistol stolen from the mahogany box
 - muzzles of the pistol still warm to the touch**
 - pistols as he left them

I. **Answer the following questions in brief**

1) **Describe the guest house in which Mr. Dhanda stayed?**

Ans: Mr. Dhanda had a pleasant experience during one of his stay in a guest house. The guest house was centrally situated, close to the post-office, close to the market, close to the bus-stand and yet was isolated and away from the common din. There were pleasant views to be had from there, had excellent cuisine and was very well looked after by one of the most charming hostesses.

2) **Describe the appearance of the owners of the guest house, Mr. and Mrs. Bhandari?**

Ans: Mrs. Bhandari was basically a south Indian married to a north Indian. She was dark, but had a very pleasant face, all smiles and kindness. The husband was a huge, swarthy man, with large, bony limbs. He was extremely well mannered and there was not a trace of that untempered roughness which one finds in most men hailing from the North.

3) **What was the physical disability of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bhandari and how it caused embarrassment to the parents everyday?**

Ans: The eight year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bhandari was charming and beautiful but lacked the hearing and speaking ability. Each time a new guest would arrive at the guest house, naturally got attracted to the charming young girl and wanted to talk to her and every time it would result in the child silently smiling, sighing and withdrawing leaving looks of agony on the faces of her parents.

4) **What was the solution suggested by Mr. Dhanda to the Bhandaris to save the child from repeated humiliation?**

Ans: To save the child from repeated humiliation, Mr. Dhanda suggested Bhandaris to have bits of paper typed stating that their daughter was deaf and dumb. It even included that, the visitors should not try to be friendly with her too soon as she would neither understand nor reply to their kind words and the visitors were even asked to give her time to get acquainted and approach them. Then Mr. Dhanda asked Bhandaris to hand over these chits to every new visitor in the guest house.

5) **Describe the appearance of the young man, Mr. David, who arrived at the guest house one evening. What was the similarity between Pramodni and young man?**

Ans: Mr. David, who arrived at Bhandaris guesthouse was a young man, barely twenty-five, clad in an ill-fitting tweed suit, with drooping shoulders and wide trouser bottoms. Because of the journey, he looked untidy, his hair, his necktie, his shoes-all unkempt and needing attention. But, he had a cheerful face and jet-black eyes sparkling with vitality. The similarity between him and Pramodni was that both were deaf and dumb.

6) **What did the Bhandaris see when they went to the verandah?**

Ans: Despite of the fact, that Bhandaris had informed Mr. David that their daughter was deaf and dumb and not intimidate her by being friendly with her immediately, Mr. David darted towards the young girl who was playing in the courtyard. Bhandaris along with Mr. Dhanda were very upset. But, as they went out in the verandah, they were surprised to see that the strange young man was reclining on the grassy ground and Pramodni was sitting on his lap. He was showing her the flowers and her laughter was piercing the air.

7) **What plans did Mr. David have for Pramodni and what assurance did he give to Mrs. Bhandari?**

Ans: Mr. David could understand the situation of Pramodni very well as he himself was deaf and dumb. He advised Mrs. Bhandari to send Pramodni to the schools specially designed for such children. He told that he himself had been educated in one such institution abroad and had now returned to India to render the same useful services to others, by starting a school here. He even announced that Pramodni was his first pupil. Bhandaris broke down with gratitude towards Mr. David.

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II. Write short notes on

1) Promodni- the child with hearing and speech impairment

Pramodni was an eight year daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bhandari who owned a guest house on hills with beautiful surroundings and excellent cuisine. She was deaf and dumb by birth. She was sweet and charming with her hair nicely cropped and a straight fringe across the forehead, in Chinese fashion. In jeans, half-sleeved loose jersey and high boots, she looked like a miniature jungle queen.

Due to her physical disability, she used to get intimidated when strangers tried to be friendly with her and this left her parents in an awkward position. Mr. Dhanda, a visitor, suggested a solution to the Bhandaris. He asked them to prepare chits stating the child's physical condition and handover the chits to the newly arrived guests, so that they refrain from hasting into being friendly with the girl.

But, one day a guest named Mr. David arrived. He was also deaf and dumb. When he received the chit, he rushed to meet the girl. Initially the parents found it rude, but later, when they got to know that he shared the similar condition as that of their child, they apologised. They were happy that their child laughed and was happy with Mr. David. Mr. David, offered to educate the girl and make her self-dependant. Bhandaris were full of gratitude for Mr. David.

2) Mr. David as the Silver lining for Pramodni

Pramodni was an eight year old girl, deaf and dumb by birth. Her physical disability was a matter of concern and at times a reason for embarrassment for her parents. Bhandaris used to find themselves in an awkward position when the strangers who came at their guest house tried to be friendly with their daughter and she failed to respond.

Mr. Dhanda, who once came as a guest, suggested Bhandaris to prepare chits stating the physical condition of their daughter and requesting the guests to allow her time to be friendly. He then suggested giving those chits to every new guest that arrives at the guest house. This would save them from getting into any awkward situation and they would be saved from explaining the physical condition of their daughter to every guest.

This idea worked well. But, one day a guest named Mr. David arrived at the guest house. Despite of reading the chit he rushed to meet the girl. Initially Bhandaris got upset by the behaviour, but soon they realised that Mr. David shared the same physical condition. The girl was very happy with Mr. David and could easily communicate with him. Later, Mr. David gave an offer to the Bhandaris that he was ready to educate Pramodni. He had been educated abroad in an institution for deaf and dumb and wished to start such institution in India. Pramodni was his first pupil. This filled Bhandaris with gratitude and Mr. David came as a Silver Lining for both Pramodni and her parents.

III. Complete the statements by choosing the correct option from those given under them:

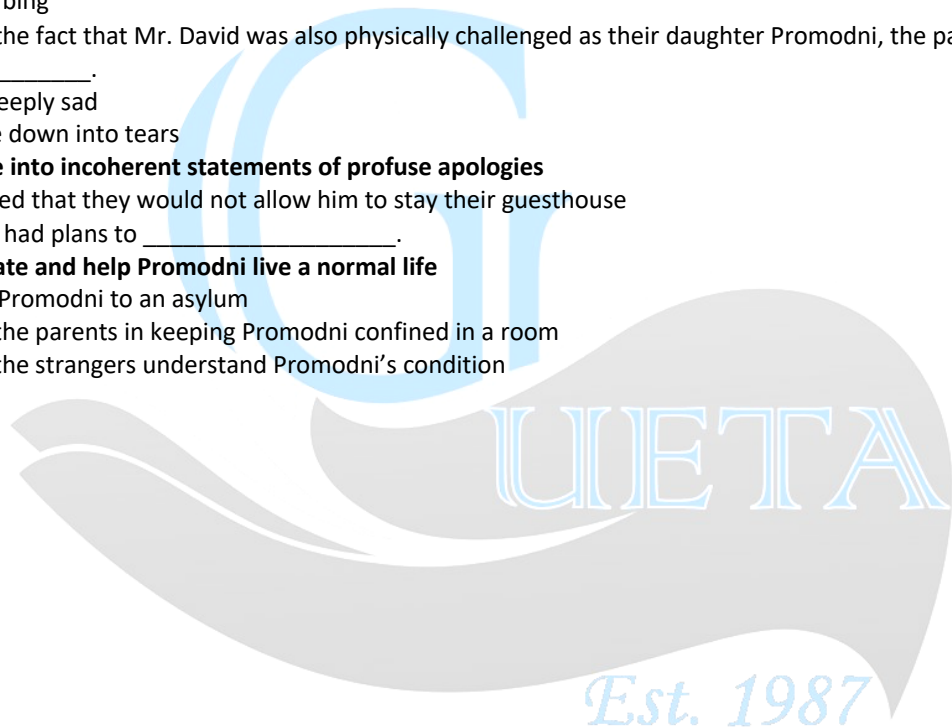
- _____ were the centre of attraction for Mr. Dhanda at the guest house where he stayed
 - Hilly surroundings and a pleasant atmosphere
 - Boarding and lodging facilities
 - The hosts and their little daughter**
 - Pleasant atmosphere and excellent cuisine
- The little girl in the house looked like a miniature _____.
 - jungle queen**
 - spoilt brat
 - coy rabbit
 - chatter box
- Pramodni's only pastime was to _____.
 - talk with the visitors
 - watch television
 - play with her toys
 - run around the house or play with the servants**

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4. The chit prepared for the guests, to save Promodni from repeated humiliation, requested them to _____.
- a) keep a safe distance for her
 - b) give her time to approach them**
 - c) be friendly with her
 - d) pity her condition
5. Mr. Dhanda was planning _____ when Mr. David arrived at the guest house.
- a) a birthday celebration
 - b) a picnic with Promodni
 - c) a short excursion**
 - d) a get together with Mr and Mrs Bhandari
6. Mr. David did not even deign to reply adequately to the polite enquiries of the host , because he _____.
- a) was an arrogant man
 - b) was also deaf and dumb like Promodni**
 - c) was busy reading the chit given by the host
 - d) feared to be friendly with the host
7. The entire act of Mr. David ignoring the content written in the chit and rushing to meet Promodni was considered to be _____ by Mrs. Bhandari.
- a) rude**
 - b) impolite
 - c) threatening
 - d) disturbing
8. Realizing the fact that Mr. David was also physically challenged as their daughter Promodni, the parents _____.
- a) felt deeply sad
 - b) broke down into tears
 - c) broke into incoherent statements of profuse apologies**
 - d) decided that they would not allow him to stay their guesthouse
9. Mr. David had plans to _____.
- a) educate and help Promodni live a normal life**
 - b) send Promodni to an asylum
 - c) help the parents in keeping Promodni confined in a room
 - d) help the strangers understand Promodni's condition



I. **Answer the following questions in brief**

1) **Where did the grandfather bring Tutu from and why? How much did he pay for her?**

Ans: The Grandfather had bought Tutu from a street entertainer for the sum of ten rupees. Tutu was the smallest of the three monkeys that the entertainer had. She was mischievous and so was kept tied most of the time with a collar and a chain. She looked so miserable that the Grandfather decided to bring her home, hoping that she would be happier there.

2) **Describe the appearance of Tutu, the monkey?**

Ans: Tutu was a pretty little monkey. Her bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath deep-set eyebrows. Her teeth, which were a pearly white, were often revealed in a grin that frightened the wits out of Aunt Ruby. Tutu's hands had a dried up look, as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Her fingers were quick and wicked and her tail while adding to her good looks, also served as a third hand.

3) **Why did the grandfather take Tutu and the author along with him on his visit to Meerut? How did he carry Tutu in the train?**

Ans: Tutu was quite mischievous and she had begun giving tough time all the family members since her arrival. Thus, when the Grandfather had to visit Meerut to collect his railway pension, he decided to take Tutu and the author along with him, to keep both of them out of mischief. To prevent Tutu from wandering about on the train, causing inconvenience to the passengers, she was provided with a large black travelling bag with some straws at the bottom. There was enough space for Tutu to look out of the bag and get the food, but she could not take her hand out or bite her way through.

4) **What did Tutu do when the jeweller and Aunt Ruby were sifting through the diamond rings in the shop?**

Ans: When jeweller and Aunt Ruby were sifting through the diamond rings in the shop, Tutu, the monkey, slipped into the shop without being noticed by anyone but the author. She picked a pearl necklace and began trying it on her. It looked nice on her, but before anyone could admire the effect, she ran towards the crowded road with the necklace.

5) **What did Tutu do when she felt that she would be caught and locked up once she got home?**

Ans: Tutu, the monkey, grabbed a pearl necklace from the jeweller's shop and ran towards a busy street. Rocky and the jeweller ran after the monkey and so did the bystanders. But, she made her way speedier leaping and landing on various people and things that came her way. Finally after leaving the bazaar and moving towards the home, she felt that she would be caught and locked up once she got home. So she decided to end the chase removing the necklace from her neck and flinging it into a small canal.

6) **What happened when Tutu sensed that she was not welcome in Aunt Ruby's wedding reception?**

Ans: Aunt Ruby hated Tutu and was never ready to make her a part of her wedding. Tutu sat guarding the three-tier wedding cake against goats, squirrels and crows in the garden. She even greeted the guests with the sequels of delight. Aunt Ruby disliked it and flew at Tutu in rage. Seeing this Tutu leapt away, taking with her the top tier of the wedding cake. She climbed up a jackfruit tree and began pelting us with the bits of the cake. Thus she created a utter chaos.

7) **What did the author and his grandfather discover when they saw Rocky and Aunt Ruby leaving for their honeymoon in their car? What was their reaction?**

Ans: When Rocky and Aunt Ruby were leaving for their honeymoon, the author and the grandfather discovered that Tutu had made herself comfortable on the rear bumper and had accompanied Aunt Ruby on her honeymoon to Mussoorie. The author and his Grandfather were afraid that she would ruin their honeymoon. But later took a sigh of relief thinking that Uncle Ken would bring her back.

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II. Write short notes on

1) Grandfather's love for pets

Grandfather of the author was very fond of pets. Despite of having a goat, several white mice and a small tortoise, he bought Tutu-a she monkey from a street entertainer. He could not resist as the monkey looked miserable and the grandfather thought that she would be happier at home. Tutu was not loved by Aunt Ruby and Uncle Ken. Even it took a little time to the Grandmother to accept her. But, Grandfather loved her so much that he decided to carry her along on his trip to Meerut. He carried Tutu in a large black travelling bag and did not regret paying five rupees for Tutu's journey in train. Despite of the fact that Aunt Ruby and Uncle Ken disliked Tutu, the Grandfather made her attend Aunt Ruby's wedding, when she created a ruckus and spoilt the entire wedding reception party.

2) Tutu and her mischiefs

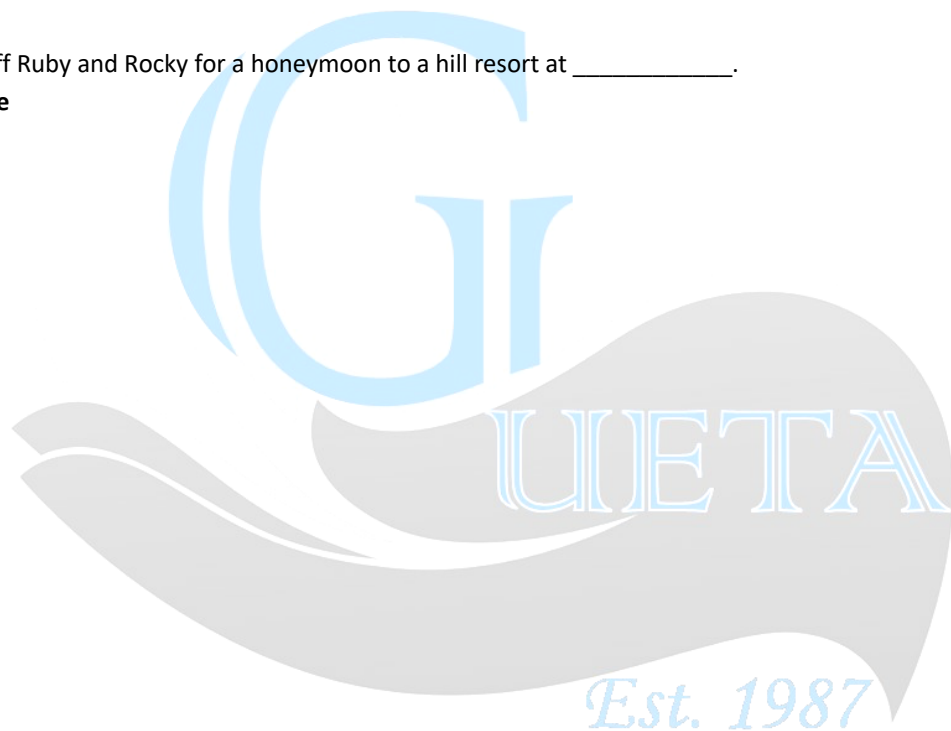
The Grandfather had bought Tutu from a street entertainer for the sum of ten rupees. Tutu was the smallest of the three monkeys that the entertainer had. She was mischievous and so was kept tied most of the time with a collar and a chain. She looked so miserable that the Grandfather decided to bring her home, hoping that she would be happier there. She was a pretty little monkey. Her bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath deep-set eyebrows. Her teeth, which were a pearly white, were often revealed in a grin that frightened the wits out of Aunt Ruby. Tutu's hands had a dried up look, as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Her fingers were quick and wicked and her tail while adding to her good looks, also served as a third hand.

Tutu left no stone unturned to harass Aunt Ruby and Uncle Ken. She picked Uncle Ken's hairbrush to scratch her armpits, tried Aunt Ruby's petticoats and even entered her bathroom and imitated her act of shampooing her hair. Tutu also irritated Aunt Ruby by slipping in the jewellery shop, where she was shopping, and stealing a pearl necklace from the shop. She even added chilli sauce, bitter gourd seeds and eggshells to the Aunt Ruby's wedding cake. During the wedding feast, Tutu even leapt away taking the top tier of the three tier make for the wedding feast. She sat on a tree and began pelting cake pieces at the guests. Finally she even accompanied Aunty Ruby on her honeymoon to Mussoorie.

III. Complete the statements by choosing the correct option from those given under them:

- 1) Grandmother welcomed Tutu, the monkey, in her house only because she _____.
 - a) had found her to be well kept
 - b) always wanted a little girl in the house**
 - c) knew that there was no monkey amongst the grandfather's pets.
 - d) had no other alternative but to accept her
- 2) Tutu had taken away Uncle Ken's _____.
 - a) hair brush to scratch her armpits**
 - b) shampoo to take a bath
 - c) car keys to drive the car
 - d) pyjamas to put on
- 3) When the grandfather was producing the tickets at the turnstile on his trip to Meerut, Tutu poked her head out of the bag and _____.
 - a) snatched the ticket
 - b) hurt the ticket collector
 - c) gave the ticket collector a wide grin**
 - d) then jumped out of it
- 4) One day when Aunt Ruby was taking her bath, she was horrified to find Tutu _____.
 - a) watching her taking bath
 - b) running away with her clothes
 - c) splashing water on her
 - d) sitting opposite her inside the bath and copying her ways**

- 5) Grandfather liked Rocky as Ruby's fiancé because of his _____.
- a) good looks
 - b) good nature
 - c) good manners
 - d) fine baritone voice**
- 6) Aunt Ruby did not wish Tutu's presence around when she went to shop for _____.
- a) her wedding dress
 - b) her engagement ring**
 - c) her wedding jewellery
 - d) a wedding gift for Rocky
- 7) When Tutu was on a spree with a pearl necklace from the jeweller's shop, the children on their way to school began _____.
- a) running after Tutu and overtook their elders**
 - b) shouting and clapping
 - c) hiding behind the trees
 - d) crying in a shrieking voice
- 8) Tutu flung the necklace into _____.
- a) a dustbin
 - b) a river
 - c) a lake
 - d) a canal**
- 9) Uncle Ken drove off Ruby and Rocky for a honeymoon to a hill resort at _____.
- a) Mussoorie**
 - b) Dehra
 - c) Lucknow
 - d) Delhi



I. **Answer the following questions in brief**

1) **Describe Captain Shaheen's restaurant in New York?**

Ans: Captain Shaheen was a handsome army man from Pakistan. He ran a restaurant named Kashmir. His office was styled like a glorified bunker: the roof replete with artificial leaves sticking out of plastic nets, a number of army caps hung on one wall; military boots were carelessly placed upon the floor, a military uniform hung from a clothes hook.

2) **Who invited the author to the restaurant and why?**

Ans: Amjad Islam had invited the author to the restaurant of Captain Shaheen. He kept inviting all the Urdu poets from India and in this way indulged in his love for the language. He even told the author that if one wants to dine best Eastern cuisine, then one would find no better place than Shaheen's in the whole New York.

3) **What according to Captain Shaheen is the emotion that makes a soldier out of a man?**

Ans: According to Captain Shaheen, it is just a grandiloquent feeling that makes a soldier out of a man. The splendour of the uniform, the charm of the army beret and the status that it adds to a man's prestige, makes him a soldier. He thought that men did not become soldiers to die and kill for the country.

4) **What did Captain Shaheen find while he was checking the houses after seizing Suchitgarh?**

Ans: Captain Shaheen, while describing his experiences of the Indo-Pak War in the year 1971, shared an incident that happened in Suchitgarh, India. He and his team were checking the houses after seizing Suchitgarh. Just then, they found a small boy cowering in one corner of the house, scared out of his wits. As soon as the little boy saw the Captain, he leapt towards him and hugged him.

5) **How did Captian Shaheen hide the child when the commander wanted to inspect the control room?**

Ans: Captain Shaheen never wanted his commander to know about the little child, because he knew that if found, he would be thrown into the prison along with other war prisoners. So, when the commander came to inspect the control room, the Captain pulled him down from the loft and bundled him behind the gunny sacks of the storeroom and later quickly locked him in the latrine behind the barracks.

6) **Which village did the child belong to? Why had he come to Suchitgarh?**

Ans: The child belonged to a village named Chajra in Sialkot, Pakistan. He had come to Suchitgarh in India, to watch Ram fight.

7) **How did Captian Shaheen and the Indian soldiers feel after hearing the little boy's reply?**

Ans: Captain Shaheen from Pakistan and the Indian soldiers were stunned to hear that the little boy was from Pakistan. Thinking that he was from India Capatain Shaheen had tried to hide him from the commander so that he was not dumped in prison as a war prisoner. Both the Indian army men and Capatain Shaheen felt like idiotic schoolmasters. They felt as if they were rams.

II. **Write short notes on**

1) **Captain Shaheen**

Captain Shaheen resigned from the Pakistani army and ran a restaurant in New York. Shaheen named his restaurant Kashmir. His business flourished as people from both India and Pakistan patronized his restaurant, as they felt a kinship with the state of Kashmir, which both these countries viewed as their own. Urdu poets and writers from Pakistan and India often met there. Amjad Islam invited Gulzar to the restaurant, and he met Captain Shaheen there. The Captain had taken part in the Indo-Pak war of 1971. But, he was in the Sialkot section which saw little action. Captain Shaheen narrated to Gulzar his experience in the war. It was during the war that the Pakistani soldiers had seized Suchitgarh in India. He and his team were checking the houses after seizing Suchitgarh. Just then, they found a

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small boy cowering in one corner of the house, scared out of his wits. As soon as the little boy saw the Captain, he leapt towards him and hugged him.

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2) The title of the story – The Rams

Bighorn male sheep, called rams, are famous for their large, curled horns. These impressive growths are a symbol of status and a weapon used in epic battles across the Rocky Mountains. Fighting for dominance, males face each other, rear up on their hind legs, and hurl themselves at each other in charges of some 20 miles an hour. The resounding clash of horns can be heard echoing through the mountains as the confrontation is repeated, sometimes for many hours, until one ram submits and walks away.

Interestingly, Gulzar has used the Ram fight as symbolic to talk about the Indo-Pak War held in 1971. It was a war between the two nations to establish dominance. The story revolves around a small boy who crosses the border and comes from Pakistan to watch a Ram fight and gets caught in the stressful situation of the war. Captain Shaheen from Pakistan get hold of him in Suchitgarh hides him from his commander thinking of him to be Indian. But later in interrogation he finds that the child was from Chajra, Pakistan. Captain Shaheen and the Indian soldiers were stunned to hear that the little boy was from Pakistan. Both the Indian army men and Captain Shaheen feel like idiotic schoolmasters. They feel as if they were rams and the child as the one who had come to enjoy their fight.

III. Complete the statements by choosing the correct option from those given under them:

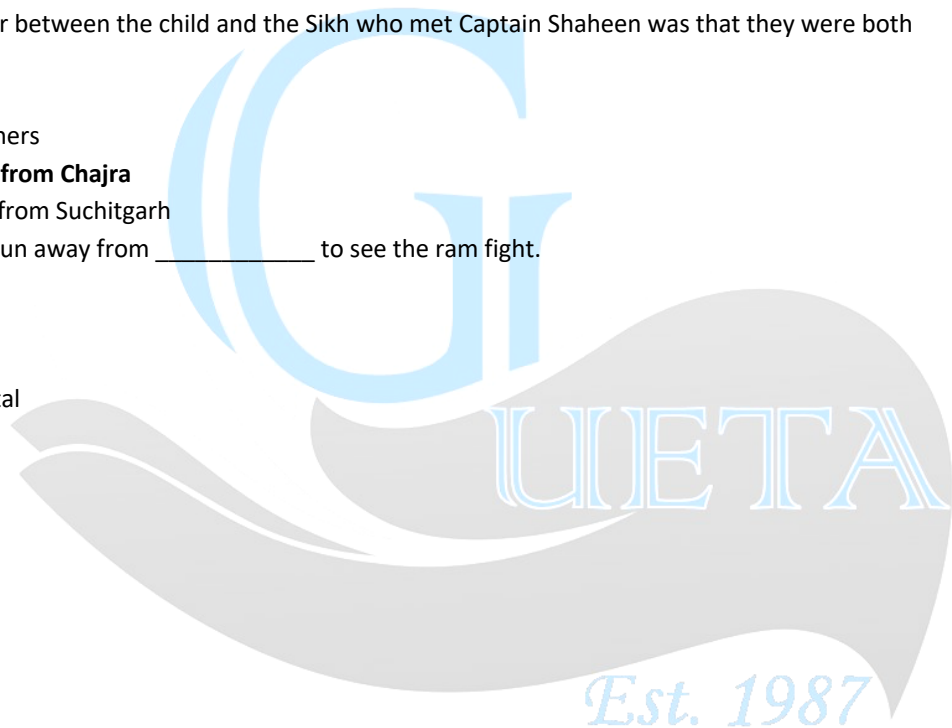
- 1) _____ is a big town in Pakistan.
 - a) Suchitgarh
 - b) Sialkot**
 - c) Barmer
 - d) Jammu
- 2) Vakil Ansari had celebrated _____ all over the country.
 - a) Jashne-e- Khemchand Narang
 - b) Jashne-e- Debichand Narang
 - c) Jashne-e- Gopichand Narang**
 - d) Jashne-e- Prabhashankar Narang
- 3) Amjadbhai had invited the author to dine on _____ cuisine at Captain Shaheen's restaurant.
 - a) Kashmiri
 - b) Pakistani
 - c) Punjabi
 - d) Eastern**

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- 4) Captain Shaheen had participated in the _____.
- 1971 Indo-Pak War**
 - 1965 Indo-Pak War
 - 1962 Indo-China War
 - Kargil War
- 5) According to Captain Shaheen, when you face your fear, you become familiar with it and then _____.
- you acknowledge fear
 - you begin fearing more
 - your fear ceases to be fear**
 - you give up
- 6) The Sikh, whom Captain Shaheen met at Suchitgarh _____.
- agreed to take the child to his parents**
 - denied to take the child to his parents
 - agreed to take the child along with him
 - agreed to adopt the child
- 7) The little boy, found in an Indian village, actually belonged to _____ in Pakistan.
- Lahore
 - Karachi
 - Peshawar
 - Chajra**
- 8) The common factor between the child and the Sikh who met Captain Shaheen was that they were both _____.
- Sikhs
 - war prisoners
 - originally from Chajra**
 - originally from Suchitgarh
- 9) The little boy had run away from _____ to see the ram fight.
- his home
 - his school**
 - the prison
 - the hospital



I. Answer the following questions in brief

1) **When did the author visit Kutch and why?**

Ans: Sudha Murty, visited Kutch post the devastating earthquake occurred on January 26, 2001. She went to visit this area after some time, when the dust of propaganda had settled down, in order to see the actual life, after all the emotions had drained off and reality had become the priority.

2) **How did the girl welcome the author in the tent that served as the family's house? Why did the author not drink the water offered by the girl?**

Ans: A young girl of about 14 years of age welcomed the author in the tent that served as the family's house. She offered the author a *charpoy* to sit. Later she went inside and got a glass of water for the author. The author was hesitant to drink that water thinking that, if it was not sterile, she would be at the risk of contracting diseases like dysentery, Hepatitis –B and Jaundice. So, she accepted the water but did not drink it.

3) **How did the girl's family live in Bombay before coming to Kutch?**

Ans: Before coming to Kutch, the girl's family lived in Bombay. Her father used to beg in Bombay at Mahim Creek, near the church and her mother used to sell candles at the church's entrance.

4) **When and why did the girl's family migrate from Bombay to Kutch?**

Ans: The girl's family migrated from Bombay to Kutch after watching the news of earthquake on TV. They could easily get into a train without ticket due to the chaos and later found free rides on buses and jeeps to reach this village. They came to Kutch as there was abundant relief material being distributed to the affected people by various Government and Non-Government organizations. They could easily get plentiful of food, clothes and many more things, which they had never seen before.

5) **How did the girl's family manage to travel to an interior village in Kutch from Bombay without money?**

Ans: The girl's family managed to board a train without ticket from Bombay and when they got off at Bhuj they easily escaped in the crowd as there was no ticket collector. There were plenty of buses from their run by various volunteers. The family got into one of the buses which dropped them on main road. There were many jeeps taking the people and other relief materials from main road to the interiors. Thus the family managed to get into one such jeep and reach an interior village of Kutch.

6) **How did the life of the girl's family improve after moving to earthquake-hit Kutch?**

Ans: The condition of the girl's family transformed totally after reaching Kutch. They had nothing to lose as they did not have anything. The parents began helping the villagers. They managed to get free camping material from some organization and made a place to stay. They could get plenty of food to eat, which they never had before. The father got rid of the asthma problem which he had in Bombay due to pollution. Both the parents had begun earning Rs. 100 per day by serving as a *coolie* in a nearby field. The earthquake came as a boon to them.

7) **What did the author learn about the source of the water that the girl had offered her for drinking? Why did she finally drink it with contentment?**

Ans: The author was surprised to see that behind a curtain there were number of cartons of Bisleri water, biscuit packets, utensil, steel trunks and much more, which the family had managed to acquire from the relief materials sent to the affected areas. Realising that the water in the glass was sterile, mineral water, the author finally drank it with contentment.

II. Write short notes on

1) The title Bonded by Bisleri

Sudha Murty, visited Kutch post the devastating earthquake occurred on January 26, 2001. She went to visit this area after some time, when the dust of propaganda had settled down, in order to see the actual life, after all the emotions had drained off and reality had become the priority. One of the tyres of the jeep she was travelling in went flat. She was alone as the driver had gone to get it fixed. Thus, she moved towards a tent.

A young girl of about 14 years of age welcomed the author in the tent that served as the family's house. She offered the author a *charpoy* to sit. Later she went inside and got a glass of water for the author. The author was hesitant to drink that water thinking that, if it was not sterile, she would be at the risk of contracting diseases like dysentery, Hepatitis –B and Jaundice. So, she accepted the water but did not drink it.

Later the girl described how her family had moved to Kutch from Bombay following the devastating earthquake and how the abundance of help pouring in from various NGOs for the earthquake victims had come as a boon for them. They had more than enough to eat and her parents had even managed to get a job as a coolie through which they both earned Rs. 100 per day. The girl offered tea and biscuits to the author and even pulled a curtain in the tent to ask her to choose the brand of biscuit she liked. It was that moment when the author saw the cartons of Bisleri mineral water stored there. She was pleasantly surprised to know that post earthquake the people in that area were drinking only Bisleri water. The author drank the water because she now had no fear of contracting a disease. The author and the girl were thus bonded by Bisleri.

2) The Kutch earthquake as a boon for the girl's family

The earthquake in Kutch had proved to be a boon for the girl's family. Her father used to beg and her mother sold candles in Bombay. Seeing the news of earthquake on TV, the girl's father decided to move to Kutch. The girl's family managed to board a train without ticket from Bombay and when they got off at Bhuj they easily escaped in the crowd as there was no ticket collector. There were plenty of buses from their run by various volunteers. The family got into one of the buses which dropped them on main road. There were many jeeps taking the people and other relief materials from main road to the interiors. Thus the family managed to get into one such jeep and reach an interior village of Kutch.

The condition of the girl's family transformed totally after reaching Kutch. They had nothing to lose as they did not have anything. The parents began helping the villagers. They managed to get free camping material from some organization and made a place to stay. They could get plenty of food to eat, which they never had before. The father got rid of the asthma problem which he had in Bombay due to pollution. Both the parents had begun earning Rs. 100 per day by serving as a *coolie* in a nearby field.

III. Complete the statements by choosing the correct option from those given under them:

1) A disastrous earthquake hit Kutch in Gujarat on _____.

- a) January 21, 2002
- b) January 26, 2001**
- c) January 19, 2001
- d) January 14, 2002

2) When the author was visiting fairly unknown places in the deep interior of Kutch _____.

- a) her car met with an accident
- b) she planned to visit one of the relief centres
- c) one of the tyres of her jeep went flat**
- d) she stopped beside a relief camp to take a nap

- 3) The temporary houses in one of the interior villages of Kutch were covered with _____ sheets.
- hay
 - cemented sheets
 - steel sheets
 - blue plastic**
- 4) The girl in the tent offered a _____ to the author.
- charpoy**
 - mat
 - sofa
 - stool
- 5) Before coming to Kutch, the girl's father used to _____.
- sell vegetables.
 - beg**
 - drive a cab
 - do nothing
- 6) Why did the beggar's family decide to settle down in Kutch? _____.
- Because they got a plenty of food, a tent to stay in and also a job to earn a regular income from.**
 - Because they planned to help the victims of the earthquakes.
 - Because they liked staying in Kutch.
 - Because they were driven out of their native place.
- 7) After settling in Kutch, the girls' parent worked as _____.
- coolies in a field**
 - storekeepers in a factory
 - vegetable vendors
 - volunteers to help earthquake victims
- 8) How much did the girl's father and the mother each earn in Kutch?
- Rs.300 / day
 - Rs. 200/ day
 - Rs.100 / day**
 - Rs. 50 / day
- 9) What kind of water had the girl offered to the narrator?
- tap water
 - pot water
 - purified water
 - Bisleri water**