

# Columbia Foundation Sr. Sec. School

## The Address

Q1. Have you come back?' said the woman, 'I thought that no one had come back.' Does this statement give some clue about the story? If yes, what is it?

### **Answer:**

Yes, this statement gives some clue about the story. During the early part of the war Mrs Dorling had shifted the important belongings of her acquaintance Mrs S. from her house to 46, Marconi Street. These included table silver wares, antique plates and other nice things such as the iron anukkah candle-holder, woollen table cloth and green knitted cardigan with wooden buttons. Since Mrs S. had died during the war, Mrs Dorling did not expect anyone to come back and claim her costly belongings as she thought no one else knew her address.

The statement indicates the greedy and possessive nature of Mrs Dorling. She did not open the door to the daughter of her former acquaintance nor did she show any signs of recognition. She did not let the girl in. She refused to see her then saying it was not convenient for her to do. The narrator had gone to this address with a specific purpose—to see her mother's belongings.

Even when she told Mrs Dorling that only she had come back, the woman with a broad back did not soften a bit. Thus the clash of interests is hinted at by the aforesaid statement.

### **Question 2:**

The story is divided into pre-war and post-war times. What hardships do you think the girl underwent during these times?

### **Answer:**

During the pre-war times, the narrator lived in some other city far away from home and she visited her mother only for a few days. During the first half of the war the narrator's mother was always afraid that they might have to leave the place and lose all valuable belongings. The narrator lived in the city in a small rented room. Its windows were covered with blackout paper. She could not see the beauty of nature outside her room. The threat of death loomed large.

After the liberation, everything became normal again. Bread was getting to be a lighter colour. She could sleep in her bed without any fear of death. She could glance out of the window of her room each day. One day, she was eager to see all the possessions of her mother, which she knew were stored at number 46, Marconi Street. She went to that address. She felt disappointed when Mrs Dorling neither recognised her nor let her in. She asked her to come again someday. It was evident she wanted to put her off. She was eager to see, touch and remember her mother's possessions. So, she had to take the trouble of visiting the place again.

### **Question 3:**

Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address?

### **Answer:**

The narrator remembered the address her mother had told her only once. It was number 46, Marconi Street. Her mother's acquaintance Mrs Dorling lived there. She had stored the valuable belongings of the narrator's mother there. After her mother's death, the narrator had an urge to visit the place. She wanted to see those things, touch them and remember. She went to the given address twice. She was successful in her second attempt to enter the living room. .

She found herself in the midst of things she wanted to see again. She felt oppressed in the strange atmosphere. Everything was arranged in a tasteless way. The ugly furniture and the muggy smell that hung there seemed quite unpleasant. These objects evoked the memory of the familiar life of former time. But they had lost their value since they had been separated from her mother and stored in strange surroundings. She no longer wanted to see, touch or remember these belongings. She resolved to forget the address. She wanted to leave the past behind and decided to move on.

### **Question 4:**

'The Address' is a story of human predicament that follows war. Comment.

### **Answer:**

The war creates many difficult and unpleasant situations for human beings. Sometime it becomes difficult to know what to do. The human predicament that follows war is amply illustrated through the experience of the narrator. The war had caused many physical difficulties as well as emotional sufferings to her. She had lost her dear mother. She went to 46, Marconi Street to see her mother's valuable possessions. How greedy and callous human beings can become is exemplified by the behaviour of Mrs Dorling. She had stored all the valuable belongings of the narrator's mother, but she refused to recognise the narrator. She did not even let her in. The presence of her mother's possessions in strange atmosphere pained her. Now these valuables had lost all their importance for her as they had been separated from her mother. She could get no solace or comfort from them.

## A. Short Answer Type Questions

### Question 1:

How did Mrs Dorling react when the narrator said, "Mrs S's daughter"?

#### Answer:

Mrs Dorling held her hand on the door as if she wanted to prevent it opening any further. Her face showed no sign of recognition. She kept staring at the narrator without uttering a word.

### Question 2:

What two reasons did the narrator give to explain that she was mistaken?

#### Answer:

She thought that perhaps the woman was not Mrs Dorling. She had seen her only once, for a brief interval and that too years ago. Secondly, it was probable that she had rung the wrong bell.

### Question 3:

How did the narrator conclude that she was right?

**Answer:** The woman was wearing the green knitted cardigan of the narrator's mother. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that the narrator was looking at the cardigan. She half hid herself again behind the door. Her reaction convinced the narrator that she was right.

### Question 4:

What was the outcome of the interview between Mrs Dorling and the narrator?

#### Answer:

The interview was a flop as far as the narrator was concerned. Mrs Dorling refused to see her and talk to her in spite of the narrator's repeated requests.

### Question 5:

Who had given the narrator the address, when and under what circumstances?

#### Answer:

The narrator's mother had given her the address, years ago during the first half of the war. The narrator came home for a few days and missed various things in the rooms. Then her mother told her about Mrs Dorling and gave her the address.

### Question 6:

What did the narrator learn about Mrs Dorling from her mother?

#### Answer:

Mrs Dorling was an old acquaintance of the narrator's mother. The latter had not seen her for several years. Then she suddenly turned up and renewed their contact. Every time she left that place she took something with her—table silver, antique plates, etc. –

### Question 7:

What reason did Mrs Dorling give for taking away the precious belongings of the narrator's mother?

#### Answer:

Mrs Dorling suggested to the narrator's mother that she should store her belongings at a safer place. She wanted to save all her nice things. She explained that they would lose everything if they had to leave the place.

### Question 8:

What impression do you form of the narrator's mother on the basis of her conversation with (i) Mrs Dorling and (ii) the narrator?

#### Answer:

The narrator's mother was a kind-hearted, generous and liberal lady. She was fond of collecting valuable things. She is more worried about the physical risk to Mrs Dorling than losing them to her. She thought it an insult to tell her friends to keep those things for ever.

**Question 9:**

Did the narrator feel convinced about the views of her mother regarding Mrs Dorling? How do you know?

**Answer:**

The narrator did not feel convinced about her mother's concern for Mrs Dorling.

The latter was keen on removing the precious possessions of the narrator's mother to her own house. It seems that the narrator did not like Mrs Darling's excessive interest in her mother's belongings. It is evident from the questions she puts to her mother.

**Question 10:**

What does the narrator remember about Mrs Dorling as she saw her for the first time?

**Answer:**

Mrs Dorling was a woman with a broad back. She wore a brown coat and a shapeless hat. She picked up a heavy suitcase lying under the coat rack and left their house.

She lived at number 46, Marconi Street.

**Question 11:**

Why did the narrator wait a long time before going to the address number 46, Marconi Street?

**Answer:**

Initially, after the liberation, she was not at all interested in her mother's belongings lying stored there. She was also afraid of being confronted with things that had belonged to her mother, who was now no more.

**Question 12:**

When did the narrator become curious about her mother's possessions?

**Answer:**

The narrator became curious about her mother's possessions as normalcy returned in the post-liberation period. She knew that those things must still be at the address her mother told her. She wanted to see them, touch and remember.

**Question 13:**

"I was in a room I knew and did not know," says the narrator in the story 'The Address'. What prompted her to make this observation?

**Answer:**

The narrator found herself in the midst of things she was familiar with and which she did want to see again. However, she found them in a strange atmosphere where everything was arranged in a tasteless way. The ugly furniture and the muggy smell created the feeling that she didn't know the room.

**Question 14:**

"I just looked at the still life over the tea table," says the narrator in the story 'The Address'. What does she mean by 'the still life'? What prompted her to make this remark?

**Answer:**

By 'the still life', the narrator means the things over the tea table such as the table-cloth, tea pot, cups and spoons. The reference to antique box and silver spoons prompted her to make this remark.

**Question 15:**

How was the narrator able to recognise her own familiar woollen table-cloth?

**Answer:**

The narrator first stared at the woollen table-cloth. Then she followed the lines of the pattern. She remembered that somewhere there was a bum mark which had not been repaired. At last she found the bum mark on the table-cloth. This helped her to recognise her own familiar article.

**Question 16:**

"You only notice when something is missing." What does the speaker exactly mean? What examples does she give?

**Answer:**

The speaker says that one gets used to touching one's lovely things in the house. One hardly looks at them any more. It is only when something is missing that it is noticed either because it is to be repaired or it has been lent to someone.

**Question 17:**

How did narrator come to know that the cutlery they ate off every day was silver?

**Answer:**

Once the narrator's mother asked her if she would help her polish the silver. The narrator asked her which silver she meant. Her mother was surprised at her ignorance and replied that it was the spoons, forks and knives, i.e. the cutlery they ate off everyday.

**Question 18:**

Why did the narrator suddenly decide to leave?

**Answer:**

The narrator had visited 46, Marconi Street for a specific purpose—to see her mother's belongings and touch them. However, these objects seemed to have lost their value in strange surroundings and on being severed from the life of former times.

**Question 19:**

How did the narrator reconcile herself to the loss of her mother's precious belongings?

**Answer:**

The narrator felt that her mother had only lent them for safe custody and Mrs Dorling was not to keep everything. On seeing these objects, memories of her former life were aroused. She found no room for these precious belongings in her present life. So she reconciled to her fate.

**Question 20:**

"Of all the things I had to forget, that would be the easiest". What does the speaker mean by 'that'? What is its significance in the story?

**Answer:**

That' here stands for the address. The words: number 46, Marconi Street, i.e. the address recur throughout the story. The address is important for the narrator at the beginning of the story. However, at the end of the story she resolves to forget it as she wants to break off with the past and move on with the present into the future.

**B. Long Answer Type Questions****Question 1:**

How did the narrator come to know about Mrs Dorling and the address where she lived?

**Answer:**

Years ago, during the first half of the war, the narrator went home for a few days to see her mother. After staying there a couple of days she noticed that something or other about the rooms had changed. She missed various things. Then her mother told her about Mrs Dorling. She was an old acquaintance of her mother. She had suddenly turned up after many years. Now she came regularly and took something home with her everytime she came. She suggested that she could save her precious belongings by storing them at her place. Mother told her address, Number 46, Marconi Street. The narrator asked her mother if she had agreed with her that she should keep everything. Her mother did not like that. She thought it would be an insult to do so. She was worried about the risk Mrs Dorling faced carrying a full suitcase or bag.

**Question 2:**

Give a brief account of the narrator's first visit to 46, Marconi Street. What impression do you form of Mrs Dorling from it?

**Answer:**

In the post-war period, when things returned to normal, the narrator became curious about her mother's possessions that were stored at Mrs Dorling's house. Since she wanted to see them, she took the train and went to 46, Marconi Street. Mrs Dorling opened the door a chink. The narrator came closer, stood on the step and asked her if she still knew her. Mrs Dorling told her that she didn't know her. The narrator told her that she was the daughter of Mrs S. Mrs Dorling kept staring at her in silence and gave on sign of recognition. She held her hand on the door as if she wanted to prevent it opening any further. The narrator recognised the green knitted cardigan of her mother that Mrs Dorling was wearing. Mrs Dorling noticed it and half hid herself behind the door. The narrator again asked if she knew her mother. Mrs Dorling asked with surprise if she had come back. She declined to see the narrator or help her.

**Question 3:**

In what respect was the second visit of the narrator to 46, Marconi Street different from the first one? Did she really succeed in her mission? Give a reason for your answer.

**Answer:**

The second visit of the narrator to 46, Marconi Street, was different from the first one in one respect. During the first visit, the narrator could not get admittance in the house, whereas during the second one, she was led to the living room, where she could see and touch some of the things she had wanted so eagerly to see. She had visited this place with a specific purpose—to see her mother's belongings. The touch and sight of familiar things aroused memory of her former life. These objects had now lost their real value for her since they were severed from their own lives and stored in strange circumstances. Thus her mission to see, touch and remember her mother's belongings was partly successful. She resolved to forget these objects, and their past and move on. This is clear from her decision to forget the address.

**Question 4:**

What impression do you form of the narrator?

**Answer:**

The narrator leaves a very favourable impression on us about her emotional and intellectual qualities. We find her an intelligent but devoted daughter. She loves and respects her mother, but does not approve of her soft behaviour towards her acquaintance, Mrs Dorling. She puts a pointed question, which her mother thinks impolite.

The narrator has a keen power of observation. She notices during her brief stay at home that various things are missing from the rooms. She has a sharp power of judgment. She once sizes up Mrs Dorling. Her persistent efforts to remind Mrs Dorling of her own identity and the latter's relations with her mother reveal her indomitable spirit. She visits 46, Marconi Street twice to see, touch and remember her mother's belongings. She is a realist, who doesn't like to remain tagged to the past. Her resolution to forget the address and move on shows her grit and forward looking nature. She has a progressive personality.

**Question 5:**

Comment on the significance of the title of the story The Address.

**Answer:**

The title of the story The Address is quite apt. It is the spring wheel of the action. In fact the whole action centres round it. The title is quite suggestive and occurs at the beginning, middle and end of the story. Marga Minco focuses the reader's attention on it by the narrator's doubt whether she was mistaken and her self assurance that she had reached the correct address.

The middle part of the story reveals how she came to know the address. It was her mother who informed her about the place where Mrs Dorling lived and asked her to remember it.

The story ends dramatically with the narrator's resolve to forget the address. The wheel comes full circle. She had remembered the address for so many years and now since the belongings of her mother stored there have lost their usefulness she finds that forgetting this address would be quite easy.

## Ranga's Marriage

**Question 1:**

Comment on the influence of English—the language and the way of life— on Indian life as reflected in the story. What is the narrator's attitude to English?

**Answer:**

The narrator says that during the last ten years English language has made inroads into Indian countryside. Now there are many who know English. During the holidays, one comes across them on every street, talking in English. They bring in English words even while talking in Kannada. The narrator considers it disgraceful. He illustrates his point of view by giving an example. A bundle of firewood was bought at Rama Rao's house. Rama Rao's son asked the woman how much he should give her. When she said, "Four pice", the boy told her that he did not have any "change" and asked her to come the next day. The poor woman did not understand the English word "change" and went away muttering to herself. Thus the use of English language before a native Kannada speaker caused confusion.

Ranga was influenced by the English way of life. Like them he wanted to marry a mature girl and not a young present-day bride. He told the narrator that he would marry when he grew a bit older. Secondly, he wanted to marry a girl he admired. He was not in favour of arranged marriages. This shows the influence of English way of life on modern young educated Indians. The narrator did not approve of it.

**Question 2:**

Astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars. Comment with reference to the story.

**Answer:**

This story presents astrologers in an unfavourable light. The author seems to be having a dig at them through the words of the narrator. The story gives a graphic description of how the narrator employs the astrologer to trick an unwilling

youngman to agree to marry a young girl. He tutors him in all that he wants him to say.

The narrator took Ranga to the astrologer. The Shastri took out his paraphernalia. These included two sheets of paper, some cowries and a book of palmyra leaves. He called astrology ancient science. He moved his lips fast as he counted on his fingers. He did some calculations before telling Ranga that he was thinking about a girl. She had the name of something found in the ocean. He assured them that their negotiations would definitely bear fruit. Ranga was impressed by the science of astrology.

That evening the narrator congratulated Shastri for repeating everything he had taught without giving rise to any suspicion. He mocked astrology by saying, "What a marvellous shastra yours is!" The Shastri didn't like it and said that he could have found it out himself from his shastra.

This shows that astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars.

### Question 3:

Indian society has moved a long way from the way the marriage is arranged in the story. Discuss.

#### Answer:

In the past, marriages in India were usually arranged by parents/relatives. The story 'Ranga's Marriage' shows how the narrator arranges Ranga's marriage with the help of the astrologer. After independence, certain changes have come in the economic and social set-up of the Indian society. Women empowerment has made women men's comrades and equals and not a mere prisoner confined within the four walls. Women education and access to jobs have changed the attitude of modern males towards them. A girl is now accepted as a partner in marriage for her worth or qualities rather than the dowry. Marriageable young boys and girls have now more say in the choice of partners. Early marriages have been banned legally. The minimum age for marriage for a girl is 18 and for a boy it is 21. By this time they attain physical, emotional and mental maturity. Indian society has certainly moved a long way from the time of arranged marriages when the formal consent of the bride/bridegroom was taken for granted and the elders fixed everything.

### Question 4:

What kind of a person do you think the narrator is?

#### Answer:

The narrator, Shyama, is dark in colour. He calls himself 'a dark piece of oil-cake'. He is an elderly gentleman. He is keen observer of men and manners. He notices the influence of English—the language and the way of life on Indian society. He is a purist who is pained at the indiscriminate use of English words in Kannada conversation. He considers it disgraceful. He does not approve of the English custom of love-marriage either. He is a well-meaning gentleman who has the good of others in his heart. He learns of Ranga's views about marriage from Ranga himself. He is a good judge of human character. He thinks that Ranga would make a good husband. The narrator is a good strategist. He cleverly calls Ranga to his home when Ratna is singing a song. He notices Ranga's reaction and interest in her and arouses his curiosity by arranging a meeting with the astrologer. First he says that Ratna is married, but when he finds Ranga deeply interested in her, he confesses that he was wrongly informed. In short, the narrator tries his utmost to get the marriage settled. The narrator loves fun and humour. He has the capacity to make others laugh at him. He employs a rambling style and gives many similes and metaphors to heighten the literary value of the story. The touches of local colour make the story full of ethnic colour and authentic.

## A. Short Answer Type Questions

### Question 1:

What does the narrator say about Hosahalli?

#### Answer:

Hosahalli village is the scene of action. There is no mention of it in geography books written by the sahibs in England or Indian writers. No cartographer has put it on the map. The narrator highlights its importance by comparing it to the filling of the karigadubu—a festival meal.

### Question 2:

What are the two special produce of Hosahalli and in what respect?

#### Answer:

First is the raw mango. The sourness of its bite is sure to get straight to the brahmarandhra, i.e. the soft part in child's head where skull bones join later. Second specialty is a creeper growing in the water of the village pond. Its flowers are a feast to behold. You can serve afternoon meal to the whole family on its two leaves.

**Question 3:**

What exactly had happened ten years ago? How important was it then?

**Answer:**

Ten years ago, there were not many people in the village who knew English. The village accountant was the first one who sent his son Ranga to Bangalore to pursue his studies. It was quite an important event then. The narrator highlights it by saying that the village accountant was the first one who had enough courage to send his son to Bangalore to study.

**Question 4:**

What happened when Ranga returned to his village from the city of Bangalore?

**Answer:**

Ranga's homecoming was a great event. The crowds milled around his house to see whether he had changed or not. People were quite excited as the boy was returning home after studying English at Bangalore. Everyone was surprised to see that Ranga was the same as he had been six months ago, when he had first left the village.

**Question 5:**

How did the old lady satisfy herself about Ranga?

**Answer:**

The old lady ran her hand over Ranga's chest. She looked into his eyes. She was satisfied to find the sacred thread on his body. She was happy that he had not lost his caste.

**Question 6:**

"What has happened is disgraceful, believe me" says the narrator. What does he refer to? How does he illustrate his point of view?

**Answer:**

The narrator refers to the practice of young persons who during the holidays in village, go on talking in English or bring in English words while talking in Kannada. He calls this mixing up of languages 'disgraceful'. He gives the example of the use of the English word 'change' to an illiterate person. The old lady, being asked to come the next day, went away disgruntled.

**Question 7:**

Why does the narrator refer to the Black Hole of Calcutta?

**Answer:**

During the British rule, hundreds of persons were kept inside a single room. The next morning most of them were found dead due to suffocation. The narrator uses the expression 'Black Hole of Calcutta' to suggest the large number of people who had turned out to see Ranga.

**Question 8:**

How did Ranga greet the narrator? In what respect did he differ from the present- day boys?

**Answer:**

Ranga greeted the narrator with full devotion. He not only folded his hands, but also bent low to touch his feet. A present-day boy would stand stiff like a pole without joints, keep head towards the sun and jerk his body as if it were either a hand or a walking stick. The narrator, being old fashioned did not approve it.

**Question 9:**

When did Ranga plan to marry and why?

**Answer:**

Ranga did not want to get married at an early age. He wanted to find the right girl. She should be mature enough to understand his love talk. Secondly, he wished to marry a girl he admired. He was against marrying quite young girls who had no manners or were not careful of their face or figure.

**Question 10:**

What examples did Ranga give to explain the importance of marrying late?

**Answer:** Ranga gave two examples. An officer about thirty, married a girl about twenty- five. Ranga hoped they would be able to talk lovingly to each other. The second example is that of Dushyanta falling in love with Shakuntala, who was quite mature.

**Question 11:**

“Ranga was just the boy for her and she the most suitable bride for him” says the narrator. Who is ‘she’? What led narrator to this conclusion?

**Answer:**

‘She’ here stands for Ratna, the niece of Rama Rao. She was a pretty girl of eleven. Both her parents having died, her uncle had brought her home. Being a girl from a big town, she knew how to play the veena and the harmonium. She also had a sweet voice. All these qualities made her a suitable bride for a young, educated man like Ranga.

**Question 12:**

How did the narrator let Ranga have a glimpse of Ratna?

**Answer:**

The narrator arranged the meeting very systematically. First he called Ratna on the pretext of sending buttermilk through her. Then he asked her to sing a song. Meanwhile Ranga, whom he had sent for, reached the door. He became curious to see the singer and peeped in. His presence at the door blocked the light and Ratna stopped singing abruptly.

**Question 13:**

How did Ranga and Ratna react at their unexpected encounter?

**Answer:**

Ratna stopped singing abruptly on seeing a stranger outside the room. Ranga felt disappointed when the singing stopped. Ratna stood at a distance with her head lowered. Ranga repeatedly glanced at her. He blamed himself for the singing to stop and offered to leave. Ratna was overcome by shyness and ran inside. Ranga enquired about her.

**Question 14:**

How did the narrator handle Ranga’s inquiries about Ratna?

**Answer:**

The narrator did not give him a straightforward reply. He said casually that it did not matter to either of them who she was. The narrator was already married and Ranga was not the marrying type. This aroused Ranga’s interest and excitement. He expressed the hope that she was unmarried. His face showed signs of disappointment on learning that she was married a year ago.

**Question 15:**

Why did the narrator tell Ranga that the girl was married a year ago?

**Answer:**

The narrator had made up his mind that he would get Ranga married early. First he brought Ranga and Ratna face to face to arouse his interest in her. In order to test the strength of his emotions, he told Ranga that she was married a year ago. The shrivelled face of the young man betrayed his feelings.

**Question 16:**

Why did the narrator visit the village astrologer?

**Answer:**

The narrator wanted to exploit the common human weakness—eagerness to know the future. He went to the village astrologer and told him to keep ready to read the stars. He tutored him in all that he wanted the astrologer to say when he would revisit him with Ranga.

**Question 17:**

In what mental /emotional state did the narrator find Ranga? What solution did he offer? How did Ranga react to it?

**Answer:**

Ranga seemed to be lost in thought. Perhaps he was emotionally upset to learn that the girl he had seen that morning was already married one. The narrator offered to take him to Shastri to learn about the stars-whether Guru and Shani were favourable for him or not. Ranga accompanied him without any protest.

**Question 18:**

“What? Only this morning...” Why was this sentence cut off and by whom? What would have been the likely impact if the speaker had completed the sentence?

**Answer:**

The narrator got angry when the astrologer said with surprise that he had not seen the former for a long time. The narrator

shouted these words. The astrologer cut this sentence off and completed it in his own way. If he had not done so, the narrator would have ruined their plan by blurting out everything.

**Question 19:**

What according to the astrologer was Ranga's cause of worry? How did the name Ratna' crop up?

**Answer:**

According to the astrologer the cause of Ranga's worry was a girl. She probably had the name of something found in the ocean. When asked if it could be Kamla the astrologer did not rule out the possibility. When suggested if it could be Pacchi, moss, the astrologer put a counter question: "Why not pearl or ratna, the precious stone?" Thus the name Ratna cropped up.

**Question 20:**

"There was surprise on Ranga's face. And some happiness." What do you think had caused these feelings?

**Answer:**

When the narrator learnt from Shastri—the astrologer, that the name of the girl Ranga was worried about could be Ratna, he was at once reminded of Rama Rao's niece Ratna. He asked the astrologer if there was any chance of the marriage being fixed there, the astrologer gave a firm assurance. This caused happiness and surprise on Ranga's face.

**Question 21:**

How did the narrator test the sincerity of Ranga's feelings about Ratna?

**Answer:**

The narrator employed the age-old trick 'temptation for the unattainable'. He first mentioned that the girl had been married a year ago. He noticed Ranga's disappointment. Ranga's face fell when the narrator mentioned to the astrologer that Ratna was married. When he was sure of the sincerity of Ranga's feelings about Ratna, he disclosed that she wasn't married.

**Question 22:**

"There's greater truth in that shastra than we imagine," says Ranga. What truth does he refer to and how was he made to admit it?

**Answer:**

After their visit to Shastri, the narrator disclosed to Ranga that Ratna was not married. He observed that whatever Shastri told them had turned out to be true. Still he could not believe that Ranga had been thinking of her. He asked Ranga to confirm it. Ranga frankly admitted the truth that he was thinking of her.

**Question 23:**

What did the narrator tell Shastri about his performance? How did the Shastri react to it?

**Answer:**

The narrator told Shastri that he repeated everything he had told him without giving rise to any suspicion. He exclaimed "What a marvellous Shastra yours is!" Shastri did not like his berating astrology. He retorted that he could have found out himself from the Shastras.

**Question 24:**

Comment on the ending of the-story 'Ranga's Marriage'.

**Answer:**

The story has a happy ending. Ranga has been married to Ratna and they have a three year old golden boy named Shyama after their well-wisher, the narrator. Ratna is eight months pregnant and about to deliver another baby.

## B. Long Answer Type Questions

**Question 1:**

"The best way of getting to know a place is to visit it." Which place does Masti Venkatesha Iyengar refer to? What do you know learn about it?

**Answer:**

The author refers to Hosahalli, the village of Rangappa and the narrator. From the narrator's point of view it is an important village in the Mysore state. People may not have heard of it, as there is no mention of it in Geography books. The place has been ignored both by British and Indian authors. No cartographer has put it on the map. The raw mangoes from the mango trees in the village are quite sour. The extreme potency of the sourness of these

mangoes is amply illustrated by the comment: "Just take a bite. The sourness is sure to go straight to your brahmarandhra." The creeper growing in the village pond had beautiful flowers and broad leaves. The latter can serve as plates for serving afternoon meal. The village doctor Gundabhatta also speaks glowingly of Hosahalli.

**Question 2:**

What was special about Rangappa? How did the villagers react to it?

**Answer:**

Ten years ago, there were not many people in Hosahalli village who knew English. Rangappa, the accountant's son enjoyed a unique distinction. He was the first one to be sent to Bangalore to pursue his studies. This was considered an act of courage on the part of his father. It was an important event in the village—a sort of first of its type. Naturally, Ranga's homecoming was a great event. The crowds of villagers milled around his house to see whether he had changed or not. People were quite excited because Ranga had returned home after studying English at Bangalore. An old lady ran her hand over Ranga's chest. She looked into his eyes. She was satisfied to find the sacred thread on his body. She felt happy that he had not lost his caste. People disappeared from the scene, once they realised that Ranga had not undergone any material change.

**Question 3:**

Give a brief account of the narrator's two meetings with Ranga after the latter's return from Bangalore. What opinion did he form about the young man?

**Answer:**

When Ranga returned home after getting his education in Bangalore, crowds of people collected round his home to see him. The narrator was attracted by the crowd. He too went and stood in the courtyard. Ranga came out with a smile on his face. After every one had gone, the narrator asked Rangappa how he was. Ranga noticed him and came near him. He folded his hands and touched the narrator's feet. He said that he was all right, with the narrator's blessings. The narrator blessed him and wished that he might get married soon. They exchanged some polite friendly remarks. Then the narrator left.

That afternoon, when the narrator was resting, Ranga came to his house with a couple of oranges in his hand. The narrator thought that Ranga was a generous, considerate fellow. He was of the opinion that it would be fine to have him marry, settle down and be of service to the society.

**Question 4:**

What were Ranga's ideas about marriage? Do you find any change in them during the course of the story?

**Answer:**

Ranga was influenced by the English way of life in the matter of marriage. He was not in favour of arranged marriages of the time where the brides were quite young. He told the narrator that he was not getting married just then. He gave two reasons. First, he must find the right girl. She must be mature enough to understand his love-talk. A very young girl might take his words spoken in love as words spoken in anger. He gives examples of a thirty year old officer who married a twenty-five year old lady and that of king Dushyanta falling in love with Shakuntla. The second reason he gave was that one should marry a girl one loves.

During the course of the story we find a change in Ranga's ideas about marriage. Not only is he fascinated by Rama Rao's eleven year old niece Ratna, he also marries her in the old traditional way of arranged marriages.

**Question 5:**

What steps did the narrator take to get Ranga married to Ratna?

**Answer:**

The narrator was intimate with Rama Rao's family. He knew that his niece Ratna would be a suitable wife for Ranga. He proceeded systematically. First he created an opportunity where Ranga might listen to Ratna's song and have a glimpse of her. He arranged this sudden encounter of two strangers at his home. The reaction of two youngsters was on expected lines. Ranga felt interested in her. Ratna felt shy, lowered her head and went to the other room.

In order to test the intensity of Ranga's feelings towards Ratna, the narrator said that she had been married a year ago. Ranga looked crestfallen. Then the narrator tutored an astrologer and took Ranga to him. Shastri, the astrologer, gave sufficient assurance that there was no hitch in his marriage to a girl whose name was that of something found in the ocean.

While returning from the Shastri's house, they saw Ratna standing alone in her uncle's house. The narrator went in for a moment and brought the news that Ratna was not married. After ascertaining Ranga's views, the marriage was settled.

**Question 6:**

What estimate do you form of Ranga?

**Answer:**

Ranga is a typical South Indian young man whose feet are firmly entrenched in the traditional Indian culture but head is swayed by the latest acquisition of English language and ways of life.

He seems to have attained marriageable age according to the norms prevalent in society at that time. The narrator finds him generous and considerate. The young man could rightly assess a person's worth and knew when it would be to his advantage to talk to someone.

At first, Ranga seemed to be in favour of love marriage—marrying a girl of one's choice, whom one loved and who would be mature enough to understand love-talk and reciprocate it. The systematic steps taken by the narrator to rope in Ranga to marry Ratna shows that the young man has a sensitive heart. Ranga's act of naming his golden boy 'Shyama' after the dark coloured narrator Shyama shows his adherence to the English custom of naming the child after someone you like. On the whole, Ranga appears as a smart but lovable fellow.

**Question 7:**

Comment on the title of the story 'Ranga's Marriage'.

**Answer:**

The title of the story is quite appropriate and suggestive. It at once sums up the theme of the story. The whole story has one central issue Ranga's marriage. It begins with Ranga's refusal to marry just then and ends with his blissful married life. All the incidents contribute to the central theme.

The writer has presented the working of a young educated Indian's mind and heart. He is easily influenced by the English way of life and customs. He wants to adopt them in his own life as well. The narrator, who is his well-wisher takes deep interest in him and takes active steps to wean Ranga away from the fantasy of love-marriage. By arousing his interest and fascination in a young girl, Ratna, he makes Ranga agree to marry her. Thus Ranga's one condition for marriage is fulfilled—he knows the girl and loves her. She does not fulfil the other condition of being a mature girl in twenties—she is just eleven at that time.

**Question 8:**

Write a brief note on the ending of the story 'Ranga's Marriage'.

**Answer:**

The ending of the story is superb. Like all the tales of romance where the hero and heroine are finally united, the caption "...and they lived happily ever after" is usually displayed. The writer goes here one step further. He presents Ranga as a happily married husband, a proud father and a good member of the joint family.

He has a three year old son, a golden child, whom he had named 'Shyam' after the narrator to express his love and gratitude to the elderly person. We also learn that Ratna is about to deliver another child and Ranga's sister has come there with his mother. They will not only look after household affairs but Ratna as well.

The scene of a toddler putting his arms round the legs of an elder and the latter kissing him on his cheek and placing a ring on his tiny little finger as a birthday gift presents a lovely emotional scene full of tender affection and love. What a happy ending!

**We're Not Afraid to Die...if We Can All Be Together****Question 1:**

List the steps taken by the captain

1. to protect the ship when rough weather began
2. to check the flooding of the water in the ship

**Answer:**

1. In order to protect the ship from rough weather, the captain decided to slow it down. So he dropped the storm jib and lashed heavy mooring rope in a loop across the stem. Then they double fastened everything and went through their life-raft drill.
2. Larry and Herb started pumping out water. The captain stretched canvas and secured water proof hatch covers across the gaping holes. When the two hand pumps blocked and electric pump short circuited, he found another electric pump, connected it to an out pipe and started it.

**Question 2:**

Describe the mental condition of the voyagers on 4th and 5th January.

**Answer:**

On January 4, the voyagers felt relieved after 36 hours of continuous pumping out water. They had their first meal in almost two days. Their respite was short-lived. They faced dangerous situation on January 5. Fear of death loomed large. They were under great mental stress.

**Question 3:**

Describe the shifts in the narration of the events as indicated in the three sections of the text. Give a subtitle to each section.

**Answer:**

The first section describes a peaceful journey from Plymouth (England) to 3500 km east of Cape Town (Africa). The narrator is relaxed and full of confidence. As the weather deteriorated, they faced gigantic waves. They took precautions to save themselves and struggle with the disaster. The narration becomes grim. But it exudes the fighting spirit, confidence and strong will power. By the morning of January 6, Wave walker rode out the storm and by evening they sighted He Amsterdam island.

The narrator is now relaxed. Joy, relief and complete confidence are apparent.

The subtitle to each section is—Section 1 – Cheerful Journey, Section 2-Facing the Wave, Section 3-Searching the Island.

**Discuss the following questions with your partner.**

**Question 1:**

What difference did you notice between the reaction of the adults and the children when faced with danger?

**Answer:**

There is a lot of difference between the way in which the adults and the children reacted when faced with danger. The adults felt the stress of the circumstances but prepared themselves to face the dangers. They took sufficient precautions to protect the ship when the rough weather began. They equipped everyone with lifelines, water proof clothes, and life jackets. Larry and Herb worked cheerfully and optimistically for three days continuously to pump out water from the ship. Mary replaced the narrator at the wheel when the deck was smashed, and steered the ship. She also served them meal after two days of struggle against odds. The narrator performed his role as captain with courage, determination, resourcefulness and full responsibility. He undertook repair work and provided apparatus and directions needed to protect the ship. He also helped in steering the ship towards the island. The children suffered silently and patiently. Sue did not want to bother her father with her troubles. Jon acted courageously. He was not afraid to die if all of them perished together.

**Question 2:**

How does the story suggest the optimism helps to “endure the direst stress”?

**Answer:**

The story suggests that optimism certainly helps to endure the direst stress. The behaviour of the four adults during crisis bears it out. Larry Vigil and Herb Seigler were two crewmen. As the mighty waves smashed the deck, water entered the ship through many holes and openings. Right from the evening of January 2, Larry and Herb started pumping out water. They worked continuously, excitedly and feverishly for 36 hours. It was a result of their continuous pumping that they reached the last few centimetres of water on January 4. They remained cheerful and optimistic while facing extremely dangerous situations. The narrator did not lose his courage, hope or presence of mind while facing problems. He did not worry about the loss of equipment. He used whatever was available there. His self confidence and practical knowledge helped them to steer out of storm and reach the lie Amsterdam island. Mary stayed at the wheel for all those crucial hours. She did not lose hope or courage either.

**Question 3:**

What lessons do we learn from such hazardous experiences when we are face to face with death?

**Answer:**

Hazardous experiences may bring us face to face with death, but they impart us many important lessons of conduct. Life is not always a bed of roses. We must react to dangers and risks with patience and fortitude. Adversity is the true test of character. The purity of gold is judged by putting it in fire. The hazardous experiences bring out the best in us. Coward persons die many times before their death. Fear is a negative feeling and leads to inactivity and abject surrender to circumstances. Such sailors or soldiers lose the battle against the odds in life. On the other hand, persons with self confidence, courage, resourcefulness and presence of mind face all the dangers boldly and overcome all disasters. Their sharing and caring attitude inspires others also to face the adverse circumstances boldly and tide over them.

**Question 4:**

Why do you think people undertake such adventurous expeditions in spite of the risks involved?

**Answer:**

Man is adventurous by nature. The greater the risk, the more the thrill. The thrill of exploring unknown lands, discovering wealth and beauty lying hidden in far off lands inspires brave hearts to stake their life of rest and repose. Perhaps they value one crowded hour of glory more than a long uneventful life of sloth and inactivity. It is true that sometimes adventures are quite risky and prove fatal. The failures of some persons do not daunt (discourage) the real lovers of adventure. They draw lessons from the shortcomings and errors of others and make fresh attempts with greater zeal. Part of the charm of an adventurous expedition lies in adapting oneself to the circumstances and overcoming the odds. The success of an adventurous expedition brings name, fame and wealth. History books are replete with accounts of famous explorers like Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Captain Cook and Captain Scott.

**Question 1:**

We have come across words like 'gale' and 'storm' in the account. Here are some more words for storms: typhoon, cyclone. How many words does your language have for storms?

**Answer:**

Our language has following words for storms:

aandhi (आंधी) , toofan (ताव), Jhanjavat (झंझावत) , Chakravat (चक्रवात)

**Question 2:**

Here are the names of different kinds of vessels that are used to travel on water: yacht, boat, canoe, ship, steamer, schooner. Think of similar words in your language.

**Answer:**

Similar words for vessels that are used to travel on water are:

Nauka (नौका) , Nava (नाव) ,Pot (पोत), Jahaj (जहाज)

**Question 3:**

'Catamaran' is a kind of boat. Do you know which Indian language this word is derived from? Check the dictionary.

**Answer:**

The word 'catamaran' is derived from Tamil, where it means 'tied wood'. 'Catamaran' is a yacht or other boat with twin hulls in parallel. The dictionary defines it as 'a fast sailing boat with two hulls'.

**Question 4:**

Have you heard any boatmen's songs. What kind of emotions do these songs usually express?

**Answer:**

Yes. These songs call upon other sailors to awake, arise and set out to the sea to explore its rich wealth. These songs are full of inspiration and provide moral support to the sad and disappointed boatmen.

**Question 1:**

The following words used in the text as ship terminology are also commonly used in another sense. In what context would you use the other meaning?

<b>knot</b>	<b>stern</b>	<b>boom</b>	<b>hatch</b>	<b>anchor</b>
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**Answer:**

1. **Knot:**

(a) **in string/rope:** a joint made by tying together two pieces or ends of string, rope etc. e.g. to tie a knot.

(b) **of hair:** a way of twisting hair into a small round shape at the back of the head: e.g. She had her hair in a loose knot.

(c) **In wood:** a hard round spot in a piece of wood where there was once a branch.

(d) **Group of people:** a small group of people standing close together e.g. Little knots of students had gathered at the gate,

(e) **of muscles:** a tight, hard feeling in the stomach, throat etc. caused by nerves, anger, etc.

2. **Stem:**

(a) e.g. I could feel a knot of fear in my throat, serious and often disapproving; expecting somebody to obey you: e.g. His voice was stem.

(b) serious and difficult: e.g. we faced stem opposition.

3. **Boom:**
- (a) In Business/Economy: a sudden increase in trade and economic activity, a period of wealth and success, e.g. a boom in mobile phone sales.
  - (b) Popular period, a period when something such as a sport or a type of music suddenly becomes very popular and successful, e.g. The only way to satisfy the cricket boom was to provide more playgrounds.
  - (c) Sound, a loud deep sound, e.g. the distant boom of the guns.
  - (d) In river/harbour, a floating barrier that is placed across a river or the entrance to a harbour to prevent ships or other objects from coming in or going out.
  - (e) For Microphone, a long pole that carries a microphone.
4. **Hatch:**
- (a) an opening in a wall between two rooms, especially a kitchen and a dining room, through which food can be passed, e.g. a serving hatch.
  - (b) a door in an aircraft or a spacecraft, e.g.
  - (c) an escape hatch an opening or a door in a floor or ceiling, e.g. a hatch to the attic,
  - (d) to make a young bird, fish, insect, etc. come out of an egg,
  - (e) to create a plan or idea, especially in secret, a person or thing that gives somebody a feeling of safety, e.g. the anchor of the family.
5. **Anchor:**
- (a) to fix something firmly in position so that it cannot move, e.g. Make sure the apparatus is securely anchored.
  - (b) to firmly base something on something else, e.g. Munshi Prem Chand's novels are anchored in rural life.
  - (c) to be the person who introduces reports or reads the news on television or radio, e.g. She anchored the evening news for five years.

**Question 2:**

The following three compound words end in -ship. What does each of them mean?

<b>airship</b>	<b>flagship</b>	<b>lightship</b>
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**Answer:**

1. **Airship:** a large aircraft without wings, filled with a gas which is lighter than air, and driven by engines.
2. **Flagship:**
  - (i) The main ship in a fleet of ships in the navy.
  - (ii) The most important product, service, building, etc. that an organization owns or produces, e.g. The company is opening a new flagship store in Gurgaon.
3. **Lightship:** a small ship that stays at a particular place at sea and that has a powerful light on it to warn and guide other ships.

**Question 3:**

The following are the meanings listed in the dictionary against the phrase 'take on'. Locate the meaning in which it is used in the third paragraph of the account: **(Page 19)**

**take on sth :** to begin to have a particular quality or appearance, to assume sth.

**take sb on :** to employ sb; to engage sb.

to accept sb as one's opponent in a game, contest or conflict.

**take sb/sth on :** to decide to do sth to allow to enter (e.g. a bus, plane or ship); to take sth/sb on board.

**Answer:**

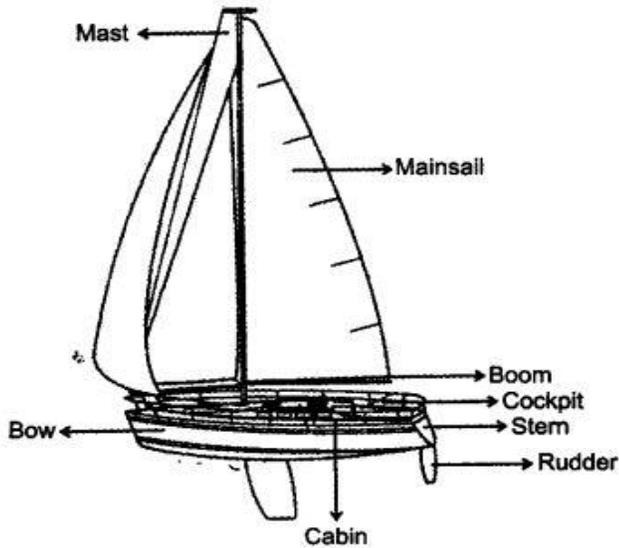
In the third paragraph of the account, 'take on' is used in the sense of 'take sb on' i.e. 'to employ sb'; "to engage sb' The words are: We took on two crewmen....to help us....

**Question 1:**

Here is a picture of a yacht. Label the parts with the help of the words given in the box.

<b>bow</b>	<b>cabin</b>	<b>rudder</b>	<b>cockpit</b>
<b>stern</b>	<b>boom</b>	<b>mainsail</b>	<b>mast</b>

**Answer:**



**Question 1:**

What did the narrator plan to do? What preparations did he make for it?

**Answer:**

The narrator planned to go on a round-the-world sea voyage on the same pattern as Captain James Cook had done 200 years earlier. For the past 16 years, he and his wife had spent all their leisure time developing and improving their skills with work – related to travel on the sea.

**Question 2:**

Give a brief description of the narrator's boat. How had the narrator equipped and tested it?

**Answer:**

The narrator's boat was called 'Wave-walker'. It was a beautiful 23 metre long, 30 ton wooden-hulled ship. It had been professionally built. They had spent months fitting it out and testing in the roughest weather they could find.

**Question 3:**

How long did the narrator plan his voyage to last?

**Answer:**

The narrator had planned his round the world journey to cover 105,000 kilometres in three years.

**Question 4:**

When and with whom did the narrator begin his voyage?

**Answer:**

The narrator began his sea voyage in July 1976. He had his wife Mary, six year old son Jonathan and seven year old daughter Suzanne with him. They set sail from Plymouth, England.

**Question 5:**

Whom did the narrator employ and why? When did he do so?

**Answer:**

The narrator employed two crewmen—American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Seigler in order to help them tackle the southern Indian Ocean which is known as one of the roughest seas of the world. He engaged them before leaving Cape Town.

**Question 6:**

What happened on their second day out of Cape Town? What worried the narrator and why?

**Answer:**

On their second day out of Cape Town, they began to face strong storms. These storms blew continuously for the next few weeks. He was worried about the waves. Their size was alarming. This rose up to 15 metres i.e., as high as their main mast.

**Question 7:**

How did they celebrate the Christmas holidays?

**Answer:**

They were 3,500 kilometres east of Cape Town on 25 December. The weather was very bad. Still they had a wonderful holiday—complete with a Christmas tree. New Year's Day saw no improvement in weather.

**Question 8:**

How did the weather change on January 2? How did they feel?

**Answer:**

The weather changed for worse on January 2. Now the waves were gigantic. As the ship rose to the top of each wave, they saw endless enormous seas rolling towards them. The screaming of the wind and spray was painful to the ears.

**Question 9:**

What efforts were made to face the rough weather?

**Answer:**

In order to face the rough weather, the speed of the ship was slowed down. They dropped the storm jib. They lashed heavy mooring rope in a loop across the stem. Then they fastened together everything and went through their life-raft drill. They attached lifelines, put on waterproof clothes and life-jackets.

**Question 10:**

What sort of wave hit the ship? How did the narrator react?

**Answer:**

It was a mighty and huge wave. It appeared perfectly vertical. It was almost twice the height of the other waves. It had a very unpleasant breaking crest. The narrator had never seen such an enormous wave, so he was filled with horror.

**Question 11:**

What was the impact of the torrent on the narrator and Wave walker?

**Answer:**

A tremendous explosion shook the deck. The narrator's head struck the wheel and he flew over board and was sinking below the waves. Unexpectedly his head came out of water. Wave walker was almost capsizing. Her masts were almost horizontal.

**Question 12:**

How did the narrator manage to survive through the attacks of subsequent waves?

**Answer:**

One of the waves threw the ship upright. The narrator was able to reach its main boom. Subsequent waves tossed him around the deck like a rag doll. His left ribs cracked. His mouth was filled with blood and broken teeth. Somehow, he found the wheel, lined up the stem for the next wave and remained firm.

**Question 13:**

How did the narrator, and the other members react to the presence of water in the ship?

**Answer:**

The narrator could not leave the wheel to examine the damaged parts. Mary shouted that the decks were broken and they were sinking. Larry and Herb were pumping out water like madmen. Sue had a big bump over her eyes but the children said that they were all right.

**Question 14:**

"I had no time to worry about bumped heads," says the narrator. What problems do you think deserved his immediate attention?

**Answer:**

The starboard side had been struck open. They were taking in more water with every wave breaking over them. If he did not make some repairs urgently, they would sink. The narrator managed to cover the gaping holes with canvas and waterproof hatch covers.

**Question 15:**

What problems did the narrator face during the night of January 2, 1977?

**Answer:**

The hand pumps started to block up with the debris floating around the cabins. The electric pump short circuited. The water level rose threateningly. The two spare hand pumps had been wrenched over board. The waves had also carried away the forestay sail, the jib, the dinghies and the main anchor from the deck.

**Question 16:**

How did the narrator react to the problems? What does it reveal?

**Answer:**

The narrator did not lose his calm or courage in the face of problems. He thought calmly. Then he remembered that they had another electric pump under the chart room floor. He found it in working order. They were not getting any reply to their distress radio signals. He was not surprised as they were in a remote corner of the world.

**Question 17:**

"I didn't want to worry you when you were trying to save us all," said Sue. What has happened to her?

**Answer:**

Sue's head had a bump. It had swollen alarmingly. She had two enormous black eyes. She also had a deep cut on her arm. She did not bother her daddy about her injuries as he was busy in more important task.

**Question 18:**

Why do you think the narrator searched for an island so eagerly?

**Answer:**

The wave that hit **Wavewalker** had caused extensive damage. Nearly all the boat's main frames had been smashed down to the keel. A whole section of the starboard hull was being held up by a few cupboard partitions. **Wavewalker** could not hold together long enough for them to reach Australia. So he searched for an island to repair the boat.

**Question 19:**

Why could they not set any sail on the main mast on 4 January?

**Answer:**

The hull of the ship had been damaged badly. Pressure on the ropes supporting the masts and sails would simply pull the damaged section of the hull apart. So they hoisted the storm jib and headed towards the islands.

**Question 20:**

How did little Jonathan react to the desperate situation they found themselves in on 5 January?

**Answer:**

Jonathan asked his daddy if they were going to die. The narrator tried to assure him that they would overcome the situation. Then little Jon declared bravely that he was not afraid of death provided they could all be together.

**Question 21:**

How did the narrator respond to little Jon's words? What do his actions reveal about his character?

**Answer:**

He could not find proper words to respond. However, he felt inspired to fight the sea with everything he had. He decided to stop the ship and protect the weakened starboard side. He did so with an improvised anchor of heavy nylon ropes and two 22 litre plastic barrels of paraffin. This shows his resourcefulness and determination.

**Question 22:**

When do you think, Mary and the narrator feel the end was near? Why did they feel so?

**Answer:** On the evening of 5 January 1977, Mary and narrator felt that the end was very near. They sat together holding hands. The movement of the ship brought in more and more water through the broken planks.

**Question 23:**

"Optimism and courage help to tide over difficulties". How did the narrator succeed in searching the small island?

**Answer:**

The narrator was searching for a 65 kilometre wide island in an ocean of 150,000 kilometres. He worked optimistically on wind speeds, changes of course, drift and current. He calculated their position with the help of sextant also.

**Question 24:**

How did Sue try to enliven the gloomy atmosphere?

**Answer:**

Sue forgot her swollen head and blackened eyes and prepared a funny card. On the front it had caricatures of Mary and the narrator. She called them funny people who had made her laugh. There was a message also. It expressed her love, thanks and good wishes.

**Question 25:**

The narrator says, "I told him with a conviction I did not feel." What led him to believe so?

**Answer:**

The narrator had lost his main compass. He was using a spare one. It had not been corrected for magnetic variation. He had to make allowance for this as well as for the influence of the westerly currents. Though he checked and rechecked his calculations, he was not sure. He depended on luck as well.

**Question 26:**

What gloomy thoughts occurred to the narrator? What pleasant surprise was in store for him?

**Answer:**

The narrator thought that they might have missed the island. They couldn't hope to beat back into the westerly winds with the sail they had been left with. When Jonathan called him the best daddy in the world and the best captain and asked for a hug, he refused to do. When Sue remarked that he had found the island, he felt surprised.

**Question 27:**

What did Sue tell her Daddy about the island? What did he notice himself?

**Answer:**

Sue told her Daddy that the island was as big as a battleship and it was out there in front of them. The narrator gazed at its complete outline. It was a bare piece of volcano rock with little vegetation.

**Question 28:**

Why do you think, did the narrator call Ie Amsterdam 'the most beautiful island in the world'?

**Answer:**

Ile Amsterdam was a very small island made of volcanic rock. It had little vegetation and only 28 inhabitants. However, the island provided them safety from the huge waves of the sea as well as opportunity to repair the damaged ship.

**Question 29:**

What did the narrator think of while landing at Ie Amsterdam? Why?

**Answer:**

He thought of his companions. Larry and Herb had remained cheerful and optimistic under the most serious tension. His wife Mary had stayed at the wheel during the crucial hours. His daughter Suzanne did not bother him about her head injury. His son Jonathan was not afraid to die.

**Question 30:**

How can you say that Suzanne's injuries were serious?

**Answer:**

Suzanne's head had a bump. It was quite swollen. Her blackened eyes narrowed to slits. Her head injury took six minor operations to remove a recurring blood clot between skin and skull. This shows that her injuries were serious.

## B. Long Answer Type Questions

**Question 1:**

Describe the harrowing experience of the narrator as mighty waves hit "Wave walker" in the southern Indian Ocean.

**Answer:**

A mighty wave hit the stem of their ship 'Wave walker' in the evening of 2nd January. A tremendous explosion shook the deck. A torrent of green and white water broke over the ship. The narrator's head struck against the wheel. He was swept overboard. He was sinking below the waves and losing his consciousness. He accepted his approaching death. He felt quite peaceful.

Suddenly, his head appeared out of water. A few metres away, "Wavewalker" was turning over in water. Her masts were almost horizontal. Then a wave hurled her upright. The narrator's lifeline jerked taut. He grabbed the guard rails and

sailed through the air into **Wavewalker's** main boom. Succeeding waves tossed him around the deck like a rag doll. His left ribs cracked. His mouth was filled with blood and broken teeth. Somehow, he found the wheel, lined up the stem for the next wave and held tightly.

**Question 2:**

What damage did 'Wavewalker' suffer as a result of bad weather?

**Answer:**

Mighty waves struck '**Wavewalker**'. The decks were smashed. Water was gushing in through holes and openings. The whole starboard side had bulged inwards. Clothes, crockery, charts, tins and toys moved around noisily in deep water. Their hand pumps got blocked up with the debris floating around the cabins. The electric pump short circuited. Water level rose high. The two spare hand pumps had been wrenched overboard. Waves had also swept off the forestay sail, the jib, the dinghies and the main anchor.

There was a tremendous leak somewhere below the waterline. The boat's main rib frames were smashed down to the keel. A whole section of the starboard hull was being held up by a few cupboard partitions only. The hull of the ship had been damaged so badly that the pressure of rigging could simply pull the damaged section of the hull apart. **Wavewalker** was so damaged that she could not hold together long enough to reach Australia.

**Question 3:**

What efforts did the narrator make to save the ship and its passengers?

**Answer:**

At first he slowed down the ship. He dropped the storm jib and lashed heavy mooring rope in a loop across the stem. They double fastened everything. They attached life lines, put on waterproof clothes and life jackets. After being hit by the first mighty wave, the narrator handed over the wheel to Mary. He stretched canvas and fastened waterproof hatch covers across the gaping holes in the starboard side. As the two hand pumps got blocked and electric pump short circuited, he found another electric pump and started it.

Then he checked his charts and started searching for an island—lie Amsterdam. He got a reading on the sextant. He worked on wind speeds, changes of course, drift and current. He calculated their position. He checked and rechecked his calculations. They had lost main compass. He made discount for magnetic variation in the spare one and also of the influence of the westerly currents. Then he asked Larry to steer a course of 185 degrees. They succeeded in reaching lie Amsterdam island after 4 hours.

**Question 4:**

What impression do you form about the narrator on the basis of reading 'We're not Afraid to Die...If We can All be Together'?

**Answer:**

The narrator, a 37 year old businessman was a lover of adventure. He had dreamt of going around the world sea voyage. He and his wife had spent all the leisure hours for 16 years developing and improving their skills about work or travel on sea. This shows his love for perfection and attention to details.

The narrator was practical in his approach. He engaged two crewmen to help them sail through the rough waters of the southern Indian Ocean. He had keen foresight. They made advance preparations to protect the ship and passengers against violent sea-storms. He did not lose hope, calm or courage in the face of difficulties. He had his priorities fixed. Repairing the damaged ship was essential. Everything else including injuries could wait. He was resourceful also. He managed to steer the course with the help of whatever had been left with them. His presence of mind helped them to – overcome troubles. He had a level head. He made exact calculations of their positions and that of the island. He fixed the course and speed. His self confidence and practical knowledge made him a good captain.