

**CBSE TEST PAPER - 03**  
**Class - 12 English Core (Memories of Childhood)**

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**General Instruction:**

- Question No. 1 to 7 carry three marks each.
  - Question No. 8 and 10 carry six marks each.
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1. “I felt like sinking to the floor”! Who felt so and why?
2. Why did the narrator not want to get her hair cut?
3. How did the narrator resist against getting her hair cut?
4. “I was one of the animals driven by a herder.” Why did the narrator deliver of this statement?
5. Why did Bama cover the distance of ten minutes in half an hour?
6. What did Bama notice while coming back from school? What made her shriek with laughter?
7. What did Zitkala feel when her long hair was cut?
8. What changed Bama’s laughter into anger?
9. How did Annan narrate the incident of untouchability with him?
10. Both the writers were subjected to humiliation in their childhood. How did they resist the oppression?

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**Answers**

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1. Zitkala-sa felt so when on her first day in Carlisle Indian School her blanket was rudely stripped off her shoulders. She felt exposed, as if her very identity had been snatched away so cruelly.
2. The narrator did not want to get her hair cut because her mother had once told her that short hair is kept by mourners whereas shingled hair is kept by the cowards. That's why the narrator did not want to get her hair cut.
3. The narrator hid herself under the bed in one of the big rooms. But she was seen, dragged downwards and tied in a chair. She resisted by scratching, kicking but failed in getting her long braid gnawed off.
4. The narrator delivered this statement when her one of the long braids was gnawed off. She thought that she had now become the part of the herd just like the other girls of school. Moreover, they all were being run and managed by single pale-faced woman. Hence, she felt that "I was one of the animals driven by a herder."
5. Bama took more time to reach her home than usual because she looked at each and every activity going in the market. She would stop everywhere to observe the activities such as: monkey tricks, cyclist cycling, political parties' advertisement and much more.
6. While coming back from school Bama noticed an elderly man of their community. He was carrying a packet of banana bhaji with its string without touching it. The way of carrying a packet was very funny and that made her shriek with laughter.
7. Zitkala felt like a puppet in the hands of hostel authorities when hair was cut. She felt pained and anguished. She was also distressed by the fact that nobody came to comfort her like her mother did. She missed her mother very much and felt like an animal driven by a herder.
8. When Bama reached home, she told her brother the incident in a comic way. Listening to her, Annan, he brother told her that it was not a matter of laughter but of shame for the people of their community. He told her that the man was actually not being allowed to touch the packet. Moreover, if he had touched that packet, it would have been polluted. Having understood all that, her laughter changed into anger. Bama realised that what she had witnessed was a sheer case of untouchability being practiced openly where people

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from 'lower castes' were considered impious and were not even allowed to touch the people from the upper castes.

9. On listening to Bama's funny story, which was not funny but a clear depiction of caste prejudice, Annan narrated his personal experience of discrimination to his sister. He told Bama that once while coming back from city's library, he was stopped on the way by one of the landlord's man. At first, he was asked about his name followed by his address. According to Annan, the people were only interested in knowing about his caste in order to treat him accordingly. A web of stratification, oppression and discrimination is practiced at many levels all over the world. Annan's incident gives a picture of the hardships and humiliations faced by the Indian 'Dalits' in a stratified world.
10. The first writer was subjected to racial discrimination. Zitkala-Sa was a native American woman. She was dragged away from her house to be admitted to Carlisle Indian School on the pretext of providing native Americans equality vis-à-vis European Americans. However, their dress, their hair style and even their names were changed. They were considered inferior to the Europeans and were discriminated and humiliated. The second writer Bama was subjected to caste discrimination and humiliated. Zitkala resisted oppression by fighting against the system and took up the battle. Bama studied hard and fought against the casteism by educating herself and joined the mainstream.