

CBSE TEST PAPER-04
Class 12 English Core (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

General Instructions:-

- All questions are compulsory.
 - Question No. 1 to 3 carries 4 marks each.
 - Question No. 4 to 10 carries 3 marks each.
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1. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green

They do not fear the men beneath the tree

They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- a. What is the screen mentioned in the above lines?
- b. Why is the word 'topaz' used to describe the tigers?
- c. Who are the men beneath the tiger?
- d. Explain the phrase 'sleek chivalric certainty'.

2. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by

The tigers in the panel that she made

Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid

- a. Why is Aunt Jennifer's hand described as being 'terrified'?
- b. What impression does one get of the aunt's status in the family?
- c. What impression do you form of Aunt Jennifer?
- d. Is the society in any way affected by Aunt Jennifer's death?

3. Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

- a. How was she pulling the needle?
- b. Why do Aunt Jennifer's fingers flutter through her wool?
- c. Explain 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'.
- d. Why did Aunt Jennifer create animals which were so different from her own

character?

4. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer's hands are fluttering through her wool? Why is she finding the needle so hard to pull?
5. What is suggested by the 'Massive weight of the uncle's wedding band'?
6. Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands 'terrified'?
7. What will happen when Aunt Jennifer is dead?
8. Why does Aunt Jennifer use the motif of the tigers?
9. How do Aunt Jennifer's tigers look like?
10. Aunt Jennifer's efforts to get rid of her fear proved to be futile. Comment.

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Answers

1.
 - a. The screen is the panel in which the aunt is embroidering the tigers.
 - b. The word 'topaz' signify the honey-gold colour of the tiger fir.
 - c. The men beneath the tree could be a reference to the hunters.
 - d. These tigers, are sleek and stately, chivalric animals who pace with style.
2.
 - a. Aunt Jennifer is weak and cannot even move her terrified fingers. Her hands are 'terrified', but actually she is terrified, as she is passing through the very hard and bitter experience of married life. Here the poet has used her hands to represent her.
 - b. Aunt Jennifer did not lead a pleasant marital life. The hard and bitter experiences of her conjugal life lie heavy on her.
 - c. Aunt Jennifer has been so victimized in her life that even after her death she remains trapped in the struggles of the spirit. She is a victim of gender injustice and oppression.
 - d. Since the society is male dominating, it shows no concern for Aunt Jennifer's suffering or even her death. The loss of her freedom is her individual loss. The society is not affected by it and state of women still remains the same.
3.
 - a. She was pulling the ivory needle with great difficulty.
 - b. Aunt Jennifer lives in constant fear of her chauvinist husband. She feels so nervous and terrified that her hands shake and flutter when she sits down to knit.
 - c. The expression is symbolic of male authority and power. Marriage binds the women physically as well as mentally, clipping her of her freedom of expression and independence. Likewise, the aunt is trapped in gender oppression and feels herself burdened by the authority of her husband.
 - d. Aunt Jennifer and her tigers were quite different from each other. The old lady looked weak and frail but her tigers were a picture of strength, speed and grace. Though herself weak, she could create strong and graceful tigers through her art in the panel. She tried to vent her anguish through her art.
4. Aunt Jennifer's fluttering fingers indicate her terrorized and tortured state of mind. The uncle's wedding ring has burdened her soul and personality so much that she finds even a needle hard to handle.

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5. Aunt Jennifer's Tiger's poem is very rich in imagery. 'Massive weight of the uncle's wedding band' is a suggestive imagery. It is symbolic of weight of the harsh and difficult experiences of her married life. The wedding band represents the unbreakable bond of marriage between the husband and the wife.
 6. Aunt Jennifer's hands are terrified as she still bears the cruel burdens of her not-so-happy wedded life. She undergoes the very hard and bitter experience of married life and is too weak to counter it.
 7. Even after Aunt Jennifer's death she will not get freed from the mental shackles imposed on her by marriage. In contrast, the tigers in the panel will go on jumping proud and unafraid as before.
 8. Aunt Jennifer is a timid woman who can't stand against her tyrant husband. She bore all the suffering in a very meek manner. So, she created tigers on the cloth that represent her silent revolt against the uncle's marriage bands and her suppressed wish to be free, powerful and fearless like them.
 9. The tigers made by Aunt on the screen are jumping and playing about without any fear of the men beneath the tree. They walk in elegance and style displaying the spirit of the courage, fearlessness, strength and confidence.
 10. Aunt Jennifer's efforts to get rid of her seem to be futile. The speaker expressed this idea by questioning whether the aunt will get rid of fear after death. The answer she arrives at is that even after death she will remain fearful and bond by the shackles of matrimony.