

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Beehive Chapter-6 My Childhood
Test Paper-03

Answer the questions 1 & 2 after reading the passages:

1. We lived in our ancestral house, which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was a fairly large pucca house, made of limestone and brick, on the Mosque Street in Rameswaram. My austere father used to avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries. However, all necessities were provided for, in terms of food, medicine or clothes. In fact, I would say mine was a very secure childhood, both materially and emotionally.
 - a. Who are we discussed in the passage?
 - b. What kind of childhood did the writer have?
 - c. When and where was the house built?
 - d. What things did the father avoid?
2. My brother-in-law Jallaluddin would tell me stories about the War which I would later attempt to trace in the headlines in Dinamani. Our area, being isolated, was completely unaffected by the War. But soon India was forced to join the Allied Forces and something like a state of emergency was declared.
 - a. Which stories did writer's brother-in-law narrate?
 - b. What would the writers attempt to trace later?
 - c. What was the effect of the war on the writer's town?
 - d. Why was India forced to join the Allied forces?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. What was the profession of writer's cousin Samsuddin and how did the war affect it?
4. Did the children feel any difference amongst each other due to religious differences and upbringing?
5. What activities did the writer's family undertake during the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam ceremony?
6. What did the new teacher do in accordance with the social ranking of the students?
7. What was the effect on the teacher after receiving scolding from the high priest after he altered the sitting arrangement of the children in the class?

8. How was the teacher Sivasubramanian Iyer's wife affected when he called the Muslim student again to his house next weekend?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. How was the writer's upbringing and what did he inherit from his father and mother?
10. What were the views of the writer towards his father?

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Answer

1.
 - a. 'We' as discussed in the passage were the writer and his brothers, sister, parents and other members of his father's family
 - b. The writer had a very secure childhood, both materially and emotionally.
 - c. The house was built in the island town of Rameswaram by the ancestors of the writer. It was built in the middle of nineteenth century.
 - d. The father would avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries.
2.
 - a. The writer's brother-in-law would narrate the stories about the Second World War.
 - b. The writer would attempt to trace the stories narrated by his brother in law, in the newspaper later.
 - c. The writer's town was completely unaffected by the war.
 - d. India was forced to join the Allied forces because at that time it was ruled by the British and Britain was one of the members of allied forces.
3. Writer's cousin Samsuddin used to distribute newspapers. The war brought about the suspension of halt of train at Rameswaram and the newspapers were then thrown out of the running train.
4. The children didn't feel any difference amongst each other due to religious differences and upbringing because they were never taught or asked to practice these differences.
5. The writer's family would arrange boats with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to the marriage site, situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha during the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam ceremony.
6. In accordance with the social ranking of the students the new teacher readjusted their seating arrangement and sent the Muslim boy (the writer) to the back bench.
7. After receiving scolding from the high priest when he rearranged sitting arrangement of the children, the teacher apologized and got completely reformed.
8. Sivasubramanian Iyer's wife had understood her husband's conviction and changed her religious feelings when he called the Muslim student again to his house the next weekend.

9. The writer was born into a middle-class Tamil family in the island town of Rameswaram in the erstwhile Madras State. His father did not have any formal education. He didn't have much wealth also. Despite these disadvantages, he possessed great innate wisdom and a true generosity of spirit. The writer was brought up in very free atmosphere without social or religious strictures. He had a very secure childhood both materially and emotionally. He inherited honesty and self-discipline from his father and faith in goodness and deep kindness from his mother.
10. The writer was greatly impressed by his father. His father didn't have any formal education, nor he was financially very strong, but he was blessed with natural wisdom and true generosity of spirit. The writer called him austere as he would avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries. However, he provided all necessities in terms of food, clothing and medicine. Though not rich, he was very generous and would feed all those who would come to his house, normally they were more than the number of members of the house. He did not believe in religious differences and would not want any one to spread the poison of social inequality or communal intolerance.