

CBSE TEST PAPER-03
Class - 10 English Communicative
(Mirror)

1. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises towards her day after day like a terrible fish.

- a. Why is the pronoun 'me' being used in the stanza?
- b. What do you mean by 'terrible fish' here?
- c. What has the mirror drowned and replaced it with?
- d. What is the poetic device used in the stanza?

OR

The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall
It is pink with speckles.

- a. Why does the mirror call itself 'the eye of a little god, four-cornered'?
- b. Name the poet and figure of speech used in the above stanza?
- c. What do you mean by the word 'meditate'?
- d. How is the opposite wall?

2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

- a. How does the mirror usually pass its time?
- b. What disturbs the mirror's contemplation of the opposite wall?
- c. Why does the mirror appear to be a lake in the second stanza? What aspect of the mirror do you think is being referred to here?
- d. What makes the woman start crying?

3. Answer any one of the following questions in 80-100 words:

'In me she has drowned a beautiful girl and in me a beautiful woman'. Ageing is a natural process and we should accept our old age gracefully. Comment.

OR

The mirror says, "I have no preconceptions." Do you think that we as human beings judge a person without any preconceptions or our judgement is marred by our love or dislike for that person?

CBSE TEST PAPER-03
Class - 10 English Communicative
(Mirror)
[Answers]

1. (i) Answers

- a. In this stanza, the pronoun 'me' is used for the mirror.
- b. Here, the woman feels like a terrible fish that comes out of the lake of time growing older every day.
- c. The mirror has drowned a young girl and replaced it with an old woman.
- d. The poetic device used in this stanza is simile in 'like a terrible fish'.

1. (ii) Answers

- a. The mirror calls itself so because it observes a person objectively from all four corners of it.
- b. The poetess is Sylvia Path. The figure of speech used in the above lines are metaphor and personification.
- c. The word 'meditate' means keep on looking something in a steady manner.
- d. The opposite wall is pink with speckles.

2. Answers

- a. The mirror usually passes its time by contemplating on the opposite pink wall that has some speckles on it.
- b. The appearance of the faces and darkness disturb the contemplation of the mirror on the opposite wall.
- c. The mirror appears to be a lake because just like the mirror its surface of water also shows the images exactly. Instead of contemplation, the mirror has now started reflection. In the earlier stanza, there were faces and darkness, now the focus has shifted to whole new character, a single woman.
- d. The woman starts crying when she saw her real image in the mirror.

3. People look into the mirror to see how time has brought a change upon them, but people don't have the courage to bear the harsh truth that death and ageing are inevitable.

Youth and beauty don't last for long. Life is transitory and change is inevitable but human beings can't realize and accept this inevitable truth. As human beings, we want to shy away from truth and live in a world of illusions. But there is a vast difference between the illusionary world and the world of reality. We should be realistic in our outlook and look life into the face. If we see the things in perspective of truth and reality, we will not suffer the pangs of anxiety as the woman in the poem does. However harsh the reality may be, we have to come to terms with it.

OR

3. The mirror is free from preconceptions or prejudices. It shows only the true reflection. Its view is not tinted. It does not get carried away by emotions of love or hatred. It has a crystal clear vision and doesn't get misted by looking at beautiful people or ugly faces. It is unbiased, unmisted and presents a true picture of what it sees. It is not bothered about the feelings of the person looking at it. It does its job to its best. It shows the people their true images and true colours. It is truthful and objective like God. Though people call it cruel and unfeeling it is not so because it reflects the true image of a person without any distortion. It does not tint or distort reality but adopts a dispassionate and objective view of things.