

**CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature**  
**Moments Chapter-6 Weathering the Storm in Ersama**  
**Test Paper-02**

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**Read the following passages and answer questions:**

1. “The crazed destruction wrought by the cyclone and the surge of the ocean continued for the next thirty six hours, although wind speeds had reduced somewhat by the next morning. To escape the waters rising in the house, Prashant and his friend’s family had taken refuge on the roof. Prashant will never forget the shock he experienced at his first glimpse of the devastation wrought by the super cyclone, in the grey light of the early morning. A raging, deadly, brown sheet of water covered everything as far as the eye could see”.
  - a. For how long had the surge of the ocean continued?
  - b. Where did Prashant and his friend’s family take refuge?
  - c. What will Prashant never forget?
  - d. How did the water spread?
2. “Two days later, which seemed to Prashant like two years, the rain ceased and the rain waters slowly began to recede . Prashant was determined to seek out his family without further delay. But the situation was still dangerous, and his friend’s family pleaded with Prashant to stay back a still little while longer. But Prashant knew he had to go”.
  - a. When did the water recede?
  - b. Why did the two days seemed to Prashant like two years?
  - c. Why did Prashant’s family plead him to stay back for a little longer?
  - d. Why did Prashant know that he had to go?

**Answer the following questions in about 30 words:**

3. Where did Prashant go after reaching Kalikuda? Why?
4. What was the condition of his maternal grandmother when Prashant met her in the crowd?
5. How did Prashant and others communicate to the helicopters when they did not return?
6. What did Prashant do for the orphan children?
7. How did Prashant help the children and women to come out of their grief?

8. Why was the step to set up the institutions for orphans and widows resisted?

**Answer the following questions in about 100 words:**

9. What were the immediate needs of the victims of a natural calamity? How did Prashant fulfill them?

10. There is a reference about a merchant in the story, 'Weathering the storm in Ersama' who was pressurised by the villagers to part with the rice. Discuss their role in bringing the negativity and increasing starvation. What values increased their chances of survival in a group?

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**Answers**

1.
  - a. The destruction and the surge of the ocean continued for the next thirty six hours.
  - b. They took refuge on the roof of their house.
  - c. He will never forget the shock he experienced at his first glimpse of the devastation wrought by the cyclone.
  - d. A raging, deadly, brown sheet of water covered everything as far as the eye could see.
2.
  - a. The rain receded after two days.
  - b. Ans. Two days seemed to Prashant like two years because he was very worried about his family and their survival.
  - c. Ans. They pleaded him to stay back for longer because danger was still prevailing.
  - d. Ans. He knew that he had to go because he was worried for his family, they might have faced the devastating cyclone.
3. When Prashant reached Kalikuda, his heart went cold to see only the remnants of his house. So he decided to go to the Red Cross shelter to look for his family.
4. After reaching Kalikuda, when Prashant went to the Red Cross shelter, he saw his maternal grandmother among the crowd. She was weak with hunger. She rushed to him, stretching out her hands. His eyes were beaming. Prashant felt so relaxed and happy to see his grandmother. Eventually he met all his extended family gathered around.
5. The military helicopters flew over the shelter and dropped some food parcels. It then did not return. The youth task force gathered empty utensils from the shelter. Then they deputed the children to lie in the sand with these utensils on their stomachs, to communicate to the passing helicopters that they were hungry. Then the message got through and the helicopter made regular rounds airdropping food and other basic needs.
6. Prashant found that a large number of children had been orphaned. He brought them together and put up a polythene sheet shelter for them. Women were mobilised to look after them, while the men secured food materials for the shelter. Later, Prashant started an NGO for the orphaned children and organised some sports events for their entertainment, in which he himself participated.

7. He put up all the children together and homeless women were asked to look after them. As the weeks passed, Prashant recognised that the women and children were sinking deeper and deeper in their grief. He persuaded the women to start working in the food-for-work programme started by an NGO. He also organised sports events for the children. Prashant himself engaged with other volunteers in helping the widows and children to pick up the broken pieces of their hearts.
8. Initially the government planned to set up institutions for children and widows, however this step was successfully resisted as it was felt that in such institutions, children would grow up without love and widows would also suffer from stigma and loneliness.
9. After any natural calamity, victims require food, water, shelter and medical facilities. When a super cyclone hit Orissa in 1999, people were shock stricken and panicked. They became homeless as their houses had fallen and smashed down. The rooftops had blown away, the water was neck deep. The situation was so bad that the carcasses were floating around and people were moving among them. When Prashant saw this terrible condition, he decided to take a step ahead and help out the victims. He soon became a volunteer and decided to make a youth group. He arranged food for the victims and collected fallen trees to light up a fire. He cooked rice and all the people were fed. Next he decided to clean the filth, urine, vomit and the various carcasses. He sent message to the military helicopter to make them regular visits and bring food and medicines to the people. Also he collected all the orphans to nourish and take care of them. After realising the needs he started an NGO where all the orphan children and widows lived together. And they lived happily in each other's company. This was how Prashant fulfilled all the needs of the victims.
10. After the terrible storm, people were left with no food or other utilities. They were bereft and dependent on other helping agencies to cater their needs. So they rushed to the Red Cross Society as they all were homeless. In that situation there were some merchants who took the opportunity of the problem and tried to earn profits. They exploited the victims. They hoard the grains to earn huge amount in case of an emergency. They are so hard hearted that they remained rude even at the time of crisis. Their greed and selfishness increases their chances of survival. On the other hand Prashant took a bold step and forced these merchants to give rice. However, such people should be made to realise the hardships so that they understand their terrible condition.