

4.1 please listen!

...Warming up!..

Twenty Questions

Form groups of 6-8. One person (leader) chooses one item - a picture, a paragraph or a lesson from any one of the 9th standard textbooks and writes the reference on a slip of paper and folds it. Others ask him/her questions and try to guess what it is, from his/her answers. Follow the rules given below.

- The maximum number of questions the rest of the group can ask is 20.
- You cannot ask a direct question like "What do you have in mind?"
- You can ask "Wh-" questions or 'Yes/no' questions. The leader has to give truthful answers.

Ans.

Questions	Answer
Are there birds with white feathers around?	Yes.
The environment looks cool, is it daytime that the author is referring to?	No.
Is everything in the surrounding all quiet and calm?	Yes.
Does something appear to be silvery and shining?	Yes.
Is the writer referring to a ghost that is trying to haunt him?	No.
If it's not daytime and it is night time, can we hear dogs barking?	No.
Is someone staring at the tree and birds at the time the night?	Yes.
Is the writer referring to a living being?	Yes.
Is the poet referring to something on earth?	No.
Is the writer talking about some unknown person walking the path, during night time?	No.
If he not, a person, then is some object that he speaks of?	Yes.
Does the writer experience some change around, every night?	Yes, absolutely!
What are some of those changes that he talks about?	The writer observes everything around him sparkling at night.
Is the writer talking of some shining insect, like fireflies at night?	No.

Which creatures does he speak of?	He observes various creatures like the doves along with dogs, mice, and fish.
Does the poet happen to be by any water body, during the night?	Yes.
How does the water look?	The brightness of the water seems to increase at night.
Is there an influence of that object on all our surroundings?	Yes.
From the picture of the landscape, is there some kind of "Reflection" that is affecting the area?	Yes.
Well, then, what is the poet talking about when he compares it to 'Silver'?	It's the moon that the poet is referring to, from the "silver".

Agreements and Disagreements

Form pairs. List the things on which you have the same opinion and also the ones on which you have different opinions. Prepare a list of ten things in all and see how far you agree or disagree with your friend. Some useful phrases are given alongside, You could talk about:

Ans. Do it you own

... English Workshop...

1. The poet uses a free, conversational style in his poem. It is also called Colloquial style. Pick out and write down such lines or expressions that support the above statement

Ans. (1) You have not done what I asked.

(2) You are trampling on my feelings.

(3) All that I ask is that you listen.

(4) When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and inadequacy.

(5) But when you accept as a simple fact that I feel what I feel.

(6) then I can stop trying to convince you

2. Put the following expressions in a table of Do's and Dont's as expressed by the poet.

(a) Please listen.

(b) give me advice.

(c) tell me why.

(d) solve my problem.

(e) just hear me.

(f) accept as a simple fact

(g) contribute to my fear

(h) wait a minute

Ans.

Dos	Don'ts
(1) please listen	(1) give me advice
(2) just hear me	(2) tell me why
(3) accept my feelings as a simple fact	(3) solve my problem
(4) wait a minute.	(4) contribute to my fear

3. Write in your own words:

(a) What does the listener do when the poet asks him to just listen? Give 3 points.

Ans. When the poet asks the listener. to just listen, the listener either :

(i) gives advice

(ii) tells him why he shouldn't feel that way, or

(iii) tries to solve the poet's problem.

(b) Why does the poet remark that advice is cheap?

Ans. The poet remarks that advice is cheap because everyone is willing to give advice. You only had to write to the agony column of any newspaper with your problems and you could get advice from the columnists. You had to spend just 20 cents to buy the paper.

(c) Which two facts show that the poet is confident of overcoming his irrational feeling?

Ans. The two facts that show that the poet is confident of overcoming his irrational feelings are: first, he says he will understand what is behind these feelings. Second, he says that when the answers become obvious, he will not need any advice.

4. According to the poet, how does God help people, when they pray to him for help?

Ans. According to the poet, God doesn't try to give advice or fix things. He is silent and let's one work things out by oneself. That is how God helps people when they pray to Him for help.

5. Why should one learn to tackle ones problems by one's own self?

Ans. When one tackles one's problems by oneself, one overcomes feelings of fear and inadequacy. Hence one should learn to tackle one's problems by one's own self.

6. Why should seniors not over-protect or over-pamper juniors ?

Ans. If seniors over-protect or over-pamper juniors, the juniors will be unable to stand on their own feet and face the world. They will not be able to overcome their feelings of fear and inadequacy. They will not become confident. Hence, seniors should not over-protect or over-pamper juniors.

7. Find out and write down some proverbs/ axioms/quotations that convey a message similar to 'Self help is the best help.'

Ans. (1) God helps those who help themselves.

(2) Self-help is the root of all success.

8. Maintain a diary at least for a week. Write about your interactions with other people in your surroundings in 3-4 lines. Also write whether you find the interactions happy unhappy, satisfactory-unsatisfactory, enjoyable-stressful, etc.

Ans. Jan. 1: Today is New Year's day. Holiday for everyone. Mummy baked a yummy cake. I helped her. Papa and I went for a long walk in the park. Have made heaps of resolutions. Intend to keep every one of them. Am full of determination. Have decided to ask Seemadidi for help. A wonderful day!

Jan. 2: Not such a good day. Broke my first resolution. Overslept and had to rush to school with my shoes in my hand! Luckily my homework was all done. Kept my resolution of doing my studies before going out to play football. Had an argument with Sahil on the ground. But it ended well.

9. Write an informal letter from a teenager to his/her parent, expressing a few thoughts from the poem.

(My dear/Dearest...../Hi!..... Are you surprised to see this letter? I wanted to talk to you about this, but then I thought I will be able to express myself better in a letter.... Love,/Yours lovingly/Yours)

Ans. Room No. 3

Ladies' Hostel

Aundh Road

Pune - 411 007.

14th October, 2020

Dearest Mom,

Hi! Sorry, sorry, dear Mom. Are you surprised to see this letter? I wanted to talk to you about this, but then I thought I will be able to express myself better in a letter.

Mom, when I told you about the problems. I was having with my roommate here at the hostel, I only wanted you to listen. I knew I was being irrational at times. and I was trying to understand this feeling. It would have taken me some time, but I would have finally got things sorted out on my own. I'm sorry, but I did not need advice, or any solutions. Now I've solved my problem and I am at peace.

I'm sorry, Mom, if I've hurt you by snapping at your good intentions. But I'm learning. I still need your support, but I have to make my own way in this world, and this is the first step.

Please try to understand this.

Love you always.

Your loving daughter,

Ananya