

**CBSE TEST PAPER - 02**  
**Class - 12 English Core (Memories of Childhood)**

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**General Instruction:**

- Question No. 1 to 7 carry three marks each.
  - Question No. 8 and 10 carry six marks each.
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1. What was the incident that made Bama laugh as well as feel so provoked and angry?
2. Who was Annan? Why was he not amused by Bama's story?
3. Why was the narrator so much excited in going to new school?
4. Why was the pale-faced woman staring at the narrator in the dining hall? Do you think it was her fault?
5. What changed the narrator's excitement into irritation?
6. Who was Judewin? What did she hear the pale-faced woman speaking?
7. What activities of people would Bama keenly watch in the bazaar?
8. What did the school authorities failed to recognize in Zitkala Sa?
9. Bama's experience is that of a victim of the caste system. What kind of discrimination does Zitkala-Sa's experience depict? What are their responses to their respective situations?
10. How did Annan narrate the incident of untouchability with him?

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**Answers**

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1. Bama saw an elderly man of her street carrying a packet of 'Vadais' by the strings and walking gingerly, holding the parcel away from his body. Bama found his manner of carrying the parcel very funny. But her brother explains to her the higher caste people believed that if the lower caste people touched the parcel it would be polluted. That's why the elderly man was carrying it in that manner. This provoked and angered Bama.
2. Annan was Bama's elder brother. Bama's story didn't amuse him because he knew the elderly man of their street was carrying a packet of food in the odd manner because they were untouchables and if the food came in contact with their body it would become polluted and unfit for consumption by his upper caste master.
3. The narrator was so much excited in going to new school because of a couple of reasons. She thought that she would get to make new friends in the school. Moreover, she was excited to visit the land of snow and apples.
4. The pale-faced woman was staring at the narrator because she had made a mistake of sitting at the first bell. No, it was not her fault because that was her first day in that school.
5. When the narrator got to know that the girls had to wear clinging dresses and stiff shoes along with keeping shingled hair, her excitement of going to new school could not last for long.
6. Judewin was a newly made friend of the narrator. She heard the pale-faced woman planning to get their long hair cut. Since then, the narrator decided that she would not get her hair cut and resist against them.
7. The buzzing bazaar fell on the way of Bama's school to home. It was full of activities like – snake charmer, street plays, puppet shows and stunt performances. Bama was attracted towards these interesting things and loved watching them.
8. The school authorities of the Carlisle Indian School were colonists and therefore could not understand the feelings of the people they ruled over. They believed that it was their duty to impart their civilization to the uncivilized Native Americans but failed to understand their attachment to their own culture and traditions. When they passed their civilized manners like wearing shoes, uniforms, moccasins, short skirts and speaking

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English, they failed to think of the impact of these upon the natives. Instead of trying to understand why the little child was protesting the rules, they blindly forced her to follow them.

9. The lesson presents a good account of two different girls living at distant places. Both the women belong to the marginalized communities. Zitkala-Sa was a Native American. She was taken away from her mother forcibly because the white people wanted the native Indians to adopt their culture. Zitkala revolted the way the Indian girls were forced to wear dresses in an immodest way. She was shocked to know that that the school authorities were going to cut her long hair because in her community shingled hair were worn only by cowards. She hid herself under a bed in a large room. But when she was caught, she resisted by kicking and scratching. But she could do nothing when they took her bravely, tied in a chair and cut off her hair. But her spirit could not be suppressed. On the other hand, Bama was a low-caste girl. She saw the upper caste people showing discrimination against lower caste people. They could not touch food and other items of the upper caste people. They had to work for them and bow their heads. Her spirit too revolted against this injustice. She felt terribly sad and agitated. She could not understand this inhuman treatment since all are human beings. She wanted honour for all. Her brother Annan told her that she could do away with these indignities if she worked hard. Bama studied hard and stood first in her class. Many people became her friends.
10. On listening to Bama's funny story, which was not funny but a clear depiction of caste prejudice, Annan narrated his personal experience of discrimination to his sister. He told Bama that once while coming back from city's library, he was stopped on the way by one of the landlord's man. At first, he was asked about his name followed by his address. According to Annan, the people were only interested in knowing about his caste in order to treat him accordingly. A web of stratification, oppression and discrimination is practiced at many levels all over the world. Annan's incident gives a picture of the hardships and humiliations faced by the Indian 'Dalits' in a stratified world.