

## **A Storm on a Hill**

**(i) Where did Aunt Lakshmi live ?**

- (a) Near the ruins.
- (b) Above the shops.
- (c) Next to the shops.

**Ans :-** Above the shops.

**(ii) With her pocket money, Usha bought.**

- (a) A necklace.
- (b) Spices, sugar and matches.

**Ans :-** With her pocket money Usha bought a necklace and some marbles.

**(iii) While waiting in the ruins, Usha prayed and hoped that**

- (a) She would not be struck by lightning.
- (b) She would not encounter ghosts.
- (c) The cat would not attack her.

**Ans :-** While waiting in the ruins, Usha prayed and hoped that she would not be struck by lightning.

**(iv) In the ruins. Usha was first frightened by**

- (a) An owl.
- (b) A lizard.

(c) A cat.

**Ans :-** In the ruins, Usha was first frightened by a cat.

**(v) The strong wind**

(a) Did not allow Usha to reach the ruins.

(b) Helped Usha to move faster towards the ruins.

(c) Slowed Usha's pace of walking.

**Ans :-** The strong wind helped Usha to move faster towards the ruins.

**2. Number the following sentences in the correct sequence to describe Usha's experience in the ruins.**

Usha decided to take shelter under the blocked chimney a little later.

The three of them huddled together and waited for dawn.

As the sky grew lighter, the children left the ruins.

In the blue light of the lightning, Usha saw two children.

Usha stumbled into Suresh and Binya.

Usha sat in a corner in the ruins.

Frightened, Usha ran towards the wall from where she had entered.

**Ans :-** Frightened, Usha ran towards the wall from where she had entered.

Usha decided to take shelter under the blocked chimney a little later.

In the light of the lightning, Usha saw two children.

Usha stumbled into Suresh and Binya.

The three of them huddled together and waited for dawn.

**3. Answer the following questions :**

**Q.(i) How did the villagers counts the force of the wind in their daily life ?**

**Ans :-** People kept large stones on their ten roots to prevent them from being blown off.

**Q.(ii) What was said to be the cause behind the appearance of ghosts on Haunted Hill ?**

**Ans :-** Usha's grandfather said, during a terrible storm one of the houses in the settlement of Britishers was struck by lightening. All inmates in the house including two children were killed. They remained as ghosts.

**Q.(iii) Why was Usha compelled to halt her journey back home ? What did she do ?**

**Ans :-** As night had fallen and rain, thunderstorm and lightening's swayed the area, Usha decided to take shelter in the ruins of a settlement deserted by same Britishers about a hundred years ago. To save herself from the vagaries of nature, she found her way into the ruins helped by the constant flicker of lightening.

**Q.(iv) Do you think that this was Usher's first visit to the ruins ? Give any two reasons to support your answer.**

**Ans :-** This was not the first visit of Usha to the ruins. Because, firstly, Usha remembered that part of an old room could give her some shelter. Secondly, Usha knew the locations of chimney, fire place etc. Inside the remnants of the house. Hence, she visited the house before since he knew details about the ruins.

**Q.(v) The last line of the story asks a question 'was it just the wind ?' Write your own opinion about this doubt and give at least one reason to support your answer.**

**Ans :-** The belief of Usha's grandfather about existence of ghosts in the ruins was deep rooted in her mind. That is why she mistook Binya and Suresh for

ghosts. She was expecting that invisible. Spirits would bid goodbye to them and imagined the top of the plum tree. Shivering in the wind as waving hands. The chilling sound of the wind was interpreted by her as “goodbye”. Since Binya and Suresh were free from such hallucination, they did not hear anything.

**4. Complete the following sentences with suitable infinite-phrases.**

(i) Gaurav wants .....

**Ans :-** Gaurav wants to return early.

(ii) The children ready .....

**Ans :-** The children ready are to join the next event.

(iii) Our parents want us .....

**Ans :-** Our parents want us to become amiable.

(iv) The doctor has advised me .....

**Ans :-** The doctor has advised me to avoid smoking.

(v) The counsellor advised the children.....

**Ans :-** The counsellor advised the children to become responsive.

(vi) Jaya wanted .....

**Ans :-** Jaya wanted her brother complete his study.

(vii) She refused .....

**Ans :-** She refused to join the centenary celebration.

(viii) He tried .....

**Ans :-** He tried to attend duty in time.

**5. Use whether/what/where/whom/how and the infinitive form of the verbs given in the box to complete the following sentences.**

Report, Cook, Give, Reach, Contact (2), Do, Keep

Example : I do not know ..... this machine.

I do not know how to repair this machine.

(a) Can you guide me ..... the station.

**Ans :-** Can you guide me how to reach the station.

(b) Have you decided ..... Your donation.

**Ans :-** Have you decided how to give your donation.

(c) I do not know ..... her.

**Ans :-** I do not know where to contact her.

(d) I don't know ..... for this work.

**Ans :-** I don't know whom to report for this work.

(e) He is not sure ..... the present on return it.

**Ans :-** He is not sure whether to keep the present on return it.

(f) Please let me know ..... the theft.

**Ans :-** Please let me know what to do with the theft.

**6. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper highlighting your views about the endangered rhinoceros.**

**Including the following :**

- \* Why this animal is hunted ?
- \* What factors have made this animal vulnerable ?
- \* What is the impact of reckless hunting ?
- \* What can be done to preserve this species ?

**Ans :-** Dear Sir

Rhinoceros is an endangered species. As against double horned rhinos available in Africa, Assam is the only place where one-horned are found. The horn of the rhino fetches lucrative price in international clandestine market. In China, Vietnam and some other East Asian countries, people wrongly believes that rhino horns have medicinal value. Hence the price is so high. Hunting of rhino is prohibited and punishable offence under the law. Yet preaching is going on. Government's half-hearted steps hardly yielded any result.

Without cooperation of the villagers living in and around the rhino habitats poaching cannot be stopped. Because nearby villagers harbour the poachers for money. Local villagers should be involved in the rhino protection movement besides strengthening the protection forces. We draw the attention through this column to the urgent need of all-out effort to save the pride of Assam rhinoceros horn etc.