



Grade: XII

Subject: English

Empower 1

Practice Worksheet

Date:

Flamingo: Ch 1- The Last Lesson, Ch 2- Lost Spring, Ch-3- Deep Water, Ch 6- Poets and Pancakes

Poetry: My Mother at Sixty Six , An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum, Keeping Quiet, A Thing of Beauty, Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

Vistas: Ch 1- The Third Level, Ch 2- The Tiger King, Ch 3- Journey to the End of the Earth, Ch 4- The Enemy, Ch 6-On the Face of It

Writing Task: Business Letter , Formal Letter (to the Editor), Notice Writing, Article Writing, Speech writing ,Note Making, Advertisement, Poster Making, Invitation writing

Reading Comprehension Passage

Q1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Chihuahua, also known as the pocket dog, is the world's smallest dog weighing barely 1 kg or 2 kg as an adult. It is a popular breed amongst the dog lovers and its popularity has increased over the years. Even though its roots have been traced back to China, it is actually named after a Mexican State. This breed of dogs doesn't require much exercise. Just small walks inside the house are sufficient for them. With a mere glance, one would imagine them to be dull dogs. However, they surprise everyone with their sharp and alert nature. They have strong characteristics and are very curious in nature. Therefore, they make good guard dogs. For participating in shows, the maximum permissible weight for these dogs is 0.9 kg to 1.8 kg. There are two types of Chihuahuas. First is the long coated ones who have a flat or slightly wavy coat and the second is the smooth coated ones who are soft textured and glossy in appearance. Chihuahuas vary in color. They have apple dome-shaped heads. In some dogs, the frontal areas of the skull do not fuse. They have short nose and their ears are at an angle of 45 degrees to their head. Their body is longer than their tails and is compact. Their tail is carried like a sickle and barely touches their backs. They have a very graceful appearance. As compared to other pups, they do not require much care except the long hair which needs grooming. They don't go outside most of the times and tend to exercise within the confines of the house. Because of this, they are prone to overgrown nails which need to be clipped regularly. They are fussy and choosy eaters. People do not possess much awareness about this dog. They are surprised when they know more about Chihuahuas. These small dogs are intelligent, energetic and good with children. They make good watch dogs and hence literally can be called as burglar alarms. There is just one hurdle in keeping this pocket dog as a pet and that is a pinch in the pockets.

Base on your reading answer the following questions:

1. Chihuahua's roots can be traced to which place?
2. Describe the physical features of Chihuahuas.
3. List the different types of Chihuahuas.
4. People are surprised to know more about the Chihuahuas because_____
5. Chihuahuas are also called _____
7. The maximum permissible weight for these dogs is _____
8. Chihuahuas tend to exercise in _____
9. Give the meanings of the words given below, as used in the passage.
a. confine b. hurdle

Q2 Read the passage carefully.

This isn't a mountain region of mere subjective beauty. Nor one, which claims its greatness, based on just an overwhelming opinion of a large majority. For Sikkim is a treasure that few know about. However, the facts of its remarkable geography bear enough testimony to pitch Sikkim in a slot that no other mountain region, anywhere in the world, could duplicate or rival. What Everest is to peaks, Sikkim is to the mountains. Tragically, a region so wild and exotic and with such geographic and climatic extremes, that its amazing wilds

and not its unremarkable hill stations, ensure its accessibility to the adventurous only. Just delve on these facts a bit. From the plains, in a mere 80 kms as the crow flies, the altitude reaches 28,168 feet at the very top of Kangchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world. Such a sharp elevation is unrivalled anywhere else and is the first geographical claim of Sikkim. The second is an offshoot of the first. Nowhere else do so many 7,000 meter plus peaks crowd up such a confined space. And the third is really a consequence of the first and the second with the sharp gradation creating the most variegated flora and fauna possible anywhere in the mountains. The fourth uniqueness is also a consequence of the first and the second and lies in the extremes of the climate which ranges from the tropical to the typical arctic type. And the fifth claim is its thin permanent population and relatively fewer travelers by virtue of its remote far-eastern Himalayan location. The startling facts about Sikkim never seem to end. For starters, all of Sikkim lies in a mere 110 kms by 65 kms of mountains, peaks, glaciers, rivers and forests. A little dot on the map at a latitude 27 degrees North and longitude 88 degrees East. Its 7,000-sq kms make it about as large as the National Capital Region of India! To the North and extending to the East of Sikkim, is Tibet / China and to the West is Nepal. To the South are the Himalayan and sub Himalayan regions of West Bengal. It is, in fact these geographical extremes and the resulting ambience, that makes mountaineers trek here, when they are not climbing, besides fueling mountaineering dreams in the minds of trekkers, what with the closest possible proximity to magnificent peaks while trekking. On the subject of trekking here, it is strange but true that acclimatization is much tougher in Sikkim than elsewhere. It may have something to do with being closer in latitude to the Tropic of Cancer, besides the rather sharp stages involved in each day of trekking. The closeness to the Tropic of Cancer has meant that the snowline will always be much higher and therefore human settlements are seen even at altitudes of 16,000 feet!

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.

Q3. (a) You are Pankit/Pinkal student of Class XII at Gurukul School, Arunachal Pradesh. Reading about the increasing problem of indiscipline and bullying in educational institutions make you feel disheartened and worrisome. Write **a letter to the editor** of a national daily to share your concerns and suggest ways to resolve the problem.

Q3. (b) Write a letter to the Academic Head of the Infotech Institute of Designing to enquire about the diploma programme in CAD in their institutions. Mention all the details required for the same.

Q4. (a) You are the chairman of Marigold Co-operative society. Draft **a notice** for the society notice board to inform the members about the installation of inverters to resolve the problem of constant power failures due to GSEB maintenance work going on near your society gate.

Q4.(b) You are Binit/Bina, Cultural Head of Sunflower International School. Your school has organized a interschool classical dance competition to promote a cause. Design a visually appealing poster about this in about 50 words. Include all relevant details.

Q4.(c) Draft an advertisement to promote sales of a newly inaugurated boutique in about 80 words.

Q4.(d) Draft an invitation to invite the members of your committee to attend a get together on the occasion of thanks giving in your society.

Q5.(a) There have been a lot of thefts in your locality. Write a speech to be delivered at the community center in your colony on what precautions to take. Tell them, "A stitch in time, saves nine." (120 words)

Q5.(b) Should schools promote coaching institutes? Taking a cue from the points given below and using your own ideas, write a debate speech for or against the topic in about 150-200 words.

a. Despite CBSE's ban, coaching centers running classes in schools

- b. Teachers from coaching institutes teach subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, English and Physical Education continue to be taught by the school faculty.
- c. Classes in separate sections from 8 am to 12 pm for the CBSE and competitive examinations

Q6. Reference to Context:

1. “Good, but I am not sure it is effective enough.”

Question:

- a. Name the chapter and the author.
 - b. Who is the speaker?
 - c. Why does the speaker say so?
 - d. Who is the speaker talking to?
2. “They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.”

Question:

- a. Name the poem and the poet.
 - b. Who is the speaker?
 - c. Why does the speaker say so?
 - d. Explain “pace in sleek chivalric certainty”
3. “The prince was born in the hour of the Bull. The Bull and the Tiger are enemies, therefore, death comes from the Tiger.”

Question:

- a. Name the chapter and the author.
- b. Who has been referred to here?
- c. Why does the speaker say so?
- d. Why does the speaker mean by “born in the hour of the Bull”?

Q6. Answer the following questions:

1. The poet is talking about in the poem ‘Keeping Quiet’ by Pablo Neruda, Why is it 'exotic'?
2. In the poem Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, what is the contrast between the reality of Aunt's life and her imagination?
3. How did the tiger king overrule the prediction made by the astrologer?
4. Why does Douglas as an adult recount a childhood experience of terror and his conquering of it? What larger meaning does he draw from this experience?
5. The people in this story suddenly realize how precious their language is to them. What shows you this? Why does this happen?
6. What do you think is the colour of ‘sour cream’? Why do you think the poet has used this expression to describe the classroom walls?
7. Why are the young trees described as ‘sprinting’ in the poem? Discuss.
8. What are the ‘ordeals’ Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by, why is it significant that the poet uses the word ‘ringed’? What are the meanings of the word ‘ringed’ in the poem?
9. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios?
10. What do you infer from Sam’s letter to Charley?
11. The story is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story ‘The Tiger King’?
12. Why is Antarctica the place to go to, to understand the earth’s present, past and future?
13. How would you explain the reluctance of the soldier to leave the shelter of the doctor’s home even when he knew he couldn’t stay there without risk to the doctor and himself?
14. What is it that draws Derry towards Mr. Lamb in spite of himself?