1. **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY**

**--Khushwant Singh**

1. **Give an account of the major events involving the narrator and his grandmother.**

**Ans: -** Khushwant Singh’s grandmother and he were good friends. His parents left him with her when to live in the city. She used to wake him up in morning and get him ready for school. After breakfast she would accompany him to school and blank. She would carry stale chapattis for village dogs.

When Singh’s parents were comfortably settled in the city, they sent for them. Singh now went to an English school. When she asked what his teacher taught him, he would tell her English wordsand little things of western science and learning. This made her unhappy because she could not help him with his lessons. When she was told that there was no teaching about god and scripture, she was distressed. One day when he announced that they were being given music lessons, she was very disturbed. One day when he announced that very distributed. To her music had lewd associations.

When the writer went to the university, he was given a room of his own at home. Thus she becomes more secluded. From sunrise to sunset she set by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers.

One morning she becomes ill. She lay peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. Suddenly her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers. Later when her body was taken for funeral, thousands of sparrows of sparrows could be seen sitting scattered all over verandah and in her room mourning.

1. **Narrate the instances in “The Eyes are not here” Which indicate that both the narrator and the girl are visually challenged. How do they try to mislead each other?**

**Ans:-** Once the narrator was travelling to Dehra in a train. He was alone in the compartment. At Rohana station a girl got into his compartment. The narrator was totally blind at the time. But he wanted to prevent to her from discovering that he was blind. He asked her him where he was going. He replied that he was going to Dehra and the hills there. The narrator commented that the hills were covered with wild dahlias, the sun was bright and that October was the best time to visit Dehra. The girl now asked the writer to look out of the window. He looked out of the window and made presence of studying the landscape. He asked her if she had noticed that the trees seemed to be moving while they seemed to be standing still. She said that always happened. Now the narrator turned from the window and faced the girl. The sat in the silence for some time. Then he marked that she had an interesting face. She laughed pleasantly and said that she was tired of people telling her she had a pretty face. She added that he was a gallant young man. Her voice had the sparkle of mountain stream thought the narrator. The train now reached Saharanpur. She collected her things, said good bye to the writer and left. A man now entered the compartment. He told the writer that he must be disappointed as he was as attractive as the girl who had left. The writer wanted to know from the man if she kept her hair long or short. The man said that he had only noticed her beautiful eyes. But her eyes were on no use her for she was completely blind.

1. **Attempt a summary of the poem – “ The felling of the Banyan Tree”**

**Ans:-** One day the poet’s father told the tenants who lived in the house around the poet house to vacate. When they left, their houses were demolished. Only the poet’s house and the trees remained. The poet’s grandmother said that tree were sacred, and feeling then was a crime. But the poet’s father felled them was crime. But the poet’s father felled them all. The huge banyan tree remained to be felled. It was a big problem to cut down the banyan tree because it was very old, and its roots went very deep into the soil. Nevertheless, the poet’s father ordered it to be cut down. It was three times as tall as their house. The trunk had a circumference of fifty feet. Wood cutter were engaged. The took several days to fell the tree. The rings of the tree showed that it was two hundred years old. Soon after this, they poet and his family left Baroda for Bombay where they couldsee trees only in their dreams. The act of felling of the banyan tree signified modern man’s severing of ties with his “roots.” That is, his rich past and heritage, and his plunging into the barren life in an urban landscape.

**-**-----------------------------

**Poem: Stay Calm**

**SUMMARY**

In ‘Stay Calm’, which is an inspiring poem, the poet Grenville Kleiser, bring out of the importance and advantaged of staying calm in the face of provocation.

2. The poet says that when we feel like saying something that we know will regret later. Or when we feel an insult which is not quit easy to forget, we must curb resentment and maintain mental peace. In other word, it is as such times that we should stay calm and quiet. When our mind is thus calm and peaceful, all our ill feelings will vanish. We experience peace and joy in our hearts.

3. According to the poet. It is easy to be angry when we are deceived, or when we face open resistance and disobedience. It is also easy to be annoyed or disappointed when our wishes are denied. Sometimes, we are confronted by selfishness and hatred. At such times, the best thing to do is to keep strict silence even though we know that we are in the right. Thus we can win the battle against selfishness and spite. Beside, this practice will help us to learn to overcome anger.

4. Tranquility is important in human life. When we are confronted by an enemy who may be invisible, or when were faced with some danger, we must keep our mental balance. We should not lose our temper. In fact, we should lose to win. If we are balanced, clam and tranquil when everything goes against us, we can be sure that we have mastered the most vital thing in life, that is, the art of saying calm. That is also the message that the poet wants to impotent.

---------------------------------