



**CLASS - VIII - ENGLISH NOTES APRIL**

**1. The Best Christmas Present in the World**

**I. ERC:**

1. "I think that is what every soldier wants, on both sides." Hans Wolf said. "Take care, Jim Macpherson. I shall never forget this moment, nor you." He saluted and walked away from me slowly, unwillingly I felt."

**a) Who's Hans Wolf?**

Ans. Hans Wolf is the officer of the Fritz. He is from Dusseldorf, Germany. He plays cello in the orchestra.

**b) Who's Jim Macpherson?**

Ans. Captain Jim Macpherson is a school teacher. He is from Dorset, in the west of England.

**c) Explain the dialogue between Hans and Jim.**

Ans. Normally, wars end by shedding blood and loss of property and people. In spite of enmity, the German and the British soldiers celebrated Christmas together. They shared their food and played games. Here they are discussing about the thoughts of each and every soldier deputed to be a part of the war.

**II. SHORT ANSWERS:**

**1. What did the author find in the junk shop? What was inside it?**

Ans. The author found a roll - top desk for sale in the junk shop. It was made of oak wood and it was in a bad condition.

The author found a small shallow space underneath the roll - top desk drawer. In the desk he found a small black tin box with a piece of lined notepaper that was sellotaped on its top. The notepaper said, "Jim's last letter, received January 25, 1915. To be buried with me when the time comes."

**2. What is Connie's Christmas present? Why is it the best Christmas present in the world?**

Ans. Michael Morpurgo's visit with the black tin box was Connie's Christmas present. When the author handed over the box and wished her 'Happy Christmas', she thought the visitor was her husband Jim Macpherson whom she had been waiting for. So, the coming home of Jim was her best Christmas present in the world.

### **III. LONG ANSWERS:**

- 1. Mention the various ways in which the British and the German soldiers become friends and find things in common at Christmas.**

**Ans.** The soldiers of the two armies hate war. Both of them wanted peace and wanted to go home and meet their families. They wished Happy Christmas to each other they gathered in no man's land and celebrated Christmas by sharing food and cake. Then they played football. Then they went back to their trenches and sang Christmas carols. The German's sang 'Silent Night' while the British sang 'While Shepherds Watched.' According to Jim that was a memorable Christmas.

## **1. The Ant And The Cricket**

### **I. ERC:**

- 1. "Folks call this a fable. I'll warrant it true:  
Some crickets have four legs, and some have two"**

- a) What do you mean by the word 'fable'**

**Ans.** Fable means a story with a moral.

- b) What does the poet mean by 'some crickets have two legs'?**

**Ans.** Here the poet talks about the human beings who behave like the cricket in the story.

### **II. Short answers**

- 1. What sort of a creature was the cricket? What did he do when the weather was fine? What happened to him in the winter?**

**Ans.** The cricket was a foolish creature.

When the weather was fine, he was enjoying himself without worrying about the winter. When the winter arrived, he began to starve.

- 2. What is your opinion of the ant's principles?**

**Ans.** Through this poem the ant teaches us a significant lesson of life.

The ant's principle 'neither lend nor borrow' tells us to utilise our time and resources wisely when circumstances are in favour. It is important to enjoy the life given to us, but it is also important to plan for the future.

### **III. Long answers:**

- 1. What is the central idea of the poem 'The Ant and the Cricket'.**

**Ans.** This poem conveys a very realistic message. It shows, if one does not think for future, he is destined to suffer. The cricket in the story represents those human beings who are not wise enough to save for the future. They will face an awkward situation like the cricket.

Some people are like the ant of the story. They plan wisely and live happily.  
The poem teaches us to be wise like the ant.

#### **IV. Literary Devices:**

##### **1. Personification:**

The Ant and the Cricket are personified.

##### **2. Metaphor:**

Some crickets have four legs, and some have two.

Here the poet compares the lazy humans to the cricket.

##### **3. Alliteration:**

When the weather was warm.