



**CLASS - VII ENGLISH NOTES NOVEMBER**

**8. A DOG NAMED CHEESEBURGER**

**I. ERC:**

**1. "I stormed into Applebee's, ready to do battle. Right away, I spotted the owner."**

**a) Why did the narrator 'storm into' Applebee's'?**

The narrator stormed into Applebee's because she was angry at seeing a thirsty, hapless dog left out in the sweltering heat while the owner was inside. She wanted to confront the dog's owner.

**b) What does the expression 'storm into' tell you about the narrator's frame of mind?**

The expression 'storm into' tells us that the narrator was very angry.

**c) Who or what did the 'owner' own?**

The 'owner' owned a dog and a duffel bag.

**d) With whom did the narrator want to do battle and why?**

The narrator wanted to do battle with the owner of the dog because, according to her, he had been inhuman in leaving the dog out in the sweltering heat.

**2. "Marion, I'd like you to meet Cheeseburger. Cheeseburger, this nice lady is Marion."**

**a) Who is the speaker?**

The speaker is the owner of the dog, Johnny.

**b) Who are Marion and Cheeseburger?**

Cheeseburger is Johnny's dog and Marion is the narrator of the story.

**c) Why are they being introduced?**

The narrator was a dog lover. So when she reached out to the dog and it didn't respond, she felt that something was not right. When she presented these facts to the dog's owner, he said that was because the narrator had not been properly introduced to the dog. Hence, he decided to introduce them to each other.

**d) Where are they at this point of time?**

They are outside Applebee's restaurant.

**3. "There was a genuine peace about Johnny, even in the face of my unkind accusations."**

**a) Who is Johnny?**

Johnny is the owner of the dog.

**b) What had the narrator accused Johnny of?**

The narrator had accused Johnny of not taking proper care of his dog, Cheeseburger.

**c) What made Johnny peaceful?**

Johnny was peaceful because he started each day by simply trusting God to take care of him and his dog and ended each day on the same note of trust. He did not worry about what the day would bring.

**d) What did the narrator do next?**

The narrator gave some money to Johnny.

## **II. Short Answers:**

**1. When and where did the narrator see the dog?**

The narrator saw the dog one hot day in August lying on top of a duffel bag on the walk outside Applebee's restaurant.

**2. How did the narrator know that the dog belonged to someone?**

The narrator knew that the dog belonged to someone because it wore a collar and was closely guarding the duffel bag, which the narrator guessed belonged to its owner.

**3. What did she decide to do when she noticed the dog?**

When she noticed the dog, she decided to stop and give him some water as he was lying outside on a duffel bag and it was a very hot day.

**4. What was the owner doing inside Applebee's?**

The owner was sipping on some iced tea inside Applebee's.

**5. Why, according to Johnny, had Cheeseburger not responded to Marion?**

According to Johnny, Cheeseburger had not responded to Marion because he had not been properly introduced to her.

**6. What did the narrator want to do for Cheeseburger and why?**

The narrator wanted to get Cheeseburger something to eat and drink because she had a liking for dogs and she felt that Cheeseburger needed some food and water.

### III. Long Answers:

1. When she saw the dog, Marion assumed certain things about its owner which were later disproved. Complete the table.

Assumption	Reality
a) The owner had left the dog in the hot sun.	i) The owner had left the dog in a shady spot.
b) The dog turned his head away from the narrator, hence something must have been wrong.	ii) The dog turned away his head because he had not been properly introduced to the narrator.
c) The owner was sitting in the comfort of the air conditioned restaurant.	iii) The owner was not a rich man. He was just sipping some iced tea to beat the heat.

2. What lesson did you learn from Johnny's attitude?

Answers may vary. Accept all relevant answers.

## 9. THE CHINA DOG

### I. ERC:

1. 'Your mother's gone crazy, John. This gentleman has offered us five pounds for that old China dog and she won't sell it'.

- (a) Who is the speaker?

Joseph Martin is the speaker.

- (b) Why does the speaker say that the listener's mother has gone crazy?

The speaker says that because he and his wife are in desperate need of money and they have been offered five pounds for a China dog that Sarah's grandmother had willed her. It just sits on the mantelpiece but Sarah refuses to part with it.

- (c) Who is the gentleman who offered the money?

The gentleman who offered money for the China dog is Mr Collins.

- (d) Why won't the mother sell the old China dog?

Sarah refuses to part with it for sentimental reasons as her grandmother had willed the China dog to her. Each time she saw it, she was reminded of her granny's kind face and heard her loving voice.

2. 'My granny must have done it. I expect she was afraid if she left them in her will, the lawyers would cheat me. She didn't have a good opinion of lawyers. Oh dear! How things come back! I remember now, her telling me that the dog was very precious and I was to take great care of it when she was gone'.

**(a) Who is the speaker and who is being addressed?**

Sarah Martin says this to her son, John, and the rest of the family.

**(b) What must have the granny done?**

Her granny had stuffed the China dog with banknotes because she wanted Sarah to have the money. She had feared that if she just willed it to her, the lawyers would have cheated her of the money.

**(c) Why did the granny feel that the lawyers would cheat the speaker?**

The granny did not have a good opinion of lawyers. Hence, she felt that the lawyers would cheat the speaker

**(d) Why was the dog precious?**

The dog was precious because it was stuffed with banknotes.

**II. Short Answers:**

**1. Why did Joseph feel helpless? What was his regret?**

Joseph felt helpless because they were going to lose their house and he could not do anything to prevent it. He regretted that he did not have his job at the Council.

**2. Name the things Sarah was grateful for.**

Sarah was grateful for a long and happy life with her husband, with good loving children

**3. Why was Sarah not interested in selling the China dog?**

Sarah was not interested in selling the China dog because it was gifted to her by her granny, whom she loved dearly.

**4. Write a few lines about Mr Collins. Why was he visiting the Martin house?**

Mr Collins was a dealer in antiques and curios. He had come to see if the old couple had some valuables that they would like to sell.

**5. How was the treasure hidden inside the China dog discovered?**

The treasure was discovered when Elsie accidentally dropped the China dog in the street and it broke into pieces.

**6. What was written in the grandmother's will? Does the meaning of her words become clear at the end of the play?**

In the will, the grandmother had written 'My China dog ain't much to look at, but he's got a heart of gold.' Yes, the meaning of her words becomes clear at the end of the play—she was referring to the fact that she had kept some banknotes inside the China dog for Sarah.

### **III. Long Answers:**

- 1. According to Sarah, breaking of the China dog and getting so much money unexpectedly was not luck, but answer to her prayers. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.**

Answers may vary. Accept all relevant answers.

- 2. Compare and contrast the characters of Joseph and Sarah.**

Joseph and Sarah loved their family and valued the possessions they had. But Joseph was more practical whereas Sarah was more emotional. Joseph wanted Sarah to sell the China dog so that they did not have to sell their house. But Sarah was of contrary view because it was precious to her as her grandmother had willed it to her.

Joseph saw the glass half empty whereas Sarah saw the glass half full. This means that Joseph was sad because he did not have a job and they were on the verge of losing their house. But Sarah was grateful that she had a loving family.

- 3. Do you think hiding the money inside the China dog was a clever idea? Why/ Why not?**

Answers may vary. Accept all relevant answers.

- 4. Describe Joseph as a husband.**

Joseph loved his wife and acknowledged the fact that he married the right girl. But at the same time he is annoyed with her for not selling the China dog. He doesn't think twice before calling Sarah's grandmother foolish.