

9. Nightfall In The City Of Hyderabad

1. Answer the following questions with reference to context.

1. Hark, from the minaret, how the muezzin's call floats like a battle-flag over the city wall.

a) Why is the muezzin calling?

The muezzin is calling for prayer.

b) Why is the call compared to the floating of a battle-flag?

The call is compared to the floating of a battle-flag to emphasize its resounding and commanding nature, akin to a flag waving in the wind during a battle.

2. From trellised balconies, languid and luminous faces gleam, veiled in a splendour voluminous.

a) Why are the faces veiled?

The faces were veiled as part of cultural or religious practices.

b) Why does the poet say that the faces are gleaming?

The poet says that the faces are gleaming to convey their radiant and luminous appearance possibly due to the light or adornments.

3. Over the city bridge Night comes majestic,
Borne like a queen to a sumptuous festival.

a) How does the night come?

The night comes majestically, implying a grand and regal entrance.

b) Why is the night compared to a queen?

The night is compared to a queen to highlight its dignified and splendid nature, especially as it arrives for a sumptuous festival.

II Answer the following questions:

1. Why does the sky look 'jewelled with embers of opal and peridot'?

The sky looks 'jewelled with embers of opal and peridot' due to the speckled appearance caused by the sunset, resembling the colours of precious gems.

2. Why are the elephants referred to as 'leisurely'?

The elephants are referred to as 'leisurely' to convey a sense of unhurried and relaxed movement as they wind through the winding lanes.

3. What happens round the Char Minar?

Round the Char Minar, sounds of gay cavalcades blend with the music of cymbals and serenades, indicating lively and festive activities taking place.

4. What has the White river been compared to and why?
The White river has been compared to a tusk from the mouth of the city-gates because of its curved and flowing shape, reminiscent of an elephant's tusk.

10. Bulli and the Tiger.

I Answer the following questions with reference to context.

1) During class, Bulli was lost in thought and barely noticed the lessons.

a) Why was Bulli lost in thought?

Bulli was lost in thought, because she was worried about the shortage of bamboo and the potential impact on their livelihood.

b) Who else was worried along with her?

Bulli's friend Alok was also worried.

c) What solution did they think of?

They decide to venture into the forest to find the bamboo themselves.

2) Oh, he's still around, dwells in the forest and watches over the village. They say, he appears every once in a while, to help us in times of trouble.

a) Who says these lines and to whom?

Koka says these lines to Bulli.

b) Who does 'he' refer to?

'He' refers to the tiger mentioned in Koka's story.

c) According to the speaker, why does 'he' appear every once in a while?

The tiger appears to help the villagers in times of trouble.

3. They followed the crackle, pop, swish, through the thick foliage, on to the track leading to the hanging bridge. They couldn't see much, just the hint of a whisker, the twitch of an ear, and once, a glint of kind amber eyes that seemed to say, 'No need to worry. I will show you the way.'

a) Who does 'they' refer to?

'They' refers to Bulli and Aloka.

b) Whom could 'they' not see?

They could not see the tiger clearly.

c) Whose kind eyes seemed to say, 'No need to worry. I will show you the way'?

The kind eyes of the tiger from Koka's story seemed to say this.

II Answer the following questions:

" Describe Bulli's house.

Bulli's house was a typical bamboo dwelling, like all the houses in her village. Even the doors, windows and gates were made of bamboo. The family used bamboo for various purposes, including making rice bins, tea strainers, fish traps and baskets.

2. What made Bulli realize that something was amiss?

Bulli realized that something was amiss when she observed her father and grandfather, who were usually occupied with their bamboo work, looking unusually grave and not actively working. The atmosphere in the house seemed tense.

3. What was the reason given by Babu for both the households being at unease?

Babu revealed that the contractor was asking for too much money for bamboo, and Bulli's father didn't have the funds to bid directly from the government. This meant they couldn't get more bamboo, posing a threat to their livelihood.

4. How did the tiger change the lives of Bulli's ancestors?

According to Koka's story, the tiger saved Bulli's ancestors from a flood by guiding them to a safe place atop a hill. The tiger taught them how to use bamboo to make houses and baskets to sell in the market, thereby providing them with a new means of livelihood.