



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
FINAL ASSESSMENT (2025-2026)
ENGLISH Answer Key

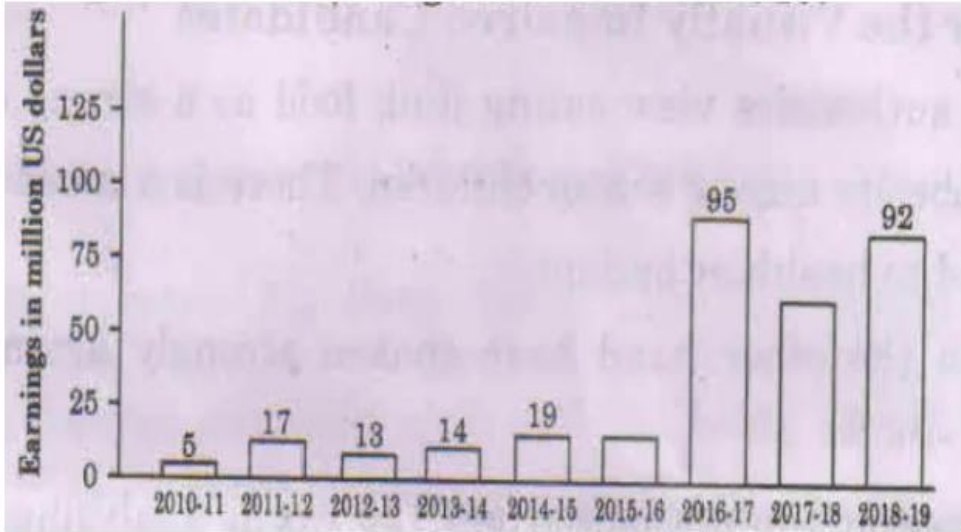
Class: XI
Date: 19/02/2026

Time: 3 hours
M.M: 80

General Instructions:

- ✓ *All questions are compulsory.*
- ✓ *The question paper consists of three sections:*
Section A - Reading - 26 Marks
Section B - Writing & Grammar - 23 Marks
Section C - Literature - 31 Marks
- ✓ *Attempt one section at a stretch and then move to the next section and number your questions correctly.*
- ✓ *While attempting MCQs, write the correct option number along with the answer.*
- ✓ *Use of correcting fluid (whitener) is prohibited.*
- ✓ *This paper consists of 11 printed pages.*

SECTION A-READING (26 Marks)		
Q. I	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	10Marks
	1. No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a ----- -----around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy. (711 words)	
	On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.	
	(a) In paragraph 1, why does the writer include information about the Cherokee language? i. To show how simple, traditional cultures can have complicated grammar structures	1
	(b) What can be inferred about the slaves' pidgin language? iii. It was difficult to understand, even among slaves.	1
	(c) All the following sentences about Nicaraguan sign language are true EXCEPT: ii. The language is based on speech and lip reading.	1
	(d) Which idea is presented in the final paragraph? i. English was probably once a creole.	1

	(e) What is common to all languages? Ans- All languages have clever grammatical components.	1																				
	(f) Complete the given sentence. Creoles are <u>complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins</u> and are invented by <u>children</u> .	1																				
	(g) Why does the author say that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children? Ans- Linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first /children's minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.	2																				
	(h) Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: i. simple and temporary (Para 3)- make-shift ii. uniform (Para 4)- consistent	2																				
Q. II.	Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:	8 Marks																				
	The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates. ----- "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability." <u>Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019</u>																					
	 <table border="1"> <caption>Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Earnings (million US dollars)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-12</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>92</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Earnings (million US dollars)	2010-11	5	2011-12	17	2012-13	13	2013-14	14	2014-15	19	2015-16	19	2016-17	95	2017-18	60	2018-19	92	
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	(i) Why did Rowling's parents dismiss her desire to become a writer? Ans- They believed imagination could not secure financial stability.	1																				
	(ii) Complete this Analogy- Rabbit : Miss Bee :: Harry : Ron or Hermione (Any other acceptable answer)	1																				

	<p>(iii) At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter because <u>they found her plot of Harry Potter too complex.</u></p> <p>(iv) Why was Rowling outraged with the Italian dust jacket? Ans- She was obsessed with quality and accuracy and therefore was outraged at the Italian dust Jacket for showing Harry without glasses.</p> <p>(v) Find a word from the passage that means ‘extremely poor’. Ans-IMPOVERISHED</p> <p>(vi) Rowling was thrilled with the taped version of her books recorded by: b) Stephen Fry</p> <p>(vii) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful? Ans- 6 Years/7 Years</p> <p>(viii) What was the drawback of achieving fame? Ans-The draw back was that she was approached day and night by journalists knocking at the door of her flat. It was becoming a nuisance and she did not respond to all of them.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>
Q. III.	Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:	8 Marks
	<p>Medical experts have cautioned against extensive use of aluminum cookware and foils, especially for acidic food preparations containing tamarind, tomatoes and green leafy vegetables which could lead to aluminum toxicity and consequent nerve disorder. The use of aluminum cookware should be limited and their use for making acidic food preparations should be avoided as they increase aluminum leaching into food warn scientists from National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.</p> <p>Chronic exposure to high levels of aluminum through food and water could lead to nerve and brain disorder such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, they say. Studies at NIN have shown that chronic exposure of rats to high aluminum and calcium deficient diets lead to degeneration of nerves and impairment of some brain functions.</p> <p>Earlier studies too have linked high aluminum intake with dementia and bone diseases. Keeping in view evidence of a link between high aluminum content in drinking water and senile dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, a reduced intake of aluminum by kidney patients and elderly persons is advisable. NIN scientists say in a report that they have also advised regular monitoring of aluminum in blood for dialysis patients. Patients with kidney disorders are particularly susceptible to aluminum is present in water, soil, plants and cooking utensils. It is added to drinking water as aluminum sulphate at the treatment plants, while soil contamination with it leads to accumulation in vegetables.</p> <p>It is also used in medicine such as antacids, analgesics and anti-diarrhoeals in food and food activities, foils, wrapping papers and cookware and in water</p>	

	<p>purification processes. NIN studies showed especially green leafy vegetables, spices and in the form of 'Sambhar' contribute significantly to aluminum uptake.</p> <p>Aluminum containing food additives are generally used as buffers, neutralising agents, dough strength emulsifying agents for processed cheese and thinkers. Studies on experimental rats also showed that deficiencies of certain minerals such as calcium and iron enhance aluminum absorption and accumulation in tissues over a long period.</p>	
	(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognisable abbreviations (minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title to it.	5
	(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.	3
	SECTION B - GRAMMAR & WRITING (23Marks)	
Q. IV.	Do as directed: Answer Any Three	3 Marks
	<p>1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate verb forms.</p> <p>a. Venting out anger has become/is becoming (become) a common practice, especially in the urban life.</p> <p>b. It happens/can happen/may happen(happen) on the road, at home or at the workplace.</p> <p>2. Identify the dependent clause in the given sentence:</p> <p>c. <u>While I was scrubbing the floors,</u> Juliet was watching television.</p> <p>3. Identify the independent clause in the given sentence:</p> <p>d. Since I could not go to the Pancake Breakfast, <u>I gave away my tickets.</u></p>	
Q. V.	Sentence Transformation - Do as directed: Answer Any Four	4 Marks
	<p>1. Read the following conversation and complete the passage given below: The tortoise said, to the geese "Why are you bidding me farewell?" The geese said, "How can we help you?" The tortoise said "I know I can't fly like you but you can take me with you".</p> <p>The tortoise asked the geese (a)<u>why they were bidding him/her farewell.</u> The geese asked how they could help him. The tortoise said that (b)<u>he/she knew he couldn't fly like them</u> but they could take him with them.</p> <p>2. Rearrange the following jumbled words to form meaningful sentences: (c) following discipline / the pinnacles / by / a person/ of glory / reach / can (d) and at the / self-confidence / it acts as / builds / same time / a restraint (e) balances the personality / and inculcates / of a person / good work ethics /</p>	

	<p>moreover it</p> <p>(c) A person can reach the pinnacles of glory by following discipline. / By following discipline, a person can reach the pinnacles of glory.</p> <p>(d) It acts as a restraint and at the same time builds self-confidence.</p> <p>(e) Moreover, it balances the personality of a person and inculcates good work ethics.</p>	
Q. VI.	<p>Bal Vidya Public School, Bhilai, urgently requires a post-graduate teacher to teach Political Science. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words for the 'Situations Vacant' column of The Bhilai Express stating your requirements regarding age, qualification, experience etc. on behalf of the Principal of the school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>You are Simar/ Smriti of 11 A, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow. Having recently completed your graduation in Mass Media Studies, you are looking for a job as a Radio Jockey in a reputed Radio Station. Draft a suitable advertisement in about 50 words.</p>	3 Marks
Q. VII.	<p>In a recent survey it was found that your city has the highest rate of pollution in the country. Innumerable vehicles on the road and lack of green cover have made the air unfit to breathe. Draft a poster in about 50 words, creating awareness about the need to keep your city clean and green. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Publicly we proclaim that dowry is an evil. Privately parents want their sons to fetch good dowries. Right from our school days we should be taught that demanding and even giving dowry is not only illegal but immoral too. Draw a poster in about 50 words highlighting dowry as a curse. You are Vikram/Sonia.</p>	3 Marks
Q.VIII.	<p>The use of tobacco in cigarettes and other forms is a great health hazard. People do not pay much heed even to the statutory warning on cigarette packs. On the occasion of No Tobacco Day write a speech in about 150-200 words about the hazards of tobacco. You are Shalini/Suraj of Greenfields Public School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	5 Marks



Due to incessant rains during the past few weeks, the Army has launched 'Operation Megh Rahat' in Naoshera, Rajouri, Thanamandi and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir in coordination with the civil authorities for search, rescue and relief of people. Taking cue from the above picture write a speech in about 150-200 words to be given at the Independence Day programme in your school, applauding the role of the army and the need to boost their morale. You are Shamil/Sunidhi of Delhi Public School.

Q. IX.

Although students have been using cell phones consistently in their daily lives for almost a decade, schools continue to resist allowing the devices into the classroom. Schools generally grapple with new technologies, but cell phones' reputation as a nuisance and a distraction has been hard to dislodge. Write a debate in about 150-200 words in favour of or against the cell phone being allowed in schools.

5 Marks

OR

Some people feel that the newspapers will become a thing of the past soon due to the increasing interest for electronic media. Write a debate in 150-200 words either in favour or against the topic Electronic media. You are Parth / Parnika

SECTION C – LITERATURE (31Marks)

Q. X.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given

1X3=3

A.

*"Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
She launches away, towards the infinite
And the laburnum subsides to empty."*

(i) How does the departure of the goldfinch affect the atmosphere of the laburnum tree?

Ans- The departure of the goldfinch makes the laburnum tree fall silent and lifeless. The vibrant energy brought by the bird vanishes, leaving emptiness.

	<p>(ii) What does the phrase “<i>eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings</i>” suggest?</p> <p>b) The soft, musical sounds of the bird</p> <p>(iii) Assertion (A): The goldfinch’s departure symbolizes the end of activity in the tree. Reason (R): The laburnum tree is dependent on the bird for its liveliness.</p> <p>a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>“And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower, Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated: I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain, Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.”</i></p> <p>(i) Identify the poetic device used in the line “I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain.” Ans-Personification/Metaphor</p> <p>(ii) Complete the sentence. The word “impalpable” means _____ in the context of the poem. Ans- Something that cannot be touched or physically felt; intangible, subtle.</p> <p>(iii) What does the poet mean by “Poem of Earth”? Ans- it symbolizes nature’s beauty and cycle of renewal / nourishing life like poetry nourishes the soul. / Rhythm and joy/music.</p>	
Q. XI.	Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given	1X3=3
A.	<p><i>By now we could see snow-capped mountains gathering on the horizon. We entered a valley where the river was wide and mostly clogged with ice, brilliant white and glinting in the sunshine. The trail hugged its bank, twisting with the meanders as we gradually gained height and the valley sides closed in.</i></p> <p>(i) The word "clogged" means <u>blocked or obstructed</u> in the context of the extract.</p> <p>(ii) How does the extract show that the narrator is in a place which is extremely cold and at high-altitude? ---by using details such as snow-capped mountains, ice, sunshine, and height.</p> <p>(iii) How does the author create a sense of beauty and contrast in the extract? Ans- The author creates a sense of beauty and contrast in the extract by using words such as "brilliant", "glinting", "twisting", and "closed in".</p>	

<p>B.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>After Akhenaten's death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. And then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne – King Tut as he's widely known today. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, living image of Amun, and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years - and then died unexpectedly.</i></p> <p>(i) The statement "appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace" is the same as</p> <p>d) his reign was short and without any impact</p> <p>(ii) The expression "oversaw a restoration of the old ways" means he re-established the old practices and beliefs.</p> <p>(iii) What does the expression "took the throne" refer to?</p> <p>He ascended the throne/ He became the ruler/came to power.</p>	
<p>Q. XII.</p>	<p>Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given</p>	<p>1X4=4</p>
<p>A.</p>	<p><i>He could not walk and could not see, So old (and therefore wise) was he- But in a quavering voice he said, 'The culprit must be punished. Truly, the arch it was that banged The crown is off, and it must be hanged'. To the scaffold the arch was led When suddenly a Councillor said – 'How can we hang so shamefully What touched your head, Your Majesty?'</i></p> <p>(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. The word 'culprit' means wrong doer/sinner, guilty/offender.</p> <p>(ii) Identify the lines from the extract which describe the physical condition of 'he'. <i>Ans-He could not walk and could not see, So old (and therefore wise) was he- But in a quavering voice he said,</i></p> <p>(iii) What was ironic about the decision made by him? a. Though wisest yet he gave the worst advice</p> <p>(iv) Why did the councillor object on his advice? <i>Ans- Councillor remarked that the arch touched the king's crown respectfully,/ this is a disgrace, it should not be hanged.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>[As she is about to rise, Mrs. Fitzgerald reaches out across the table and pulls her down.]</p>	

B.	<p>Mrs. Fitzgerald: Let'em wait or look after themselves for once. This is where your foot goes down. Start now. [She lights a cigarette from the one she has just finished.]</p> <p>Mrs. Pearson: [Embarrassed] Mrs. Fitzgerald—I know you mean well—in fact, I agree with you— but I just can't—and it's no use trying to make me. If I promise you I'd really have it out with them, I know I wouldn't be able to keep my promise.</p> <p>Mrs. Fitzgerald: Then let me do it.</p> <p>Mrs. Pearson [Flustered]: Oh no—thank you very much, Mrs. Fitzgerald—but that wouldn't do at all. It couldn't possibly be somebody else— they'd resent it at once and wouldn't listen— and really I couldn't blame them. I know I ought to do it—but you see how it is? [She looks apologetically across the table, smiling rather miserably.]</p> <p>Mrs. Fitzgerald [Coolly]: You haven't got the idea."</p> <p>(i) What is the contrast in the personalities of the two women? Ans-Mrs. Pearson is polite, submissive and a timid house wife, whereas, Mrs. Fitzgerald is assertive, bold and a strong lady.</p> <p>(ii) "This is where your foot goes down" means <u>to adopt a firm policy when faced with opposition or disobedience / take a stand for herself.</u></p> <p>(iii) What does Mrs. Fitzgerald mean by 'let me do it'? Select the option that explains it.</p> <p>b. She has an unusual solution to the problem</p> <p>(iv) Assertion (A): The character of Mrs. Pearson is initially portrayed as timid and submissive. Reason (R): Her family dominates her because she never asserts her own needs or opinions. Options: a. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).</p>	
Q. XIII.	Answer ANY TWO of the following four questions in about 40-50 words:	3X2=6
1.	<p>Grandmother never complained about anything. Her patience was beyond any measure. Mention any two instances. (The Portrait of a Lady)</p> <p>Ans: Two instances that show the grandmother's patience are: i) when she fed the sparrows, the birds sat on her head but she never shooed them away ii) she did not become upset when the author went abroad for higher education. She accepted the decision in a calm and composed manner.</p>	
2.	<p>What has not changed over the years? What does this suggest and symbolise? (A Photograph)</p> <p>Ans: The lines 'Land the sea, which appears to have changed less' depicts that the sea which touched her mother's feet is the one which has not changed over the years. Whereas, her mother and her cousins grew older. The sea symbolises eternity and immortality. Human being has a life span and has to die one day. Human life is not permanent.</p>	
3.	<p>'I would have him prodigal'. What does the father mean by this? (Father to</p>	

4.	<p>Son)</p> <p>Ans: Prodigal means wastefully extravagant. In the Bible there is a story, where a father inherits property and gives it to his sons. The younger son wastes a lot but returns to his father's home. His father forgives him and takes him back home. Here in the poem the father is ready to accept his prodigal son and he may start living with him under the same roof.</p> <p>Discuss the poet's journey from innocence to awareness as depicted in "Childhood."</p> <p>Ans: In "Childhood," the poet transitions from naive innocence to mature awareness through pivotal realizations. He begins to question myths like hell and heaven, notices the gap between what adults say and do, and finally understands that his thoughts are his own. This awakening symbolizes the end of childhood and the start of self-identity. Questions irrational beliefs (rationalism emerges). Recognizes adults' hypocrisy. Discovers individuality and independent thinking.</p>	
Q. XIV.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 40-50 words:	3X1=3
1.	<p>Was the King 'just and placid' in The Tale of Melon City? Justify your answer.</p> <p>Ans: The words just and placid give the impression of a King who knows how to provide justice and how to stay calm in any given situation. He must have intellect and must know how to make the right decision. This would make a state the greatest of all other states. The scenario in The Tale of Melon City written by Vikram Seth was quite different though. The poet described the Melon City's King as just and placid but in reality, he was the opposite of it. The poet has used these two words in a satirical sense to mock the judgement of the King. He kept ordering the execution of common people without any reason just to keep his face value. This in reality brought great chaos to the state.</p>	
2.	<p>'Have you returned?' the woman inquired. 'I had assumed that no one had returned.' What does this statement reveal about the plot? (The Address)</p> <p>Ans- The statement quoted provides us with a hint about the plot. It indicates that the two families were acquaintances who knew one other and lived in close proximity to one another. During the war, many families fled the country to seek sanctuary in another location, while others remained in the same location. Mrs. Dorling believed that Mrs. S's family had died during the war, that is why she was so chilly to the girl who came to see her. Moreover, she collected the objects for possession, not for safekeeping, and thus refused to admit that she had come back.</p>	
Q.XV.	Answer ANY ONE out of two questions:	6
1.	<p>How can you say that Jonathan and Sue were brave children of a brave father? What was the impact of their reaction on their father? (We're Not Afraid to Die----)</p> <p>Ans- The two children, Suzanne and Jonathan, showed tremendous courage and forbearance during the epic struggle put up by their parents and the crewmen to keep the boat from sinking. Sue had been injured badly when the big wave hit</p>	

2.	<p>the boat. Her head had swollen alarmingly and both her eyes were hurt. She also had a deep cut on her arm. But she did not complain about her injuries as she did not want to worry her parents when they were trying to save them from sinking. When the author went to comfort the children, his son Jonathan, asked him if they were going to die. When he was assured that they would all survive, he told his father that they were not afraid of dying if they could all be together. Moreover, Sue had patience and power enough to even draw the caricatures of her parents with a message of hope and gratitude to her parents. The children, thus, exhibit extraordinary patience, courage and tolerance. Their calmness and bravery gave the father immense strength and determination to fight on. Instead of being overwhelmed by despair, he felt motivated to continue struggling against the odds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Gangadharpant could not help comparing the country he knew with what he was witnessing around him. Briefly explain in context of the plot, The Adventure.</p> <p>Ans- In Jayant Narlikar's story The Adventure, Gangadharpant finds himself in a parallel world where history has taken a different course. The India he knew was a nation shaped by British colonial rule, with its familiar political and cultural trajectory. The India he witnessed was completely different reality where the Marathas had defeated the British, and India had never been colonized. This alternate India was more powerful, self-reliant, and politically influential on the global stage. Gangadharpant, a historian, is bewildered by this alternate timeline. His scholarly mind cannot help but compare the colonized India he had studied and lived in with the independent, thriving India before him. This comparison highlights the theme of the story: the idea of multiple realities and how small changes in history could lead to vastly different outcomes. His reflections emphasize the contrast between a subdued, colonized India and a proud, victorious India, underscoring the story's exploration of alternate histories.</p>	
Q.XVI.	Answer ANY ONE out of two questions:	6
1.	<p>Andrew's visit to the Morgan's gave him pleasure and satisfaction that he had not achieved earlier. Justify. (Birth)</p> <p>Ans- In Birth by A.J. Cronin, Andrew Manson's visit to the Morgans becomes a turning point in his life as a doctor. Andrew fought relentlessly to save both the mother and the newborn child. The baby was stillborn, but through his determined efforts, he brought the child back to life. This was not just a medical victory but a deeply human one. He had conquered despair and proved his skill and dedication. The joy of giving life and seeing the family's happiness gave him a satisfaction far greater than any professional recognition he had experienced before. Andrew's visit to the Morgans' was special because it combined professional success with personal fulfillment. The gratitude of the family and the miracle of</p>	

2.	<p>saving two lives gave him a sense of pride and contentment that no earlier achievement had matched.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Mourad seems to have a way with animals, birds and farmers. What other qualities does he have and what different values weave the fabric of his character?(The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)</p> <p>Ans- In <i>The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse</i> by William Saroyan, Mourad is portrayed as a fascinating character whose personality is woven from many qualities and values.</p> <p>Mourad loves excitement and risk, that is why he dares to take the horse even though he knows it's not rightfully his. He is confident and never doubts himself; he rides the horse with ease and believes he can handle any situation. His kindness towards animals shows his gentle heart. Horses, dogs, and birds respond to him because he treats them with love. He has a way of convincing others, especially his cousin Aram, to join in his adventures. Mourad often thinks beyond rules and conventions, living life with creativity and joy.</p> <p>He values independence and the thrill of living life on his own terms. Despite his mischievous acts, Mourad is deeply aware of the Garoghlanian tribe's reputation for honesty. This tension between tradition and desire makes him complex. His gentle treatment of animals reflects empathy and care. Mourad finds happiness in small adventures, showing that he values experiences over possessions. Though he takes the horse, he never intends to sell or harm it. His conscience guides him to eventually return it, proving he values honesty at heart.</p>	
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