



QUESTION BANK – A LEGEND OF THE NORTHLAND (2020-21)

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct answer.

1. How will you compare the winter days and nights in Northland?
(A) The days are too long and the nights are too short.
(B) **The days are too short and the nights are too long.**
(C) The days and nights are of twelve hours each.
(D) There are no days; it is always night there.

2. Why can't people sleep the winter nights through in Northland?
(A) Because the nights are too short there.
(B) **Because the nights are too long there.**
(C) Because it is all the time night there.
(D) Because there is no night there.

3. What do the people of Northland harness their sledges to?
(A) The Foxes.
(B) The oxen.
(C) The bullocks.
(D) **The reindeer.**

4. How was Saint Peter feeling when he reached the little woman's cottage?
(A) **Tired and hungry.**
(B) Hale and hearty.
(C) Happy and refreshed.
(D) Trembling with cold and fever.

5. The little woman baked a cake for Saint Peter. Then why did she not give it to him?
(A) **She thought it was too big to give away.**
(B) She thought it was too small for the holy man.
(C) She thought the holy man won't like it.
(D) She thought the cake was not tasty.

6. What made Saint Peter angry?
(A) **The woman's greed.**
(B) The woman's selfishness.
(C) The woman's pride.
(D) The woman's kindness.

7. What curse did Saint Peter pronounce on the selfish woman?
(A) That she shall build her shelter as birds do.
(B) That she shall bore hard, dry wood for her scanty food.
(C) That she shall keep boring all day.

(D) All the above.

VERY ANSWER QUESTIONS-

1. What is a legend? Why is this poem called a legend?

Ans. A legend is a popular story from the past which is believed to be true but cannot be verified. It contains a moral which is narrated to the children to teach them moral values.

2. Is this a true story? Which part of this poem do you feel is the most important?

Ans. It is not a true story. The point of the story where the woman is turned into a woodpecker bird is the most important. This is so because the punishment teaches everyone the lesson to be generous.

3. What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady's reaction?

Ans. Saint Peter asked the lady to give him a cake as he was hungry. The lady did not give him a cake out of the ones that she had baked, instead she baked a smaller one for him

4. How did St. Peter punish the old lady?

Ans. He punished the selfish lady by turning her into a woodpecker bird that had to bore into the dry wood all day to get some food and shelter.

5. Do you think that the old lady would have been so ungenerous if she had known who Saint Peter really was? What would she have done then?

Ans. If the old lady knew who Saint Peter was, then she would not have been ungenerous. On the other hand, she would have served him well for the fulfilment of her greedy desires.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS-

1. How did the woman behave when Saint Peter asked her for a cake?

Ans. Saint Peter had eaten nothing all day. He came to the door of a cottage. He saw a woman making cakes. He asked her for a single cake. The woman baked a small cake for him. But then she thought it was too big to give away. She made a smaller cake. But she thought it was as big as the first one. Now she made a very tiny cake. It was as thin as a wafer. Even this one seemed to her too large to give away. She placed all the cakes on her shelf. She did not give the saint any cake.

2. Why did the saint punish the woman? What was the punishment

Ans. The woman was very selfish. She didn't give the saint even a small cake to eat. The saint was very angry. He cursed the woman. He said that she was too selfish to live in a human form. He said that she would now live as a bird. She would have to bore the hardwood for her food. At once, the woman went up through the chimney. When she came out at the top, she was turned into a woodpecker. Now she had to keep boring the trees for her little food.

3. Which values does the legend of Saint Peter and the little woman teach?

Ans:-The legend of Saint Peter and the little woman teaches the values of love, mercy, pity, charity, kindness, and a sense of sharing. The tale is based on the moral lesson that human beings must rise above selfishness and agreed to help people in need. They should be ready to share their blessings and joys with others. God is never happy with people whose interests are confined to themselves. It is inhuman to find somebody in need and not provide the required help. The story reveals that those who lack love and empathy and are not charitable will be punished by God or His messengers. If the little woman had shared food with Saint Peter, she would have enjoyed a happy, contented life. But her greed and selfishness resulted in her doom. She was

deprived of all human comforts and was converted into a woodpecker who had to lead a life of hardship. The values of kindness, generosity and compassion are emphasised by this legend.

4. How is our happiness spoiled by greed? Explain in the context of the poem ‘A Legend of the Northland’.

Ans. True satisfaction lies in sharing things with others. Peace and satisfaction are the two sides of a coin. If there is satisfaction in our life, peace is bound to come in our life. However, greed spoils both. If we are greedy, we cannot get satisfaction as well as peace in our life. In the poem, the old lady was greedy and she failed to give the cake to the saint. If she had satisfaction, she would certainly have shown honour and regard to the saint. So, in the case of this little lady, it can be said that her greed had spoiled her peace and satisfaction. Actually, Saints try to create such societies in which all the people shall be treated with equality and greed will have no room in them. With the help of teachings, they desire to bring down heaven on the earth.

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: -

*They tell them a curious story—
I don't believe 'tis true;
And yet you may learn a lesson
If I tell the tale to you.
Once, when the good Saint Peter
Lived in the world below,
And walked about it, preaching,
Just as he did, you know,*

Questions:

- (i) What does the poetess say about the story?
- (ii) Is it a true story?
- (iii) Why is the poetess telling this story?
- (iv) Where did Saint Peter live then?
- (v) What did he do while he walked about the earth?

Answers:

- (i) She does not believe the story to be true.
- (ii) No, it is not a true story.
- (iii) She is telling it because it preaches a lesson.
- (iv) He lived on the earth below.
- (v) He went preaching.

*'Now, you shall build as the birds do,
And shall get your scanty food
By boring, and boring, and boring,
All day in the hard, dry wood.'
Then up she went through the chimney,
Never speaking a word,
And out of the top flew a woodpecker,
For she was changed to a bird.*

Questions:

- (i) How did Saint Peter punish the selfish woman?
- (ii) What will she do to get her food like a bird?
- (iii) What was the woman changed into?
- (iv) From where did she fly out?

Answers:

- (i) He cursed her to be changed into a bird.
- (ii) She will keep boring all day.
- (iii) She was changed into a woodpecker.
- (iv) She flew out of the chimney.

Literary Devices in the poem

1. Rhyme Scheme: abcb

2. Alliteration: is the repetition of a consonant sound in two or more close words.

Stanza 1 - that, they, them through - 'th' sound is repeating

Stanza 2 - they, the - 'th' sound is repeating

look, like - 'l' sound is repeating

funny, furry - 'f' sound is repeating

Stanza 3 - they, them- 'th' sound is repeating

yet, you - 'y' sound is repeating

learn, lesson - 'l' sound is repeating

tell, tale, to - 't' sound is repeating

Stanza 5 - woman, was - 'w' sound is repeating

Them, the, hearth - 'th' sound is repeating

Stanza 6 - faint, fasting - 'f' sound is repeating

Stanza 8 - still, smaller - 's' sound is repeating

Stanza 9 - took, tiny - 't' sound is repeating

Stanza 10 - seem, small - 's' sound is repeating

Stanza 13 - build, birds - 'b' sound is repeating

by, boring, boring - 'b' sound is repeating

3. Repetition: any word or sentence is repeated to lay emphasis on it.

Stanza 1 - 'away' word is repeated

Stanza 9 - 'rolled' word is repeated

Stanza 13, 16 - 'boring' word is repeated

4. Enjambment: running lines of poetry from one to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop

Stanza 1 - line 3 and 4

Stanza 2 - Line 1 and 2; line 3 and 4

Stanza 3 - Line 3 and 4

Stanza 4 - Line 1 and 2; 3 and 4

Stanza 10 - Line 1, 2 and 3

Stanza 11 - Line 1 and 2

5. Simile: Comparison using 'as' or 'like'

Stanza 2 - 'the children look like bear's cubs'. Children compared to bear's cubs

Stanza 9 - 'baked it thin as a wafer'. Cake is compared to a wafer.

Stanza 15 - 'clothes were burned black as a coal'. The colour of the burned clothes is compared to that of coal.

SUMMARY

'A legend of the Northland' is a ballad. A ballad is a poem narrating a story in short stanzas.

Ballad is such kind of poem which tells a story in short stanzas and in the poem all the stanzas

comprise four lines. In total, there are 16 stanzas in this poem and these stanzas will tell us a story. Ballads are a part of folk culture or popular culture and are passed on orally from one generation to the next. (Folk culture is a story of any area and is known as ballad). Folk culture comprises of traditional stories which are passed on from one generation to next generation. This story is of the Northland area, the area which is near the North Pole. This exact place is not specified but 'Northland' means the area in the northernmost part of the earth i.e., near the North Pole. 'Legend' means a historical story, one which is very old and has been passed on from generation to generation. This is a simple poem with a moral. It teaches us that we should not be greedy. We must help the poor and hungry people. One day St. Peter was hungry after the day's fasting. He saw a woman making cakes. He asked her for one. The woman was very greedy. She made a Very small and thin cake for St. Peter. But she did not want to part with even this cake. St. Peter became angry. He cursed the woman to be changed into a bird.' She became a woodpecker and flew out of the chimney. She still lives in the wood and keeps boring the trees for food.