



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

ANSWER KEY

Grade IX

Department: ENGLISH

THE BEGGAR

Q1. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines.

(I) "This is dishonesty, my dear sir!" he cried angrily. "This is swindling -I shall send the police for you, damn you!"

1. Who speaks these lines to whom?

Ans: Sergei, an affluent advocate, says these words to Lushkoff, an alcoholic beggar.

2. Why was the speaker angry?

Ans: The speaker, Sergei, was angry because Lushkoff was being dishonest and had been cheating people in order to get money as alms.

3. What, according to the speaker, was 'dishonesty' and 'swindling'?

Ans: According to the speaker, Sergei, concealing real identity and telling lies by Lushkoff was dishonesty and swindling.

4. Why did the speaker threaten to send the police for the listener?

Ans: The speaker, Sergei, threatened to send the police for the listener, Lushkoff, because the latter was reluctant to admit that he had adopted unfair means to gain sympathy and monetary help from people.

(II) Olga glared wrathfully at her companion, shoved him aside with her elbow, unlocked the shed, and angrily banged the door.

1. Who was Olga and who was her companion?

Ans: Olga was the cook of advocate Sergei and her companion was Lushkoff, the beggar.

2. How did Olga look at her companion and why?

Ans: Olga looked at her companion, Lushkoff, with wrathful glare because his appearance with tattered clothes and drunken eyes was much too disgusting.

3. Why did Olga unlock the shed?

Ans: Olga unlocked the shed to take out the wood and give it to Lushkoff for chopping as instructed by her master, advocate Sergei.

4. Why did Olga bang the door angrily?

Ans: Olga banged the door angrily because the sight of the drunkard beggar repulsed her. By banging the door, she expressed her displeasure.

(III) On the first of the month the waif made his appearance and again earned half a rouble, although he could barely stand on his legs. From that day on he often appeared in the yard and every time work was found for him.

1. Who was the waif and where did he make his appearance?

Ans: The waif was Lushkoff, the beggar, and he made his appearance at the house of advocate Sergei.

2. How did he earn half a rouble?

Ans: Lushkoff earned half a rouble by chopping wood for Sergei.

3. Why could he barely stand on his legs?

Ans: Lushkoff could barely stand on his legs because his addiction to alcohol had made him very weak and he did not have any source of regular income to feed himself.

4. What work was found for him every time?

Ans: Various odd tasks were found every time for Lushkoff. These included shovelling snow, putting woodshed in order, and beating the dust out of rugs and mattresses.

(IV) Pleased at having put a man on the right path, Sergei tapped Lushkoff kindly on the shoulder and even gave him his hand at parting. Lushkoff took the letter, and from that day forth came no more to the yard for work.

1. What was Lushkoff's path before Sergei put him on the right one?

Ans: Before Sergei put him on the right path, Lushkoff was a wayward alcoholic who resorted to telling lies and swindling people.

2. Why did Sergei tap Lushkoff's shoulder and shook hands with him?

Ans: Sergei tapped Lushkoff's shoulder and shook hands with him because he was pleased with having put a man on the right path.

3. What letter did Lushkoff get from Sergei? Why?

Ans: Lushkoff got a letter of recommendation from Sergei. It was addressed to Sergei's friend so that Lushkoff would get some copying work to do from him.

4. Why didn't Lushkoff return to the yard after that day?

Ans: Lushkoff did not return to the yard after that day because he had reformed his ways and went on to become a notary.

(V) 'You spoke finely then, and I shall be indebted to you to my dying day; but, strictly speaking, it was your cook, Olga, who saved me.'

1. Who is "I"? Who is he talking to and where?

Ans: "I" here is the reformed Lushkoff and he is talking to advocate Sergei, his former employer and mentor. Both of them were at the ticket window of theatre at the time of this conversation.

2. Why will the speaker be indebted to the listener?

Ans: Lushkoff shall be indebted forever to Sergei because the latter had spoken finely to him when he was passing through a rough phase of life as a beggar.

3. How did Olga save the speaker?

Ans: Olga, the cook, saved Lushkoff by her words and her noble deeds. She would grow sad at his plight and reprimand him for his waywardness, but cut wood on his behalf, suffer misery and shed tears for his sake.

4. What opinion do you form the speaker from this statement?

Ans: This statement reveals that the speaker, Lushkoff, had become a sensitive, humble and grateful soul to acknowledge the good deeds of his benefactor. He was polite but straightforward and honest in his demeanor.

Q1. Short answer type questions:

1. What kind of work was given to Lushkoff initially? Why did he agree to do it?

Ans. Sergei refused to give alms to Lushkoff, the beggar. Sergei offered to give him work. He took him home and gave him the work of chopping wood. Lushkoff agreed to do this work, not because he was hungry and scanted work. He agreed to do it because of pride and shame and because he had been trapped by his own words.

2. How did Olga treat Lushkoff in the beginning? Why did she do this?

Ans. In the beginning, Olga treated Lushkoff callously. She called him a drunkard. She rebuked him. Then she would sit before him and grow sad. She looked into his face and wept. Then she chopped wood for him. She did so because she felt pity for him. Secondly, she wanted to put him on the right path.

3. Where did Sergei send Lushkoff? What advice did he give him?

Ans. Sergei wanted to give Lushkoff better, cleaner employment. His friend needed a copywriter. As Lushkoff was able to write, so Sergei sent him to his friend. Sergei advised him to work hard and not to drink. He asked him not to forget his advice

4. Where did Sergei see Lushkoff after two years? What work was he doing then?

Ans. One day, after two years, Sergei came across Lushkoff standing at the ticket window of a theatre, paying for a seat. He was wearing a coat collar of curly fur and sealskin cap. Sergei recognized him. Lushkoff told him that now he was a notary and was paid thirty-five roubles a month.

5. Was Lushkoff not good at chopping wood?

Ans. No, Lushkoff was not good at chopping wood. He pulled a piece of wood towards him. He put it between his legs. He hit the wood feebly with the axe. The piece of wood became unsteady and fell down. He again pulled it and struck it. The piece of wood again fell down. This shows that Lushkoff did not know how to chop wood.

6. Write a brief character-sketch of Olga.

Ans. Olga was the maidservant of Sergei. She was stern looking. But she was kind at heart. She rebuked Lushkoff. But then she took pity on him as he was weak and hungry. She did the chopping work for Lushkoff. Olga's kindness had great effect on Lushkoff. He gave up drinking and started taking interest in work. Thus Olga's kindness saved Lushkoff's life.

7. Lushkoff is earning thirty-five roubles a month. How is he obliged to Sergei for this? (Textual)

Ans:-Lushkoff is obliged to Sergei for earning thirty-five roubles a month because the latter had paved way for this achievement. He had recommended Lushkoff to his friend and arranged the job of a copier for him.

8. Who does Lushkoff give the credit for reforming him? Why? Or Why does Lushkoff acknowledge Olga's contribution in reforming him?

Ans:- Lushkoff is grateful to Sergei for employment but he gives true credit for his reformation to Olga, Sergei's cook. Outwardly Olga is full of anger and spite, but her heart is full of human sympathy and kindness. While she severely scolds Lushkoff for being a miserable drunkard, she weeps for him and chops wood for him. She is the chief reason why Lushkoff gives up his bad habits and transforms into a hardworking man.

9. Who was Lushkoff? What did he pretend to be?

Ans. Lushkoff was a middle aged poor man. He belonged to the Russian choir but was sacked from his job due to his drinking habits. To get some money he pretended to be a school teacher who had lost his job due to conspiracy. He also pretended to be a student expelled from the school for no guilt of his.

10. How did Olga treat Lushkoff in the beginning? Why did she do this?

Ans. Olga treated Lushkoff in the beginning very badly. She called him a drunkard and rebuked him for his expressions. She would look into his face and weep. Then she would chop the wood for him. She did this all to set Lushkoff on the right path.

11. Why did the carters make fun of Lushkoff?

Ans. Sergei is moved into another house. He asked Lushkoff to pack and haul the furniture. But Lushkoff hardly touched the furniture. He looked sad, silent and gloomy. He walked behind the wagons hanging his head. He also shivered in cold. So the carters made fun of Lushkoff for his idleness, weakness and fancy overcoat.

12. Lushkoff is earning thirty-five roubles a month. How is he obliged to Sergei for this? Ans. Sergei played a very important role in improving the condition of the beggar. It was because of Sergei that Lushkoff could earn thirty-five roubles a month. He offered him the job to chop wood at his home. Later on, he sent him to one of his friends to do the job of copying. Lushkoff was highly obliged to Sergei as now he was a notary because of him.

13. How did Lushkoff express his sense of gratitude to Sergei?

Ans. Lushkoff thanked Sergei greatly. He said that if he didn't come to him, he would still have been calling himself a teacher or a student. He said that by coming to him he had taken himself out of the pit. He expressed his sincere thanks to Olga.

14. Why did Sergei call Lushkoff his 'godson'? Ans. When Sergei met Lushkoff for the first time, Lushkoff was wearing ragged clothes. Sergei took him to Olga who made him work. After two years, Sergei is surprised to find Lushkoff working for a notary for 35 roubles a month. This makes Sergei very happy and calls

Q3. Long answer type questions:

1. How was Lushkoff, the beggar different from Lushkoff, the notary?

Ans:-Lushkoff, the beggar used to resort to lies in order to get sympathy and money from people. He had a repulsive and disgusting appearance. He wore a ragged fawn-coloured overcoat and his eyes were dull and drunken. Each of his cheeks had a red spot. One of his overshoes was higher than the other. He was hated for his dishonesty and swindling. He was very weak both physically and emotionally because of alcoholic habits. He did not have any self-respect or dignity and quietly took all the jeering from others. Lushkoff, the notary, in contrast, looked like a gentleman. He wore a coat collar of curly fur and a worn sealskin cap. He was paid thirty-five roubles a month for his 'clean employment'. He was a respectable and responsible person now, not the alcoholic who had stooped to telling lies and begging alms for survival. He now had both a reformed soul and an improved life.

2. What are the different ways in which the writer refers to Lushkoff? Why?

Ans:- The writer refers to Lushkoff by numerous derogatory terms. He calls him a suppliant, mendicant, beggar, ragged creature, swindler, scarecrow of a beggar, pseudo-teacher, spoiled, drunken, sick man, waif, miserable creature, unlucky man, an unhappy one. He does so to convey to the reader the miserable plight into which Lushkoff had sunken himself owing to his alcohol addiction. These derogatory terms not only highlight a character marred by alcoholic habits but also amplify his improvement later in the story. This technique of employing contrast is used by the writer to make the reader realise that alcoholism ruins an individual completely. His reformation thus gains significance because of varied adjectives that indicate his depravity. It also emphasises the impact of compassion and concern while rehabilitating an addict. It eventually builds faith that transformation is possible if a person is made to realise his mistakes and is given proper support and effective counselling.

3. Compassion and pity can bring positive changes in human being. How did Olga prove it?

Ans. Yes, it is true that compassion and it can bring positive changes in the human being. Olga came to know about the condition of Lushkoff. She understood that he was a victim of his bad habits and circumstances. She helped him by working in his place. This brought a positive change in Lushkoff who became a good and successful person in life. In general life, a convict can be made a true human by love and compassion. But When he gets love and compassion from others, it arouses a feeling in his heart to improve and become a good man and this makes him realise his mistakes. By self-introspection, he finds that the path he has chosen is not a path of true human and lent gradually he starts to modify himself as a true human. A convict who is not improved by harsh punishment can easily be improved by the loving and sympathetic attitude towards him.

4. 'It is better to help one by giving work than giving alms'. Comment with the help of the character Sergei in the Beggar'.

Ans. Begging is a curse in our society. Giving alms to a young and lazy person is not to help him. By giving work instead of alms, he can be made to lead a decent life. In the story, Sergei was a kind and noble man. He found Lushkoff begging. He offered him the task of chopping wood. Sergei did not have any other work to offer him at that time. But Lushkoff was not fit for the physical labour. His health was very poor. Olga, a kind-hearted lady helped Lushkoff much by working in his place. He was deeply inspired by Olga and left drinking. He regained his confidence and self-respect. This brought a positive change in Lushkoff who became a good and successful person in life.

5. To reform a person, it is important to use both strictness and love. Discuss with reference to the lesson 'The Beggar'.

Ans. In the story when Sergei threatened the beggar, he exposed himself. He told the reality about his life. He was neither a teacher nor a student. All that was false about him He was a singer in a Russian Choir. He had been expelled from the choir because of his drinking habits. Sergei asks Olga to provide work to the beggar Luskoff. She is very kind and affectionate to the beggar. Seeing that the beggar is not strong enough to cut wood, she herself cuts the wood for him. She helps Lushkoff to get payment for it. Though she is outwardly rude to the beggar, she has much kindness and affection for him. She plays an important role in bringing back Lushkoff to mainstream life. She is a very good person.