



QUESTION BANK –A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME (2021-22)

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

Date: 20.11.21

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

*“She was never far from me. I had rescued her when she was a kitten, and somehow, she knew that I was the one responsible for giving her ‘the good life’”.*

**1. Who is ‘I’ in these lines? Whom had he rescued?**

**Ans:** ‘I’ in these lines is the author, Zan. He had rescued a red tabby cat when she was still a kitten.

**2. Why was ‘she’ never far from the speaker?**

**Ans:** She was never far from the speaker, Zan, because he loved her a lot and took good care of her. She was his pet and he tended to all her requirements for food, play and love. She, in turn, responded to his love and care with loyalty.

**3. What does the speaker mean by ‘good life’?**

**Ans:** ‘Good Life’, according to the speaker, Zan, means a life where the pet cat was fed well, pampered, and taken care of in every way.

**4. How did ‘she’ know that the speaker was the one responsible for giving her ‘a good life’?**

**Ans:** She, the red tabby cat, knew that Zan was responsible for giving her a good life because he was quite liberal with her. He allowed her to lie over his papers and punch at his pen while he did homework.

*“He held on to me while other firefighters ran into the house. He knew that I wasn’t acting very logically and that if he were to let go, I’d run. He was right”.*

**1. Who held on to whom and why?**

**Ans:** One of the firefighters held on to Zan because he tried to run after his mother who was inside their burning house.

**2. Why did the other firefighters run into the house?**

**Ans:** The other firefighters ran into the house to rescue Zan’s mother.

**3. ‘He was right’. Why?**

**Ans:** ‘He’, the firefighter, was right because Zan would have certainly run into the burning house after his mother and would have thus endangered his life too if the firefighter had left him.

**4. Which trait of the speaker do these lines highlight?**

**Ans:** The speaker's abundant love for his mother and his strong emotional dependence on her is highlighted here.

*“Regardless, I had to go. We piled into the car with just the clothes on our backs and a few of the fireman’s blankets and made our way to my grandparents’ house to spend the night”.*

**1. Who is the speaker? Where did he have to go and why?**

**Ans:** The speaker is Zan and he had to go to his grandparent’s house since his house had been burnt down and was unsafe to stay in even after the firefighters had doused the fire.

**2. Who does ‘we’ stand for?**

**Ans:** “We” stands for Zan and his mother.

**3. Why did they take ‘so few’ belongings with them?**

**Ans:** They took so few belongings with them because everything they owned had got burnt down in the house.

**4.” Regardless, I had to go”. Why does the speaker say this?**

**Ans:** The speaker, Zan, says this because he had to go without knowing whether his cat was dead or alive. This was a crisis situation, and his priority was to ensure his and his mother’s safety and to start life fresh.

*“Everyone in the high school, including my teachers, was aware of my plight. I was embarrassed as if somehow, I were responsible. What a way to start off at a new school! This was not the kind of attention I was looking for”.*

**1. Who is the speaker of these lines and what was his plight?**

**Ans:** The speaker is Zan and his plight was that his house had been burnt down in the fire. All his belongings – his clothes, his books, his backpack – everything had been destroyed.

**2. Why was he embarrassed?**

**Ans:** He was embarrassed because he held himself responsible for his shabby appearance at school. He did not have a proper dress, shoes, or even backpack like other children.

**3. Why was he uncomfortable about starting school in this manner?**

**Ans:** He was uncomfortable about starting school in this manner because he thought he looked like a geek and an outcast without proper clothes, shoes and a backpack.

**4. Why didn’t he want this kind of attention?**

**Ans:** He had been ahead of his class in the previous school and was loved by his teachers for his grades. But now he was embarrassed as he had to attend school in awkward clothes and without notebooks or bag.

“There was a big table set up with all kinds of stuff on it, just for me. They had taken up a collection and bought me school supplies...”

**1. Who is the speaker and who are ‘they’ in these lines?**

**Ans:** Zan is the speaker and ‘they’ are his new schoolmates.

**2. Where was the big table?**

**Ans:** The big table was in the school gym.

**3. Why had the collection been taken up?**

**Ans:** The collection had been taken up to help Zan after he had lost all his belongings in the fire that had burnt his house.

**4. What was the speaker’s response to this gesture?**

**Ans:** The speaker, Zan was overwhelmed by this gesture and felt as if the school supplies, notebooks, and different clothes kept on the table for him, were like Christmas gifts.

## **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**1. What is surreal? Why does the author feel that everything was surreal?**

**Ans:** Surreal means something strange or unreal. The author felt that everything was surreal because too many unfortunate things had happened to him – his house was burnt down, his cat was lost, his mother was left with no money and he had no books, shoes, clothes and school uniform. His secure zone had been ripped away suddenly and the changes were too much and too many for him to handle.

**2. In what condition does the author go to school after the fire incident?**

**Ans:** After the fire incident, the author goes to school wearing the dress that he had worn to church on Sunday morning and the tennis shoes that he had borrowed from his aunt. His shoes, clothes, books, homework, and backpack had been destroyed in the fire.

**3. Why did Zan’s mother have to borrow money from his grandparents?**

**Ans:** Zan’s mother had to borrow money from his grandparents because her credit cards, cash and even identification that was needed to draw money from the bank had got burnt up in the fire. She had to rent a new place, buy new clothes for Zan and resettle quickly. She did not have time to wait for the recovery of her lost documents till then.

**4. Why is the author deeply embarrassed the next day in school? Which words show his fear and insecurity?**

**Ans.** The author was full of remorse as he was left with nothing. He didn’t have a proper dress and study material. He had no backpack. He had a feeling of

insecurity. All things appeared strange to him. He was shocked deeply and seemed frustrated. The words uttered by him “Was I destined to be an outcast and a geek all my life? I didn’t want to grow up, change or have to handle life, if it was to going to be this way. I just wanted to curl up and die”. These words reveal his fear and insecurity.

## **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

### **1. Describe the fire tragedy that struck Zan’s house?**

**Ans:** What was stoked to keep the house nice and warm, triggered a major fire break out that turned Zan’s house to cinders and left him and his mother devastated. At first, Zan only smelled something strange but soon noticed smoke pouring in through the seams of the ceiling. The smoke filled the room quickly and Zan and his mother could barely see. Somehow, they groped their way to the front door and ran out into the front yard.

No sooner had they made their way outside than the whole roof was engulfed in flames, and the fire spread quickly. Zan ran to his neighbours to call the fire department and his mother ran back into the house and soon came out carrying a small metal box full of important documents. She rushed back into the house to retrieve his husband’s pictures and letters – the only things she had to remember him by. Zan tried to run after her but was stopped by a fireman. The fire truck had already arrived and was busy dousing the fire. Some firefighters ran into the house and safely brought out Zan’s mother and gave her an oxygen mask because she had inhaled smoke. It took five hours to finally put out the fire but the house was almost completely burnt and there was no sign of Zan’s pet cat. Zan feared that she was burnt alive.

### **2. Describe the author’s experience at school after the fire tragedy.**

**Ans.** The author had just joined a new school. He was facing a big problem to make himself fit in the new school. Just after a couple of days his house caught fire. His school bag and shoes had burnt in a fire. The next day he went to school. He was around school like a wanderer. Everything appeared to him strange. He did not know what was going to happen to him. He returned home with a broken heart. He was experiencing terrible developments in his life.

The next day when he went to school; he found a strange atmosphere all around. People were getting together all around him. They had collected money for him and arranged school supplies and clothing for him. This changed his vision for life once again.

### **3. How is a Home different from a House? Explain with reference to the lesson ‘A House Is Not a Home’.**

**Ans.** Life without love is not life. Human relationship is based on love. The title itself indicates it clearly that a house is not a home without love. The author had to

face adverse circumstances in his life. He was a fatherless boy. He led a satisfactory life with his old friends and teachers. But when he changed his school, he could not adjust himself in the new environment. He felt alienated. Later on, his house caught fire and he lost all the things including his cat. He started feeling dejected and isolated. Life had no interest in him anymore. He started building a new house. But it was not home, as a house is a home only when there are love and happiness. The author did not have any attachment to the new house. His reunion with his cat, his new friends and the new house made his house a home.