



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
QUESTION BANK - (2021-22)

CHILDHOOD- by Markus Natten

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow:

“When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not

all they seemed to be,

They talked of love and preached of love,

But did not act so lovingly,

Was that the day!”

a. Who is ‘my’ in the above lines?

‘My’ refers to the poet, Markus Natten

b. What does the word ‘preached’ mean here?

Preached means ‘talked’.

c. Explain “But did not act so lovingly”.

It means that adults talk about love but their actions are not loving.

II. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

1. The poet has discussed two stages of life – childhood and adulthood. How do we differentiate one from another?

Answer: Childhood has been considered by the poet as a blissful period in one’s life, where a child trusts everyone. Adulthood is marked by rational and creative thoughts, ability to perceive and differentiate and learn new things.

2. What did the poet realise when he crossed the age of eleven years?

Answer: When the poet crossed the age of eleven years, he realised that he had lost his childhood and had developed a mind of his own. He also found out the non-existence of Hell and Heaven.

3. How did the poet conclude that Hell and Heaven were imaginary places?

Answer: The poet concluded that Hell and Heaven were imaginary places because Geography books contain names of places, but there is no mention of places like Hell or Heaven in these books.

4. How did adults seem to the poet when he was a child?

Answer: As a child, the poet considered all the adults as an epitome of love and sincerity. He believed that their love was true and they were ready to do anything for, their loved ones.

5. Bring out the hypocrisy that the adults exhibit with regard to love.

Answer: As the poet grew up, he could make out the double standards followed by adults. He realised that though adults preached of love and talked of love, their behaviour was totally different and full of manipulation. They were all hypocrites who behaved differently from the way they talked.

6. What did the poet notice about independent thinking? How important was this discovery?

Answer: The poet discovered that he was different from others and could think independently. He could have his own opinions without getting influenced by anyone else. This discovery was very important to him as it revealed to him his abilities for independent thinking and decision taking.

7. What is the poet trying to convey when he says that childhood is hidden in an infant's face?

Answer: The poet says an infant is really innocent as he trusts everyone and does not try to fool others. The poet brings out this fact by contrasting it with the behaviour of adults, who become manipulative and are hypocrites. As a person develops rational thoughts, his childlike innocence fades away.

8. According to Markus Natten, when does the child become an adult?

Answer: Becoming an adult is a complex process which is associated with physical, mental and social development. A child becomes an adult when he is able to live his own life and take care of his responsibilities individually. He also develops his own thought process, using which he can form his own beliefs and opinions.

9. What is the poet's feeling towards his childhood?

Answer: The poet regards childhood as a period of innocence. A child sincerely feels that he is free from all evils and that there is really a Hell and a Heaven. A child knows no hypocrisy. There is no difference between his thoughts and actions. In short, childhood is a state of innocence and purity of heart.

III. Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

1. 'Childhood is an essential state in the process of growing up, but it can't go on forever.' Discuss.

Ans: Childhood is an important stage in the process of growing up of every person. The human infant is totally dependent on others, but during childhood he gains physical, emotional and mental strength. As the tiny baby grows bigger in size, other faculties also develop. This stage is an important landmark in man's growth, but it can't go on forever. Childhood being a stage, must give way to another stage. It is followed by adolescence or early youth. Now all the faculties are fully developed. The person acquires reasoning power. His rationalism helps him to decide truth or falsehood, fact and fiction. He acquires a fine capability of analysis and discrimination. Now he can see through persons and things. He begins to understand the hypocrisy of adults. He gains confidence and becomes an independent thinker. **2. Is independent thinking a step towards adulthood? If yes, then how? Explain with reference to the poem 'Childhood'.**

Ans: Of course, independent thinking is a step towards adulthood. As a child, one is not able to make one's own decisions and one's thinking is always influenced and directed by adults. A child is so innocent that it is not able to distinguish between truth and imagination.

As a child's thinking is influenced by others, it has no individuality. Moreover, it is prone to manipulations which lead to fickle-mindedness. Independent thinking makes us what we are. It shapes our personality and we are known among people through what our mind thinks and what decisions we take.

If we want to stay away from evil people who try to influence our thoughts for their selfish purposes, then only independent thinking can help us. We cannot claim to be an individual if we cannot take decisions ourselves.

IV. Multiple Choice Questions:

Choose the appropriate option.

1. What is the poem 'Childhood' about?

- A. Poet's lost childhood
- B. Childhood of every person
- C. Childhood of poet's child
- D. Poet's father's childhood

2. What did the poet find out about Hell and Heaven?

- A. They could be found in Geography books
- B. They were imaginary places
- C. They were in America
- D. They were in India

3. What did the poet realise about adults?

- A. That they are mature
- B. They have to earn money
- C. They are not what they seem to be
- D. They are cunning

4. What refrain literary device is used in the poem 'Childhood'?

- A. When did my childhood go?
- B. Hell and Heaven
- C. Could not be found in Geography
- D. That's all I know

5. Which poetic device has been used in the following line- Was it when I found my mind was really mine.

- A. Alliteration
- B. Simile
- C. Metaphor
- D. Personification