



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: April -2022</b>
<b>Worksheet No.1</b>	<b>Topic: The Eyes Have it QUESTION BANK</b>	<b>Note: English Notebook</b>

This is a very popular story by Ruskin Bond about **two blind persons who happen to meet on a short train journey**. The story is a great example of irony as both persons, a young man and a young girl, are blind but they show as they aren't.



**Ex. I. Unscramble these words using the meaning as the hint and then write these as part the word bank in your notebooks**

1. Gliinstaatn- Making one want something that they cannot have
2. Eaorfdbiml- inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable.
3. Tallang- charmingly attentive and chivalrous to women
4. Veerie- a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts; a daydream.
5. Talftery- excessive and insincere praise, given especially to further one's own interests.

**Ex. II. Answer these questions:**

1. What instructions did the girl's parents give her and why?

Ans. The parents gave the girl instructions on where to keep her things, when not to lean out of the windows and how to avoid speaking to strangers. They were probably worried because the girl was visually challenged.

2. How did the narrator learn that his companion wore slippers?

Ans. The narrator knew that the girl wore slippers from the sound they made when they slapped against her feet.

3. “Yes, October is the best time”. Describe Mussoorie in the month of October.

Ans. In the month of October Mussoorie is quiet and the roads are mainly deserted because most of the tourists have gone. The hills are covered with wild dahlias, the sun is warm and lovely and at night you can drink coffee in front of a log fire.

4. How did the narrator feel as the train approached the Saharanpur Station?

Ans. The narrator felt a sense of regret as the train approached Saharanpur Station because he was very intrigued by the girl and knew that she would disembark at the station and that would be the end of their association.

5. Give instances to show that the narrator was a sharp observer.

Ans. There are quite a few instances to show that the narrator was a sharp observer. He knew the girl wore slippers from the sound they made as they slapped against her feet. His description of Mussoorie is detailed and vivid. He remembered that there are no animals left in the forests outside Dehra. He noticed that the girl’s voice had the sparkle of a mountain stream. He noticed the smell of her perfume and he heard the sounds of voices and identified one which must be her aunt’s.

6. Explain ‘Situational Irony’ with examples from the text.

Ans. It is a situation in which actions have an effect that is opposite from what was intended, so that the outcome is contrary to what was expected. The narrator gives hints about the situational irony from the beginning when he says the girl was startled when he spoke, but gives an explanation saying, perhaps he was sitting in a dark corner. He follows this up saying people who can see often take in only the essentials. When he asks what the view is like outside, she says, “Why don’t you look out of the window?” the irony of which becomes apparent from a second reading of the text. The narrator’s compliment about her face being interesting, which he considered a safe enough remark is another example of the situational irony since he can’t see her face, but by her response it becomes apparent to him that she was pretty.

### **Ex. III. Reference to the context:**

1. “Then I made a mistake.”

a. Who made a mistake?

a. The narrator made a mistake.

b. What was the mistake?

b. The mistake was that he asked the girl to describe the scenery outside.

c. Why did the narrator call it a mistake?

c. The narrator called it a mistake because that question could give away the fact of his blindness which he was trying to hide from the girl.

2. “She was an interesting girl.... Can you tell me—did she keep her hair long or short”?

a. Who did the speaker ask this question to?

a. The speaker asked this question to the next person who entered the compartment at Saharanpur.

b. Why did the speaker ask this question?

b. The speaker asked this question because he was curious about the girl’s hair and since he himself couldn’t see he was hoping the new passenger could tell him more.

c. What happened immediately after this? How is that the most important part of the story?

c. Immediately after this the passenger told the narrator that the main thing were the girl’s eyes that were very beautiful but sightless. This is important because the narrator too was unable to see, and they were both trying to keep this fact from each other.

**Ex. IV. Think and answer:**

1. Well, it often happens that people with good eyesight fail to see what is right in front of them.

Do you agree with the above statement? Give reasons for answer.

Ans. The statement has some truth to it because people who cannot see have to rely on their other senses, as we see from the passage to get a more complete picture. They notice much more than people with good eyesight because they are more focused.

2. If you weren’t told about the impaired vision of the narrator and the girl, would you have been able to figure out the disorder they had? How?

Ans. If we weren’t told about the impaired vision of the narrator and the girl, we would have been able to figure it out because of the way in which the narrator tells

us that the girl wore slippers and he could tell it from the sound, as well as that he couldn't see what was whizzing past the train or that he didn't know if the girl had long or short hair. The girl's impaired vision becomes obvious when you think back to how solicitous her parents were or how she is startled when the man speaks to her.

### **Ex. V Extended Learning**

The story ends with the narrator resuming his pretence of posing as a person with sight.

- Ruskin Bond in this story very beautifully presents the problems faced by disabled people and also tries to present their mindset to us.
- People with disabilities, as in this case “sightlessness”, to be able to mix well with the crowd and so they try to hide their weaknesses and be somebody who they are not.

### **TASK:**

Blindness is a serious problem to live with. Some are born blind while others may lose their vision over time.

Divide yourselves into groups and give a Power point presentation on any one of the following:

- What are the reasons for blindness at birth? Why do some people lose vision during their lifetime? What can be done to maintain healthy eyes and to prevent vision loss?
- Some blind people achieved remarkable success in their lives. They rose above their obstacle and became self – sufficient. Research and present the achievements and life journey of any one such person and share his/ her story with the class.