Key to

USHER IN

A Stepping Stone to English
1. NATURE, THE GENTLEST MOTHER

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Personification has been used in this stanza.
   (b) The phrase ‘Impatient of no child’ means that the nature is calm and patient with her children.
   (c) Nature treats her feeblest and waywardest child with care.

2. (a) Nature’s voice is being referred here.
   (b) Nature’s voice prays for her children among the aisles.
   (c) ‘Unworthy flower’ refers to the flower that is wilted or ugly. The poet uses this phrase to express the unconditional love of Mother Nature towards the inferior.

3. (a) ‘She’ refers to the nature.
   (b) When all the children sleep, Nature goes a long way in order to light her lamps for the next day.
   (c) The phrase ‘bending from the sky’ indicates the setting of the sun.

B. 1. The rhyme scheme of the poem is ab cb.
   2. Nature has been called ‘the gentlest mother’ because she acts as a caring mother without any discrimination.
   3. Nature restrains the squirrel and the bird so that the humans may not harm or be enticed by them.
   4. The words ‘household’ and ‘assembly’ signify all plants and animals present on Earth who are controlled by Mother Nature.
   5. Nature does other duties at night like showing her maternal instincts by taking infinite care of children when they sleep.
Poetic Devices

D. 1. Nature
   Fairness and uprightness
2. Nature
   Care and concern for children
3. Nature
   Caution and care

Vocabulary

E. Down
   1. WAYWARDEST
   2. CONVERSATION
   5. SUFFICE
   6. INCITE

Across
   3. ADMONITION
   4. RESTRAIN
   7. AFFECTION
   8. CRICKET

F. 1. gentlest  3. rampant  5. timid
    2. impetuous  4. minutest  6. golden

Grammar and Usage

G. 1. A man with a long beard came to see me.
   2. He is a young man of great promise.
   3. The girl with the beautiful smile is my sister.
   4. The dog in black collar belongs to my neighbour.
   5. Those mountains on the back side are Aravalli hills.
   6. He spoke to the man in the white shirt, today.
   7. The cupcake with colourful sprinkles would be made today by me.
   8. Animals in small cages are a sorrow sight.
   9. The magistrate was a man with a kind heart.
   10. I like to see a face with a smile on it.
2. THE SCHOLARSHIP JACKET

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) ‘They’ refer to the school principal and teachers.
(b) The scholarship jacket was to be won by Martha.
(c) The rule of giving the jacket free of cost had been changed to a fee of fifteen dollars.

2. (a) Mr Schmidt is speaking to Mr Boone.
(b) ‘Her’ refers to Joann.
(c) The speaker refuses to give the jacket to Joann.

3. (a) Martha is speaking to the principal.
(b) ‘He’ refers to Martha’s grandfather.
(c) ‘He’ refuses to pay fifteen dollars because he thinks jacket has to be earned by merit, and if it is paid for, then it is not a scholarship jacket.

4. (a) The principal is speaking to Martha.
(b) The speaker is talking about giving the scholarship jacket without paying for it.
(c) The exception is being made because of Martha’s hard work.

B. 1. The scholarship jacket is a beautiful gold and green jacket. It is awarded to the class valedictorian, the student who has maintained the highest grades for eight years. It has a big gold ‘S’ on the left front side with the recipient’s name written in gold letters on the pocket.

2. Martha’s father was a farm labourer who couldn’t earn enough money to feed eight children. So, at the age of six, she was handed over to her grandparents to raise.

3. Martha was ambitious to get the scholarship jacket as she had been achieving ‘A’ grades right from the first grade. She had been working extremely hard to achieve it.

4. Mr Schmidt was reluctant to lie or falsify the records and sounded very angry. He bluntly refused to do it and remarked that Joann’s marks are no match to Martha. On the other hand, Mr Boone’s voice seemed calm and quiet. He argued for because Joann’s father was on the board and owned the only store in the town.
5. Principal told Martha that the board would make an exception in her case. He added that he would tell the board about it, and she would get her jacket.

Vocabulary

D. 1. spread like wildfire
2. vanish into thin air
3. in the nick of time
4. until the cows come home
5. playing with fire

Grammar and Usage

E. 1. **It is the watch** which I wish to buy next week.
2. **We know a lot of people** who live abroad.
3. **The police caught hold of the person** who stole valuables from the house.
4. **The plane took off** before we arrived.
5. If our friend comes, **we shall all go to a movie**.
6. **They arrived when** he called them.
7. Rohit went to the school though he did not want to.

3. AN ANGEL IN DISGUISE

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Maggie’s mother had died in a drunken fit.
   (b) She drank heavily which led to a fit resulting in her death. She had fallen upon the threshold of her own door.
   (c) The little ones are the children of the dead lady.

2. (a) ‘She’ refers to Maggie.
   (b) She cried because she felt desolated in the house as no one was willing to take her.
   (c) Mr Thompson assures the speaker that she would not be left there alone.

3. (a) Joe is speaking to Jane.
   (b) ‘Her’ refers to Maggie.
   (c) The addressee did not reply but turned towards the little chamber where her husband had kept Maggie.
B. 1. After the death of the woman, the villagers were concerned about the care of the children. They thought that the children must not be left to starve.

2. Farmer Jones offered that he would take John because John was a stout lad who could help him in his work.

3. The villagers glanced at Maggie with pity, while others refrained looking at her seeing the condition. Nobody wanted to take her along as she appeared pale, ill, and a diseased girl.

4. The rough man suggested to take her to the poorhouse because she is disabled and nobody is willing to take her.

5. Joe Thompson decided to keep Maggie to his house because he had a big heart and liked children very much. Moreover, he didn’t have any child of his own.

6. While turning towards the house, a light shining through the little chamber caught his attention.

7. Joe considered it to be a good omen because it indicated that his wife Jane Thompson might be there taking care of the poor little girl Maggie.

8. Joe wanted to convey that now it was a small thing for them to keep that poor motherless little one for a single night; be kind to her and make her life comfortable for a single night.

9. Mrs Thompson was a sore, irritable, ill-tempered and self-afflicting woman before Maggie came into her life.

10. Joe did not see the guardians for Maggie on that day or ever again because strong feelings of emotions had developed for Maggie in his wife’s heart.

Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverb</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Adverb</th>
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<th>Adverb</th>
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<tr>
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<td>hurriedly</td>
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<td>gently</td>
<td>wrapped</td>
<td>sharply</td>
<td>questioned</td>
<td>resolutely</td>
<td>refraining</td>
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<td>greatly</td>
<td>subdued</td>
<td>tenderly</td>
<td>looked</td>
<td>strangely</td>
<td>looked</td>
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<tr>
<td>quickly</td>
<td>answered</td>
<td>steadily</td>
<td>turned</td>
<td>impatiently</td>
<td>asked</td>
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<tr>
<td>rigidly</td>
<td>kept</td>
<td>carefully</td>
<td>examined</td>
<td>immediately</td>
<td>enter</td>
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</table>
E. Now, the sweet burden of looking after this sick child had brought her infinite joy and satisfaction. Springs of motherly love had opened up and she was relishing every moment of this divine experience.

Grammar and Usage

F. Continuous
Present: She is eating.
Past: She was eating.
Future: She will be eating.

Perfect
Present: She has eaten.
Past: She had eaten.
Future: She will have eaten.

Perfect continuous
Present: She has been eating.
Past: She had been eating.
Future: She will have been eating.

H. 1. had taken, put
2. arrived, had assembled
3. recognised, had seen
4. had left, reached
5. went, had happened

I. 1. I was walking while my brother was reading.
2. Antony loved Cleopatra; Romeo loved Juliet.
3. John can speak five languages but Tony can speak only two languages.
4. Arvind is having cereal as breakfast but the others are having bread and butter.

4. THE TIGER AND THE DEER

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) ‘Tiger’ is being described in the stanza.

(b) ‘Green heart’ means deep forest where grass and vegetation is the most.
(c) The silent paws of the majestic animal tiger has the ability to kill. But, there is a grandeur in the beauty of the beast in the green heart of the forest. The grandeur transforms ‘murder’ into an activity that the tiger performs as a key role holder in the forest.

2. (a) A beautiful wild deer is drinking unsuspecting at the pool.
(b) Death of the deer has been described in the stanza.
(c) ‘Mate’ here refers to the companion of the killed deer. It has been left sole as his mate has moved away, leaving him in deep forest.

3. (a) The poet is talking about the day when the tiger crouches and leaps no more.
(b) ‘Dangerous heart of the forest’ refers to the place where there is danger to the deers as tigers thrive there.
(c) The mammoth got extinct from the plains of Asia.

B. 1. The tiger is a magnificent animal which thrives in the plains of Asian forests. It has got gleaming eyes, mighty chest, and soft soundless paws. It crouches and slouches through the deep forest.
2. The wild deer is a harmless beautiful animal. It drinks water from the pools in the deep forest. It is described as a slain who gets killed by the tiger.
3. The dying deer remembers his companion in his last thoughts.
4. The poet reacts strongly by saying that a day may come when the tiger would crouch and leap no more in the dangerous heart of the forest. The deer would then drink peacefully from the coolness of the great pools.
5. The poet hopes that one day, the mighty would perish in their might, and the slain would survive the killer.
Poetic Devices

D. Image

How it appeals to the senses?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetic Device</th>
<th>Association or Emotion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>grandeur</td>
<td>inspires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>harmless beauty</td>
<td>sense of calmness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green heart</td>
<td>picturesque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noiseless fatal</td>
<td>stealthy movement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary

E. assign  folk  knowledge  when
debt       doubt  sole    honour
crumb      knock  through  psychology
align      calf    design  wrinkle

F. 1. Perturb
2. Gleam
3. Slayer
4. Slouch
5. Slain
6. Creep
7. Mammoth

Grammar and Usage

G. 1. creep 6. perturb 11. breathe
2. tiger 7. slain 12. splendour
3. fatal 8. slayer 13. mighty
4. grandeur 9. slouch 14. shadow
5. mammoth 10. dangerous 15. leaps

H. I’m Nobody! Who are you?
Are you – Nobody – too?
Then there’s a pair of us!
Don’t tell! they’d advertise – you know!

How dreary – to be – Somebody!
How public – like a Frog –
To tell one’s name – the livelong June –
To an admiring Bog!
5. THE FISH

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) They refer to Gerassim and Lubim.
(b) They are in water to catch an eel-pout.
(c) They have been in cold water for so long to catch an eel-pout.

2. (a) Andrey Andreitch is speaking to Gerassim and Lubim.
(b) Cattle needs to be driven out of the garden because they have been destroying the garden.
(c) The speaker is looking for the Yefim, the shepherd.

3. (a) Vassily said this to his master Andrey Andreitch.
(b) Vassily joins the group because his master orders him to do so.
(c) No, he does not succeed in the task.

4. (a) The master is Andrey Andreitch. He is addressing all four of them who are trying to catch an eel-pout in the water.
(b) Eel-pout’s liver was swollen.
(c) Master’s comment tells us about his great knowledge and awareness about the fish.

B. 1. It is an early summer morning, the air was still; there is no sound except the churring of a grasshopper on the river bank, and somewhere, the timid cooing of a turtle-dove is heard. Feathery clouds stood motionless looking like the snow scattered in the sky. Gerassim and Lubim are in the river to catch an eel-pout.

2. Lubim waves his arms, swims up to Gerassim and catches hold of the twigs. At the first attempt to stand up, he goes into the water over his head and begins blowing up bubbles.

3. Lubim’s hands were in contact with the sharp pincers of the crayfish. So, he angrily flung the crayfish on the bank.
4. The third person is Yefim, the shepherd, who helps Gerassim and Lubim to find the eel-pout.

5. Coachman Vassily mutters to Yefim to go out when he tries to get inside the water. He tells Yefim that he is an old man and ought to be minding his own business instead of being there.

6. Andrey Andreitch is annoyed because Yefim goes to the river to catch the fish instead of taking care of the cattle. The cattle are left to destroy the garden.

7. The master Andrey Andreitch succeeds in pulling out the eel-pout by getting into the water. The fish makes a sudden, unexpected upward movement with its tail, and the fisherman hear a loud splash. They all put out their hands, but it is too late; the eel-pout slips out into the water.

Vocabulary

E. 1. Perspiration  5. Clutch
2. Flounder  6. Saunter
4. Spasmodic

F. 1. wag off
2. numpty
3. earwig
4. nobs
5. argy-bargy

G. 1. gonna
2. Buzz off
3. feel blue
4. go nuts
5. wanna

Grammar and Usage

H. 1. Should we lock the door?
2. She can help you this afternoon.
3. They can go home if they want.
4. You cannot get in without a ticket.
6. THE BAMBOO-CUTTER AND THE MOON-CHILD

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) The bamboo-cutter is speaking to the moon child.
   (b) The speaker found a tiny girl among the bamboo stalks.
   (c) The speaker calls her his own child because he has found her among the bamboo stalks.

2. (a) The ‘old couple’ are the bamboo-cutter and his wife.
   (b) They named their foster-daughter as ‘Princess Moonlight’ because her body gave forth soft bright light, and she seemed to be a daughter of the Moon God.
   (c) Princess Moonlight was extremely beautiful. It seemed as if she was made of light. Entire room used to get filled with light in her presence. She seemed to be a daughter of the Moon God.

3. (a) The bamboo-cutter is speaking to Princess Moonlight.
   (b) Love and loyalty of the five suitor’s was to be tested.
   (c) According to the speaker, each of the five suitors stood outside the house through the winter and the summer, often denying themselves food and sleep.

4. (a) ‘He’ has been referred to the emperor.
   (b) He bids goodbye to Princess Moonlight.
   (c) Emperor leaves the house with a heavy heart because his offer to the princess for coming to the court and accepting a position of honour has been declined.

5. (a) The speaker refers to the messenger.
   (b) He comes to her dwelling to take the princess back to the moon.
   (c) After hearing these words, Princess Moonlight looked back and spoke many comforting words to the bamboo-cutter.
B. 1. The arrival of the Princess Moonlight brings a happy change into the old man’s life. He starts finding gold in the notches of the bamboos stalks and soon becomes rich.

2. The first suitor is told to bring her the stone bowl, which belongs to Buddha in India.

The second suitor is asked to go to the Mountain of Horai, and bring her a branch of the wonderful tree that grows on its summit.

The third suitor is told to go to China and search for the fire-rat, and to bring her its skin.

The fourth suitor is told to search for the dragon that carries on its head the stone radiating five colours and to bring the stone to the princess.

The fifth suitor is told to find the swallow, and bring back the shell lying in its stomach.

All five of them are unable to accomplish their respective tasks.

3. The emperor visits the bamboo-cutter’s house as Princess Moonlight refuses to visit his palace along with the lady. Thus, he is determined to go, and see her at bamboo-cutter’s house.

4. The emperor sends a guard of two thousand archers to watch the house. One thousand keep watch on the roof, and another thousand keep watch around all the entrances of the house.

5. Princess Moonlight takes off her embroidered outer garment and gives it to the bamboo-cutter as a keepsake.

Vocabulary

D. 1. to put down roots
2. in the same boat
3. burn the midnight oil
4. a drop in the ocean
5. in hot water
Grammar and Usage

E. 1. I said that I don’t like fast food.
   2. He said that he will see you the next day.
   3. She says that she likes to practice yoga.
   4. They said that they were going the wrong way.
   5. The farmer complained that the cows had eaten all the turnips.
   6. Teacher said to the students that they shall read the lesson the next day.
   7. Mother told me that I must finish my homework before going to play.

7. RING OUT, WILD BELLS

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) The time around new year is being portrayed in the above stanza.
        (b) The bells have been described as wild because they refer to destructive beliefs of human beings.
        (c) These words signify that the year is about to end.

2. (a) ‘Old’ means an old year dispensing destructive beliefs and ‘new’ means new year with a fresh start for mankind.
        (b) Bells are described as the means which bring happiness.
        (c) The term ‘false’ means bad memories of the year about to end. The term ‘true’ means bringing good and positive things in the new year.

3. (a) The poet asks to ring out grief.
        (b) ‘Here’ means the Earth in which all the living beings live.
        (c) The narrator calls for an end to the dispute between the rich and poor classes. It is the time to redress the ills of society, to become kinder, more equal, and just.
4. (a) The poet asks to ring out diseases, greediness, and old enmity.
(b) The poet asks to ring in peace.
(c) disease-peace, gold-old

B. 1. The words ‘ring out’ and ‘ring in’ have been repeated. The poet gives an impression of the fervency of his wishes by repeating the words. He wants to create an artistic way to present contrasts between the bad old memories and the new fresh beginning.
2. The rhyme scheme of the poem ‘Ring Out Wild Bells’ is ABBA.
3. All the negatives and bad influences should be wiped out at the end of the year.
4. The poet wishes mankind to change for a better future by moving ahead in life and end the differences of the rich and poor.
5. A nobler way of life, better manners, purer laws, love, truth, goodness, and peace should be ushered in the New Year.

Poetic Device

D. 1. true 2. go 3. kind
4. laws 5. life 6. in
7. rhymes 8. good 9. right
10. peace 11. old 12. be

E. 1. Every day, every night, in every way, I am getting better and better.
2. My life is my purpose. My life is my goal. My life is my inspiration.
3. Tell them to be good, tell them to follow their elders, and tell them to mind their manners.
4. I am awake. I am strong. I am ready.
5. Mother, we will not run. We will not scream. We will not be late.
Vocabulary

F. 1. minstrel  
  2. mankind  
  3. mournful  
  4. feud  
  5. kindlier  

G. 1. valiant  
  2. strife  
  3. pride  
  4. rectify  
  5. ancient  

Grammar and Usage

H. 1. may  
  2. might  
  3. may  
  4. Might  
  5. May  
  6. might  

8. IDGAH- FESTIVAL OF EID

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Hamid is speaking to his Granny.  
   (b) Granny is worried because Hamid is going out all by himself to the fair.  
   (c) The speaker is going to the fair.  

2. (a) Mohsin is speaking to Hamid.  
   (b) They are talking at the fair.  
   (c) A Jinn can get into a tiny brass pot.  

3. (a) The spectacle is the repeated movements of the people bowing down together while sitting on their knees and giving an appearance as if a hundred thousand electric bulbs are switching on and off at the same time again and again.  
   (b) The spectacle takes place in the mosque courtyard.  
   (c) The villagers wash their hands and feet, and make their own line behind the others. A coordinated movement of hundred thousand heads bow together in prayer. Then, all together they stand erect; bow down and sit on their knees. Many times, they repeat these movements. This is how, the spectacle takes place.
4. (a) The speaker is Hamid.
   (b) The speaker wishes to buy a pair of tongs for his granny so that her fingers may not get burned on the iron plates.
   (c) Yes, the shopkeeper gave him for three.
5. (a) The speaker teases his friends by stating that the toys are unreliable things; they break. But, his tongs would remain as they are, for many years.
   (b) The speaker's friends bought a water carrier, policeman, lawyer, and washerwoman.
   (c) The tongs were better than the toys because if the toys were dropped out of their hands, they could be smashed to bits. But, tongs would remain intact for years.

B. 1. Ameena tells Hamid that his father has gone to earn money and will return with sack loads of silver. His mother has gone to Allah to get lovely gifts for him.
2. Eidgah encompasses massive tamarind trees above it, casting their shade on the cemented floor on which carpets have been spread. There are row upon row of worshippers as far as the eye can see, spilling well beyond the mosque courtyard.
3. Jinn's are the creatures with supernatural powers. They move from one place to another very swiftly. Each stall has one jinn. They contribute to the sales at the fair by buying everything left at a stall. They weigh the food remains and pay in real rupees.
4. Hamid’s friends bought so many sweets, many toys - lawyer, policeman, washerwoman, a water carrier, sesame seed candies, gulab jamuns, halva, and a small tambourine. They also took ride of many adventurous swings.
5. Hamid justifies his purchase to the friends by showing how strong his tongs are. He told them that how their toys would smash to bits when thrown on ground but nothing would happen to his tongs.
6. The toys did not last long. The toy lawyer met an end. The honourable counsel was down from his high pedestal and soon was dumped on a dung heap. The toy constable with his gun crashed on the ground and lost one leg. The plume on his turban was scraped off.

7. Granny Ameena became annoyed at first. Once Hamid told her the reason of buying the tong, she was moved. Her temper suddenly changed into love.

**Vocabulary**

D. 1. black market  
2. beat around the bush  
3. give me a hand  
4. full of hot air  
5. add fuel to the fire

**Grammar and Usage**

E. 1. Nobody except Sapna likes to dance at a party.  
2. Sapna just likes to dance at a party.  
3. Sapna likes nothing but to dance at a party.  
4. Sapna likes dancing nowhere but at a party.

F. 1. I bought a car which broke down yesterday. *car*  
2. My parents came to meet our principal who has newly arrived. *principal*  
3. The Pied Piper played his pipe which had magic in it. *pipe*  
4. John is a boy who has a kind heart. *John*  
5. The girl who won the first prize is my niece. *girl*  
6. He has a brilliant son who is certain to bring credit to his family. *son*  
7. I like the same laptop which you like. *laptop*

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**9. KARNA- THE GREAT DONOR**

**Comprehension**

A. 1. (a) The day of test and exhibition has been referred in the lines.  
   (b) Arjuna displayed superhuman skills with his weapons, that left the people in wonder and admiration.  
   (c) The mighty arms were of Karna. They had challenged Arjuna.
2. (a) Karna and Arjuna were the sons of Kunti. They came together at the exhibition of their talents.
   (b) The ‘bitter irony of fate’ was that they both were unaware of their blood relation.
   (c) They both had ‘common blood’ as Kunti was their mother.

3. (a) The ‘old man’ is Adhiratha, Karna’s foster-father.
   (b) ‘Filial reverence’ means showing deep respect.
   (c) Duryodhana had crowned Karna since Kripa announced that high-born princes could not engage in single combat with unknown adventurers. Thus, he made Karna as the king of Anga.

4. (a) Karna asked for Shakti weapon so that he could use it in the war to kill his enemies.
   (b) The fateful proviso was that the Shakti weapon could be used against only one enemy.
   (c) Indra knew that Karna would use the powerful weapon against his son, Arjuna. Thus, he went to Karna and begged of him, his divine earrings and armour to save his son from the danger.

5. (a) Wheel of Karna’s chariot got stuck in the ground. When he got off his chariot to make it free, Arjuna shot a fatal arrow upon him.
   (b) Kunti was overwhelmed with sorrow because she had to conceal that Karna was her first born son whom she had lost.
   (c) Kunti had to conceal Karna’s identity due to a tragic fate.

B. 1. They both were the teachers of Kaurvas and Pandavas. The practice of arms were taught to them by Kripacharya and Drona.

2. Karna asked for a single combat with Arjuna.

3. When Kunti saw Karna, she knew him as her first born son and fainted away.

4. Duryodhana crowned Karna as the king of Anga. He obtained the assent of Bhishma and Dhritarashtra.
He performed all the necessary rites investing Karna with the sovereignty of the kingdom of Anga giving him the crown, jewels, and the royal insignia. He did so because he knew that Karna was a great archer and will be a great asset to him.

5. Karna obliged Indra by giving him his divine earrings and armour in spite of knowing that he is God Indra in disguise of a Brahmana.

6. Parasurama got angry on Karna because he hid his true identity of being the son of a charioteer from him.

7. Karna was cursed of forgetting the invocatory mantra when his last hour would come. So, when Arjuna was about to kill him, he was unable to recall the Brahmastra chant and died due to the curse given by Parasurama.

Vocabulary

D. 1. skilful 6. lawful 11. valourous
2. outrageous 7. easeful 12. sorrowful
3. fateful 8. mysterious 13. glorious
4. brotherly 9. wonderful 14. joyous
5. powerful 10. adventurous 15. faithful

E. 1. inventor 5. designer 9. visitor 13. defender
2. inspector 6. learner 10. governor 14. listener
3. surveyor 7. builder 11. collector 15. cleaner
4. editor 8. reader 12. actor 16. seller

Grammar and Usage

G. 1. Receiving no reply, I sent another letter.
2. Seeing the policeman, the robbers ran away.
3. Finding the door open, I went inside.
4. Driving as quickly as possible, she arrived just in time.

H. 1. The story was exciting.
2. Students are waiting for us.
3. Shaking with fear the boys ran away.
4. It has been raining since morning.
A. 1. (a) The poet’s garden is surrounded by a large number of trees with their bright-coloured foliage. The leaves of these trees are quite colourful with no dull colours.

(b) The poet’s garden is so attractive due to the presence of several trees and their bright-coloured leaves. There are light-green tamarinds, bright green mangoes, pillars of grey palms, seemul trees, bamboos, and lotuses which give grace to the garden.

(c) The colour of tamarind is light-green.

2. (a) Seemuls are silk-cotton trees with brilliant red flowers.

(b) The sound of the military trumpet startles the peace of the pool.

(c) Palms arise, like pillars gray.

Seemuls lean startling like a trumpet’s sound.

3. (a) The ranges of bamboos to the eastward, when the moon looks through their gaps, and when the white lotus changes into a cup of silver. These offer the loveliest scenery around the garden.

(b) One might swoon over with beauty.

(c) ‘Primeval Eden’ means ancient garden created by God. It has been mentioned as poet compares her garden with the garden of Eden.

B. 1. The rhyme scheme of the poem is ABBA, ABBA, CDCDEE.

2. The poet’s garden is different from the sea because the sea has only one unchanging colour but her garden is surrounded by several exciting shades of different colours.

3. The poet compares the seemul trees with the shrill sound made by the trumpet.

4. The onlookers swoon upon seeing the beauty of the garden and gaze it in amaze.
Poetic Devices

D. 1. the sun 6. a lamb 11. an eel
   2. glass 7. a mirror 12. a kitten
   3. a berry 8. a mouse 13. a goose
   4. a pig 9. clockwork 14. a bat
   5. a fiddle 10. vinegar 15. a lion

E. 1. ice cream castles
   2. hummingbird wings
   3. wind
   4. cats and dogs
   5. ripples

Vocabulary

H. 1. disgrace 7. disappear
   2. misbehave 8. dishonest
   3. misplace 9. mislead
   4. misunderstand 10. disappoint
   5. mismatch 11. disbelief
   6. disagree 12. disapprove

Grammar and Usage

I. 1. well-known
   2. well-behaved
   3. high-rise
   4. all-inclusive
   5. high-speed
   6. part-time
   7. like-minded

J. 1. A surgeon is a doctor who practises surgery.
   2. Rita is my friend whose brother is a pilot.
   3. I have just been to the dentist who told me that my teeth were in perfect condition.
   4. The girl is my little sister whose shoes are missing.
   5. This is the fort that Shah Jahan built.
   6. She is the teacher whom I like the most.
11. A PIECE OF BREAD

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Pip is the speaker. He has never seen his father and mother because they are dead.
   
   (b) Pip imagined that his father was a square, stout, dark man, with curly black hair.
   
   (c) Pip imagined that his mother was a freckled and sickly from the character, and the turn of the inscription which stated - Also Georgiana Wife of the Above.
   
2. (a) The escaped convict is being described in the given lines.
   
   (b) The man is in such a pitiable condition because he ran from the jail and was hiding.
   
   (c) Pip was standing in front of the graves of his family. The man’s first order was to get a file and victuals for him.
   
3. (a) ‘I’ refers to Pip. ‘He’ refers to the escaped convict.
   
   (b) The speaker earnestly hoped that the convict would not eat his fat cheeks.
   
   (c) Pip is keeping himself away from crying because Pip thinks that the convict would cut his throat if he cries again.

B. 1. Pip’s full name is Pirrip Philip. He lives with his sister Mrs Joe Gargery who has married the blacksmith.
   
2. Pip goes to the churchyard to visit the graves of his parents and brothers.
   
3. Pip is terrified to see the man as he appeared fearful with a great iron on his leg, broken shoes, and having an old rag tied around his head. He was soaked in water and smothered in mud. He had been lamed by stones and cut by flints. He had been stung by nettles and torn by briars. He limped, shivered, glared and growled, which made his appearance quite terrifying.
4. The man asked Pip what his name was and where did he live. Pip replied to all of them being very terrified.
5. The man orders Pip to get him file and victuals.

**Vocabulary**

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**Grammar and Usage**

G. 1. Passive voice
2. Passive voice
3. Active voice
4. Passive voice
5. Active voice

H. 1. The sinners are always punished by God.
2. The entire house was painted by Tom.
3. The scenery for the play is being made by the pupils.
4. St Paul’s Cathedral was designed by Sir Christopher Wren.
5. The dinner is served between six o’clock and nine o’clock by them.

I. 1. The cook was preparing the food.
2. The station master told the passengers that the train was running late.
3. The picknickers had dropped a lot of litter.
4. The government owns this apartment block.
5. Careless drivers cause many accidents.
12. THE RAINBOW

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Rainbow has been finely blended. It has been blended in such a way that it is difficult to distinguish its beginning and ending.
   (b) ‘A fixed thing’ means that the rainbow appears to have a fixed appearance.
   (c) Rhyming words are blended-ended and see-be.

2. (a) ‘We’ refer to both Matilda and the poet.
   (b) Rhyming words are glides-hides and we-see.
   (c) Half of the perfect arch has got hidden at first, and then, it completely disappears among the clouds.

3. (a) ‘Unlearned eye’ means a person who is ignorant about the nature.
   (b) Nature’s rare sights is visibility of the rainbow.
   (c) ‘I’ refers to the poet. He observes every aspect of the rainbow with wonder and amusement.

B. 1. A tempest had appeared in the sky before the appearance of rainbow.

2. The poet suggests Matilda to visualise the beauty of the rainbow- its details, colours, gliding, and hiding instinct.

3. The poet observes fine blending of seven colours of rainbow. He notices with wonder that how the beginning and ending of all the seven colours are not clearly visible.

4. The poet finds true happiness and fascination in the colours of the rainbow.

5. The poet concludes that every meteor, flower, field, ladies wear, tree, face, cheek, and eye draw their colours from rainbow’s colour.
Vocabulary

D. 1. archaic term for blessed
2. archaic of your
3. that or those
4. archaic term of yours
5. archaic term of said
6. archaic term of often
7. archaic term of please
8. archaic term of be
9. archaic term of you
10. archaic term of no
11. archaic term of yes
12. archaic term of near do

Grammar and Usage

G. But it was on Sunday that the accident happened and I am always out of the town on Sundays.

H. 1. It was Rita who hid the book under the mattress.
2. It is only after 8.00 p.m. that you can eat in this restaurant.
3. It is on Monday that I have to call a doctor to schedule an appointment.
4. It was at the British Council where Palak studied English.
5. It was my father who bought a new car from a showroom last Saturday.

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) The mongoose had fainted.
   (b) A high summer flood had washed the mongoose out of the burrow and carried him down a roadside ditch. When he revived, he found himself lying in the hot sun in the middle of a garden path.
   (c) The ‘small boy’ referred here is Teddy.

2. (a) Krait’s voice has been referred in the given lines.
   (b) Teddy was in the garden.
(c) Rikki-tikki killed the Krait at the end by biting him on the back of his head.

3. (a) Rikki-tikki is speaking to Darzee.
   (b) The speaker said so because Darzee was continuously singing.
   (c) The speaker is talking about his war with Nagaina.

4. (a) Darzee’s wife is the speaker.
   (b) Nagaina wanted to kill Rikki-tikki and his family because he had killed the Naag.
   (c) Rikki-tikki smashed two eggs and tumbled backwards down the melon-bed with the third egg in his mouth. He ran hurriedly to the veranda as fast as he could.

5. (a) Rikki-tikki had been in the rat-hole.
   (b) He was drained and exhausted because he was in the rat-hole the whole afternoon fighting against Nagaina.
   (c) When he woke up, he decided to go back to the house so that Coppersmith and Darzee would tell everyone that Nagina is dead.

B. 1. Rikki and Teddy’s have a strong bond relationship as Rikki protects Teddy from Nag and Nagaina. They care for each other very much.

2. Rikki-tikki’s rocked back and forth, looking for a good place to hold Krait. The Krait strucked out. Rikki jumped sideways trying to run in, but the wicked snake lashed within a fraction of his shoulder. The Krait had lunged out too far. Rikki-tikki had sprung, jumped on the snake’s back, dropped his head far between his forelegs, bitten as high up the back as he could get hold, and rolled away. That bite paralysed, and finally killed the Krait.

3. Darzee was the tailor-bird and an ally of the mongoose. With the help of Darzee, Rikki-tikki arrived just in time to save the family from Nagaina at the end.
4. Rikki-tikki and Naag are afraid during their first encounter. Naag tries to threaten him, but he has great will to save the family from cobras in the garden. Naag tries to distract Rikki-tikki so that Nagaina can strike him from behind. But Rikki-tikki’s confidence makes both of them realise that he is not an easy target.

5. Nagaina was Naag’s wife. She had crept up behind him as Rikki-tikki was talking to make an end of him. But fortunately, the stroke missed as Rikki-tikki had heard her savage hiss.

6. Darzi provides valuable information to Rikki-tikki about the two cobras and warns him to avoid a sneak attack. Chuchundra tells Rikki-tikki that Nag plans to attack the bungalow at night. This is how, they helped him in his great war.

7. The final battle begins when Rikki-tikki gives Nagaina a choice to choose either to satisfy her revenge or to save her last egg. She chooses to escape with the egg. Rikki-tikki pursues her into her underground lair. In the ensuing battle, he kills her and destroys the last egg.

Vocabulary


Grammar and Usage

I. 1. Although it is raining, it is too hot today.
2. Though he worked hard, he couldn’t win the first prize.
3. The children were happy when the show began.
4. Today is a special day because it is my birthday.
5. Unless you give full attention to your studies, you will not succeed.
14. THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Sherlock Holmes is speaking to Mr Wilson.
   (b) Speaker’s partner is Dr Watson.
   (c) Mr Wilson is the client who came for the red-headed league case.
2. (a) Vincent Spaulding is Mr Wilson’s assistant.
   (b) Vincent Spaulding along with a young girl cooked and kept the place clean for Mr Wilson.
   (c) Spaulding’s real purpose in joining Mr Wilson was to get him away from his shop for several hours every day so that he could make a tunnel to the bank.
3. (a) ‘I’ refers to Mr Wilson.
   (b) He did the work of copying the encyclopedia Britannica.
   (c) The little sign displayed that the red-headed league is dissolved on October 9, 1890.
4. (a) Holmes visited Mr Jabez Wilson’s shop.
   (b) The purpose of his visit was to check what Spaulding was actually doing in the absence of his master.
   (c) Holmes hit large stones of the street with his walking stick to check if the tunnel was in front of the house or behind it.
5. (a) Holmes is saying to Dr Watson.
   (b) They were trying to rob the bank.
   (c) No, the thieves were not successful because Holmes knew their plan and caught them at the time of action.

B. 1. Jabez Wilson visited Holmes to find out why the red-headed league was dissolved because he missed the four pounds a week paid to him.
2. Jabez Wilson’s dress and appearance made him look like an average British businessman, fat, arrogant, and slow. He wore baggy grey trousers, and a dirty black coat, unbuttoned in the front. A worn hat, and an old brown overcoat were on a chair beside him. Altogether, there was nothing special about the man except his bright red hair and a look of great unhappiness.
3. The Red-headed league was a vacancy open for all the Red-headed men who were healthy and above the age of twenty-one years which entitled the member of the League to a salary of four pounds a week for very nominal services. Mr Jabez Wilson got to know about it when Spaulding came up with a newspaper article of the vacancy.

4. The Red-headed league got dissolved before the robbery because the purpose for keeping Mr Wilson away from his shop was over as they had completed the tunnel for conducting the robbery.

5. Mr Jones was the police officer, and Mr Merryweather was the director of the City and Suburban Bank. They both helped Holmes in stopping the robbery by going to the bank cellar and catching both the thieves.

6. Sherlock Holmes had some clues to solve the mystery:
   - The Red-headed league had been started just to keep Mr Wilson away for some hours from his shop.
   - His assistant, Spaulding’s legs were dirty when Holmes visited the shop.
   - Holmes hit large stones of the street with his walking stick to check if the tunnel they were making was in front or behind of the house.
   - Upon seeing the bank, everything was clear. It pointed that they were making a secret tunnel to the other building.
   - When the Red-headed league was closed, he knew the date of the robbery because they no more needed Mr Wilson’s services.

7. Sherlock Holmes detected the robbery when he visited Jabez Wilson’s shop and saw Spaulding’s dirty legs. He also hit large stones of the street with his walking stick to check if the tunnel in front of the house or behind it. He also collaborated with Mr Jones and Merryweather to defeat the robbery.
Vocabulary

D. 1. apartment
   2. isolation
   3. borrower
   4. accusation

E. 1. Automated Teller Machine
   2. Unique Identification Authority of India
   3. Universal Serial Bus
   4. Know Your Customer
   5. Artificial Intelligence
   6. Intensive Care Unit
   7. Doctor of Philosophy
   8. Sport-Utility Vehicle
   9. Compressed Natural Gas
  10. Short Message Service
  11. Portable Network Graphics
  12. Emotional Quotient

Grammar and Usage

F. 1. He heard the noise when he came out.
   2. We will buy it as soon as we will have enough money.
   3. If there is a sale, I will buy two pairs of shoes instead of one.
   4. After the manager went out, the clerks began to talk freely.
   5. The children waited until their father came back.

15. TELEVISION

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Sitting and staring at the television makes the child dull and blind.
   (b) ‘It’, ‘he’, and ‘his’ are some examples of anaphora in the given lines.
   (c) His brain becomes as soft as cheese.
2. (a) The children scream and yell because television sets are taken away from their viewing. 
   (b) The parents are advised not to be fearful. 
   (c) The poet promises that in a week or two when the children will have nothing else to do, they would eventually start reading.

B. 1. The most important thing the poet has learned is to never let your children get near the television set. 
2. The upsetting thing which the poet has seen in every house is a television set. 
3. The poet calls television, an idiot box because watching television all the time makes the children dull. Their minds clog, and they can’t think anything creative. 
4. The removal of the television sets from the house is the solution to save the children from hypnotic television. 
5. Children stop to think creatively and loose their power of imagination. It clogs and clutters their mind making them dull and blind. Their power of thinking is lost. 
6. Television kills children’s imagination by stopping their minds from thinking and reasoning. 
7. The television is useful and convenient for the parents as children get engaged in it. But it is so, only when watched in a limited manner. 
8. Parents should fill up the shelves with books to entertain their children. 
9. The children used to spend their leisure time in past by reading more and more books but, at present they only watch television. 
10. According to the poet, children’s heart would be filled with joy and happiness. They would be keen to learn and imagine. They would love their parents more than ever.
Poetic Devices

E. 1. Greedy goats gobbled up gooseberries.
2. Seven sisters slept soundly on the sand.
3. Penelope has saved plenty of pennies.
4. Tim took tons of tools to make toys for the tots.
5. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

F. 1. brownies
2. licking
3. green
4. poppies
5. lumps

Vocabulary

G. ☑ careless ☐ attentive  ☑ apathetic  ☐ hard-working
   ☑ dull  ☑ lackadaisical  ☑ passive  ☐ vigorous
   ☑ sleepy  ☑ lethargic  ☐ active  ☐ energetic
   ☐ agile  ☑ sluggish  ☑ inert  ☑ tired

H. ISRO: Indian Space Research Organisation
   NASA: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
   UNESCO: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
   GAIL: Gas Authority of India Limited
   SAARC: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
   SEBI: The Securities and Exchange Board of India

Grammar and Usage

I. 1. Mary sings better than Prince. comparison
2. They felt as though they had been given the wrong information. manner
3. Preeti doesn’t live as near to the school as me. degree
4. She screamed as if she had seen a ghost. manner
5. His dog follows him wherever he goes. place
6. Whenever I get an idea for a story, I jot it down in a notebook. place

7. Since he has apologised, we will take no further action against him. reason

8. His electricity was cut-off because he had not paid the bill. reason

J. 1. It looks as if it is going to rain. (manner)
2. She felt as if all her worries had gone. (manner)
3. My sister doesn’t weigh as much as I do. (degree)
4. The trip was cancelled because the weather was bad. (reason)
5. I try to save my money wherever I can. (place)
6. He always sleeps soundly wherever he sleeps. (place)
7. I was absent from school because I was sick. (reason)
8. This year the books cost more than they had cost last year. (comparison)

16. AN ASTROLOGER’S DAY

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) The astrologer has been described in the given lines.

    (b) The simple clients refer to the ordinary people who flock around the astrologer. With a prophetic like glare and a mysterious genuine stare, astrologer seemed to be authentic person who tells the future to the simple clients.

    (c) The man changed his appearance to attract his simple clients and might consider him as a prophet. Thus feeling comforted by his authenticity.

2. (a) The roadside place where all the small vendors put up their shops has been described here.

    (b) Hissing gaslights, flares stuck on poles, and old cycle lamps are the kinds of lights mentioned in the extract.

    (c) The astrologer does not have lights of his own because it is good for him, as nobody can understand that he is not a real astrologer.
3. (a) The astrologer is speaking to the man.
(b) The challenge is to satisfy the man with the true answer and not bluffing him.
(c) The speaker refused to accept the challenge because he saw the face of the man and recognised him.

B. 1. The astrologer had left his village because he thought that he had killed a man.
2. The astrologer is an impressive character. He influences the people with his charismatic style. Thus, manages his trade quite successfully.
3. The man who had come to the astrologer one evening was from his village whom he had tried to kill. The man wanted to know about the person who tried to kill him in the village.
4. First, the astrologer tried to deny the challenge given by the man, but afterwards he agreed, and told him the entire story about the incident. Astrologer told the man that the person who had tried to kill him was dead.
5. The astrologer felt relieved when he got to know that the person whom he tried to kill was still alive. The burden of killing a man was off his shoulders after that incident.

Vocabulary

E. 1. clear 3. delight 5. hurry
2. hurt 4. dislike 6. quiet

F. 1. CHARLES DICKENS
2. RUSKIN BOND
3. R.K. NARAYAN
4. LEO TOLSTOY
5. RUDYARD KIPLING
6. HARPER LEE
7. EARNEST HEMINGWAY
8. DR APJ ABDUL KALAM
Grammar and Usage

G. 1. Though he is clever, he has failed. \textit{concession}
2. Put on your warm clothes \textit{lest} you should catch a chill. \textit{purpose}
3. Unless you listen carefully, you will not be able to understand. \textit{condition}
4. Jenny behaves in such a way \textit{that} everyone likes her. \textit{result}
5. Even if you punish me, I will speak the truth. \textit{concession}
6. Watch and pray \textit{that} you may not do any wrong. \textit{purpose}
7. You are not allowed to go out \textit{unless} you have done your homework. \textit{condition}
8. He spoke in such a low voice \textit{that} few people could hear him. \textit{result}

17. MIRROR

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) ‘I’ refers to the mirror. It is trying to swallow whatever he sees.
   (b) The word ‘swallow’ means meekly accept something.
   (c) Mirror is unmisted by love or dislike because it is not prejudiced.
2. (a) ‘I am not cruel, only truthful’ means that the mirror does not tell any lies. It is straightforward, and tells the real truth.
   (b) The eye of the little god is ‘four-cornered’ like the shape of mirror which is truthful to all.
   (c) It usually mediates on the opposite wall.
3. (a) ‘It’ refers to the opposite wall.
   (b) It flickers because it is disturbed by faces and darkness again and again.
   (c) ‘Faces’ and ‘darkness’ separate them because the faces come to look into the mirror, and while leaving, they turn the light off, leaving the mirror to reflect nothing but the darkness.
4. (a) 'She’ refers to the woman.
   (b) Candles and moon have been called liars because they hide the blemishes of people and make them look beautiful in their soft glow.
   (c) While looking into a lake, she notices changes in her appearance due to her advancing age. These changes in her appearance are unbearable and make her breakdown into tears.

5. (a) Early morning, the woman’s face replaces the darkness.
   (b) ‘Drowned a young girl’ means that the old woman has been coming regularly to the lake since youth. Her youth and beauty have drowned into it.
   (c) Simile has been used in the last line. The poet is comparing the old woman’s face to an ugly fish.

B. 1. Mirror is a symbol of truth, reality, and objectivity. It gives an exact reflection of the object unaffected by prejudices, and emotions of love and hatred.

2. ‘I have no preconceptions’ means it reflects back an image objectively and has no bias for the people who come to see their image in the mirror.

3. The opposite wall have become a part of the mirror’s heart. Faces and darkness separate the wall and the mirror by coming in its way again and again. Thus, they disturb the mirror’s meditation.

4. The woman sees herself ageing when she looks herself in the mirror. This harsh truth revealed by the mirror agitates her and makes her cry.

5. Terrible fish symbolises wrinkled, old face of the women which has lost its youth and beauty. She still imagines herself to be young and beautiful, and cannot accept the fact that one grows old with the passage of time.
Poetic Devices

E. 1. I have told you a million times.
2. I’m so hungry that I could eat a horse.
3. The car went faster than the speed of light.
4. It was so cold, I saw polar bears wearing hats and jackets.
5. The monsoon seemed as if the floodgates of the heavens had opened.

Vocabulary

F. 1. immediately 3. reward 5. replace
2. flicker 4. speckle 6. terrible

G. 1. noticed 6. deserted 11. occurring
2. limited 7. listening 12. offering
3. shattered 8. interpreted 13. preferred
4. deterred 9. transferring 14. differed
5. concealed 10. happening 15. depositing

Grammar and Usage

H. 1. about 6. of
2. to 7. delighted
3. annoyed 8. angry
4. happy 9. with
5. short 10. at

18. MACBETH

Comprehension

A. 1. (a) Malcolm is speaking to the sergeant.
(b) The sergeant has saved the speaker from being taken a prisoner.
(c) The sergeant was wounded and in blood-stained condition.

2. (a) He refers to Macbeth.
(b) Macdonwald has been described as villain.
(c) Macbeth beheaded the villain since he was the traitor and enemy of the King Duncan.
3. (a) Duncan is speaking to sergeant.
   (b) The man was wounded while saving Malcolm from being captured in the battle.
   (c) He delivered the news that after killing the enemy soldiers with lightening speed, Macbeth confronted Macdonwald. He cut open the villain and beheaded him with one single stroke.

4. (a) Ross is the speaker. He is addressing Macbeth.
   (b) Macbeth fought valiantly, protecting the King and country. Macbeth had sliced open Macdonwald, an enemy of King Duncan in one single stroke.
   (c) King Duncan was overwhelmed with praise and appreciation upon Macbeth’s heroic deed in the battle.

5. (a) Banquo is speaking to the Witches.
   (b) In a barren land near Forres.
   (c) The creatures welcomed him by saying - Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor and the King to be.

B. 1. Ross added to the news that King of Norway led the battle and was assisted by the most disloyal traitor, the thane of Cawdor. Macbeth confronted him and dashed his fouled ambition. That resulted in the victory.

2. The king ordered immediate execution of the Thane of Cawdor since he was a traitor who helped his enemies in the battle.

3. Witches prophesied that Macbeth would become Thane of Glamis and Cawdor. The third witch even predicted him the king to be.

4. Witches predicted that Banquo would be lesser than Macbeth and would never be the king. His offspring would be the kings.

5. Angus thanked Macbeth on behalf of the King. He also told him that as a token of appreciation, the king bade them to greet him as the Thane of Cawdor.
6. Macbeth was lost in thoughts after listening to the witches prophecy because he was curious and startled as he wanted to ask more questions to them. He was extremely eager to ask what was the source of the prophesies made by them.

Vocabulary

D. 1. gallant 5. foul 9. horrible
2. disloyal 6. heroic 10. evil
3. kind 7. happy 11. prosperous
4. fierce 8. fearful 12. great

Grammar and Usage

E. 1. He applauded by saying that it was a fine hit.
   2. She exclaimed with fear to help her.
   3. Sanjay exclaimed with wonder that it was a huge building.
   4. Sunny exclaimed with joy that his friend has come.
   5. The mother blessed his son to be happy.

F. 1. that Earth moves around the Sun.
   2. What extra score you have got
   3. what you have done for me!
   4. whether we will be able to finish this work on time!
   5. When will earthquake come
   6. where to begin from.
   7. who is the culprit.
   8. how this work would be done.
   9. Whoever eats last
   10. what happened last week in the house.