

# **BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

**English Assignment**

**Class: XI**

**November 2024**

## **Silk Road**

### **THEME**

The Silk Road chapter primarily highlights the journey across the vast, barren plateau of Tibet, focusing on the harsh landscape, the ancient trade routes, and the spiritual significance of the journey. It also emphasizes the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures across different civilizations. The chapter mixes travel writing with historical and cultural reflections, offering insights into both the author's personal experiences and the historical significance of the Silk Road.

1. What was the author's primary purpose for traveling to Mount Kailash?
2. Describe the significance of the Silk Road in ancient times. What kind of trade took place along this route?
3. What difficulties did the author face while traveling through the Tibetan plateau? Mention any two.
4. How does Nick Middleton blend personal narrative with historical and cultural context in his description of the Silk Road? Give examples from the text.
5. The author meets various people during his journey, including nomads and pilgrims. How does his interaction with them contribute to his understanding of Tibetan culture and life?

## **The Adventure**

1. Who is Professor Gaitonde, and what unusual experience does he have during his journey to Pune?
2. What is the significance of the empty chair in Professor Gaitonde's lecture hall?
3. What major historical difference does Professor Gaitonde notice in the alternate reality of India?
4. How does the concept of the 'catastrophe theory' and quantum physics play a role in explaining Professor Gaitonde's alternate reality experience?
5. Compare and contrast the two versions of Indian history presented in the chapter. How does this reflect the theme of alternate realities and parallel universes?

## **Father to Son ( poem)**

1. What is the central conflict in the poem "Father to Son"?
2. How does the father express his feelings about the growing distance between him and his son?
3. What does the father want from his son by the end of the poem?
4. Analyze the father's dilemma in the poem. How does he balance his emotions between love for his son and disappointment in their broken relationship?
5. Discuss how the poem explores the theme of communication (or the lack of it) between two generations. How does this contribute to the tension between the father and the son?