



Brain International School

Vikas Puri, New Delhi

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS-VIII

APRIL'2025

Ch-1 The Three Questions

Theme

The theme of "**The Three Questions**" by **Leo Tolstoy** emphasizes on living in the present, valuing relationships, and selfless service. It teaches that the most important time is *now*, the most important person is the one you are with, and the most important action is helping others. The story highlights wisdom through practical kindness rather than abstract answers, showing that true fulfilment comes from compassion and selfless deeds, shaping a meaningful and purposeful life.

Q. Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think the hermit did not answer the king's questions directly?
2. How did the king's actions towards the wounded man change the course of the events?
3. What does the story suggest about the importance of helping others in difficult situations?
4. How does the king's experience with the hermit shape his understanding of wisdom?
5. If you were in the king's place, how would you interpret the answers given by the hermit?

Poem-2 The Commentator

Theme

Gareth Owen's *The Commentator* highlights the excitement and drama of a football match through the exaggerated style of a sports commentator. The poem emphasizes how language can transform an ordinary event into something thrilling, showing the power of words in engaging an audience. It also adds humour by portraying the commentator's overenthusiastic and dramatic narration. The poem reflects how commentary brings energy and excitement to sports, making even small moments seem intense and entertaining for listeners and viewers.

Poetic Devices

- **Imagery:** The poet uses vivid descriptions to make the match feel real and exciting. Imagery is employed in the entire poem.
- **Repetition:** Certain words and phrases are repeated to create rhythm and build tension. Eg: "*He is searching, he is searching.*"
- **Alliteration:** The repetition of consonant sounds enhances the musical quality of the poem (e.g., "*brilliant ball*", "*perfect pass*").
- **Onomatopoeia:** The use of sound words like "*bang*", "*crash*", or "*whoosh*" adds to the excitement.
- **Hyperbole:** The commentator exaggerates the events to make them sound more dramatic than they really are. Hyperbole is employed in the line "*For the hundred thousand fans gathered there*".
- **Enjambment:** The lines flow without full stops, creating a fast-paced and continuous rhythm, mimicking real-life commentary.

Q. Answer the following questions.

1. *"He takes the ball, he runs, he swerves,
Dodges left, dodges right—unbelievable skill!
He shoots—Oh! It hits the post!
The crowd gasps—so close, yet so far!"*

(i) What is the tone of the speaker in this stanza?

- a) Calm and composed
- b) Excited and energetic
- c) Sad and melancholic
- d) Bored and uninterested

(ii) Pen down one poetic device employed in the above stanza.

(iii) Explain the phrase, *"so close, yet so far"*.

2. How does the commentator describe the events of the match? Give examples from the poem.

3. What techniques does the poet use to create a sense of urgency and excitement?

4. Markey went to look for the lost ball again. What quality of Markey is reflected here? Do you think it's a good quality? Express your views and quote instances from your life to support the answer.

5. What emotions does the commentator try to evoke in the audience?

Ch-3 A Robot in the House

Theme

The story highlights the challenges of artificial intelligence in everyday life. Manku, the household robot, follows instructions too literally, causing frustration for Ajay. The robot lacks human emotions, social skills, and adaptability, leading to misunderstandings. The story humorously explores the limitations of robots in handling human interactions, showing that while technology can assist in tasks, it cannot replace human intuition and diplomacy. It also raises questions about the balance between automation and human judgment in daily life.

Q. Answer the following questions.

- 1. Why did Ajay find Manku's behaviour frustrating, and how did it affect his interactions with others?
- 2. How did Manku's inability to understand human emotions create problems in Ajay's household?
- 3. What was the reaction of the company representative when Ajay complained about Manku? What does this reveal about how robots are designed?
- 4. What lesson does Ajay learn about relying too much on robots for personal convenience?