



Brain International School

Vikas Puri, New Delhi

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS-X

JULY, 2025

CH 5: Glimpses of India

Theme:

This chapter highlights the rich diversity, culture, heritage, and flavours of India through three distinct parts: Baker from Goa, Coorg, and Tea from Assam. It shows the importance of traditions, natural beauty, and regional uniqueness in building the identity of India. The chapter instills pride in our multicultural landscape and the simple joys rooted in regional life. It also captures how history and modernity coexist in everyday Indian experiences.

Answer the following questions.

1. How does the narrative showcase the cultural diversity of India?
2. How is the tradition of baking still alive in Goa? What does this say about changing vs enduring traditions?
3. What impression do you get of the people and landscape of Coorg?
4. Why is Assam described as a land of 'rolling hills and tea bushes'? How does the description enhance the reader's interest?
5. Imagine you are writing a travel blog. Choose one part of the chapter and write how you would describe it to attract tourists.

CH 6: Mijbil the Otter

Theme:

This story revolves around the bond between a human and a wild animal, highlighting themes of companionship, adaptation, trust, and emotional intelligence. It also underlines how empathy and love can transcend species. The narrator's patience and Mijbil's transformation reflect that connection and care can build meaningful relationships, even in the most unlikely ways.

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Mijbil adjust to his new surroundings and life with the narrator?
2. Analyze the challenges faced by the narrator while travelling with Mijbil. What do they tell us about pet ownership?
3. How does the story reflect emotional bonding across species?
4. Why did the narrator decide to get an otter as a pet instead of a dog?
5. *"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unweakened."* – Anatole France
Relate this quote to the narrator's bond with Mijbil in the story. What does their relationship reveal about the emotional depth of human-animal connections?

CH 7: Madam Rides the Bus

Theme:

This story captures a young girl's curiosity, innocence, and desire for independence. It is also a journey of realization about life and mortality as Valli takes a short but life-changing bus ride. Her experience reflects the transition from childhood imagination to emotional maturity. The story subtly emphasizes that understanding life also means recognizing the reality of death and pain.

Answer the following questions.

1. What does Valli's journey tell us about childhood curiosity and courage?
2. Briefly elucidate why does the dead cow affect Valli deeply? What does it signify?
3. How does the story show the contrast between a child's adventurous spirit and the harsh realities of life?
4. Valli is observant and independent. Support your answer with examples from the text.
5. What would you do if you were in Valli's place when she saw the dead cow? Share your emotional reaction.

Poem 5: The Ball Poem – John Berryman

Theme:

The poem conveys the theme of loss, growing up, and responsibility. It metaphorically shows how losing something valuable teaches us emotional maturity and the reality that some things cannot be replaced. The poem encourages personal growth through experience and learning. It also reflects the universal truth that every individual must face and cope with loss at some point in life.

Poetic Devices

- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions like "*Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then / Merrily over — there it is in the water!*" help readers visualize the scene.
- **Symbolism:**
 - The ball symbolizes **childhood, innocence, and carefree joy**.
 - Its loss represents **growing up and facing harsh realities**.
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- **Repetition:** Repeated words like "*what*" and "*ball*" emphasize the boy's **confusion and loss**.
- **Alliteration:** The repeated "*b*" sound in "*buys a ball back*" adds **musical quality and emphasis**.
- **Assonance:** Repetition of vowel sounds (e.g., "*o*" in "*boy, now, who, lost*") creates **internal rhyme and rhythm**.
- **Personification:** The ball is described with human-like traits, like "*Merrily bouncing*", reflecting the **boy's emotional state**.
- **Enjambment:** Lines flow without pause, e.g., "*Merrily bouncing... in the water!*" making the poem feel **natural and continuous**.
- **Metaphor:** The entire poem serves as a **metaphor for growing up and learning to cope with loss**.

Answer the following questions.

1. Analyze the emotional transformation the boy undergoes after losing the ball. How does this experience shape his understanding of life and loss?
2. 'Money is external.' What does the poet mean by this? How is it relevant to the poem?
3. How is the ball symbolic in the poem?
4. Analyze the emotional transformation the boy undergoes after losing the ball. How does this experience shape his understanding of life and loss?
5. ***"You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice."*** – Reflect on this quote in the context of *The Ball Poem*. How does the boy's silent acceptance of his loss demonstrate emotional strength and growth? Support your answer with references to the poem and your interpretation of the poet's message.

CH 6: The Making of a Scientist

Theme:

This chapter showcases how curiosity, dedication, parental support, and perseverance play a crucial role in shaping the life of a future scientist. Richard Ebright's journey proves that consistent effort and guided exploration lead to excellence. It also celebrates the value of learning from failures and turning passion into purpose.

Questions:

1. How did Richard Ebright's curiosity and determination make him a successful scientist?
2. Examine the role of his mother in developing his interest in science?
3. Elucidate the scientific significance of Richard Ebright's work on the theory of cells. How did this research contribute to the broader understanding of genetics and scientific inquiry?
4. How do Ebright's hobbies and passion become stepping stones to scientific success?
5. "Success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." How does Ebright's life reflect this idea?

CH 5: Footprints Without Feet

Theme:

This story explores the dangers of unchecked scientific ambition, the desire for power, and the loss of humanity. Griffin's invisibility brings fear and destruction, showing that misuse of knowledge can have dire consequences. The narrative is a cautionary tale about science devoid of ethics. It also critiques the imbalance between intellectual brilliance and moral responsibility.

Questions:

1. What led Griffin to become a lawless and dangerous man?
2. How does invisibility become more of a curse than a blessing for Griffin?
3. Describe Griffin's character in terms of intelligence and morality.
4. How does the title 'Footprints Without Feet' capture the essence of the story?
5. ***"With great power comes great responsibility."*** How does Griffin's character violate the principle of responsible use of power? Would you consider him a victim of his own brilliance or of his moral failure?