



Brain International School

Vikas Puri, New Delhi

REVISION SHEET

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS-XI

Term 1

Hornbill

Chapter 1: The Portrait of a Lady

1. How does the narrator's changing relationship with his grandmother reflect generational and cultural shifts in modern families?
2. What does the old woman's death and the sparrows' silent mourning symbolise about the depth of human connections?
3. The narrator's grandmother was deeply religious and traditional, yet lived with dignity and grace. Critically analyse how her character represents silent resistance to changing times.
4. Discuss how the story explores the idea of spiritual independence versus emotional attachment. Does the grandmother's life suggest one is more important than the other?
5. *"Those we love never truly leave us; they live on in our hearts and memories."* Relate this quote to the way the narrator remembers his grandmother in *The Portrait of a Lady*. How does her memory continue to live on even after her death?

Chapter 2: We Are Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All Be Together

1. How does the narrator's leadership under pressure redefine what it means to be courageous?
2. What do the children's calm responses to danger suggest about resilience in extreme conditions?
3. Evaluate how the family's collective spirit, decision-making, and mutual support helped them overcome life-threatening challenges.
4. Discuss the significance of the title and how it underscores the themes of unity, survival, and psychological strength.

Poem 1: A Photograph

1. *"Now she's been dead nearly as many years
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance
There is nothing to say at all,
Its silence silences."*

- (i) The phrase *"its silence silences"* most likely means _____.
- (ii) What emotion does the poet convey in this extract?
 - (a) Indifference
 - (b) Bitter resentment
 - (c) Deep and quiet mourning
 - (d) Joyful celebration of life

(iii) How does the poet deal with her mother's death in the final stanza?

2. How does the poet use contrast between the past and present to convey the emotional weight of loss?
3. In what way does the poem depict both the fragility of life and the permanence of memory?
4. Discuss how the poet transforms a simple photograph into a meditation on time, grief, and the unspeakable nature of loss.
5. How does the speaker's tone evolve across the poem, and what does it suggest about human resilience in the face of emotional trauma?

Chapter 3: Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues

1. How does the story of Tutankhamun serve as a metaphor for modern science's ability to reconstruct the past?
2. What ethical dilemmas arise when scientific discovery involves disturbing the dead? Discuss with reference to the chapter.
3. Examine how the blend of history, science, and mystery in this chapter reflects the evolving nature of archaeological research.
4. What does the chapter reveal about the role of technology in unearthing truth and preserving legacy?
5. "*The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.*" How does this quote relate to the chapter *Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues*? Discuss how the scientific and archaeological studies of Tutankhamun's tomb help modern civilization understand ancient cultures.

Poem 2: The Laburnum Top

1. How does the silence of the laburnum tree reflect the poet's deeper message about emotional disconnect and rebirth?
2. Discuss the symbolic significance of the goldfinch in transforming the stillness of the laburnum tree.
3. The poem begins by describing the Laburnum top as "silent, quite still". How does the poet use contrasting imagery and sounds to bring this silence to life upon the goldfinch's arrival? Analyse the effectiveness of these devices in conveying the poem's central idea?
4. In what ways does the poem reflect the interdependence between nature and life?

Snapshots

Chapter 1: The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

1. What does the boys' decision to return the horse reveal about the true meaning of honour and personal ethics?
2. Analyse how the contrast between childish impulse and cultural pride drives the central conflict of the story.
3. How does the story explore the idea of moral ambiguity through the actions of the two boys?
4. In what way does the story subtly critique the concept of "family honour" when weighed against truth?

Chapter 2: The Address

1. How does the narrator's visit to Mrs. Dorling's house highlight the loss of identity and belonging after war?

2. What does the cold reception of Mrs. Dorling reveal about materialism in the face of shared history?
3. Explore the theme of memory versus material possession in shaping post-war trauma.
4. How does the narrator's final decision at the end of the story reflect emotional maturity and the need to move on?
5. *"Sometimes letting things go is an act of far greater power than defending or hanging on."*
How does this quote reflect the emotional journey of the narrator in *The Address*? Do you think her decision at the end of the story is justified?