



## ASSIGNMENT NO. 6

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**CLASS-XI**

**DEC,2025**

### **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.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. Why does the author choose to undertake the journey to Mount Kailash? What main objective motivates this trip?
2. In ancient times, what made the Silk Road so important, and what types of goods or commodities were commonly exchanged along this historic trade route?
3. While crossing the Tibetan plateau, what were two major challenges the author encountered during his travels?
4. In what ways does Nick Middleton combine his personal travel experiences with cultural and historical insights when discussing the Silk Road? Provide supporting examples from the text.
5. How do the author's interactions with pilgrims, nomads, and other locals help deepen his understanding of everyday Tibetan life and culture?

### **Father to Son (Poem)**

#### **THEME**

The theme of "Father to Son" revolves around the complexities of the father-son relationship, highlighting themes of communication, generational conflict, and the struggle for understanding. It explores the emotional distance that can develop between parents and children, as well as the longing for connection despite misunderstandings. The poem emphasizes the deep love and concern that underlies their estrangement, ultimately reflecting on the challenges of bridging the gap between differing perspectives and experiences.

#### **POETIC DEVICES**

- Metaphor: The father uses the metaphor of "the seed I spent" to symbolize his efforts in raising his son, suggesting that despite his nurturing, he and his son have grown apart.
- Alliteration: The repetition of consonant sounds, such as in "silence surrounds us," emphasizes the emotional distance between the father and son.
- Enjambment: The poem uses enjambment, where one-line flows into the next without a pause, reflecting the continuous stream of thoughts and the father's internal conflict.

- Repetition: Words like “father” and “son” are repeated to stress the relationship and the tension between the two.
- Imagery: The poem uses visual imagery, such as “silence surrounds us,” to evoke a sense of isolation and emotional distance between father and son.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. How does the father express his feelings of estrangement and disconnect from his son in the poem?
2. What does the poem suggest about the changing relationship between parents and children as they grow older?
3. How does the father attempt to reconcile with his son, and what challenges does he face in doing so?
4. What role does communication, or the lack of it, play in the father-son relationship depicted in the poem?
5. How does the poem explore themes of love, misunderstanding, and regret between the father and his son?

## **BIRTH**

### **THEME**

The theme of “*The Birth*” centers on hope, perseverance, and the intense emotional struggle experienced by Dr. Andrew Manson as he confronts a difficult childbirth. The story underscores the fragile boundary between life and death, while emphasizing human compassion and the doctor’s unwavering determination to save both the mother and her newborn.

**Answer the following questions:**

1. How does Andrew Manson’s emotional and physical state at the beginning of the story reflect his personal and professional challenges?
2. What were the complications during Susan Morgan’s childbirth? How did Andrew handle the situation?
3. Describe Andrew’s reaction when he realized that the baby was stillborn. What measures did he take to revive the child?
4. How does the author portray the theme of hope and despair in Andrew’s character throughout the story?
5. What significance does the story “The Birth” hold in relation to the medical profession and human empathy?

## **THE ADVENTURE**

### **THEME**

In “*The Adventure*,” the theme revolves around the uncertainty of time and human existence, urging readers to consider how individual choices can shape the course of history. By weaving together historical speculation and science fiction, the story imagines worlds where slight alterations in past events create entirely new versions of the present. At its core, it raises questions about destiny and examines the idea of parallel universes and alternate realities that emerge from those subtle shifts.



**Answer the following questions:**

1. How does the concept of alternate realities play a central role in the story “The Adventure”?
2. Describe Professor Gaitonde’s journey into the parallel universe. What differences does he notice between the two realities?
3. What role does science fiction play in shaping the narrative of “The Adventure”?
4. How does the author use historical events to create an alternate timeline in the story? Discuss with examples.
5. What message does the story convey about the impact of individual decisions on the course of history?