



ASSIGNMENT NO. 3

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

CLASS-XII

OCTOBER'2026

I. Answer the following questions in 40 to 50 words.

- Q1. Sophie's imagination provides her with an escape from the limitations of her socioeconomic reality. How do her fantasies about owning a boutique and becoming an actress reveal her dissatisfaction with her present circumstances? (40–50 words)
- Q2. Geoff's silence and reserved nature make him an object of fascination for Sophie. How does her perception of Geoff reveal her tendency to construct imaginary worlds around people she admires? (40–50 words)
- Q3. Sophie's account of meeting Danny Casey is not merely an expression of youthful excitement but also an indication of her inability to distinguish aspiration from reality. Justify this statement with reference to her behaviour and the reactions of those around her. (40–50 words)
- Q4. Jansie appears to understand the practical limitations of their circumstances better than Sophie do. How does the contrast between their attitudes towards the future highlight two different responses to the same socioeconomic reality? (40–50 words)

II. Long Answer questions: (150 words)

- Q5. Sophie in *Going Places* and the peddler in *The Rattrap* seek fulfilment beyond the limitations of their existing lives, but their responses to reality differ significantly. Compare how their dreams and perceptions shape their choices, relationships and understanding of themselves. (150 words)
- Q6. Imagine you are Sophie, writing in your diary on the evening when you wait for Danny Casey but he never arrives. Reflect on your expectations, your disappointment and your realisation that your imagined encounter may have become more meaningful to you than reality itself. Your entry should reveal your inner conflict between the desire to dream and the need to confront reality. (150 words)

CH: Childhood Memories

I. Answer the following questions in 40 to 50 words.

- Q1. In *The Cutting of My Long Hair*, Zitkala-Sa's resistance to having her hair cut reveals more than a fear of physical discomfort. How does her response reflect the conflict between cultural identity and forced assimilation?
- Q2. Bama's initial amusement at watching the elderly man carry the food packet changes into anger and humiliation after her brother explains the incident. How does this shift in perception reveal the role of awareness in recognising social injustice?
- Q3. Both Zitkala-Sa and Bama experience discrimination during childhood, but their responses to it differ. How do their immediate reactions reveal their individual temperaments and their growing awareness of the social systems around them?
- Q4. In Bama's narrative, Annan advises her to study hard and progress through education. How does his advice transform an experience of humiliation into an opportunity for resistance and self-assertion?

Q5. Both narratives are autobiographical, yet the writers do not merely recount childhood incidents. How do their first-person narratives make personal experiences of discrimination powerful criticisms of larger social and cultural structures?

II. Answer the following questions in 150 words each:

1. Zitkala-Sa and Bama respond to oppressive social structures through awareness and resistance, whereas the Maharaja in *The Tiger King* attempts to exercise power to overcome a threat to his own life. Compare how the characters' responses to the forces governing their lives reveal contrasting attitudes towards power, agency and resistance.
2. Both *Memories of Childhood* and *The Enemy* explore the conflict between established social expectations and individual conscience. Compare how Zitkala-Sa and Bama expose discriminatory customs, while Dr Sadao confronts the demands of patriotism and humanity. How do the writers use personal experiences and critical moments to challenge prevailing attitudes?
3. Imagine you are Zitkala-Sa on the evening after your hair has been cut against your wishes. Write a diary entry reflecting on your sense of humiliation, the loss of cultural identity and your inability to prevent the authorities from imposing their will upon you. Consider how this experience has changed your understanding of power, belonging and personal dignity.
4. Imagine you are Bama writing a letter to a friend who believes that caste-based customs are merely traditional practices and should not be questioned. Using your childhood experience of watching the elderly man carry the food packet, explain why apparently ordinary customs can perpetuate humiliation and inequality. Reflect on the role of education, awareness and individual action in challenging discrimination.