

**Mahesh Public School, Jodhpur**

**Class :XI**

**Subject: English**

**Question and Answers based on Chapter 1(Hornbill)**

**The Portrait of a Lady : Khushwant Singh**

**Short-Answer Questions:**

**Solved Examples:**

Q.1 . How did Khushwant Singh portray his grandfather in the lesson?

Ans: Khushwant Singh describes his grandfather as he was painted in the portrait wearing a big turban and loose-fitting clothes, a long white beard covering the best part of his chest and looking at least a hundred years old.

Q.2. Describe 'the happiest half-hour of the day' for the grandmother.

Ans: For Khushwant Singh's grandmother there was none other pastime and happy activity than that of feeding the sparrows in the afternoon for half an hour. The sparrows could be seen perched on her legs, shoulders and even on her head but were never shooed away by her.

**Questions for Practice:**

- a. Why did Khushwant Singh say that the thought of his grandmother being young and pretty was almost revolving?
- b. Mention the instances from 'The Portrait of A Lady' for Khushwant Singh's grandmother being called considerate for animals.
- c. State any one incident from the lesson which shows that the grandmother accepted changes but did not impose them in her own life.

**Long –Answer Questions:**

**Solved Example:**

1. 'All over the verandah and in her room right up to where she lay dead and stiff wrapped in the red shroud, thousands of sparrows sat scattered on the floor. There was no chirruping. -----  
----- The sparrows took no notice of the bread. When we carried my grandmother's corpse off, they flew away quietly.'

Animals do recognize and value a relationship established with human beings. Write an article pertaining to the above sentence keeping in mind the relationship established by Khushwant Singh's Grandmother with animals.

**Ans:** Animals are said to have no brains but they do have hearts for they feel and it is out of feeling, concern or love for human being that they let themselves domesticated. But do they recognize relationships too?

At least I believe that they do. Numerous examples can be stated to prove the same. The relationship between Khushwant Singh's grandmother and the dogs and the sparrows can be just



one of them. The need is to revere this lovely bond of emotional attachment with the animals in one way or the other. And it is but evident that the animals and birds are more compassionate, more affectionate and more dependable than most of the human beings.

### **Questions for Practice:**

1. Compare and contrast the routine of the grandmother in the village with that of it in the city.

#### **Value Points:**

- Accompanying the writer to the school, helping in study
- Prayers at the temple
- Feeding dogs
- Frustrated at the subjects taught in English school
- Resolved to prayers
- Feeding sparrows

2. Khushwant Singh's grandmother was emotionally attached to him. Support the statement with help of instances from the story 'The Portrait of A Lady'.

#### **Value Points:**

- The grandmother's attachment with Khushwant Singh
- Her feelings when she could not help the writer
- Her prayers for the writer's safe journey
- Happiness expressed at the writer's arrival
- Continuous chanting of prayers

### **Long Questions**

1. Bring out the spiritual elements in the character of the grandmother.
2. What light does the lesson throw on Indian family values?
3. Evaluate the writer's attitude towards his grandmother when he was a child.

### **Short Answer Questions:**

1. What poetic words are used by the writer to bring out the physical and spiritual beauty of the grandmother?
2. Mention some incidents from the lesson that show that the grandmother loved her grandson intimately.
3. What is the difference between village school education and urban school education brought by the lesson?
4. What does the sparrow's behaviour highlight?
5. Mention some instances to show that the grandmother was highly composed and patient.

**Note: word limit for short questions=30-40 words**

**Long questions type = 120-150 words**

**Enjoy reading the above to access your understanding of the notes and explanation of the chapter 'THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY'.**

**Stay at Home.....Stay Safe...God Bless You all!  
Tuesday, April 7, 2020**