• **Word Meanings**
  1. Constantly – continuously
  2. Smothered – covered with
  3. Wary – worried
  4. Nestling – hidden
  5. Stung – sting
  6. Generously proportioned – large and hefty
  7. Stern – strict, serious
  8. Reserved – one who speaks less
  9. Khansama – a cook
  10. Pungent aroma – a strong smell
  11. Folklore – folk story
  12. Impervious – not affected by
  13. Odours – smell
  14. Disused – which is not used
  15. Expedition – a journey to find or do something
  16. Incessant – never stopping
  17. Warbling- singing with rapidly changing notes
  18. Choirs – a group of singers
  19. Serenading – singing a song to somebody you love
  20. Spinster – an unmarried female
  21. Gurgling – murmur
  22. Mysterious – strange and unknown
  23. Mused - reflect on
  24. Urchins – young boy
  25. Crates – containers
  26. Opined – expresses his opinion
  27. Consignment – goods that are sent to somebody

• **Question and Answer**

  1. Granny surrounded her house with marigold because she
     Ans: (a) believed the smell would keep the snakes away.
  2. The writer says he has a double chin because
     Ans: his grandmother had one.
  3. Was the writer fond of food? How can you tell?
     Ans: yes the writer was fond of food. We can say this when we read about mutton koftas and how much he loved it.
  4. Describe
     1. How the frogs entered the fountain and the house.
Ans: One day the writer brought some small fish in a bucket and introduced them to the lily pond. There were tadpoles also swimming around in the bucket which he didn’t notice. This is how the frogs entered the fountain and house.

2. Where the frogs were finally sent and why?
   Ans: The frogs were finally sent to the lucknow zoo as the station master believed that it was the best place for all small and great creatures.

5. When Aunt Mabel saw the frog in the potty, how did she react? Do you think she was just being silly?
   Ans: When Aunt Mabel saw the frog she screamed out of fear. I don’t think she was being silly as she hated frogs.

Chapter : Dronacharya’s Brigade

• Word Meanings
  1. Pursuit – in search
  2. Virtue – good quality
  3. Evolved developed and followed
  4. Instilled – gradually establish in the mind
  5. Dedication – word with concentration
  6. Prerequisites – necessary qualities
  7. Stint – a period of work
  8. Tactics – way of doing work
  9. Maestro – a great performer
  10. Emphasis – special attention
  11. Imbibed – absorb ideas
  12. Precocious – having developed particulars abilities at a very young age
  13. Jinx- bad luck
  14. Blitzkrieg – a sudden, heavy attack on the opponent to win a quick victory
  15. Consistent – constantly same
  16. Not be eclipsed – it will be difficult for anyone to beat his record

• Question and Answer

1. This illustrates the virtue that is the basic essence of the man and helped him emerge as an outstanding coach. In this sentence, this refers to gopi’s ability to
   Ans: (a) believed the smell would keep the snakes away.

2. The Indian government honoured gopi with the Dronacharya Award when
   Ans: (d) Saina won the Indonesian Super Series in 2009.

3. Gopi learnt three things from his first coach Hamid, what are they?
   Ans: He learnt a sense of discipline from his first coach Hamid. He also learnt that a coach has to be mentally and, if possible, emotionally close to the children who come to learn from him. From Arif, his second coach, he learnt that dedication and hardwork are prerequisites to excel in sports. From Prakash, Gopi learnt that better stroke control and sharpness at the net are extremely important.

4. As a coach, Gopi emphasized fitness. This was something he had imbibed from his coach Arif. True or false?
   Ans: True

5. How did Prakash Padukone influence Gopi as a coach?
   Ans: Prakash was renowned for his clever net play and Gopi used the same tactics. The other really important thing he learnt from the maestro was hoe to approach a match in terms of mental preparation.
6. The BAI appointed Gopi as a national coach for two terms. True or False?
Ans: False
7. For Gopi these results were like music to the ears. What were the results? Why was gopi happy?
Ans: Saina won back-to-back three titles in 2010, after which she thanked Gopi profusely for guiding her destiny. For gopi these results were like music to the ears. Gopi was happy because his hard and consistent work as a coach was giving good results.

Chapter: Birdwatcher

- **Word Meanings**
  1. Wilful – doing exactly what you want
  2. Embarrassed – felt uncomfortable
  3. Blushed – became red in the face due to embarrassment
  4. Startled – very surprised
  5. Hastily – hurriedly
  6. Mumbled – murmured
  7. Porous – allowing liquid to pass through
  8. Knapack – a bag pack to carry on shoulders
  9. Disinfectant – a substance that destroys bacteria and is used for cleaning
  10. Souvenir – a thing kept as a remembrance

- **Question and Answer**
  1. Mr and Mrs Fischer were embarrassed because Cyril
     Ans: (a) hated school and disliked being in the classroom.
  2. Dr. Rao did not want to use bare hands to touch the robin’s” eggs because
     Ans: (c) that might cause infection inside the eggs.
  3. What common interest did Cyril and Dr. Rao share?"
     Ans: Cyril and Dr. Rao shared a common interest of bird watching. They both loved to know more about birds.
  4. When Cyril said: 'I have seen them', Why did Dr. Rao not believe him?
     Ans: Dr. Rao didn't believe him because he was talking about a rare species of bird which was on the brink of extinction and found only on Chatham Islands.
  5. Why was Dr. Rao anxious to save the robins? How did he plan to double the number of eggs?
     Ans: Dr. Rao was anxious to save the robins because they were rare birds which were going to become extinct. He planned to transfer the eggs to some other nests so that the robins would lay fresh new eggs and this way their number would increase.
  6. Where were the eggs transferred? Why were the two trees marked?
     Ans: The eggs were transferred to two warbler's nest. The trees were marked so that Cyril and Dr. Rao could easily identify the nests and the eggs.
  7. What souvenir did Cyril want to keep? What do you think he was going to do with it?
     Ans: Cyril wanted to keep the cup shaped nest of the robins as a remembrance of the great job he had done to save them.
  8. Why did Cyril’s photograph appear in the newspaper?
     Ans: Cyril’s photograph appeared in the newspaper because he had done a good job of saving the black robins.
Chapter : The kakas of New Zealand

**Word Meanings**
1. Bellowed - Shouted in a loud deep voice
2. Speck - Like a dot
3. Swooped down - Flew downwards quickly and suddenly
4. Corrugated - un even
5. Waddled – walked with short steps
6. Strutted – walked proudly with its head up
7. Amputated – cut off
8. Delicacies – special food
9. Precariously – sitting dangerously close to the edge of the roof
10. Vigorously – moving fast
11. Launch – a large boat with a motor
12. Gigantic – huge

**Question and Answer**
1. The writer travelled to Kapiti Islands  
   Ans: (d) to see how the Kakas come when called
2. Say whether true or false  
   a) They are fond of dates: True  
   b) They don’t respond to human voices: False  
   c) They are small birds: False  
   d) They are friendly birds: True
3. Was George fond of the Kakas? How can you tell?  
   Ans: Yes, George was fond of the Kakas. We can tell this when we read about the birds coming when he calls them. Moreover, he also gave them names.
4. Complete the following  
   a) The narrator had to keep feeding dates to the kaka that was perched on his head because the bird had powerful beak and might get angry if he stopped feeding.
   b) While on the edge of the roof the kakas walked cautiously because they were not able to balance themselves and had to flap their wings and balance themselves.
   c) The Kakas became regular visitors because they knew that the people living in that house were harmless people who provided them with all sorts of delicacies to eat, which they could not find in the forest.
5. The baby bird could not come down because it was  
   Ans: (d) nervous

Chapter: The king’s Palace

**Word Meanings**
1. Spell- Magic
2. Simpleton- a foolish person
3. Wonder- surprise, curiosity
4. Tweaked- pulled sharply
5. Gape- Stare open mouthed
6. Forbidden- not allowed
7. Shadow- follow
8. Plead- make a request
9. Blush out- speak out suddenly
10. Whisked- took away very quickly
11. Gloom- darkness
12. Tucked away- something put in a small place hidden
13. Bribe- dishonestly pay someone to help you

**Question and Answer**
1. Grandpa never found the palace because
   Ans: (a) it existed merely in Aunt Iru’s imagination.
2. Aunt Iru visited the fairies only when the boys were doing their lessons because
   Ans: (b) at other times the fairies turned into butterflies.
3. Why did Kusmi ask grandpa whether Aunt Iru was clever?
   Ans: Kusmi asked grandpa whether Aunt Iru was clever because Aunt Iru always held on to
   grandpa’s attention by telling him about palaces, fairies and winged horses. She did this
   because she knew what grandpa liked.
4. ‘I’ve always had a great weakness, you say...’
   (a) Who says these words?
   Ans: Grandpa says these words to Kusmi.
   (b) What is his great weakness?
   Ans: His great weakness was that everything around him filled him with wonder.
   (c) Who took advantage of his weakness?
   Ans: Aunt Iru took advantage of his weakness.
5. Aunt Iru often talked about a king’s seven-mansion palace.
   (a) According to her, where was the palace?
   Ans: According to Aunt Iru, the palace was in their house only.
   (b) Why couldn’t grandpa see the palace?
   Ans: Grandpa couldn’t see the palace because he did not know the magic words.
6. ‘I suppose that it was best that way.....’
   (a) What does ‘this’ refer to?
   Ans: ‘This’ refers to the fascinating things Aunt Iru used to tell Grandpa.
   (b) Why does Grandpa say it was best for him that way?
   Ans: Grandpa says it was best for him that way. So that he could keep dreaming of all the
   fascinating things.
7. What were the things that grandpa did to get Aunt Iru tell him the magic words? Did he
   succeed?
   Ans: Grandpa often went with Aunt Iru to the mango grove, plucked green mangoes for her and
   even bribed her with his precious sea-shell. Aunt Iru would peel the mangoes and eat them.
   No, Grandpa did not succeed in knowing the magic words.

**Chapter: Mystery of the Missing Parrot**

**Word Meanings**
1. Eerily – strangely
2. Ferocious- very fierce
3. Lurking- wait in hiding to attack someone
4. Shudder- shake with fear
5. Frolicking- play or move about in a cheerful, lively way
6. Fascinating- interest or charm greatly
7. Desolate- bleak and empty
8. Pounded- beat loudly in fear and excitement
9. Menacingly-dangerous way
10. Nipped-bitten quickly and painfully
11. Scurried-move hurriedly with short steps
12. Livid-informal very angry
13. Nauseating stench - a strong, very unpleasant smell
14. Dismay - distress
15. Squealed - a long high-pitched sound
16. Sorcery - a person who practices magic

- **Questions and Answers**
  1. One afternoon Cheeky flew off and didn’t return because Ans: (a) she was captured by the magician.
  2. State whether true or false
     (a) Rupin did not like the island because he had no friends or animals to give him company.  - true
     (b) There were no animals or birds on the island because the ferocious monster had eaten up all the little creatures of the island – false
     (c) The rugged old magician lived on the tiny island of the monstrous rock – false
     (d) The boatman was happy to take Rupin to the island of the monstrous rock - false
     (e) Cheeky turned the magician into a road – true
  3. ‘Rupin, you shall not go there. It is far too dangerous.
     (a) Where did Rupin want to go and why?
     Ans: Rupin want to go to the monstrous island to find cheeky.
     (b) Why was it a ‘dangerous’ place?
     Ans: It was a ‘dangerous’ place because the village people said that there lived a monster who ate up all the living creatures.
  4. Why did Rupin go to the dangerous island?
     Ans: Rupin went to the monstrous island to look for cheeky. This tells us how much he loved his pet.
  5. Describe how Rupin found Cheeky?
     Ans: When the twigs slipped in the sand, Rupin went down and moved his fingers to see if there was any gap. At that time something stung him. He realised there was something there under the sand. Just then he heard some voice speaking like cheeky. He bent down to hear it clearly, when he was stung again at the ear. Suddenly the magician appeared in the form of a crab and stepping on a pebble he did something and the sand beneath Rupin started slipping. Blow the sand there was a dark tunnel where the animals and birds were caged. Among them there was a cage in which Cheeky was kept. This way he found cheeky.
  6. Why did the magician capture animals? Can you think of three words to describe the magician?
     Ans: The magician captured the animals and birds so that he could experiment on them and perform tricks and practice sorcery. (Answers may very)

- **Word Meanings**
  1. Carols - songs
  2. Populous - densely populated
  3. Fain - willingly or with pleasure
  4. Luminous - giving off light
  5. Fortune - luck
  6. Ecstasy - intense happiness
  7. Grove - a small wood, orchard or group of trees
  8. Treasure - trove - valuables of unknown ownership found hidden
  9. Shield - A broad piece of armour held for protection against blows or missiles

**Poem: Bird Sanctuary**

1. Carols - songs
2. Populous - densely populated
3. Fain - willingly or with pleasure
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7. Grove - a small wood, orchard or group of trees
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9. Shield - A broad piece of armour held for protection against blows or missiles
**Question and Answer**

1. Describe the garden mentioned in the poem, what kinds of sounds can one hear in the garden?
   Ans: The garden is a beautiful one between the diff-rise and the beach. There are trees like fig, olive, almond, peach, cheery and plum-tree growing in it. One can hear the sounds of the clear water of spring and the happy songs of birds living in the garden on trees.

2. Is it a happy place? Which words indicate this?
   Ans: Yes it is a happy place. The words ‘glad-watered’ and ‘gay madrigal’ indicate to us.

3. They cannot understand. What does ‘they’ refer to? Why do you think they want to buy the land? Why does the poet call them fools?
   Ans: They refers to the merchants who want to buy the land. They want to buy the land to build a recreation centre for pleasure. The poet calls them, fools because these merchants want to buy the land which is priceless for the poet. The poet says that it gives him immense pleasure to see the natural beauty of the garden and all the living creatures residing in it.

4. The phrases living wings and feathered joy refer to the birds living in the garden.

5. ‘Not for all.... ecstasy destroys.' What do these lines tell us about the poet?
   Ans: These lines tell us that the poet finds pleasure in the garden and wants it to be like that forever. For him the joy he finds in the garden is more than any fortune could bring him.

6. The dominant mood of the poem is one of
   Ans: (a) joy

7. The poet describes himself as a lover and friends of birds. Do you agree? Pick out the phrases and lines to support this.
   Ans: Yes, I agree. The words below indicate to us.
   ‘And through the sweet and shining days,
   They know their lover and their friends’

**Word Meanings**

1. Rippled-wave like motion of the unicorn as it can through the forest
2. Lance- cut
3. Snort- exhale
4. Prance- to move with high steps
5. Mane – hair on the animal’s body
6. Spell bound gaze- watching with complete attention
7. Creak-sound
8. Flicker off- small quick movements
9. Velvet space- space between trees filled with soft green grass
10. Strand-a piece of thread

**Poem: Dreaming the Unicorn**

**Question and Answers**

1. The poet saw the unicorn
   Ans: (a) Speeding through the forest.

2. What does the poet mean when he says that he saw the unicorn paw the midnight air?
   Ans: When the poet says that he saw the unicorn 'paw the midnight air', he is telling us about the agility and the grace of the unicorn as it rears up, ready to tear through the dark night.

3. Pick out the words in stanza 2 that indicate ‘movements’ made by unicorn
   Ans: toss, prance, paw

4. The line but suddenly it shuddered tells us that the unicorn
   Ans: (a) had

5. Which words in the poem tell us that the unicorn considered the poet a stranger to the place?
   What does the phrase ‘this place’ refer to?
Ans: The following words tell us that the unicorn considered the poet a stranger to the place.

'You are not from this place.
What is your business here?'

Here, the words 'this place' refers to the fantastic world of dreams of which the unicorn was a part.

6. Who was surprised more the poet or the unicorn? How can you tell?
Ans: The poet was more surprised than the unicorn. While the unicorn seemed to read the poets face, while poet confesses that his mind was far from clear.

7. The poet says in stanza 4 that he was neither able to speak clearly nor think and he seemed to hear a noise above his head as if the branches were creaking. Then he saw the unicorn flying through the velvet space and deep into the forest.

8. The shining silver thread which the poet discovers on hid pillow on waking up refers to.
Ans: The shining silver thread which the poet discovers on his pillow on waking up refers to a strand of hair from the unicorn's mane.

9. Do you think the poet was dreaming? Give a reason for you answer.
Ans: In my opinion, the poet was not dreaming, because when he woke up he found a strand of hair from the unicorn's mane, which he kept in a box.

10. Explain the words 'when the world hangs heavy'
Ans: The poet uses the words 'when the world hangs heavy' to signify difficult times in life, when everything seems sad and depressing.

11. Which lines in the poem show that the poet liked the encounter with unicorn?
Ans: The following lines in the poem show that the poet liked the encounter with the unicorn and looked forward to meeting it again. And when the world hangs heavy on my brain, it helps me dream the Unicorn again.

The end