CLASS 9 ENGLISH KAVERI

Chapter 4 – Vitamin-M

Important Question Answers

Prose: Vitamin-M • The Lost Child • I Cannot Remember My Mother

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Online Teaching With Nikita

Part A – Vitamin-M

Textbook & exam-focused questions

1. Why did Grandpa come to live with Ravi's family?

Answer: He had become less safe living alone. He had accidentally taken a double dose of his medicines, once got lost while out walking, and had later fallen in his garden and remained outside all night because nobody was there to help him.

2. Why did Grandpa dislike living in the city?

Answer: He disliked the noise and bustle of city life and missed his quiet brick house, garden and independent way of living.

3. Why was Ravi's mother worried about Grandpa going out alone?

Answer: She was concerned because of his recent safety problems, including taking too much medicine, getting lost and falling in the garden.

4. Give two evidences that Grandpa's memory was not simply failing.

Answer: Grandpa remembers numerous chess games and famous players. He also remembers his birthday tradition of giving gifts to every child in the house and prepares gifts for the family.

5. Why did Ravi follow Grandpa?

Answer: Ravi had been asked to look after Grandpa and not let him go out alone. When Grandpa went out for the Tamil newspaper, Ravi secretly followed him to make sure he was safe.

6. Why was Ravi worried about what Grandpa had at the tea stall?

Answer: Ravi was concerned because Grandpa was having items such as sugary tea, bananas and ice cream while the family was trying to take care of him.

7. Was it easy for Ravi to follow Grandpa?

Answer: No. Ravi had to hide repeatedly, was noticed by strangers, became embarrassed and eventually followed the wrong man because of a similar cap and clothes.

8. Give one argument for and one against calling Ravi a good detective.

Answer: For: he observed Grandpa carefully and tried to trace him when he disappeared. Against: his pursuit repeatedly went wrong and finally led him to follow a stranger.

9. Was Grandpa aware that Ravi was following him?

Answer: The story leaves this open to interpretation. Grandpa's later gift of a detective book and his comments about avoiding mistakes while trailing a suspect suggest that he may have understood more than he openly admitted.

10. What does Ravi's reaction after finding Grandpa safely at home reveal?

Answer: It shows strong affection and relief. Ravi kneels beside Grandpa, touches his face and hugs him because he had been frightened that something might have happened to him.

11. What is the significance of Grandpa giving gifts on his birthday?

Answer: It shows his affectionate and generous nature. He prefers to give gifts to the children in the house rather than expect gifts for himself.

12. Why did Grandpa give Ravi a detective-story book?

Answer: It was a thoughtful gift connected with Ravi's interest in detective work. It may also be a playful hint that Grandpa knew about Ravi's secret adventure.

13. Who needs 'Vitamin-M' at the end of the story?

Answer: The phrase becomes a humorous joke aimed at Ravi's mother because she has forgotten Grandpa's birthday even though she had marked it on the calendar, while Grandpa remembers the family tradition.

14. Explain the irony in the title 'Vitamin-M'.

Answer: At the beginning, Ravi's mother thinks Grandpa needs a medicine for his memory. At the end, Grandpa jokingly suggests that she needs it because she has forgotten his birthday. The joke reverses the original assumption.

15. How does the story challenge assumptions about old age?

Answer: It shows that needing some safety support does not mean that an elderly person has lost intelligence, experience or individuality. Grandpa remains observant, knowledgeable, affectionate and independent-minded.

Critical Reflection

1. What is the significance of Grandpa's old house?

Answer: It represents peace, familiarity and independence. Grandpa misses the quiet surroundings and the freedom he had there.

2. Why is the story humorous despite dealing with ageing and safety?

Answer: Humour comes from Ravi's secret detective mission, his awkward attempts to hide, his encounters with strangers, his mistaken pursuit of another man and Grandpa's clever final remarks.

3. What does the relationship between Ravi and Grandpa show?

Answer: It shows affection and mutual understanding. Ravi wants to protect Grandpa, while Grandpa wants to retain his independence.

Part B – The Lost Child

Important questions and answers

1. Who is the central character in The Lost Child?

Answer: A young child who visits a spring festival with his parents.

2. Why does the child repeatedly fall behind his parents?

Answer: He is fascinated by toys, insects, flowers, birds and other attractions on the way to the fair.

3. What attracts the child on the way to the fair?

Answer: He notices toys, a flowering mustard field, dragonflies, butterflies, flowers, doves and the lively crowd moving towards the fair.

4. What happens when the child realises that his parents are missing?

Answer: He becomes frightened, searches through the crowd and cries out for his mother and father.

5. How does the child's attitude towards the fair change after separation?

Answer: The attractions that had excited him earlier lose their importance. He refuses the sweets offered by a man and wants only his parents.

6. What is the central message of The Lost Child?

Answer: The story shows that parental love and emotional security are more important to a child than material attractions.

Part C – I Cannot Remember My Mother

Important questions and answers

1. Who wrote I Cannot Remember My Mother?

Answer: Rabindranath Tagore.

2. Why does the poet say that he cannot remember his mother?

Answer: He cannot form a clear direct memory of her, but her presence returns through sensory experiences.

3. How does the humming tune remind the poet of his mother?

Answer: While playing, he senses a tune that recalls the song his mother used to hum while rocking his cradle.

4. What connection does the poet make between shiuli flowers and his mother?

Answer: The fragrance of shiuli flowers on an early autumn morning reminds him of the scent of the morning temple service and therefore of his mother.

5. How is the mother's gaze connected with the sky?

Answer: When the poet looks into the distant blue sky, he feels that the stillness of his mother's gaze has spread across it. The sky becomes a symbolic extension of her presence.

6. What is the emotional effect of the refrain 'I cannot remember my mother'?

Answer: It creates a feeling of absence and longing while the sensory memories show that the mother remains emotionally present.

7. Why is the poem enjoyable even though it has no fixed rhyme scheme?

Answer: Its repetition, sensory imagery, musical language and vivid natural images create rhythm and emotional beauty without a fixed rhyme scheme.

8. What is the tone of the poem?

Answer: The tone is tender, reflective and nostalgic.

9. What impact does the title have on the mood of the poem?

Answer: It immediately establishes a mood of loss and remembrance, which is developed through the sensory memories in the poem.

10. Why is 'I cannot remember my mother' used as a refrain?

Answer: Its repetition emphasises the lack of a clear direct memory while contrasting with the strong sensory memories that follow.

11. What symbols indicate the mother's presence?

Answer: The humming tune, the fragrance of shiuli flowers and the blue sky function as symbolic reminders of the mother.

12. What role does nature play in the poem?

Answer: Nature acts as a bridge between memory and emotion. Flowers and the sky help the speaker experience his mother's presence.

13. What can be inferred about the mother-child relationship?

Answer: The poem suggests a deep emotional bond. Even without a clear visual memory, sensory experiences continue to connect the speaker with his mother.

Part D – Extract-Based & Higher-Order Questions

Vitamin-M

1. What does the expression ‘you can even hear a leaf fall’ mean?

Answer: It means that Grandpa’s old surroundings were extremely quiet and peaceful.

2. Why does Grandpa object to being treated like a baby?

Answer: He has been independent for most of his life and had continued to cook, shop and manage his home. He therefore feels frustrated when his family assumes he cannot make decisions for himself.

3. Why was Ravi confused and embarrassed when his mother returned?

Answer: Grandpa said that he had a quiet morning but Ravi had disappeared. Ravi knew that he had secretly followed Grandpa and did not want to reveal it.

4. What does Grandpa’s final gift to Ravi reveal about his personality?

Answer: It shows that he is affectionate, observant and playful. The detective book is both a thoughtful gift and possibly a humorous clue that he knows about Ravi’s adventure.

I Cannot Remember My Mother

1. What emotion is conveyed by the hovering tune over the poet’s playthings?

Answer: Tender remembrance and nostalgia. The tune brings back an emotional connection with the mother.

2. What does the sky represent when the mother’s gaze is imagined as spreading over it?

Answer: It represents a symbolic extension of the mother’s presence and makes the memory feel vast and surrounding.

3. How does the poem use sensory imagery?

Answer: It uses sound through the humming tune, smell through the shiuli flowers and sight through the blue sky and the imagined gaze of the mother.

Quick Exam Revision

Prepare these questions especially carefully:

✓ Why did Grandpa come to live with Ravi's family?

✓ Why did Grandpa dislike city life?

✓ Give evidence that Grandpa's memory was not simply failing.

✓ Why did Ravi follow Grandpa?

✓ Was Ravi a good detective? Give arguments on both sides.

✓ Was Grandpa aware that Ravi followed him?

✓ Who needs Vitamin-M and why?

✓ Explain the irony in the title Vitamin-M.

✓ How does the story challenge assumptions about old age?

✓ How does the child's attitude change in The Lost Child?

✓ Why does the lost child reject sweets and other attractions?

✓ Explain the central idea of I Cannot Remember My Mother.

✓ Explain the significance of the refrain.

✓ How do the shiuli flowers, humming tune and sky preserve the mother's memory?

✓ How does nature contribute to the poem's emotional effect?

Source note: Questions and answers are based on the uploaded Class 9 English Kaveri Chapter 4 textbook, including its Check Your Understanding and Critical Reflection sections. Interpretive answers are model responses where the textbook invites reflection. ■filecite■turn77file2■ ■filecite■turn77file1■