

- **1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: Each question carries 1 mark.**

A hare was very popular with the other beasts who all claimed to be her friend, but one day she heard the hounds approaching and hoped to escape them with the help of her many friends. "What are friends for," she asked herself, "if not to help out in time of need?" Furthermore, most of her friends were big and brave, so at least one should be able to help. First she went to the horse, and asked him to carry her away from the hounds on his back. But he declined, stating that he had important work to do for his master. "I feel sure," he said, "that all your other friends will come to your assistance." She then applied to the bull, and hoped that he would repel the hounds with his horns. The bull replied: "I am very sorry, but I have an appointment with a lady. However, I feel sure that our friend the goat will do what you want." The goat, however, feared that his back might be harmed if he took her upon it. The ram, he felt sure, was the proper friend to apply to. So she went to the ram and told him the case. The ram replied: "Another time, my dear friend. I do not like to interfere on the present occasion, as hounds have been known to eat sheep as well as hares." The hare then applied, as a last hope, to the calf, who regretted that he was unable to help her. He did not like to take the responsibility upon himself, as so many older persons had declined the task. By this time the hounds were quite near, so the hare had to take to her heels. Luckily, she escaped.

1. What according to the hare is a real friend for?
 2. What made the hare approach her friends for help?
 3. What excuse did the horse make to the hare?
 4. How many friends did the hare approach for help?
 5. What does the expression 'the hare had to take to her heels, mean?
- The hare had to run for life,
 - The hare had a pain on its heel
 - The hare's heel was taken by the hounds
 - The hare had no heel

[**Answers:** 1. A real friend is to help out in time of need. 2. The hare heard the news of hounds approaching and she wanted to escape them with the help of his friends. 3. The horse made the excuse that he had important work to do for his master. 4. The hare approached her five friends. 5. The expression means that the hare had to run for life.]

- **2. Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences as in the example.**

Example:

Gave/sharp sigh/gazed/and/window/pane/at the/Vanka/a

(**Ans:** Vanka gave a sharp sigh and once more gazed at the window pane.)

- Oh!/ those /What / had been! / happy/ times
- Vanka/ paper/ the sheet / four /of / folded/ in
- Did/ see/ next / the / day/you /doctor?/ snake

[**Answers:** 1. Oh! What happy times those had been! 2. Vanka folded the sheet of paper in four. 3. Did you see the snake next day, doctor?]

➤ **3. Read the following conversation and answer the questions that follow.**

Doctor: Has a snake ever coiled round any part of your body?

Friend: I have never experienced it.

1. What did the doctor ask?
2. What did the friend reply?

[**Answers:** 1. The doctor asked whether a snake had ever coiled round any part of his body. 2. The friend replied that he had never experienced it.]

➤ **4. The doctor in the story ‘The Snake and the Mirror’ narrates the story to his children.**

*‘Dear Children,have I ever told you about my terrible encounter with a snake! I shall narrate it now. OnceContinue the **narration**.*

Face-to-Face With Death

Dear Children, have I ever told you about my terrible encounter with a snake? I shall narrate it now.

Once I was staying alone in a rented house far away from our house as part of my medical practice. It was a very old and unelectrified house with tiled roof. There were lots of rats staying with me in the house. One summer night around at ten o’clock while I was sitting on a chair, I heard a dull thud sound. I didn’t take it serious as I was familiar with such sounds usually made by rats. But it was quite an unusual sound as if a rubber tube fell down. Out of curiosity, I turned round to see what it could be. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder.

You know, it was a full-blooded cobra! It slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm. The hood being spread out, it stayed there only three or four inches away from my face. I was so frightened that I was turned to a stone image in flesh. I sat there holding my breath. If I moved, the snake would bite me. I felt ashamed of myself for not having kept any medicine in the room, though I was a doctor. If the snake struck me, what would I do? Desperately I thought of God and I wrote the words ‘O God’ on the wall of my heart.

Suddenly the snake turned its head and looked into the mirror on my table. Seeing its own reflection in the mirror it uncoiled from my arm and moved towards the mirror. It seemed as if it was looking into the mirror and enjoying its own beauty. Immediately, I rushed out of the room and ran till I reached my friend’s house. The next morning when we returned to the room, planning to collect all my belongings and move to a new house, we found that all my things had already been stolen by some thieves!

- **5. The doctor in the story ‘The Snake and the Mirror’ was very much frightened after his encounter with the snake. He writes his feelings in his diary. What would the diary entry be?**

**Wednesday, 20 June 2018
10:30pm**

Oh God, What a horrible night it was! Strange noise was nothing new in my room. So, I didn't take it serious when I heard a thud. Who thought it could be a cobra? When it coiled around my arm, I was literally turned to a stone. I knew death lurked three inches away from my face. It was my foolishness that I didn't keep any medicine in my room. If the snake struck me, what would I do? Thank God, what I feared didn't happen. The snake left me and slithered towards the mirror. What could be the thing that made it turn away from me? Perhaps my desperate call of God? Anyhow, It was a snake taken by its own beauty. I would say God saved me in the form of a mirror. When the cobra saw its own beauty in the mirror, it forgot everything else!

- **6. In an attempt to escape from the snake, the doctor in the story ‘The snake and the mirror’ lost his belongings. He writes a letter of complaint to the Inspector of police. Prepare the likely letter.**

**Villa No.7
Doctors' colony
Thrissur**

20 Jun2 2018

**The Inspector or Police
Town Police Station
Thrissur**

Dear Sir,

I am a homoeopathic doctor staying in the Doctors' Colony of Thrissur town. Last night I had a terrible experience. A full-blooded cobra fell on my shoulder and it kept me between death and life horribly for some time.

When I got a chance to escape from the snake, I rushed out of my room and took refuge in my friend's house. But this morning when I returned to my room to take my belongings, I found everything had been stolen.

I shall be greatly obliged and thankful to you, if you kindly take necessary actions to find out the thief and recover my belongings.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/

Dr. Mohammed Basheer

- **7. Imagine your school is going to observe the World Child Labour Day. Being the school leader, you are asked to prepare three slogans.**

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Child labour is child abuse for which you have no excuse.2. Children are to learn, not to earn; send them to school.3. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders; let them learn and lead. |
|--|

- **8. After posting the letter to his grandfather, Vanka reached home with rosy hopes. That evening he jotted down his feelings in his diary. But there are some errors. Edit Vanka's diary entry.**

How many days **take it will (a)** the letter to reach my Grandfather? Don't know....Anyway he will be very happy when he **receive (b)** my letter!! He will rush to pick me from here. Oh! God! Will he be able to rescue me **of(c)** this monster, Alyakhin? Oh! Grandad...please come fast, I am eagerly **wait (d)** for you.

[Answers: a) will it take b) receives c) from d) waiting]

- **8. Imagine that one of the neighbours of Vanka happened to see the tortures that Vanka suffered in Alyakhin's house. He decided to mail the sad plight of this nine year old to the Child Welfare Department. Draft the e-mail.**

From	Sender's email ID @email.com
To	Receiver's email ID @ email.com
Cc	
Bcc	
Subject	Boy Under Severe Torture

20 Jul 2018

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of Moscow town and neighbor of Alyakhin, the shoemaker.

Recently I happened to meet a nine year old boy namely Vanka who is an apprentice to the shoemaker Alyakhin. The boy explained to me his miseries at his work-place. Both the master Alyakhin and his wife treat him cruelly. The boy has to do all household chores in addition to the shoe making job. The senior apprentices also treat him badly. The boy does not get enough food or time to take rest. His life is worse than that of a dog under his cruel master.

I would like to bring to your kind attention the plight of this boy. He is a victim of the social evil of child labour. He has been denied his education and other human rights. I request you to do the needful to save the boy and bring the culprits under the law.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/

Name.

- ❖ **Note:** Email composing is like drafting letters. There are Formal and Informal variants and the rules pertaining to drafting various letters are to be followed in the case of emails as well. In place of the postal address of the sender and receiver, in an email the email IDs of the *Sender* and *Receiver* are used against **From** and **To** respectively. If a copy of the email is sent to another person other than the real recipient, his email ID is used in the CC column. If a copy is sent to a person without the knowledge of other recipients, that person's email ID is used in the BCC column.

From:	Sender's Email ID
To:	Recipient's Email ID
Cc:	If a copy is sent to another person, his/her Email ID. (Cc = Carbon Copy)
Bcc:	Copy to a person without the knowledge of others. Their ID. (Bcc = Blind Carbon Copy)
Subject:	Subject of the email message. (Should be concise and catchy)

- **9. The English Club members of your school is planning to make a short film based on the story, 'Vanka'. They are in search of a child artiste to play the role of 'Vanka'. Draft a notice inviting those who are interested to play the role. (Give necessary details)**

Child Artiste Wanted

Dear friends,

The English Club of our school has decided to make a short film based on the story 'Vanka'. As you know that the protagonist of the story is a nine year old boy, we are in need of a child artiste to play the role. Those who are interested and believe that they can act as Vanka may please contact the club secretary on or before 10 July 2018.

Details of the Role: The lead role

Physique of the Character: Normal built

Age: Nine years

Gender: Male

Height: 135CM

Weight: 30 Kg

**Secretary, English Club
ABC School, Kochi
20 June 2018**

- **10. There are some errors in the following sentences. Edit them.**

When the doctor was sitting **at** (a) a chair, a snake coiled up his arm. He tried to **stood** (b) up, but he couldn't. Then the snake **look** (c) into the mirror. It slithered to the mirror. The doctor ran to **their** (d) friends.

[Answers: a) on b) stand c) looked d) his]

- **11. The doctor in the story, 'The Snake and the Mirror' escaped the attack of the snake. He writes a letter to his mother about this experience. Prepare the likely letter.**

**Villa No. 7
Doctors' Colony
Thrissur.**

20 June 2018

Dear Mom,

How are you Mom? I hope you and dad are happy and doing well. I'm writing this letter in an excitement of a second life. You know why? Last night a strange thing happened. It was about ten o' clock in the night. I was sitting on a chair in my room. Suddenly I heard a thud as if something fell down from the roof. I didn't take it serious because such sounds were familiar to me. You know, there were lots of rats in my room and we were like roommates.

Out of curiosity to know about the sound, I just turned round to look. As soon as I turned a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. Mom, it was a full-blooded cobra. It spread out its hood and coiled on my left arm. Its head was only three or four inches away from my face. I was so frightened and was turned to a stone. Holding my breath I sat like a granite image. If I moved, the snake would bite me. I had no medicine in my room. If it struck me, what would I do?

Desperately I thought of God and wrote the words 'O God' on the wall of my heart. My dear Mom, you know, then a strange thing happened. The snake turned its head and looked into the mirror on my table. Seeing its reflection in the mirror, the snake left me and moved towards the mirror and stayed in front of it as if it was enjoying its own beauty. I took this chance to escape and ran out till I reached my friend's house.

Having planned to shift to a new house, this morning I returned to the room with my friend. But we found that some thieves had stolen all my things. I haven't lost anything valuable except some old clothes.

Mom, don't worry about me after reading this letter. I'll soon come to see you. Convey regards to dad and all others. Wishing all the best to both of you,

Yours lovingly,

Sd/

Basheer

- **12. The doctor in the story ‘The Snake and the Mirror’ ran to his friend’s house. His friend was surprised to see the doctor late in the night. Write the possible conversation in at least five exchanges.**

Friend: Hi doctor, good evening!

Doctor: Good evening! Give me some water to drink, please.

Friend: You look very scared! What happened to you?

Doctor: A cobra coiled on my arm.

Friend: What, a cobra! It didn’t bite you, did it?

Doctor: No, it didn’t. God saved me in the form of a mirror!

Friend: Oh my God, do you really mean a mirror?

Doctor: Yes, my friend. Seeing its reflection in the mirror the snake left me and moved towards the mirror.

Friend: If it had bitten you, what would we have done?

Doctor: I can’t even imagine. I didn’t have even any first aid medicines in my room.

Friend: Thank God, it didn’t hurt you! Anyway, don’t go there tonight. We can look for another house later.

Doctor: Yeah, thanks a lot!

- **13. ‘If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me!’**

The doctor in the story ‘The Snake and the Mirror’ usually presents things in a humorous manner. Analyse the humorous elements in the story and prepare a write up describing how the humour adds to the beauty of the story.

A Cobra and some Comedy

Vaikom Mohammed Basheer was a writer noted specially for his ability to use of humor even for serious matters. In the story ‘The Snake and the Mirror’, he tells the pathetic story of a poor doctor with a touch of humor.

The protagonist of the story, a homoeopath, is a young bachelor with high beauty consciousness. Even in the night time he looks into a mirror and appreciates his own beauty. He easily falls into a world of imagination and takes many serious decisions to make himself look more handsome. He decides to shave daily and keep a thin moustache. He will also keep an attractive smile always on his face.

The author humorously presents the doctor’s marriage dreams. The doctor is a poor person, and he wants to be rich by marrying a rich woman doctor having good medical practice. She should also be a fat lady. He has a valid reason for this. If he makes some silly mistakes and wants to escape from her, she should not be able to run after him and catch him.

His rosy dreams do not last long. A dreadful guest comes to his world of dreams in the form of a cobra, and it coils on his left arm. It turns out to be a life-threat lurking only three inches away from his face. Soon the comic character becomes a tragic one. Then a strange but funny thing happens. The cobra sees its reflection in a mirror on the doctor’s table. Attracted by its own beauty it leaves him. He gets a chance to escape and he runs for his life and reaches a friend’s house. The next morning even when he sees his things have been stolen, he cuts jokes and talks humorously. He says that the thief should not have insulted him by leaving behind a dirty vest. The fellow had a high sense of cleanliness. Otherwise, the rascal would have used it after washing it with soap and water.

The Beypore Sultan, the gifted Malayali writer, has succeeded in every sense in presenting the tragic story of a poor young man in a very attractive and comic way.

➤ **14. Complete the conversation suitably.**

- **Friend:** Doctor, you are worried,(a).....?
- **Doctor:** Yes, I had a terrible experience.
- **Friend:**(b).....
- **Doctor:** A snake curled on my arm.
- **Friend:**(c).....?
- **Doctor:** Yes. I was alone in the house.
- **Friend:** Did the snake bite you?
- **Doctor:** No,(d).....
- **Friend:** If I had been there,(e).....
- **Doctor:** I was terribly frightened.

[**Answers:** a) aren't you? b) What happened? c) Were you alone at home? d) The snake didn't bite me. e) I would have helped you.]

➤ **15. Complete the following passage choosing the right phrases given in brackets.**

Vanka _____ (a) his shirt and went to the place where the post box was kept. He _____ (b) to post the letter he had written. He walked quickly because he wanted to come back before his master and family _____ (c) from church. He had to _____ (d) the cold outside.

(made up his mind, put up with, turned up, put on, gave away)

[**Answers:** a) put on b) made up his mind c) turned up d) put up with]

➤ **16. Given below are some of the words that suit one of the characters in the story 'Vanka'. Identify the character and prepare the character sketch with the help of the words given in the box. (Cite suitable examples from the story)**

{Fun loving, caring, agile, bleary eyes, night watchman, lively, duty bound}

Konstantin Makarich – Vanka's beloved Grandfather

Vanka's grandfather, Konstantin Makarich, was a night watchman on the estate of Zhivarev. He was a small, lean, old man about sixty-five. He was very lively and agile with a smiling face and eyes bleary with drink. He was a fun loving person. In the day time he would sit joking with cooks and the kitchen maids. He was very much duty bound as well. In the night time, wrapped in a great sheepskin coat, he would walk round and round the estate sounding his rattle. He was a loving and caring grandfather. He loved his grandson Vanka very much. During the Christmas time, when they were together in the estate, they enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree and preparing celebrations. After Vanka's mother died, the grandfather sent him to Moscow to teach him a job. It shows that the grandfather was very much caring and was anxious about Vanka's future. Vanka's plight in Moscow was none of his faults. The old man did not anticipate such a miserable fate his grandson would have to face in his work-place.

➤ **17. A seminar on the topic ‘Child Labour - Still a Threat’ was conducted as per the programme chart given below. Read it carefully and prepare a report of the seminar.**

- ABC Govt. SCHOOL, CHINGELY
- SEMINAR
- Date: 28.07.17
- Venue: Multimedia Room
- Time: 9: 30 am
- PROGRAMME
- Prayer: School Choir
- Welcome Speech: Sri Agarwal, Headmaster
- Presidential Address: Sri Rajesh, Ward Councillor
- Inaugural Address: Sri Kailash Sathyarthi
- Papers presented by:
 - Swetha XA
 - John XB
 - Smitha XA
 - Renjith XC
- Interactive Session
- Vote of Thanks: Naveen, School Leader
- National Anthem: School choir

“Child Labour – Still a Threat”

Seminar conducted by ABC Govt. School, Chingely

ABC Govt. School, Chingeli conducted a seminar on the subject “Child Labour- Still a Threat” on 28 July 2017 at the School’s multi-media hall. The sessions started at 09:30 am with the prayer of the school choir.

The school Headmaster Sri. Agarwal welcomed all to the seminar. The ward councilor Sri Rajesh presided over the function. Sri. Kailash Sathyarthi inaugurated the seminar sessions and delivered an excellent speech emphasizing the necessity of eradicating child labour as a social threat and an injustice toward our children.

In the seminar four major papers were submitted and widely discussed. Miss. Swetha and Miss. Smitha of XA submitted two separate papers on the subject. Mstr. Renjith of X C and Mstr. John of XB also submitted their papers. The papers prepared the ground for an active and lively interactive session in the seminar. Finally, Mstr Naveen, the school leader, proposed vote of thanks and the seminar sessions were dispersed successfully with the National Anthem by the school choir.

Prepared/compiled by **Mahmud K Pukayoor** (englisheduspot.blogspot.com)