

Question 5.

Why couldn't Aliokhin bathe regularly despite having a good bathing shed?

Answer:

Aliokhin couldn't bathe regularly despite having a good bathing shed because he had no time.

Question 6.

How did Ivan respond to the rain?

Answer:

Ivan responded to the rain by plunging into the water with a splash. He swam about in the rain, flapping his arms, and sending waves back. He swam out to the middle of the pool and dived, trying to reach the bottom. He shouted with glee and said how delicious it was.

Question 7.

When did Ivan start narrating his story?

Answer:

After Ivan's bath they all went to the house. The lamp was lit in the large drawing-room upstairs. Bourkin and Ivan were dressed in silk dressing-gowns and wore warm slippers. They sat in chairs. Aliokhin was also washed and brushed. He wore a new frock-coat. He paced up and down. It was then that Ivan began his story.

Question 8.

How did the brothers spend their childhood after their father's death?

Answer:

After their father's death, the estate went to pay his debts. The children spent their childhood in the country. They were like peasants' children. They spent their days and nights in the fields and the wood. They minded the horses, took the bark of the lime trees and fished.

Question 9.

Comment on Ivan's view on the saying that a man needs only six feet of land.

Answer:

It is a common saying that a man needs only 6 feet of land, the land for his grave. But Ivan says 6 feet of land is for the corpse and not for a man. He needs much more.

Question 10.

“To leave town, and the struggle and swim of life, and go and hide oneself in a farmhouse is not life – it is egoism, laziness.” Do you agree?

Why?

Answer:

Yes, I agree. We have only one life. We should be able to make the best use of it. We should see the world a bit and we should make use of all the talents that God has given us. Hiding in a farmhouse, away from the hustle of bustle of life would be living like a frog in a well, not knowing what is going on outside.

Question 11.

What was the difference in the attitudes of Ivan and Nicholai towards life?

Answer:

Nicholai wanted to live in a farmhouse. He wanted to eat in the open air, sleep in the sun, and sit for hours together on a seat by the gate and look at the fields and the forest. He wanted garden walls, flowers, fruits, nuts, carp in the pond and such things. He was very fond of gooseberry bushes. Ivan did not have such an attitude. He also loved country life as he lived there as a child, but his love for it was not as passionate as his brother's.

Question 12.

What was Nicholai's dream?

Answer:

His dream was to live in the country, eating out in the open air, sleeping in the sun and sitting for hours together on a seat by the gate and gazing at the fields and the forest. He wanted to sit on the veranda drinking tea and watching his ducklings swim in the pond, and everything smelling good. His dream house always had a gooseberry-bush in it.

Question 13.

Mention some of the advantages of country life.

Answer:

Country life has many advantages. One can eat out in the open air, sleep in the sun and sit for hours together on a seat by the gate and gaze at the fields and the forest. One can sit on the veranda drinking tea and watch the ducklings swim in the pond and everything smells good. There is fresh air in the countryside and there is less dust, smoke and traffic noise. Country life is definitely healthier than city life.

Question 14.

'Fixed goals help us achieve success in life.'

What is your opinion?

Answer:

I fully agree with the statement that fixed goals help us achieve success in life. It is so because goals give a sense of direction to our work. Once we have the sense of direction and goals are fixed our work becomes goal-oriented and we can succeed in life.

Question 15.

What are the sacrifices Nicholai made to achieve his goal?

Answer:

To achieve his goal, Nicholai lived meagrely. He never had enough to eat or drink. He dressed almost like a beggar. He always saved the money and put it into the bank. He was terribly stingy. Ivan used to feel hurt seeing his brother like this and he used to give him money to go away for a holiday. But he would put that money also in the bank.



Question 16.

Nicholai had to buy an estate quite different from what he had dreamt of. But he did not grieve much. How would you behave in such a situation?

Answer:

I would feel very sad. After making so much of sacrifice for so long, if I could not get the kind of thing I had hoped for I would be grieved.

Question 17.

What were the 'good works' of Nicholai? How did he care for his peasants?

Answer:

Nicholai looked after his soul and did good works pompously. The good works included curing the peasants of all kinds of diseases with soda and castor-oil. On his birthday he would have a thanksgiving service held in the middle of the village. He would treat the peasants to half a bucket of vodka. He thought it was the right thing to do.