

Assignments in Communicative English Class-X (Term-I)

Section D: Literature

The Frog and the Nightingale

ASSIGNMENT 1

(Reference to Context – MCQs)

Read the following and choose the most appropriate option from the ones provided to you.

1. *Other creatures loathed his voice,
But, alas, they had no choice,
And the crass cacophony
Blared out from the sumac tree
At whose foot the frog each night
Minstrelled on till morning light*

(i) **Where did this creature live?**

- (a) It lived near the pond
- (b) It lived on the mountain
- (c) It lived under the sumac tree
- (d) It lived in a deep valley

(ii) **Why is his voice referred to as ‘crass cacophony’?**

- (a) It was boring
- (b) It was unmusical and loud
- (c) It had a weak voice
- (d) It had no control over his voice

(iii) **Why did he sing all night? How did his singing affect others?**

- (a) They were indifferent
- (b) They felt cheerful
- (c) They encouraged him all the more
- (d) They were irritated and felt a lot of discomfort

Answer : (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

2. *And a solitary loon
Wept, beneath the summer morn
Toads and teals and tiddlers, captured
By her voice cheered on, enraptured
‘Bravo!’ ‘Too divine!’ ‘Encore!’
So the nightingale once more.
Quite unused to such applause
Sang till dawn, without a pause.*

(i) **How did the nightingale reciprocate their compliments?**

- (a) She was indifferent
- (b) She was afraid of the fog
- (c) She was so happy that she sang till morning
- (d) She went back to her nest

(ii) **How did the solitary loon behave differently from others?**

- (a) he went to sleep
- (b) he clapped loudly

- (c) he gave lot of compliments
- (d) he wept

(iii) **Who are ‘toads, teals and tiddlers’?**

- (a) insects
- (b) big animals
- (c) amphibians like ducks and fish
- (d) animals which live in water

Answer : (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

3. *“Yes” the frog replied. “You see,
I’m the frog who owns this tree
In this bog I’ve long been known
For my splendid baritone
And, of course, I wield my pen
For Bog Trumpet now and then”*

(i) **What bits of information does the frog give to the listener?**

- (a) he was a leader
- (b) he was a writer and a singer
- (c) he was an agent
- (d) he was a trainer

(ii) **Give two reasons why the frog wants to make an impression on the nightingale?**

- (a) It is his nature, he wants to help her
- (b) He wishes to impress and exploit her
- (c) He wants to impress her and other animals of the bog
- (d) He is jealous of her popularity and wants to exploit her

(iii) **What does the frog’s speech reveal about his character?**

- (a) proud and conceited
- (b) a clever fellow
- (c) jealous and a cheat
- (d) appreciative of the nightingale’s talent

Answer : (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

4. *“You’ll remain a mere beginner
But with me you’ll be winner”.
“Dearest frog,” the nightingale
Breathed: “This is a fairy tale
And you’re Mozart in disguise
Come to earth before my eyes”*

“Well, I charge a modest fee”

“Oh!” “But it won’t hurt, you’ll see.”

- (i) **How does the frog plan to make the nightingale a winner?**
(a) by projecting her as a good singer
(b) by training her
(c) by publicity
(d) by charging tickets
- (ii) **Who was Mozart?**
(a) a famous artist
(b) a famous singer and musician
(c) writer of ‘Bog Trumpet’
(d) owner of tree
- (iii) **Which character-trait of the frog is evident here?**
(a) clever (b) deceitful
(c) shy (d) humble

Answer : (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

5. “And my dear, lay on more trills
Audiences enjoy such frills
You must make your public happier
Give them something sharper, snappier.
You must aim for better billings
You still owe me sixty shillings”.

- (i) **What is the speaker’s advice to the listener?**
(a) to sing loudly
(b) to add repetitive quick-paced notes
(c) to be more musical
(d) to sing during storm
- (ii) **Explain ‘better billings’.**
(a) better notes (b) better music

- (c) more money (d) more training
- (iii) **Why does the listener owe sixty shillings to the speaker?**
(a) for encouragement
(b) for guidance and training
(c) for appreciation
(d) for promoting her in the bog

Answer : (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

6. “Use your wits and follow fashion.
Puff your lungs out with your passion.”
Trembling, terrified to fail,
Blind with tears, the nightingale
heard him out in silence, tried,
Puffed up, burst a vein and died.

- (i) **The speaker appears to be angry. What is the reason for his anger?**
(a) Nightingale is too tired
(b) No one likes her singing
(c) Income from the concert has fallen sharply
(d) It is his nature
- (ii) **Why is she terrified?**
(a) She is afraid of failure
(b) She is afraid of the frog’s scolding
(c) She has become weak physically
(d) She cannot sing during rainy weather
- (iii) **What caused the death of the nightingale?**
(a) She was unhappy
(b) Her throat got choked
(c) A vein burst by too much exhaustion
(d) She had high fever.

Answer : (i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

ASSIGNMENT 2

(Reference to Context – NON-MCQs)

Read the following extracts and answer the following questions.

- (1) *And the whole admiring bog
Stared towards the sumac, rapt
And when she had ended, clapped
Ducks had swum and herons waded
to her as she serenaded*

- (a) What was the reaction of the nightingale’s song?

Ans : _____

- (b) Explain ‘serenaded’ and ‘rapt’.

Ans : _____

(c) How did the nightingale sing and make a difference to the frog's songs?

Ans : _____

(2) *“Not too bad - but far too long
The technique was fine of course
But it lacked a certain force”.*

(a) Why is the frog making the above comments?

Ans : _____

(b) What defects does he point out in the nightingale's songs ?

Ans : _____

(c) What was the reaction of the nightingale to the above comments ?

Ans : _____

(3) *Flushed with confidence and fired
with both art and adoration
song and was a huge sensation
... And the frog with great precision
counted heads and charged admission*

(a) How had nightingale charged after her success?

Ans : _____

(b) How did the frog make use of this situation?

Ans : _____

(c) What is the above lines reflect about the nightingale and the frog's temperament?

Ans : _____

(4) *For six hours, till she was shivering
and her voice was hoarse and quivering
Though subdued and sleep deprived
In the night her throat revived*

(a) Why had the nightingale come to this state?

Ans : _____

(b) How did she revive?

Ans : _____

(c) What would be the future of this kind of exertion?

Ans : _____

(5) *“And my dear, lay on more trills
Audiences enjoy such frills
You must make your public happier
Give them something sharper, snappier
We must aim for better billings”*

(a) What are the suggestions given by the frog for improvement?

Ans : _____

(b) Do you believe the frog's suggestions are justified?

Ans : _____

(c) What objective is there for the frog in giving the suggestions?

Ans : _____

(6) *At a voice so uninspired
And the ticket office gross
Crashed and she grew more morose
For her ears were now addicted
to applause quite restricted*

(a) Why did the crowd stop listening to the nightingale?

Ans : _____

(b) How did it affect the nightingale?

Ans : _____

(c) The nightingale is a typical artist. What character-trait of her is being reflected here?

Ans : _____

(7) *Well, poor bird - she should have known.
That your song must be your own
That's why I sing with panache*

(a) How does the frog express his sympathy?

Ans : _____

(b) What character-traits are reflected by the frog's comments?

Ans : _____

(c) Explain – 'panache'.

Ans : _____

ASSIGNMENT 3

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How was the frog in the poem, 'The Frog and the Nightingale' responsible for the death of the nightingale?

Ans : _____

2. "Artists thrive and flourish due to the admiration of their fans." Do you think this statement proves true in case of the nightingale? Discuss.

Ans :

3. In spite of the frog's singing the whole night, why did the creatures in the Bingle Bog hate him?

OR

How did the Bingle Bog creatures react to frog's song and the nightingale's song?

Ans :

ASSIGNMENT 4

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The nightingale was foolish and could be exploited. Explain in 100-125 words.

Ans :
