

STUDY MATERIAL 4

Sub: ENGLISH 'B'

Class: XII

Topic : THE EYES HAVE IT

Date: 14.05.2020

Textual Words & Meanings :

WORD	MEANING
1. Slippers	1. a comfortable loose and light slip-on shoes.
2. Registers	2 records.
3. Tellingly	3. significantly ;effectively.
4. Formidable	4. dreadful.
5. Creatures	5. living beings.
6. Log-fire	6. fire made of wood.
7. Deserted	7. lonely
8. Flattery	8. excessive and insincere praise.
9. Tantalize	9. torment or tease someone with the sight or promise of something that is unobtainable.
10. Plaited	10. a single length of hair made up of three or more interlaced strands ; plaited.
11. Stammer	11. speak with sudden involuntary pauses.
12. Lingering	12. lasting for a long time or slow to end.
13. Groan	13. make a deep inarticulate sound conveying pain ,despair etc.
14. Fascinating	14. extremely interesting.
15. Reverie	15. daydream.

Short Questions & Answers :

1. Who accompanied the narrator upto Rohana?

Ans. The narrator travelled alone in the entire compartment upto Rohana.

2 . At which station did the blind girl get into the train?

Ans. The blind girl got into the train at Rohana.

3. Who came to see the girl off ?

Ans. Probably the girl's parents came to see her off at the station.

4. What was the thing about the girl that drew the narrator's attention?

Ans. The sound of the girl's slippers drew the narrator's attention.

5. How did the narrator try to initiate a conversation with the girl?

Ans. The narrator tried to initiate a conversation with the girl by asking her about her destination.

6. Why didn't the girl notice the narrator at first?

Ans. The girl didn't notice the narrator at first as he was sitting in a dark corner.

7. Who would receive the blind girl at the destination?

Ans. The girl's aunt would receive the girl at Saharanpur station.

8. Was the narrator going directly to Mussoorie?

Ans. No, the narrator was going to Mussoorie via Dehra.

9. When do the hills look lovely according to Ruskin Bond?

Ans. According to Ruskin Bond the hills look lovely in October.

11. What compliment did the narrator give the girl who was his co-passenger?

Ans. The narrator complimented his co- passenger ,the girl , that she had an interesting face.

12. What detailed instruction did the woman give to the girl?

Ans. The woman gave the girl detailed instructions as to where to keep her things ,when not to lean out of the window and how to avoid speaking to strangers.

13 . What do the blind people or people with poor eyesight do?

Ans. People who cannot see or see very little have to take in only the essentials , whatever registers most tellingly on their remaining senses.

14. How do the hills of Mussoorie look in October?

Ans. In October , the hills of Mussoorie gets covered with wild dahlias. The sunshine becomes pleasant and at night one can sit in front of a log fire and drink a little brandy. The tourist season being over,

the roads become quiet and almost deserted.

15. How could the narrator confidently say that he could not see any animals outside?

Ans. The narrator was quite familiar with the area of Dehra and he knew that there was hardly any animal left in the forests near Dehra .So ,he said quite confidently said that he could not see any animals outside.

16. “That always happens” — What always happens?

Ans : It always happens that the passengers feel to be standing still in the moving train while the trees outside seem to be moving.

17. Why was the narrator unable to tell about the girl’s appearance?

Ans: The narrator was unable to tell anything about the girl’s appearance as he was completely blind at that time.

18. How did the narrator know that the girl wore slippers?

Ans: The narrator knew that the girl wore slippers from the sound that he heard as the slippers slapped against her heels.

19. Why did the girl consider the narrator to be too serious?

Ans: In order to conceal his blindness the narrator behaved in a very cautious way. Thus, watching the narrator’s measured movements both in words and deeds (spoke little and rarely laughed), the girl thought that the narrator was too serious.

20. What made the narrator feel troubled and lonely?

Ans: The thoughts that he won’t get to hear the girl’s voice and laughter again made the narrator feel troubled and lonely.

21. According to the narrator, what would be the effect of that sudden “brief encounter” between the girl and him?

22. Which sounds were heard by the narrator as the train drew slowly into the station?

Ans: As the train drew slowly into the station the narrator heard the shoutings of porters , vendors and a high-pitched female voice near the carriage door.

23. What game did the narrator play with his fellow- travellers?

Ans: The narrator tried to hide his blindness from the fellow-travellers .He pretended that he could see and it was a fascinating game for him to conceal his blindness to his co-passengers and also to guess the things

happening outside the window.

24. What did the narrator want to know from the new passenger?

Ans: The narrator wanted to know from the new passenger if the girl's hair was long or short.

25. What did the second fellow-passenger say to the blind narrator about the girl's eyes?

Ans: The second fellow passenger said to the blind narrator that the girl's eyes were beautiful but useless.

26. What is the surprise at the end of the story?

Ans: Throughout the journey the narrator had tried his level best to conceal his blindness from the girl. At the end of the story it came as a big surprise to the narrator as well as the readers to know that the girl too was blind.

Descriptive and Analytical Questions :

6 marks

a) "I'm tired of people telling me I have a pretty face".

Who said this to whom and when? What did the person spoken to reply?

1+1+2+2

Ans: The girl said the above line to the narrator when the narrator complimented her by saying that She had an interesting face.

In course of the journey the narrator had tried his level best to hide the fact that he was blind .He had daringly complemented the girl by saying that she had an interesting face .On hearing this the girl had laughed pleasantly and had commented that people mostly found her face to be pretty which she was tired of hearing .She seemed to be pleased on hearing the narrator's different comment. The girl had called the narrator 'gallant'.

b) " The voice had the sparkle of a mountain stream".

Identify the text. Who thinks so? Whose voice is referred to here? Why did the voice become so special ?

1+1+1+3

Ans: The above line has been extracted from Ruskin Bond's short story, "The Eyes Have It".

The narrator in the above mentioned story thought so.

The voice of the girl , whom the narrator met during his train journey is referred to here.

The narrator could not see the girl as he was blind. He only felt her presence through hearing. He liked her voice very much. He was prepared to sit there for any length of time to listen to her voice.

The narrator felt that her voice was as lively and delightful as the sparkle of a mountain stream.

c) "She would forget our brief encounter?"

Who said this and about whom? What is the brief encounter referred to here? Why did the speaker think so?

1+1+2+2

Ans: The narrator said this about the girl who travelled with him in the same compartment from Rohana to Saharanpur.

The lively conversation between the narrator and the girl about the beauty of the hills of Mussoorie in October, the view of landscape from the train's window between Rohana and Saharanpur has been described as the brief encounter.

The girl became relieved when the narrator informed her that her station will arrive soon. The narrator was ready and eager to sit in the train compartment for any length of time to hear the girl's voice. The journey that was cherished by him was of little importance to her. The narrator had a feeling that the girl would forget their brief encounter.

d. Comment on the ending of the story "The Eyes Have It" ?

Ans: It was through the eyes of the new co-passenger who boarded the train at Saharanpur that the narrator got to know that the girl was blind. From the very beginning the narrator had tried to conceal his blindness. The girl too had not revealed her blindness. Though none of them could see yet they perceived each other through their senses. The new traveller certainly changed the flow of thought of the narrator as well as the readers. The ending comes with a revelation and is open ended.

e) Do you agree that the story "The Eyes Have It" is a comment on 'seeing'? Give instances from the text.

Ans: The narrator of the above mentioned story is blind and thus he writes from a blind man's perspective and expresses his deep desire for vision. The narrator conceals his lack of vision by answering the questions asked by the girl by using his mind's eye. He uses sentences like "Have you noticed"? Another instance... "that the trees seem to be moving while we seem to be standing still." Even the blind narrator compliments the girl by saying that "You have an interesting face". He believed that his comment would make the girl feel that he was a normal sighted person. Throughout the story there are various instances to prove the narrator's desperation to perceive the girl through his eyes. The desire was so intense that even after the girl left, he asked his new fellow-traveller about the style of the girl's hair. He tried to create the girl's image in his mind with the help of all the available information about her. The entire story revolves round the narrator's desire to see, the desire to

defy his present state of blindness by using his other senses and his power of imagination. Thus, it can be rightly said that the above mentioned story is a comment on seeing.

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