

Answer Key

Class -VIII

Sec-A(Reading Section)

a) Two features that give the Baobab its unusual appearance are:

- 1. Its enormous, bulbous trunk.**
- 2. Its stunted branches that look like gnarled roots.**

b) The Baobab is called “an upside-down tree” because its branches look like roots spreading wide, and the tree remains without leaves for most of the year, making it appear as though it has been pulled out of the ground and replanted upside down.

c) According to the African Bushmen’s legend, God Thora disliked the Baobab growing in his garden. He tossed it over the wall of paradise to Earth, where it landed upside down but continued to grow.

d) Both tales explain the Baobab’s unusual upside-down appearance. In both stories, the tree is pulled up or thrown down and ends up growing upside down.

e) Baobabs are very difficult to kill because even when they are burnt, they form new bark and continue growing.

f) The Baobab creates its own ecosystem by supporting the life of countless creatures, from large mammals to tiny creatures that live in its numerous crevices.

g) The Baobab is called a “mother of life” because it supports and nurtures many forms of life and provides essential resources such as water and shelter in the harsh savannah.

h) If Baobabs were removed from the African savannah:

- 1. Many animals would lose an important source of food and shelter.**
- 2. Animals such as elephants and baboons would lose access to water and the tree’s fruit.**

i) The word meaning “twisted and rough” is “gnarled.”

j) The word that is an antonym of “destruction” is “conservation.”

Section -B (Creative Writing and Grammar)

Answer 2 and 3 Do it Yourself

4. Fill in the blanks

- a) the common people
- b) of India
- c) Each dance
- d) which it belongs

5. Change the following sentences into voice

- a) He is enjoying the party.
→ The party is being enjoyed by him.
- b) Had the mistake been repeated by Neelu?
→ Had Neelu repeated the mistake?

6. Choose the correct modals

- a) You should not waste water.
- b) She must be at home; I saw her leaving school.

7. Rearrange the words/phrases

- a) You cannot succeed unless you persevere.
- b) Students today hardly realise the importance of discipline.

Section-C (Literature)

8. Extract

- 1. Mary Dow Brine
- 2. The harsh winter weather has made the woman cold, weak and exhausted. She is bent because of the chill, and her aged feet move slowly on the wet, snowy street.
- 3. It suggests that the woman is old, worn out and weather-beaten. It reflects the hardships and difficulties she has faced in her life.
- 4. The poor boy was wearing a ragged shirt.
- 5. Imagery — “The street was wet with a recent snow.”

9. Answer the following questions

1. The merchant became suspicious because the four men behaved strangely and their appearance and actions did not seem trustworthy. This shows that he was observant, cautious and intelligent.

2. Major Somnath's last words reflected his courage, patriotism and unwavering sense of duty. He refused to withdraw despite being heavily outnumbered and decided to fight bravely until the last man and the last round.

3.Chief Brown was proud of his son because he displayed courage, determination and a strong sense of responsibility. His actions showed that he was willing to face difficulties bravely and uphold his duty.

4.Gopi's threat was justified because she wanted to protect herself and others from the Zamindar's unfair behaviour. I would have dealt with the situation calmly by seeking help from elders or resolving the matter peacefully.

5.Nolan and Devenport shared a deep bond of friendship and trust. Their closeness was evident from the way they understood and supported each other. Their relationship remained strong even when circumstances became difficult and challenging.

10.Long Question

I completely agree with Dr. Kurien's view that life is a privilege and should not be wasted. Every person gets opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to society. We should use our time and abilities wisely instead of spending our lives in laziness or meaningless activities. We should set meaningful goals, help others and make the best use of our talents. Even small efforts can create a positive difference. A purposeful life gives us satisfaction and enables us to leave behind something valuable for others.