

Chapter-2

Long Walk to Freedom solutions

Comprehension Check

1. Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone?

Answer

The ceremonies took place in the campus of the Union Building of Pretoria. The Parliament House in New Delhi, the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi and Madras High Court in Chennai are some examples of Indian public buildings that are made of sandstone.

2. Can you say how 10 May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa?

Answer

10 May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa because on this day there was the largest gathering of international leaders on South African soil for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

3. At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions "an extraordinary human disaster". What does he mean by this? What is the "glorious ... human achievement" he speaks of at the end?

Answer

By human disaster Mandela means to say that coloured people have suffered a lot due to discrimination in the hands of whites. He considered it as great glorious human achievement that a black person became the president of a country where the blacks are not considered as human being and are treated badly.

4. What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?

Answer

Mandela felt privileged to be the host to the nations of the world because not too long ago, the South Africans were considered outlaws. He thus thanked all the international leaders for having come to witness his investiture as President since this event could be considered as a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

5. What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?

Answer

Mandela set out the ideals of poverty alleviation, removal of suffering of people. He also set the ideal for a society where there would be no discrimination based on gender or racial origins.

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?

Answer

The highest military generals of the South African defence force and police saluted Mandela and pledged their loyalty. Their attitude towards blacks had taken great change. Instead of arresting a black they saluted him.

2. Why were two national anthems sung?

Answer

On the day of the inauguration, two national anthems were sung, one by the whites, and the other by the blacks. This symbolized the equality of blacks and whites.

3. How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country (i) in the first decade, and (ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?

Answer

(i) In the first decade of the twentieth century, the white-skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land, thus creating the basis of one of the harshest and most inhumane societies the world had ever known.

(ii) In the last decade of the twentieth century, the previous system had been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognized the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin.

4. What does courage mean to Mandela?

Answer

For Mandela courage does not mean the absence of fear but a victory over fear. According to him brave men need not be fearless but should be able to conquer fear.

5. Which does he think is natural, to love or to hate?

Answer

For Mandela, love comes more naturally to the human heart than hate.

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What “twin obligations” does Mandela mention?

Answer

Mandela mentions that every man has twin obligations. The first is to his family, parents, wife and children; the second obligation is to his people, his community and his country.

2. What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these “transitory freedoms” with “the basic and honourable freedoms”?

Answer

Like any other kid for Mandela also the freedom meant a freedom to make merry and enjoy the blissful life. Once anybody becomes an adult then antics of childhood looks like transitory because most of the childish activity is wasteful from an adult’s perspective. Once you are adult then someday you have to earn a livelihood to bring the bacon home, then only you get an honourable existence in the family and in the society.

3. Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/Why not?

Answer

Mandela does not feel that the oppressor is free because according to him an oppressor is prisoner of hatred, who is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. He feels that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity.

Thinking about the Text

1. Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration? What did it signify the triumph of?

Answer

The presence of large number of international leaders was a gesture of solidarity from international community to the idea of the end of apartheid. It signified the triumph of good over evil, the triumph of the idea of a tolerant society without any discrimination.

2. What does Mandela mean when he says he is “simply the sum of all those African patriots” who had gone before him?

Answer

Mandela wants to pay his tribute to all the people who had sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. he feels that he is the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before him because those heroes of yesterday years had paved the path of co-operation and unity for him. Therefore, he got the support of his people to be able to come to power to bring equality for his own people.

3. Would you agree that the “depths of oppression” create “heights of character? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument?

Answer

Yes, I agree that the “depths of oppression” create “heights of character”. Nelson Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of great heroes of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in the long freedom struggle. India is full of such examples. During our freedom struggle there was a galaxy of leaders of great characters. Probably the oppression of British rule created so many men of such characters. If we compare this with the quality of political leaders India is having today, then Nelson Mandela seems to be absolutely right.

4. How did Mandela’s understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Answer

With age Nelson Mandela realised that he had a lot of responsibilities of his people, his community and his country. As a boy, Mandela did not have a hunger for freedom because he thought that he was born free. He believed that as long as he obeyed his father and abided by the customs of his tribe, he was free in every possible manner. He had certain needs as a teenager and certain needs as a young man. Gradually, he realized that he was selfish during his boyhood. He slowly understands that it is not just his freedom that is being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. It is after attaining this understanding that he develops a hunger for the freedom of his people.

5. How did Mandela's 'hunger for freedom' change his life?

Answer

Mandela realized in his youth that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. The hunger for his own freedom became the hunger for the freedom of his people. This desire of a non-racial society transformed him into a virtuous and self-sacrificing man. Thus, he joined the African National Congress and this changed him from a frightened young man into a bold man.

Thinking about Language

I. There are nouns in the text (*formation, government*) which are formed from the corresponding verbs

(*form, govern*) by suffixing – (*ation* or *ment*). There may be change in the spelling of some verb – noun

pairs: such as *rebel, rebellion; constitute, constitution*.

1. Make a list of such pairs of nouns and verbs in the text.

Noun Verb

rebellion rebel

constitution constitute

Answer

Noun Verb

Rebellion Rebel

Constitution Constitute

Formation Form

Government Govern

Obligation Oblige

Transformation Transform

Discrimination Discriminate

Deprivation Deprive

Demonstration Demonstrate

Oppression Oppress

Imagination Imagine

2. Read the paragraph below. Fill in the blanks with the noun forms of the verbs in brackets.

Martin Luther King's _____ (contribute) to our history as an outstanding leader began when he came to

the _____ (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white

passenger. In those days American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizenship by restrictive

laws and customs. To break these laws would mean _____ (subjugate) and _____ (humiliate) by

the police and the legal system. Beatings, _____ (imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who

defied the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent _____ (resist) to racial

injustice.

Answer

Martin Luther King's **contribution** (contribute) to our history as an outstanding leader began when he came to

the **assistance** (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white

passenger. In those days American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizenship by restrictive

laws and customs. To break these laws would mean **subjugation**(subjugate) and **humiliation** (humiliate) by the

police and the legal system. Beatings, **imprisonment**(imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who defied

the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent **resistance** (resist) to racial injustice.

II. Here are some more examples of 'the' used with proper names. Try to say what these sentences mean.

(You may consult a dictionary if you wish. Look at the entry for 'the')

1. Mr Singh regularly invites the Amitabh Bachchans and the Shah Rukh Khans to his parties.
2. Many people think that Madhuri Dixit is the Madhubala of our times.
3. History is not only the story of the Alexanders, the Napoleons and the Hitlers, but of ordinary people as well.

Answer

1. This means that Mr Singh regularly invites famous personalities such as Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan to his parties.
2. This means that Madhuri Dixit is compared to a landmark in acting in the form of legendary actress Madhubala.
3. This means that history is not only the story of the great fighters and leaders such as Alexander, Napoleon and Hitler, but also of ordinary people.

III. Match, the italicised phrases in Column A with the phrase nearest meaning in Column B. (Hint: First

look for the sentence in the text which the phrase in column A occurs.)

A B

1. I was not unmindful of the fact. (i) had not forgotten: was aware of the fact
(ii) was not careful about the fact
(iii) forgot or was not aware of the fact

2.

When my comrades and I were pushed to our limits

(i)

pushed by the guards to the wall

(ii) took more than our share of beatings

(iii)

felt that we could not endure the suffering any longer

3. To reassure me and keep me going (i) make me go on walking

(ii)

help me continue to live in hope in this very difficult situation

(iii) make me remain without complaining

4.

The basic and honourable freedoms of ... earning my keep...

(i)

earning enough money to live on

(ii) keeping what I earned

(iii) getting a good salary

Answer

A B

1. I was *not unmindful of* the fact (i) had not forgotten; was aware of the fact

2.

When my comrades and I *were pushed to our limits*

(iii)

felt that we could not endure the
suffering any longer

3. To reassure me and *keep me going* (ii)
help me continue to live in hope in
this very difficult situation

4.

The basic and honourable freedoms of
...earning my keep...

(i) earning enough money to live on

Chapter-3

Two Stories about Flying solutions

Thinking about Text

1. **Why was the young seagull afraid to fly? Do you think all young birds are afraid to make their first flight, or are some birds more timid than others? Do you think a human baby also finds it a challenge to take its first steps?**

Answer

The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was its first flight. It is a well known fact that doing something for the first time is challenging. Therefore, all young birds must be afraid to make their first flights. Similarly, a human baby would also find it a challenge to take its first step.

2. **“The sight of the food maddened him.” What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?**

Answer

The young seagull was very hungry. It was this hunger that ultimately compelled it to fly. Its hunger only intensified when it saw its mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her feet. It cried to her, begging her to get some food. When its mother came towards it with food in her beak, it screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway. It wondered why she

did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control its hunger any longer, it dived at the food

in its mother’s beak. At that moment, his hunger overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea

beneath the cliff. Finally, this plunge was followed by the natural reaction of its body, i.e., to fly.

3. **“They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. “Why did the seagull’s father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?**

Answer

The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even when it saw its brothers and sisters flying, and its parents helping and teaching them, it could not gather enough courage to make that first flight. That is why its father and mother were calling to it shrilly and scolding it. They threatened to let it starve on its ledge if it did not fly. They did so because they wanted it to leave its fear behind and learn to fly.

The Black Aeroplane

By Fredrick Forsyth

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Thinking about the Text

1. **“I’ll take the risk.” What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?**

Answer

The risk was to fly through the black storm clouds. The narrator took the risk because he wanted

to reach Paris to celebrate Christmas with his family.

2. **Describe the narrator’s experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.**

Answer

As he flew into the storm, everything went black. It was impossible to see anything outside the plane. It jumped and twisted in the air. When he looked at his compass, he saw that it was turning round and round. It was dead. Along with it, the other instruments, including the radio, were also dead. Suddenly, he saw another aeroplane. Its pilot waved at him, asking him to follow. He was glad to find a helper. He was using his last fuel tank and there was only enough fuel to fly five or ten minutes. Then, the other pilot started to go down and he followed. He suddenly came out of the clouds and saw the runway, on which he then landed his plane safely.

3. **Why does the narrator say, “I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota...”?**

Answer

He was delighted to land safely out of dark stormy clouds, therefore, he was not sorry to walk away for his plane. He felt bad, when he was no able to thank his guide, his mentor who saved him from from frightening situations, but he was so happy after landing that he didn't feel sorry for not being able to thank the guide pilot.

4. What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

Answer

The women in the control room was surprised when the narrator asked about the other aeroplane and its pilot. She said that there was no areoplane seen on the radar.

5. Who do you think helped the narrator to reach safely? Discuss this among yourselves and give reasons for your answer.

Answer

Probably, it was the narrator's own self that helped him through the storm. There was no other plane in the storm as the woman at the control centre could see only his plane on the radar.

Also,

no other plane was flying that night. In his fear, he might have been hallucinating. He was a good

pilot, and it might have been his own self that came to his help.

Thinking about the Language

1. Try to guess the meanings of the word 'black' in the sentences given below. Check the meanings in the dictionary and find out whether you have guessed right.

1. Go and have a bath; your hands and face are absolutely *black*_____.
2. The taxi-driver gave Ratan a *black* look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green._____
3. The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the *blackest* crimes against humanity. _____
4. Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's *black* comedy._____
5. Sometimes shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell these in *black*. _____
6. Villagers had beaten the criminal *black* and blue. _____

Answer

1. The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the face and hands are dark with dust and heat.
2. Here, 'black' refers to an angry look.
3. Here, 'blackest' refers to the darkest and cruellest crime against humanity.
4. Here, 'black' refers to dark and gloomy comedy.
5. The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the shopkeepers sell the described goods 'at a higher price'.
6. Here, 'black' means that the criminal suffered excessive beating at the hands of the villagers.

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2. Match the phrases given under Column A with their meanings given under Column B:

A

B

1. Fly a flag – Move quickly/suddenly
2. Fly into rage – Be successful
3. Fly along – Display a flag on a long pole
4. Fly high – Escape from a place
5. Fly the coop – Become suddenly very angry

Answer

A B

1. Fly a flag – Display a flag on a long pole
2. Fly into rage – Become suddenly very angry
3. Fly along – Move quickly/suddenly
4. Fly high – Be successful
5. Fly the coop – Escape from a place
3. We know that the word 'fly' (of birds/insects) means to move through air using wings.

Tick the words which have the same or nearly the same meaning.

swoop flit paddle flutter

ascend float ride skim

sink dart hover glide

descend soar shoot spring

stay fall sail flap

Answer

The words which have the same or nearly the same meaning as 'fly' are as follows:

swoop, flit, float, dart, soar, hover, sail skim, glide, flutter