**QUESTION BANK**

**B. A. SEMESTER I**

**UNIT - I**

**PROSE**

**1 IN SAHYADRI HILLS, A LESSON IN HUMILITY**

**Short Answer Questions**

1. Discuss the relevance of the title : `In Sahyadri Hills, A Lesson in Humility.’
2. Who is the Thandappa? What is his importance in the tribal community?
3. Describe SudhaMurty’s journey to the school in the tribal village in the Sahyadri Hills?
4. Describe the school SudhaMurty visited.
5. What did the watchman-cum-poen tell the writer about the school?
6. What problems of the school did the Thandappa present before the writer?
7. Describe SudhaMurty’s first meeting with the Thandappa.
8. What changes in landscape did the writer observe when she visited the school for the second time?
9. `There is grace in accepting also.’ Explain the statement in the context of the story.
10. Describe SudhaMurty’s second meeting with the Thandappa.
11. What is the author’s attitude towards the tribal community she encounters? Does it change as the narrative progresses? Discuss.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Where are the Sahyadri Hills situated?
2. Who are the Thandas?
3. Why were the Thanda people reluctant to talk to the writer?
4. Why was the watchman-cum-peon not a paid employee of the school?
5. What problems did the school face, according to the Thandappa?
6. What gifts did Murthy bring when she visited the school in winter?
7. What did the children of the tribal village want from Murty?
8. What gift did the Thandappa offer to the writer?
9. When was Murty shocked, embarrassed and humbled?

**2 UNCLE PODGER HANDS A PICTURE**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Find out from the hints given in the story how many people lived in Uncle Podger’s house?
2. List the accessories and tools that Uncle Podger needed/used to hang the picture.
3. Is Uncle Podger accident-prone? Give examples.
4. What was Uncle Podger’s wife reaction to all the commotion?
5. Did Uncle Podger finally manage to hang the picture? Could his efforts be termed a success? Defend your answer with evidence from the text?
6. Write a character-sketch of Uncle Podger?
7. What is the attitude of the author to the nature and habits of Uncle Podger? How can you tell?
8. Describe how the whole family got involved in putting up the picture.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What did the Uncle Podger ask his wife not to worry about?
2. What did Uncle Podger send his daughter out for?
3. Why did Jim go to Mr. Goggles?
4. Who was Mr. Goggles?
5. Why was Uncle Podger unable to find his handkerchief?
6. When did Uncle Podger call all the others `fools’?
7. Why did the piano strike all the notes at the same time?
8. What time around did the picture finally go up on the wall?

**UNIT – II**

**POETRY**

1. **WHERE THE MIND IS WITHOUT FEAR**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What are some of the qualities that a land of freedom should have, according to Tagore?
2. How does Tagore speak of sectarianism and communalism in the poem?
3. How does this poem achieve meaning in the context of the freedom struggle?
4. What does Tagore say about stagnation and decay of the mind?
5. How would you read this poem as a prayer? Give reasons for your answer.
6. Write a note on Tagore’s concept of “the heaven of freedom”.
7. Is this the song of a patriot? Give reasons for your answer.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What does Tagore mean by “narrow domestic walls”?
2. How can people achieve perfection?
3. What importance does Tagore ascribe to knowledge, truth and reason?
4. Why does the poet repudiate the idea of narrow domestic walls?
5. What type of strength does the poet pray for?
6. **THE TOYS**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Why did the speaker (the poet) punish his son?
2. What did the speaker (the poet) see when he went to see his son later?
3. Why had the boy put out all of his toys?
4. Explain the phrase, `of what toys/ We made our joys.’
5. What are the two personae that the speaker (the poet) takes on in `The Toys’.
6. What does the speaker learn from his experience as a father?
7. Why do you think God `will be sorry for their childishness’?
8. What do you understand of the speaker’s conception of religion from the poem?

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. How does the poet describe the little boy’s eyes?
2. How many times did the boy disobey his father?
3. How was the little boy punished?
4. What does the poet say about the little boy’s mother?
5. Why did the father go up to see his son?
6. What was the father’s reaction when he visited his son?

**UNIT – III**

**SHORT STORY**

**1 WHY I WANT A WIFE**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. What is the wife supposed to do with regard to the bringing up of the children and taking care of the family?
2. What are the responsibilities of a wife towards her husband as implied in `Why I Want a Wife’?
3. What is the code of conduct recommended for wives when guests arrive?
4. Comment on the strictures laid on the wife with regard to her physical relationship with her husband.
5. Why is it not considered acceptable that a wife interferes with her husband’s activities.
6. What are the specific duties of a wife that belittle her freedom or individuality?
7. Which are the duties expected of a wife that clearly show gender discrimination?

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Why does the woman impersonate (pretend to be) a person who needs a wife even though she is one herself?
2. What are some of the advantages that the woman would have if she possessed a wife?
3. What are the duties that a wife needs to perform for the sake of the children in the family?
4. How will the presence of a wife enable the woman in handling the culinary (related to cooking) needs of the family?
5. How will the presence of a wife help tackle the sexual needs of the woman?

**THE SELFISH GIANT**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Describe the Selfish Giant’s garden.
2. How did the children feel after the Giant walled off the garden?
3. Why did the garden fall into a perpetual winter?
4. How and when did spring return to the garden?
5. How did the selfish giant turn into a selfless one?
6. What happened when the Giant put the little boy up in the tree?
7. Why did the Giant say, “the children are the most beautiful flowers of all”?
8. Describe the experience of Jesus the writer had.
9. Describe the experience of Jesus the writer had.
10. Comment on the title of the story.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1. Why did the Giant build a high wall around the garden?
2. Who were the only two who were happy to see that there were no children in the garden?
3. Why did the little boy not run away when the Giant came out into the garden?
4. What made the giant say, “It is your garden now, little children?
5. Who came to visit the garden of the Giant at the last to take him to paradise after his death?
6. What is the moral of the story, “the Selfish Giant”?
7. Why was the Giant away from his castle for seven years?
8. What was the dominant trait in the Giant’s character?
9. What was the Giant really very sorry for?
10. Why did the winter not come to the Giant’s garden?
11. When did the Giant’s heart melt?
12. When did the children realize that the Giant was not wicked any longer?
13. Why did the little boy take the Giant with him to Paradise?

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