



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: Grade 8	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: April 2024
Worksheet No: 1	Topic: The Best Christmas Present in the World: Michael Morpurgo QUESTION BANK	Note: English Notebook

Vocabulary

Scorch marks- burn marks

Veneer- a thin layer of plastic or decorative wood on furniture of cheap wood

Taken their toll on- damaged

Stuck fast- shut tight

Scruples- feelings that make you hesitate to do something wrong

Standing to- take up positions

Trenches- long deep ditches in the ground where the soldiers hide from the enemy

Schnapps- a German drink made from grain

Cello- a musical instrument played like violin

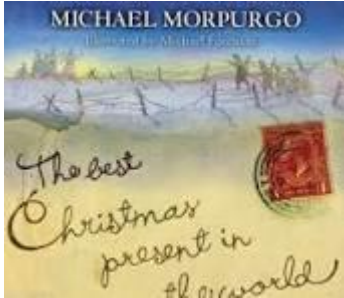
Marzipan- a sweet covering on a cake made of sugar, eggs and almonds

Boarded up- covered with wooden boards

Muddle headed- confused

Suffused with- (glow of happiness) spread all over her face





Answer the following questions in brief:

Question 1: Why was the letter written—what was the wonderful thing that had happened?

Answer: The letter was written to describe an unusual thing/event that happened on the Christmas eve at the battlefield. Both the enemies celebrated the eve in the ferocity of war. They enjoyed together with German drinks and sausage. And their carols were praised by each other. It was this

wonderful event that had happened on the battlefield.

Question 2: What jobs did Hans Wolf and Jim Macpherson have when they were not soldiers?

Answer: Jim Macpherson was a school-teacher whereas Hans Wolf used to play a cello in the orchestra.

Question 3: Had Hans Wolf ever been to Dorset? Why did he say he knew it?

Answer: No, he had never been to Dorset. He learned about the place from school and reading books in English

Question 4: Do you think Jim Macpherson came back from the war? How do you know this?

Answer: Jim Macpherson did not return from the war. On the tin box, it was written in a clumsy handwriting: "Jim's last letter, received January 25, 1915. To be buried with me when the time comes." This line supports our answer.

Question 5: Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?

Answer: The desk, I think, must have been sold when the house got fire. As it was badly burnt, it must have been sold to a junk dealer by Mrs. Macpherson. She left then the place to live in a Nursing Home.

Question 6: Why do Jim and Hans think that games or sports are good ways of resolving conflicts? Do you agree?

Answer: As no one dies in a game or sport, it can be a right way to resolve conflicts between the two nations or societies. Sports don't make children orphan and nor make wives widows. I agree with this concept of resolving conflicts. It would be better for humanity.

Question 7: Do you think the soldiers of the two armies are like each other, or different from each other? Find evidence from the story to support your answer.

Answer: Soldiers are like each other and they are not at all different. Both wanted peace and harmony. They enjoyed wine and meat together, celebrated Christmas on the battlefield. Moreover, they played football. At night they applauded each other by singing carols. Hans Wolf

also narrated that each soldier wished for the fight to end soon so that they could go home. They even wanted to resolve the conflicts by sports.

Q8. What is Connie’s Christmas present? Why is it “the best Christmas present in the world”?

Ans: When the narrator came to see Connie and gave her the box, she mistook him for her husband Jim. She thought that Jim has come home for Christmas. This was Connie’s Christmas present. It was the best Christmas present in the world for her because Jim had written in the letter that he would come home on Christmas. She had read that letter several times every day to feel that he was near her. Now that he was finally there with her, she was extremely happy.

Reference to Context

Passage 1

I removed the roll-top completely and pulled out the drawers. The veneer had lifted almost everywhere it looked like water damage to me. Both fire and water had clearly taken their toll on this desk. The last drawer was stuck fast. I tried all I could to ease it out gently. In the end I used brute force. I struck it sharply with the side of my fist and the drawer flew open to reveal a shallow space underneath, a secret drawer.

Question 1: Who is ‘I’ in the above passage?

Ans: ‘I’ is the narrator in the above passage

Question 2: What does ‘it’ denote in the above lines?

Ans: ‘It’ denotes a roll-top desk.

Q3. What was the condition of the desk?

Ans: The desk was damaged with water and fire.

Q4. Where did he find a secret drawer?

Ans: He found the secret drawer underneath the last drawer which was stuck up badly.

Q5. Find out the word/phrase that means the same for the given word

Freedom from pain-ease out

Of little depth-shallow

Passage 2

I should like to be able to tell you that we began it. But the truth, I’m ashamed to say, is that Fritz began it. First someone saw a white flag waving from the trenches opposite. Then they were calling out to us from across no man’s land, “Happy Christmas, Tommy! Happy Christmas!” When we had got over the surprise, some of us shouted back, “Same to you, Fritz! Same to you!” I thought that would be that. We all did. But then suddenly one of them was up

there in his grey coat and waving a white flag. "Don't shoot, lads!" Someone shouted. And no one did. Then there was another Fritz up on the parapet, and another. "Keep your heads down," I told the men, "It's a trick." But it wasn't.

Qs 1. What did the writer mean by 'we began it'?

Ans: German soldiers were the first to invite the British soldiers for the Christmas celebrations. In the above passage 'we began it' refers to the Tommy's or the British army.

Q2. What was the symbolic meaning of a 'white flag'?

Ans: The white flag was a symbol of peace

Q3. Where were the soldiers sitting?

Ans: The soldiers were sitting in the trenches

Q4. What did the German soldiers wish them?

Ans: The German soldiers wished them 'Happy Christmas'

Q5. Why did they call each other 'Fritz' and 'Tommy'?

Ans: 'Fritz' means a German soldier and 'tommy' was a common name for a British soldier.

Passage 3

The old lady was sitting in a wheelchair, her hands folded in her lap. She had silver white hair pinned into a wispy bun. She was gazing out at the garden. "Hello:, I said. She turned and looked at me vacantly. "Happy christmas, Connie", I went on. "I found this. I think it's yours." As I was speaking her eyes never left my face. I opened the tin box and gave it to her. That was the moment her qyes lit up with recognition and her face became suffused with a sudden glow of happiness. I explained about the desk, about how I had fond it, but I don't think she was listening. For a while she said nothing, but stroked the letter tenderly with her fingertips.

Q1. Who was the old lady sitting in a wheel chair?

Ans: The old lady, sitting in a wheelchair was Mrs. Macpherson.

Q2. What made her eyes light up?

Ans: Connie's eyes lit up with recongnition as she mistook the narrator to be her husband who had promised her that one day he would return from war. Her face became suffused with a sudden glow of happiness.

Q3. What wasn't she listening to?

Ans: Mrs. Macpherson wasn't listening to what the narrator was telling her.

Q4. Explain 'suffused' with

Ans: Suffused with is a glow of happiness that spread over the face of Connie who was too old and weak. She misook the narrator to be her husband and smiled.

MCQs Multiple Choice Questions

Question 1.

Who does 'Tommy' refer to?

- (a) Germans
- (b) Britishers
- (c) Shepherds
- (d) Indian

Answer:

- (b) Britishers

Question 2.

I began work on it on Christmas Eve. What does 'it' refer to?

- (a) garage
- (b) desk
- (c) raincoat
- (d) letter

Answer:

- (b) desk

Question 3.

Which date was written at the top of the letter?

- (a) 26 December, 1914
- (b) 26 December, 1919
- (c) 26 December, 1910
- (d) 26 December, 1929

Answer:

- (a) 26 December, 1914

Question 4.

Who wrote the letter and to whom?

- (a) Jim to Connie
- (b) Connie to Hans
- (c) Connie to Morris

(d) Jim to Hans

Answer:

(a) Jim to Connie

Question 5.

What was Jim doing before joining the army?

- (a) Painter
- (b) Architect
- (c) School teacher
- (d) Cello player

Answer:

(c) School teacher

Question 6.

Where was football match played between both the armies ?

- (a) in a football ground
- (b) in a trench
- (c) on the war field
- (d) none of the above

Answer:

(c) on the war field

Question 7.

Where was Burlington House situated at?

- (a) on Lincoln road
- (b) on Dorchester road
- (c) on Henry road
- (d) on Clyodd road

Answer:

(b) on Dorchester road