



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2024-25)
CLASS – X
QUESTION BANK – GLIMPSES OF INDIA-
III. TEA FROM ASSAM - by Arup Kumar Datta

SUMMARY

The last story begins with two friends, Rajvir and Pranjol travelling to Assam. On their way, they buy the tea from a vendor. While sipping the tea, Rajvir tells Pranjol that people drink over 800,000,000 cups of tea throughout the world in a day. While Rajvir is looking at the beautiful and serene scenery, Pranjol is busy reading detective book. There were tea-bushes all over as far as one could see. They also saw a building in a tea garden.

Assam has the largest tea plantations and no one knows who discovered the tea for the first time. But there are many legends associated with it. According to a Chinese legend, a few branches of tea fell accidentally in the boiled hot water. The Emperor liked the delicious flavour. This is how it came into being. According to an Indian legend, the Buddhist Monk, Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids to avoid sleep during meditation. About ten tea plants grew out of these and thus, they banish sleep when put in hot water and drink it. Both of them got down at Mariani Junction and went to Dhekiabari Tea Estate. There they saw women plucking tea leaves.

Pranjol's parents had come to receive them and take them to their tea garden. On their way, they passed a cattle bridge and gave way to a truck filled with tea leaves which drew their attention to the fact that it was the second sprouting season. Rajvir, indeed did a lot of study before coming which impressed Pranjol's father and he intended to learn a lot more.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. Why was Rajvir excited to see the tea gardens? OR What made Rajvir amazed on the way?

Ans. Rajvir found the view outside the train splendid and eye catching with a lot of greenery. It was his first visit to Assam and he was fascinated by the sprawling tea gardens, spreading like the green sea of neatly pruned bushes and found it more interesting to watch, then reading his book on detectives.

Q2. How did Rajvir describe the view from the train?

Ans. Rajvir described the magnificent view of the landscape from the train window. It was a sea of tea bushes, fleeting against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, at odd intervals, there were tall shade-tree and one could see women tea-pluckers picking tea leaves, who appeared to be doll like figures.

Q3. What information was given by Pranjol's father to Rajvir about Assam Tea Estate?

Ans. Pranjol's father agreed to Rajvir's information about it being the second-flush or sprouting period and it lasted from May to July and yields the best tea.

Q4. What legends are associated with the origin of tea?

Ans. According to Chinese legend, there was a Chinese emperor who had the habit of boiling water before drinking it. Once, a few twigs of the leaves burning under the pot fell into the water and gave it a delicious flavour. Those leaves were tea leaves. According to the Indian legend, Bodhidharma cut off his

eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation and threw them on the earth. Ten tea plants grew out of those eyelids. When he boiled them in water and drank that water, it banished his sleep.

Q5. How did Rajvir describe, the tea garden at Dhekiabari?

Ans. Rajvir's visit to Dhekiabari, where Pranjol's father worked as a manager, was a novel experience and he found it extremely fascinating. As they proceeded along the gravel road, with neatly pruned sea of tea bushes spreading over acres of land, he saw groups of tea-workers, wearing plastic aprons and baskets of bamboo sticks on their back, picking newly sprouted tea leaves.

Q6. Describe the magnificent views of tea estate with reference to the lesson "Tea from Assam".

Ans. The view around the tea estate was magnificent. There was greenery all round. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures of tea-pluckers.

Q7. How has tea become a popular beverage?

Tea is decidedly a very popular beverage in the world. More than eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. At every platform in India, you can hear vendors crying "Chai-garam". The people can't resist buying the steaming hot cups of tea.

Q8. How and where are tea leaves collected in Assam?

Ans. Assam has the largest number of tea estates in India. Acre upon acre of tea bushes is stretching as far as the eyes can go. All the bushes are pruned to the same height. Groups of tea pluckers carry bamboo basket on their back to collect tea-leaves. They wear plastic aprons. They pluck the newly-sprouted tea leaves from, the bushes. Then the leaves are dried and processed in factories.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. What are different legends related to tea?

Tea was first drunk in China as far back as 2700 B.C. In fact, words like 'Chai' and 'Chinni' came from Chinese. According to one Chinese legend, there was a Chinese emperor. He always boiled water before drinking it. One day, some leaves from the twigs burning under the pot fell into the boiling water. The leaves gave a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tea leaves. We have an Indian legend too about the discovery of tea leaves. Bodhidharma was an ancient Buddhist ascetic. It is said that he cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. It is said that ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep. In Europe, tea came as late as the sixteenth century. It was drunk more like medicine than a beverage.

Q2. Rajvir seemed to have a lot of information about tea. What all does he tell?

What character trait about him is revealed? Is it essential for children?

Answer: Rajvir had been invited to spend his vacations with his classmate Pranjol whose father was the manager of a tea estate in Assam. He was quite excited about the trip and had gathered considerable amount of information about where tea originated and how it became such a popular beverage. He informs that about 50 crore cups of tea are consumed daily and that the name tea itself has originated from Chinese. He narrates two popular legends about the origin of tea. Rajvir exhibits an important value trait, that is the pre-requisite to gain knowledge curiosity and eagerness to know. Moreover, he is not a passive learner but is proactive in collecting prior information to any real experience. He likes to do his homework thoroughly before going to a place. This is something very appreciable and children should develop this habit of finding out about the place they are going to visit. These are extremely desirable traits for all learners.

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

I. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow

"It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures. In the distance was an ugly building with smoke billowing out of tall chimneys. "Hey, a tea garden!" Rajvir cried excitedly. Pranjol, who had been born and brought up on a plantation, didn't share Rajvir's excitement."

1. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees, means –
 - a) The tea plants were not growing well
 - b) The shade trees were dwarfs
 - c) The tea plants looked small in comparison to the shade trees
 - d) The tea plants were tall like the shade trees
2. 'Doll-like figures' refers to-
 - a) Scarecrow
 - b) Tea pluckers
 - c) children playing
 - d) All of these
3. Why were these doll-like figures moving?
4. Find a synonym of 'moving'.
5. Why did Pranjol not share Rajvir's excitement?

Answers:

1. (c) The tea plants looked small in comparison to the shade trees
2. (b) Tea pluckers
3. They were busy plucking the tea leaves
4. Billowing
5. As he had been born and brought up on a plantation, he was not excited to see one.

II. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow

"Tell me another!" scoffed Pranjol. "We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep." "Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700 B.C.! In fact, words such as tea, chai and chini are from the Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as a beverage."

1. The main idea of this extract is
 - a) Tea as a popular beverage in Europe and how it spread.
 - b) Origin of tea in India and why it became popular in Europe.
 - c) Importance of India in popularising tea and influencing Europe.

d) Indian legend on tea and how it travelled from China to Europe.

2. Why do you think Pranjol ‘scoffed’?

- a) He was upset with the legend Rajvir shared.
- b) He was mocking Rajvir for his deep knowledge.
- c) He was amused and tickled at what Rajvir shared.
- d) He was impressed with what Rajvir had shared.

3. Pick the option that includes the tea label information that corresponds to the given sentence.

“The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.”

(1) Its calming effects may be attributed to an antioxidant called apigenin, which is found in abundance in chamomile tea. Apigenin binds to specific receptors in your brain that may decrease anxiety and initiate sleep.

(2) It increases levels of a neurotransmitter called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and improves overall sleep quality by shortening the time it takes to fall asleep and decreasing night-time awakenings.

(3) It interferes with REM sleep, has some unwanted side effects, keeps sleep away and allows the possibility of inducing hours of sleeplessness and increased night-time awakenings.

(4) It alleviates anxious thoughts and soothes the spirit before bedtime. It improves energy levels and helps banish stress and results in a better night’s sleep, naturally.

- a) Option 1
- b) Option 2
- c) Option 3
- d) Option 4

4. Based on the inference from the extract, which of these is NOT TRUE about tea drinking in sixteenth-century Europe? Dr. Smith is a doctor of sixteenth-century Europe.

- a) Dr. Smith encouraged drinking green tea whenever available, to reduce chances of tooth loss.
- b) Dr. Smith prescribed regular tea drinking to all his patients with weak hearts.
- c) Dr. Smith always served tea as a refreshment when he has guests, as they all enjoyed this beverage.
- d) Dr. Smith usually recommended black tea to reduce inflammation in the body.

5. Based on this extract, how do you think Rajvir felt while narrating?

- a) i) excited ii) agitated
- b) i) hysterical ii) nervous

- c) i) nervous ii) agitated
- d) i) enthusiastic ii) Passionate

Answers:

- 1.d) Indian legend on tea and how it travelled from China to Europe.
- 2.c) He was amused and tickled at what Rajvir shared.
- 3.c) Option 3
- 4.c) Dr Smith always serves tea as a refreshment when he has guests, as they all enjoy this beverage.
- 5.d) i) enthusiastic ii) Passionate

III. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow

'An hour later the car veered sharply off the main road. They crossed a cattle bridge and entered Dhekiabari Tea Estate. On both sides of the gravel road were acre upon acre of tea bushes, all neatly pruned to the same height. Groups of tea-pluckers with bamboo baskets on their backs, wearing plastic aprons, were plucking the newly sprouted leaves.'

- (a) How are the women tea-pluckers different from the other workers on the farms?
- (b) What did they find on both sides of the road?
- (c) How did the tea bushes appear?
- (d) What were the groups of women doing?

Answers:

- (a) They had bamboo baskets on their backs and wore plastic aprons.
- (b) On both the sides of the gravel road were acre upon acre of tea bushes.
- (c) The tea bushes were all neatly pruned to the same height.
- (d) They were plucking the newly sprouted leaves.

@@@@@