

A Visit to Cambridge :

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A.It was on a walking tour through Cambridge that the guide mentioned Stephen Hawking, 'poor man, who is quite disabled now, though he is a worthy successor to Isaac Newton, whose chair he has at the university.' And I started, because I had quite forgotten that this most brilliant and completely paralysed astrophysicist, the author of 'A Brief History of Time', one of the biggest best-sellers ever, lived here.

When the walking tour was done, I rushed to a phone booth and, almost tearing the cord so it could reach me outside, phoned Stephen Hawking's house. There was his assistant on the line and I told him I had come in a wheelchair from India (perhaps he thought I had propelled myself all the way) to write about my travels in Britain. I had to see Professor Hawking - even ten minutes would do. "Half an hour," he said. "From three-thirty to four."

- 1. Give reason for the guide to call Stephen Hawking a 'poor man'.**
- 2. 'Almost tearing the cord'- state the reason for doing so.**
- 3. Give the meaning of the word 'Astrophysicist'.**
- 4. Find a suitable synonym of the word 'Heir' from the extract.**

B. "Yes," he said; it was a disadvantage of his voice synthesiser that it could convey no inflection, no shades or tone. And I could not tell how enthusiastically he agreed with me. Every time I shifted in my chair or turned my wrist to watch the time – I wanted to make every one of our thirty minutes count – I felt a huge relief and exhilaration in the possibilities of my body. How little it mattered then that I would never walk, or even stand. I told him how he had been an inspiration beyond cliché' for me, and, surely, for others did that thought help him? "No," he

said; and I thought how foolish I was to ask. When your body is a claustrophobic room and the walls are growing narrower day by day, it doesn't do much good to know that there are people outside smiling with admiration to see you breathing still.

- 1. The fact that Stephen Hawking was an inspiration for many didn't help him.- Give reason in support of this statement.**
- 2. In the extract Firdous Kanga considers himself to be foolish at one point. – State the reason for doing so.**
- 3. Provide synonym of 'Passionately' from the extract.**
- 4. The narrator got dissapointed about the disadvantage of Hawking's voice synthesizer . – Why?**