

RTC – 1

The Portrait of a Lady by Khushwant Singh

Extract:

“My grandmother, like everybody else’s grandmother, was an old woman. She had been old and wrinkled for the twenty years that I had known her. People said that she had once been young and pretty and had even had a husband, but that was hard to believe.”

(i) Select the most appropriate option.

The narrator’s inability to associate his grandmother with youth primarily reveals _____.

- (A)-a conscious rejection of the idea of ageing and mortality
- (B) a limited childhood perception shaped by constant exposure to her aged appearance
- (C) a lack of emotional bonding with his grandmother
- (D) a critical attitude towards societal beliefs about beauty

(ii) Select the correct option.

The use of the phrase “like everybody else’s grandmother” most effectively suggests _____.

- (A) the social invisibility of elderly women within families
- (B) the narrator’s indifference towards his grandmother’s individuality
- (C) the narrator’s attempt to generalise old age as a universal condition
- (D) the narrator’s dissatisfaction with his grandmother

(iii) The expression “hard to believe” conveys a sense of _____.

- (A) ironic disbelief rooted in habitual perception rather than factual doubt
- (B) emotional denial caused by fear of separation
- (C) confusion arising from conflicting information
- (D) scepticism towards the reliability of others' statements

(iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The narrator's description reflects a psychological tendency to _____ rather than consciously analyse change over time.

(v) Identify the most suitable interpretation of the extract.

- (A) It highlights the rigidity of a child's perception shaped by repeated visual experience
- (B) It criticises traditional roles assigned to elderly women in society
- (C) It presents a nostalgic recollection of lost youth
- (D) It emphasises generational conflict within families

RTC – 2

The Portrait of a Lady by Khushwant Singh

Extract:

“My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows.”

(i) Select the most appropriate option.

The phrase “accepted her seclusion with resignation” most

effectively suggests _____.

- (A) deliberate withdrawal driven by social conflict
- (B) active dissatisfaction with her circumstances
- (C) resistance towards imposed isolation
- (D) passive acceptance shaped by detachment from worldly life

(ii) Select the correct option.

The continuous routine from “sunrise to sunset” primarily emphasises _____.

- (A) lack of meaningful engagement in daily life
- (B) disciplined regularity rooted in spiritual and habitual practice
- (C) physical exhaustion due to age
- (D) external pressure to maintain routine

(iii) The limited interaction indicated by “rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone” reflects _____.

- (A) social alienation imposed by others
- (B) a conscious preference for solitude and inward focus
- (C) inability to communicate effectively
- (D) indifference towards relationships

(iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The act of feeding the sparrows introduces a contrast to her otherwise secluded life by suggesting _____.

(v) Identify the most suitable critical inference from the extract.

- (A) The grandmother’s life reflects a harmonious blend of

spiritual discipline and quiet compassion

(B) The grandmother's routine indicates emotional emptiness and isolation

(C) The extract criticises rigid traditional lifestyles

(D) The grandmother's actions highlight her dependence on others

RTC – 3

A Photograph by Shirley Toulson

Extract:

"The sea holiday

**Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss."**

(i) Select the most appropriate option.

The shift from "her past" to "mine is her laughter" most effectively highlights _____.

(A) -the speaker's inability to relate to her mother-

(B) the speaker's detachment from her mother's childhood

(C) the superiority of past experiences over present recollection

(D) the transformation of lived experience into inherited emotional memory

(ii) Select the correct option.

The word "wry" in the extract most nearly suggests a tone of _____.

(A) indifference towards past memories

(B) pure nostalgia without any emotional conflict

(C) bitter amusement shaped by the awareness of loss

(D) regret arising from missed opportunities

(iii) The phrase “laboured ease” creates a paradox that reflects _____.

(A) the effort required to appear composed despite inner emotional strain

(B) the natural acceptance of grief without struggle

(C) the simplicity of coping with loss over time

(D) the speaker’s confusion regarding her emotions

(iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The contrast between “sea holiday” and “laughter” indicates a shift from _____ to _____ in the speaker’s engagement with memory.

(v) Identify the most suitable critical inference from the extract.

(A) The extract focuses on the importance of childhood experiences

(B) The speaker completely overcomes grief through fond remembrance

(C) The poem presents loss as a complex emotional state where acceptance is achieved, but not without inner conflict

(D) The poem suggests that memories fade entirely with time