



**Upper secondary
Week 13**

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES

SECTION B



Section B

[20 Marks]

Text 2

The text is about a lady who wants to shoot a tiger on her own just to prove herself to a friend. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

1 Mrs Huckleberry wanted to shoot a tiger. Circumstances proved favourable. She offered a thousand rupees for the opportunity to shoot one with little risk to life and limb. It so happened that a neighbouring village was a favourite haunt of an aging tiger which, driven by the increasing infirmities of age, had abandoned serious game killing and confined its appetite to the smaller domestic animals. 5

2 The idea of earning a thousand rupees stimulated the villagers to action. Where the tiger often hunted, cheaper kinds of goats were left roaming around to keep the tiger satisfied in its present hunting ground. On the outskirts of the jungle, children were posted to head the tiger back in case it decided to seek fresh hunting grounds. Mothers carrying their babies home after a day's work in the jungle hushed 10 their singing for fear of curtailing the restful sleep of the venerable herd-robber. The greatest worry in all this was that the tiger should die of old age before the date for Mrs Huckleberry's shoot.

3 The great night duly arrived; moonlit and cloudless - the moon watched unblinking from above as though an eager spectator while from behind bushes on earth, wild 15 eyes like hidden cameras flashed light now and then among the leaves - ready to catch the show later on. The main actor, a goat gifted with a particularly persistent bleat that even a half-deaf tiger might be expected to hear on a still night, was tethered at the correct distance.

4 Everything was good and ready to go. Crouched on a raised platform within 20 shooting range of the target, a smile flashed over her face, like sunshine over a flower, as Mrs Huckleberry thought of the sweet revenge she would get when she, at a dinner she would host for a particular friend who had been boasting of a flight she had had the honour to take with an Algerian aviator and who could talk of nothing else whenever they met, a tiger brooch made out of a tiger's claw from a tiger she'd shot 25 and killed herself while on an adventure in India. And of course, she would display ostensibly a tiger skin rug above the mantelpiece, right before the dining table. Only a personally procured tiger would counter Lorna Bumbleton's claim and shut her up. Her smile broadened as she thought of this sweet revenge.

5 "I suppose we are in some danger?" said Miss Mebbin the paid companion. 30

She was not actually nervous about the wild beast but she had a morbid dread of performing an atom more service than she had been paid for.

"Nonsense," said Mrs Huckleberry, a little annoyed. "It's a very old tiger. It couldn't spring up here if it wanted to. Now, hush up." "If it's an old tiger I think you ought to get it cheaper. A thousand rupees is a lot of money." 35

At that moment, her ramblings were cut short by the appearance on the scene of the animal itself. The tiger ambled slowly towards the goat.

"Now, now!" urged Miss Mebbin with some excitement. "If it doesn't touch the goat, we needn't pay for it." The bait was extra on top of the thousand rupees.

6 The rifle flashed out with loud report and the great beast sprang to one side and 40 rolled over in the stillness of death. Mrs Huckleberry felt a mix of emotions – both good and bad. She felt triumphant for she had killed the tiger with just one shot. But she also felt a tinge of sadness when she saw it rolling over in death.

7 It was Miss Mebbin who drew attention to the fact that the goat was in the death throes from a mortal bullet wound, while no trace of the rifle's deadly work could be 45 found on the tiger. Evidently, the wrong animal had been hit. A quiet tittering was heard from among the watchers. The beast of prey had succumbed to heart failure caused by the sudden report of the rifle. For a second, Mrs Huckleberry was crimson to the root and questioned her shooting skills but she told herself that did not matter for after all, she had procured a tiger with little risk to life and limb. 50

5. Explain how the language used in paragraph 2 shows that the reward offered was a great stimulant to action.

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1. [3]

6. At the end of paragraph 1, 'It so happened that a neighbouring village was a favourite haunt of an aging tiger which, driven by the increasing infirmities of age, had abandoned serious game killing and confined its appetite to the smaller domestic animals.'

Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

(i) a place one enjoys being at –

[1]

(ii) a curtailing of desire for food.

[1]

7. In paragraph 3 (line 14), the writer writes '...the moon watched unblinking from above as though an eager spectator'.

(i) What two words or phrase from the clause quoted suggests that the moon was quite humanlike that night? [1]

(ii) Why does the narrator describe the moon in this way?

[1]

8. From paragraph 1, (line 3), the writer writes, '... an aging tiger which, driven by the increasing infirmities of age'.

Why would such a tiger be a perfect target for Mrs Huckleberry? Support your answer with evidence from the paragraph. [1]

9. In paragraph 4 (line 21), the writer writes, 'a smile flashed over her face as she thought of the sweet revenge she would get..'

(i) From the paragraph, what was the real motivation behind Mrs Huckleberry's desire to shoot a tiger? Explain your answer in your own words. [1]

(ii) From paragraph 4 (line 28) the writer writes, 'Only a personally procured tiger would counter Lorna Bumbleton's claim and shut her up.'

Why was there a need to shut Lorna Bumbleton up? [1]

10. In paragraph 4, (line 29), the writer writes, 'Her smile broadened as she thought of this sweet revenge'.

What is unusual and effective about the phrase 'sweet revenge'? [2]

11. The writer uses similes 'wild eyes like hidden cameras' (line 15) and 'like sunshine over a flower' (line 21).

What do these similes suggest about the writer's view of the subjects they each refer to? [2]

Similes	What they suggest about the subjects referred to
like hidden cameras	
like sunshine over a flower	

12. (i) From paragraphs 6 and 7, what made Mrs Huckleberry's triumphant feeling short-lived? [1]

(ii) What humour can be derived from paragraph 7 and who, in the audience, would have enjoyed it most? Give evidence from the paragraph to support your answer. [1]

13. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings Mrs Huckleberry experiences in her quest to shoot the tiger. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main feeling described in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use. [4]

Mrs Huckleberry's feelings

bothered	provocative	expectant	impulsive
consolatory	serene	bittersweet	

Flow Chart

