



**Upper secondary
Week 16**

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES

SECTION B



Text 2

The text is about a man who returns home from a hunt to find his wife sick with fever. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

- 1 One day, Marley returned from hunting to find his wife prostrate with fever, and delirious. At the end of the third day, she passed away.
- 2 When convinced that his wife was dead, Marley made preparations for burial. In performance of this sacred duty, he blundered now and again, did certain things incorrectly, and others which he did correctly were done over and over. At times, his mind went blank and he sat on a stool, as though unable to recall what had happened. Then, in the fading light, he stood over the body, putting the finishing touches to the simple toilette, doing all mechanically, with soulless care. 5
- 3 He was surprised that he did not weep - and a little ashamed.

"Tomorrow," he said aloud, "I shall have to make the coffin and dig the grave; and 10 then I shall miss her, when she is no longer in sight."

He had had no experience in grief; a capacity that had not been enlarged by use. When grief plays his melodies for the dead, he evokes from some the sharpest, shrillest notes, from others the low, grave chords that throb like the slow beating of a distant drum. To one it comes like the stroke of an arrow; to another as the blow of a 15 bludgeon which in crushing, benumbs. It may be that Marley was one crushed so, for no sooner had he finished his work then, sinking into a chair by the side of the table upon which the body lay, he laid his arms upon the table's edge, and dropped his face into them, tearless yet and unutterably weary.

- 4 At that moment came in through the open window a long, wailing sound like the 20 cry of a lost child in the far deeps of the darkening woods! But the man did not move. Again, and nearer than before, sounded that unearthly cry upon his failing sense.
- 5 Some hours later, as it afterward appeared, this unfaithful sentry awoke and lifting his head from his arms, listened intently. There in the black darkness by the side of the dead, he strained his eyes to see. His senses were all alert, his breath was suspended. 25
- 6 Suddenly, the table shook beneath his arms, and at the same moment, he heard a light, soft step as of bare feet upon the floor! He was terrified beyond the power to cry out or move. Helplessly, he waited there in the darkness through seeming centuries. He tried to call out the dead woman's name, to stretch forth his hand across the table to learn if she were there. His throat was powerless, his arms and hands were like lead. 30
- 7 Then, occurred something frightful. Some heavy body seemed hurled against the table with a force that pushed it against his breast so sharply as nearly to overthrow him. At the same instant, he heard and felt the fall of something upon the floor with so violent a thump that the whole house was shaken by the impact. A scuffling ensued, and a confusion of sounds impossible to describe. Marley had risen to his feet. 35

8 Fear had by excess forfeited control of his faculties. He flung his hands upon the table. Nothing was there! There is a point at which terror may turn to madness; and madness incites to action. Marley sprang to the wall, seized his loaded rifle, and discharged it blindly. By the flash, he saw an enormous panther dragging the dead woman toward the window, its teeth fixed in her throat!

But the frightened beast had soon fled, leaving the body near the window. In the moonlight, Marley saw that the clothing was deranged; the long hair in disorder, the limbs lay anyhow. From the throat, dreadfully lacerated, had issued a pool of blood. And, between the teeth was a fragment of the animal's ear!

5. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 makes Marley appear distracted in his task of preparing his dead wife for burial.

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

6. At the end of paragraph 2 (line 7), 'Then, in the fading light, he stood over the body, putting the finishing touches to the simple toilette, doing all mechanically, with soulless care.'

Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

(i) something done automatically –

[1]

(ii) an insensitive demeanour –

[1]

7. In paragraph 3 (line 13), 'When grief plays his melodies for the dead....'

(i) What is grief being compared to here?

[1]

(ii) Why does the writer use the plural 'melodies' in the phrase ?

[1]



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8. From paragraph 3, (line 12), the writer writes, ' He had had no experience in grief; a capacity that had not been enlarged by use. '

(i) What does the phrase 'a capacity that had not been enlarged by use' mean? What does the sentence imply about Marley's social and family circle? [1]

9. In paragraph 5, (line 23), 'Some hours later, as it afterward appeared, this unfaithful sentry awoke...'. What is unusual and effective about the phrase 'unfaithful sentry'? [2]

10. The writer uses similes 'like the stroke of an arrow' (line 15) and 'as the blow of a bludgeon' (line 15).

What do these similes suggest about the writer's view of the different impact grief can have on different people ? [2]

Similes	What they suggest about grief
like the stroke of an arrow	
as the blow of a bludgeon	

11. In paragraph 8, (line 41), 'But the frightened beast had soon fled.' What two things do you think would have frightened the animal away? Support your answer with evidence from the paragraph. [2]

12. From paragraph 8, what two pieces of evidence can you give to show that Marley's wife was still alive before the animal attacked her? [2]

13. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings Marley experienced throughout that sorrowful day. 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]

Marley's feelings

dumbfounded	indifference	unconscious	hesitant
	vigilant	petrified	frustrated

Flow Chart

