Upper secondary
Week 12

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES

Section B:

The Write Tribe

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Section B

[20 Marks]

Text 2

The text is a humorous narrative about a highly sensitive and proper man on a train who discovers that there is a mouse running about in his clothes. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

1 Gregory Leeds was intensely frustrated. He had stayed in a hotel where he was promised an arrangement of a horse carriage that would take him to the station but when the moment of his departure arrived, neither horse nor carriage was in sight. Gregory had to work together with the hotel owner's daughter in the task of harnessing a horse which involved groping about in an ill–lit stable smelling of mice. Gregory was unafraid of mice but he categorised then among one of the 'coarser realities ' of life and began questioning if indeed the creatures were not indispensable and hence easily withdrawn from the circle of life. To make matters worse, as he was treading out of the stable area, he slipped and fell in a puddle of mud and nearly missed his train for having to change to a new suit.

2 Soon he was in his carriage. His imagination accused himself of exuding an odour of stable yard and likely of showing a straw or two clinging onto his unusually well-brushed coat. Fortunately, the only other occupant in the compartment was a lady of about as old as he who was more interested in slumber than scrutiny. No other travelling companions were likely to intrude on Gregory's semi-privacy as the train was already out of the station and the next stop was an hour away.

3 Yet, Gregory, even as the train was pulling out of the station, became suddenly aware that he was not alone with the lady, not even in his own clothes. A warm creeping movement over his skin betrayed the unwelcome and unseen presence of a mouse – a stray mouse. Clearly, it had dashed into its retreat while Gregory was trying to harness the horse earlier. The man was revolted.

4 Gregory stamped his foot, shook himself and tried to even pinch the rodent but all failed to dislodge the creature. He then laid back and thought hard of a way to rid himself of the dual ownership of his garb. It was beyond imagination that he would continue the journey like that – even then his over active imagination had already doubled the number of mice invading his body. Yet he would only be able to get rid of it by undressing part of his clothing and to do that in front of a lady, even for such a necessary purpose, was an idea that made the tips of his ears tingle with shame. He had never even removed his socks before any of the female species.

5 Yet the lady seemed dead to the world. The mouse itself was getting to be quite a nuisance, slipping as it lost its footing and then biting when it felt a fright. It was impossible to be still so Gregory was goaded to undertake the most audacious task in his life. With a face crimson as beetroot, and all the while keeping an agonized look at the slumbering form, he secured the ends of a railway rug to the racks on either side of the carriage so that a curtain hung between the two occupants. Then, with violent haste, he managed to extricate the mouse which fell out and down onto the

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floor with a heart – curdling flop that woke the sleeper. Instantly, Gregory grabbed the 'curtain', wrapped it around himself up to his neck and seating himself in a far corner of the compartment, desperately mumbled, "I think I have caught a chill," with a face looking as pale as death. 40

5. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 justifies Gregory's frustration.

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

6. In paragraph 1 (line 5), 'Gregory was unafraid of mice but he categorised then among one of the 'coarser realities' of life and began questioning if indeed the creatures were not indispensable and hence easily withdrawn from the circle of life.'

   Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

   (i) that Gregory thinks that mice are unnecessary for the living [1]

   (ii) harsh facts [1]

7. In paragraph 5 (line 30), 'Yet the lady seemed dead to the world.'

   Why does the writer describe the lady as such? Support your answer with evidence from paragraph 4. [1]

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8. In paragraph 2, (line 11), the writer writes, 'His imagination accused himself of exuding an odour of stable yard and likely of showing a straw or two clinging onto his unusually well- brushed coat.'

(i) What two things can you tell about Gregory from the sentence above? [1]

(ii) In paragraph 2 (line 14), the writer writes that the other occupant in the carriage was 'more interested in slumber than scrutiny'. [1]

How was this a good thing for Gregory?

9. At the end of paragraph 2, (line 15), what is unusual and effective about the phrase 'semi- privacy? [2]

10. The writer uses similes 'a face crimson as beetroot '(line 33) and 'looking as pale as death' (line 40).

What do these similes suggest about what Gregory was feeling ? [2]

Similes	What they suggest about what Gregory was feeling
a face crimson as beetroot	
looking as pale as death	

11. In paragraph 4 (line 24) 'He then laid back and thought hard of a way to rid himself of the dual ownership of his garb.'

(i) Which word in this sentence tells you that this piece of writing was done a long time ago? [1]

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(ii) From what you read later in the paragraph, how and why has this 'dual ownership' transformed? Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [1]

12. In paragraph 5, (line 32), 'It was impossible to be still so Gregory was goaded to undertake the most audacious task in his life.'

(i) What was the 'audacious task' referring to here? Explain your answer using your own words. [1]

(ii) In paragraph 5 (line 35), the writer writes '..with violent haste, he managed to extricate the mouse which fell out and down onto the floor with a heart – curdling flop...' [1]

Why do you think the flop was described as 'heart-curdling' for Gregory? Explain your answer using your own words.

13. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings Gregory Leeds underwent during his train journey. 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]

Gregory Leeds' feelings

frustrated	sickened	dumbfounded	awkward
embarrassed	vengeful	frantic	

Flow Chart

Paragraph 2 : (i)

↓

Paragraph 3 : (ii)

↓

Paragraph 4 : (iii)

↓

Paragraph 5 : (iv)

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