

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2023-2024 - NOTES

Class: VIII Subject: English Topic: Ch- 1 Poetry – The portrait of a lady

A. 1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (b)

B. 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

C. 1. The author's grandmother was old and wrinkled. She was short and fat slightly bent. Her face was a criss-cross of wrinkles.

2. The author's grandmother used to wake him up in the morning, bathe and dress him and get him ready for school. She used to fetch his wooden slate, washed and plastered with yellow chalk, a tiny earthen ink-pot and a red pen, tie them all in a bundle and give it to him. She would also make breakfast for the author consisting of a thick, stale chapati with a little butter and sugar spread on it.

3. The grandmother fed the village dogs and sparrows because she enjoyed it, and felt a connection with the animals. This tells us that she loved birds and animals.

4. The village school was attached to a temple. The priest taught the children the alphabet and the morning prayer.

5. The grandmother was disturbed because to her, music had lewd associations. She felt that music was the monopoly of beggars and not meant for gentlefolk.

6. The grandmother relaxed in the afternoon only when she fed the sparrows. When she sat in the verandah breaking bread into bits, many birds chirped. Some perched on her legs and others on her shoulders. It used to be the happiest time of the day for her.

7. The grandmother had mild fever and the doctor said it would go. But the old lady was certain that her end was near. She refused to talk to the author or his family. She lay in bed, praying and telling her beads.

D. 1. (a) The author said these words.

(b) The speaker is referring to his grandmother's voice.

(c) The speaker did not bother to learn his grandmother's morning prayers because she sang in a monotonous sing-song.

2. (a) The author.

(b) The author's grandmother was disturbed. To her, music had lewd associations. It wasn't something that respectable people associated with. To grandmother, music was the monopoly of beggars and not meant for gentlefolk

3. (a) The author's mother broke the crumbs for the sparrows.

(b) The sparrows took no notice of the bread because they were sad on the death of the old lady. The grandmother and the birds had shared a unique bond of love. When she sat in the verandah and broke the bread into little bits, the birds would collect around her. Now that she was no more, the birds were sad and took no notice of the bread crumbs thrown to them.

E. 1. The author's grandmother was an old wrinkly woman. She was short, plump and slightly bent. She was always dressed in spotless white, with silver lock covering her face. The author describes her as being a winter landscape in the mountains'. She had a calm, gentle and reassuring face. She always had one hand supporting her back while the other was busy in counting the beads of rosary. She was a saintly woman, quite religious and kind. This characteristic can be observed throughout the lesson, where the grandmother spent all her time in chanting prayers. She was very kind-hearted, which is clearly seen from the instances where she fed stale chapatis to the village dogs and crumbled bread to the sparrows. She never showed her emotions, but loved her grandson dearly. Even when the author went abroad she pretended that she didn't care, but she had a lot of affection and blessings for her dear grandson. She was accustomed to old traditions, and wasn't really interested in science and modern education: She was very disturbed when the author told her that he had taken up music lessons in school. She believed music was a monopoly of beggars and not meant for gentlefolk. Despite her disagreements and conflicts, the grandmother was purely a saintly woman with a heart of gold.

2. The author and his grandmother shared a very strong bond. She loved her grandson dearly, but the relationship changed when the grandmother and author shifted to the city. She felt isolated and did not understand the kind of education her grandson was getting in the English school, God and the scriptures were not taught there, and she was appalled to learn that the author had taken up music lessons, which she considered indecent. The gap between the two grew wider when the author went abroad for further studies. The relationship suffered again when the grandmother fell ill and decided that she was not going to waste any more time talking to people She spent her days in

bed, praying until her death.

3. When the author and his grandmother moved to the city, their close relationship underwent a change. She felt out of place with the kind of education her grandson was receiving in his English school, where nothing about God or the scriptures was taught. She was horrified to learn that her grandson had taken up music lessons. For her, music was indecent and a monopoly of beggars and was not meant for gentlefolk. When the author went abroad for further studies, the gap between grandmother and grandson widened further. She grew distant and unemotional. She detached herself from worldly affairs and lived in a world of her own and hardly spoke to anyone. Her behaviour became more strange when she fell ill and worsened till her death.