NCERT Class 8 English Unit 9 – The Great Stone Face – I

Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following statements.

1. The Great Stone Face stood near where Ernest and his mother lived. _____

2. One would clearly distinguish the features of the Stone Face only from a distance. _____

3. Ernest loved his mother and helped her in her work. _____

4. Though not very rich, Gathergold was a skillful merchant. _____

5. Gathergold died in poverty and neglect. _____

6. The Great Stone Face seemed to suggest that Ernest should not fear the general. _____

Answer:

1. The Great Stone Face stood near where Ernest and his mother lived. – ***False***

2. One would clearly distinguish the features of the Stone Face only from a distance. – ***True***

3. Ernest loved his mother and helped her in her work. – ***True***

4. Though not very rich, Gathergold was a skillful merchant. – ***False***

5. Gathergold died in poverty and neglect. – ***True***

6. The Great Stone Face seemed to suggest that Ernest should not fear the general. – ***False***

Working with the text (Page 126)

Answer the following questions.

Question 1:

(i) What was the Great Stone Face?

(ii) What did young Ernest wish when he gazed at it?

Answer:

(i) The Great Stone Face was a work of nature. It was formed on the perpendicular side of a mountain by some gigantic rocks. These rocks were clustered together in such a position that when viewed from a certain distance, they resembled the features of a human face. However, the spectator lost the outline of the enormous face when he approached too close to the gigantic rock. He could see only a heap of enormous rocks that are piled one upon another. On the contrary, the Great Stone Face seemed positively to be alive when viewed from a distance. Most people dwelling in that place strongly believed that the valley owed much of its fertility to the gentle face that was continually smiling over it.

(ii) Whenever Ernest gazed at the Great Stone Face, he felt it was smiling to him. The young boy wished it could talk to him because he felt that if it looks so very kindly, then its voice must indeed be pleasant. He said that if ever he sees a man with a similar face, he would love him very much.

Question 2:

What was the story attributed to the Stone Face?

Answer:

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The story attributed to the Stone Face was that someday in future, a child would be born in the valley. He would be destined to become the greatest and noblest person of his time and that his face in manhood would bear an exact resemblance to the Great Stone Face.

Question 3:

What gave the people of the valley the idea that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time?

Answer:

A rumour was doing the rounds throughout the valley that the great man who was supposed to bear a resemblance to the Great Stone Face had finally appeared. A young man named Gathergold had left the valley and settled at a distant seaport. He had grown to be a wealthy merchant by the time he grew old. He decided to return to his native valley and live his last few days where he had been born. It was believed that he had a close resemblance to the Great Stone Face and the prophecy was about to come true for the first time.

Question 4:

(i) Did Ernest see in Gathergold the likeness of the Stone Face?

(ii) Who did he confide in and how was he proved right?

Answer:

(i) No, Ernest did not see the likeness of the Stone Face in Gathergold. He could not see the kindness or truthfulness in Gathergold's face as it was missing in his unpleasant face due to his wrinkled shrewdness.

(ii) Ernest confided and poured out his heart to the Great Stone Face that Gathergold did not have the likeness of the Stone Face at all. By the time he died, his wealth and money had disappeared and he died in poverty and neglect.

Question 5:

(i) What made people believe General Blood-and-Thunder was their man?

(ii) Ernest compared the man's face with the Stone Face. What did he conclude?

Answer:

(i) General Blood-and-Thunder was another son of the valley who went to become a soldier and rose to the position of a famous commander. He desperately longed to return to his valley. The inhabitants, old neighbours and friends in the valley felt that he bore the likeness of the Great Stone Face. This made people in the valley believe that General Blood-and-Thunder was their man who would fulfill the prophecy.

(ii)When Ernest compared the man's face with the Stone Face, he could not find any similarity between them. His heart assured him that the General Blood-and-Thunder was not the right person for whom they were eagerly awaiting. From this, Ernest concluded that the greatest and noblest man of his time who would bear the resemblance of the Great Stone Face was yet to come.

Working with language (Page 126-127)

Question 1:

Look at the following words.

like – likeness

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punctual – punctuality

The words on the left are adjectives and those on the right are their noun forms.

Write the noun forms of the following words by adding ***-ness*** or ***-ity*** to them appropriately. Check the spelling of the new words.

(i) lofty _____ (vi) enormous _____

(ii) able _____ (vii) pleasant _____

(iii) happy _____ (viii) dense _____

(iv) near _____ (ix) great _____

(v) noble _____ (x) stable _____

Answer:

(i) lofty ***loftiness*** (vi) enormous ***enormity***

(ii) able ***ability*** (vii) pleasant ***pleasantness***

(iii) happy ***happiness*** (viii) dense ***density***

(iv) near ***nearness*** (ix) great ***greatness***

(v) noble ***nobility*** (x) stable ***stability***

Question 2:

Add ***-ly*** to each of the following adjectives, then use them to fill in the blanks.

perfect	near	kind	pleasant	eager

(i) Why didn't you turn up at the meeting? We all were _____ waiting for you.

(ii) _____ write your name and address in capital letters.

(iii) I was _____ surprised to see him at the railway station. I thought he was not coming.

(iv) It is _____ believable that I am not responsible for this mess.

(v) He fell over the step and _____ broke his arm.

Answer:

(i) Why didn't you turn up at the meeting? We all were ***eagerly*** waiting for you.

(ii) ***Kindly*** write your name and address in capital letters.

(iii) I was ***pleasantly*** surprised to see him at the railway station. I thought he was not coming.

(iv) It is ***perfectly*** believable that I am not responsible for this mess.

(v) He fell over the step and ***nearly*** broke his arm.

Question 3:

Complete each sentence below using the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets.

(i) I _____ (phone) you when I _____ (get) home from school.

(ii) Hurry up! Madam _____ (be) annoyed if we _____ (be) late.

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(iii) If it _____ (rain) today, we _____ (not) go to the play.

(iv) When you _____ (see) Mandal again, you _____ (not/recognise) him. He is growing a beard.

(v) We are off today. We _____ (write) to you after we _____ (be) back.

Answer:

(i) I ***shall phone*** you when I ***will get*** home from school.

(ii) Hurry up! Madam ***will be*** annoyed if we ***are*** late.

(iii) If it ***rains*** today, we ***shall not*** go to the play.

(iv) When you ***see*** Mandal again, you ***will not recognise*** him. He is growing a beard.

(v) We are off today. We ***shall write*** to you after we **are** back.

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