

**Vistas- 1**

**The Third Level**

**Choose the correct option for each question:**

1. Which town is the narrator talking about in this story?

 a) Florida b) New York.

 **c) Galesburg** d) Washington D.C.

2. What is special about the trees of this town?

 a) There are tremendous trees. b) Their branches meet overhead.

 c) Their large branches roof the streets. **d) All of these three.**

3. What would the people of Galesburg do on summer evening in1894?

 a) They would sit out on their lawns.

 b) The men would smoke cigars and talk quietly.

 c) The women would wave palm leaf fans.

 **d) All of these three**.

4. What did the narrator want to leave?

 a) A small house in Galesburg. b) He wanted to find some job in Galesburg.

 c) Two tickets to Galesburg. d) None of these three.

5. “***The Third Level”*** refers to the third level at the Grand Central Station. As a metaphor, which of the following would **NOT** be an appropriate explanation of the title?

 a) The convergence of reality and fantasy.

 b) The bridge between the past and the present**.**

 c) The oppressive monotony of modern life.

 d) The need for an alternative plane of understanding.

6. How many levels were in the subway of the Grand Central Station?

 a) Only three levels. b) Only one level.

 **c) Only two levels.** d) Only five levels.

7. What sound did the speaker hear in the corridor?

 a) The noisy sound of his shoes. b) The creaky sound of the door.

 c) The heavy sound of his breaths. d) The empty sound of his own footsteps.

8. Which of the characteristics are **NOT** **TRUE** about the third level at the Grand Central Station?

 A. The Grand Central Station of New York is known to have two levels of subway.

 B. The author believes that there are three levels at the Grand Central Station.

 C. Everyone knows about the third level in the Grand Central Station.

 D. The third level at the Grand Central Station is just author’s imagination.

 E. It is a kind of a way to escape the painful realties of the modern world.

 F. Charley didn’t get old style currency to buy the tickets from the third level of the Grand Central Station.

 a) A, B **b) C, F** c) D, E d) B, D

9. Choose the option that does not list the reason of the narrator’s stamp collection as assumed by his friends.

 a) Reason 1. b) Reason 2. c) Reason 3. **d) Reason 4**.

10. Choose the set of options which lists that stamp collection was not a sign of desire to take refuge from the worldly worries.

 A. The writer’s friends believed that stamp collection gave him temporary refuge.

 B. The writer’s grandfather used to collect stamps in those peaceful days.

 C. During the time of his grandfather things were nice.

 D. Writer himself didn’t completely deny that stamp collection was the possibility of taking refuge from worries.

 a) A, B **b) B, C** c) C, D d) A, D

11. Choose the option suggesting the correct situation about when the writer decided to take to the subway from the Grand Central Station.

 a) Option (i) b) Option (ii) **c) Option (iii)** d) Option (iv)

12. Choose the set of options which do not match the description of the writer when he visited Grand Central Station.

 A. He was an ordinary person named Charley.

 B. He is thirty one year old.

 C. He is wearing a tan gabardine suit.

 D. He has a straw hat with a fancy band.

 E. He was wearing a leather jacket.

 F. He was wearing a jeans.

 a) A, B b) C, D **c) E, F** d) B, C

13. How would you describe Charley?

 a) Confused, happy-go-lucky. b) Escapist, adventurous.

 **c) Imaginative, nostalgic**. d) Friendly, responsible.

14. The writer thinks that Grand Central Station is growing like a tree. Choose the set of options which are not proving the writer’s idea.

 A. The writer found the subway of the Grand Central faster than the bus.

 B. Usually the writer got lost in the Grand Central.

 C. It was pushing out new corridors and staircases.

 D. Once he got into a tunnel. It came out in the lobby.

 E. Sometime when the writer got into a tunnel he would come up in an office building.

 F. He often went into the third level of Grand Central.

 **a) A, F** b) B, C c) D, E d) B, D

15. Choose the options which lists the set of statements that led the writer to the third level at Grand Central Station.

 A. A door way led him to a corridor he had never seen before.

 B. The corridor turning left and slanting downward.

 C. The tunnel turned sharp left and then he went a few steps to reach the third level.

 D. The stair at the first level led him to the third level.

 E. The escalator took the writer to the third level.

 F. At the second level when writer was lost in a hall, one of the doors led him to the third level.

 a) D b) E, F **c) A, B, C** d) D, E, F

16. Choose the option suggesting the look of the people at the third level.

 a) Option (i) & Option (ii). **b) Option (i) & Option (iv).**

 c) Option (iii). d) Option (ii).

17. What did the writer notice at the ticket window of the third level?

 **a) He could buy tickets to go anywhere in the United States.**

 b) He felt as if it was the year of 1894.

 c) He noticed that the modern currency was being used.

 d) Both (a) and (b).

18. Where did the writer want to go when he was at the third level?

 **a) To Galesburg**. b) To his home.

 c) To his office. d) All of these three.

19. The Clerk at the third level refused to accept the money from the writer for the tickets. Choose the option that lists correct reason for the refusal.

 a) The currency was fake.

 b) The currency was torn.

 **c) Because the currency belongs to the present time and not to the ones used in 1894.**

 d) The writer had used the adhesive tape to set the torn bills.

20. Charley decided not to tell his psychiatrist friend about his idea. Choose the option that reflects the reaction Charley anticipated from his friend.

 a) “That’s such a lovely comparison. Why don’t you become a writer, Charley?”

 b) “Oh Charley. It is so sad to see your desperation to run away! So very sad.”

 c) “May be that’s how you entered third level. Who would have thought?!”

 **d) “You need help, my raving friend. You are way too invested in this crazy thought.”**

21. The clerk refused to accept money at the third level because ………….. . Choose the correct option to complete the blank above.

 a) The writer had given him old style currency.

 b) The writer had given him the present-day currency.

 c) At the third level only old style currency is used.

 **d) Both (b) and (c).**

22. From where had the writer got the old-style bills?

 a) From the third level. b) From the clerk on the third level.

 **c) From the coin dealer**. d) Both (a) and (b).

23. Why can’t Sam do his business as psychiatrist at Galesburg of 1894?

 a) At that period people were full of worries.

 b) At that period medical science had not developed.

 **c) At that period people were free from the worries of the mental tension.**

 d) Both (a) and (b).

24. Choose the option that is not correct about the third level of Grand Central Station.

 a) The third level was a medium of escape for Charley.

 b) His visit to the third level is all a fantasy.

 **c) The writer never again was able to find third level.**

 d) The writer usually went to the third level.

25. Choose the correct places where Charley often would get lost on the Grand Central Station.

 a) On the first level.

 b) On the second level.

 c) In a long tunnel that led to the lobby of a hotel.

 d) Both (b) and (c).

26. Choose the correct option that convinces Charley that he had reached the third level at the Grand Central Station.

 a) The language of the people.

 b) The weather of the third level.

 c) The fresh air at the third level.

 **d) Dress, currency and locomotive.**

27. How did the writer make himself sure that Sam had eight hundred dollars’ worth of old-style currency?

 a) Sam had written about it in his note. b) The writer confirmed it at the third level.

 **c) The writer confirmed it at the stamp and coin store.**  d) Both (a) and (b).

28. What business Sam would do in Galesburg according to the writer?

 a) Of a psychiatrist. **b) Of a farmer**. c) Of traveling. d) Of a news agency.

29. Which of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the story?

 a) Reality is indeed stranger than fiction.

 b) With all its worries, modern life is not worth living.

 c) The past is undoubtedly better than the present.

 **d) Imagination might be the only great escape.**

30. In his letter to Charley, Sam says that he has found the third level. That means …………….

 a) The third level actually exists.

 b) The third level never existed.

 c) Sam is trying to cure Charley.

 **d) Sam has also gone through the state of waking dream wish fulfillment.**

## 1.Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?

 The third level was a medium of escape for Charley. He had a strange day-dream wish to escape from his present worries. He wanted to escape into the past. He believed that in the old days, life was peaceful. People in his grandfather’s time lived a carefree life. All those charms were lost now as the modern world is a woeful place full of insecurity, fear, war and worry. Charley was always lost in his own thoughts. He was unaware of his surroundings. One day he found himself in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel and some other time he came up in an office building. Another day, he reached the third level.

1. **What do you infer from Sam’s letter to Charley?**

 Sam was a psychiatrist. But he too had his dreams. The description of Galesburg given by Charley infected him. He too wanted to escape from the present world. He did not like to pursue his present profession. He wanted to live in a small town like Galesburg. He wanted to settle as hay, feed and grain businessman. So, he also discovered the ‘**third level’** to escape.

 The letter he wrote Charley bore the postmark of July 18, 1894. Probably, it was a first day cover sent to Charley’s grandfather by somebody. But strangely, the letter was addressed to Charley by Sam. It meant that Sam had really escaped into the past. He had crossed the boundaries of time and space to reach the Galesburg of 1894. Or else, it was Charley who was day-dreaming.

**3.What did the psychiatrist think when Charley told him about the third level?**

 There were only two levels at Grand Central Station. When Charley told the psychiatrist that he had been to the third level he believed that Charley was day-dreaming. He was trying to escape from the worries and tensions of the present-day world.

1. **“The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress”. What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?**

The past has always been alluring. Man, always believes that the past was pleasant, without haste and worries. People lived carefree lives. So, we try to escape from the present realities to the imaginary past. We do so in different ways. But it is our imagination that pays the major role. We write or read charming stories about the past. Sometimes we read stories of love and adventure. Some people pursue some hobbies like music, stamp collecting, painting, or reading religious scriptures to escape from the fear and anxiety prevailing in the modern world.

1. **What does the third level refer to? What is the significance of the third level?**

The Third Level is a medium of escape through which man yearns to be away from life’s harsh realities. Modern life is devoid of peace and tranquillity. So man in his quest to seek solace, trying to escape to a place where his aim is to seek the realization of his dreams and unfulfilled wishes of his subconscious mind.

1. **What convinced Charley that he had reached the third level at Grand Central Station and not the second level?**

The general layout of the third level was different from that of the second level. It had comparatively smaller rooms, fewer ticket windows and lesser train gates. The information booth in the centre was made of wood and looked old. So Charley was convinced it was not the second level.

1. **How does Charley describe the Third Level?**

Charley says that the rooms on the third level were much smaller than that of the second level. There were fewer ticket windows and train gates and the information booth in the centre was made of wood and old-looking. There were open-flame gaslights and brass spittoons on the floor everywhere. Everyone in the station was dressed in the 19th century dresses. Even the newspaper in the newspaper stand was of 1894.

1. **How did Charley make sure that he was not in the present time?**

To make sure that he was not in the present time, Charley did a reality check. He looked at the newspapers which were on sale at the kiosk and found a copy of the newspaper ‘The World’ which carried the main story on President Cleveland. Then he confirmed from the public library files that the newspaper he had seen, dated 11th June 1894 had stopped publication long before the 20th century.

**9. How did Charley often get lost in the Grand Central Station?**

The Grand Central Station was growing like a tree pushing out endless corridors, doorways and stairs like roots. It had intricate and tangled pathways. The network of passages were so complicate that instead of reaching his destination, one did tend to move up and down to look for entries and exists. So, Charley often got lost in this station.

**10. Why did Charley suspect that Sam had gone to Galesburg?**

When Sam disappeared all of a sudden and no one knew about his whereabouts, Charley suspected he had gone to Galesburg as Sam was a city boy and had like Galesburg very much. Then Charley found an envelope mailed by Sam from Galesburg.

**11. How does Charley describe Galesburg as it used to be in 1894?**

Charley describes Galesburg as a quiet, simple and peaceful place with big old frame houses, luge lawns and tremendous trees. The summer evenings were rather long and people sat out on their lawns in a peaceful world, men smoking cigars and women waving palm-leaf fans.

**12. How did Sam reach Galesburg? What did he advice Charley to do?**

Sam was fascinated by Charley’s description of Galesburg. He was so burdened by the tensions and stress of modern life that he thought of escaping to the peaceful world of Galesburg. His advice to Charley was to keep looking for Third level and to reach Galesburg with his wife through it.

**13. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money handed over by Charley?**

The booking clerk refused to accept the money handed by Charley because Charley had given him the new style currency noes. The booking clerk expected the currency that was in circulation in 1894. He thought Charley was trying to cheat him

**14. Why did Charley rush back from the third level?**

When Charley tried to pay the booking clerk with new currency, the clerk, who belonged to the 19th century, thought that Charley was trying to cheat him. He threatened to hand Charley to the cops. Charley was frightened and he rushed back from the third level as he did not want to get arrested.

Long Answer Questions

**1. Philately helps in keeping the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future?**

Man has always been interested in the past. He looks back and is eager to know how life was like in old times. Not only the past of mankind, but even the distant past of the earth is alluring. Scientists spend fortunes and precious years of their lives to look for fossils to reconstruct the conditions under which those extinct animals lived. Pyramids are ransacked to learn about pharaohs and their times. We preserve ancient monuments to keep the past alive. Our history books tell us about lost civilisations. Coins, pottery, artifacts, statues, temples and other things tell us about the past. These are preserved and displayed in museums. Man is seldom satisfied with the present. So, he looks ‘before and after’.

**12. Why did Charley think that Grand Central Station was growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots?**

 The Grand Central Station of the New York is huge. It has two levels. Charley had been into the Grand Central hundred times. Every time he had a new experience. He would bump into new corridors and new staircases. He had lost his way there many times. Once he got into a tunnel a mile long and came up in the lobby of a hotel. Another time he came up in an office building. So he had begun to suspect that the Grand Central was ever pushing up new corridors and new staircases like roots of a tree. Perhaps new corridors and tunnels were trying to reach Times Square and Central Park. But his most amazing experience was when he lost his way and reached the third level. He was in a hurry to reach home one evening. He wanted to take a train on the second level but the corridor led him to the third level which was not supposed to exist. The strangest thing was that the corridor had led him into the past. Everything, including people, on third level, was about a century old. It was that of 1894.