



THE VILLAGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
"We Nurture Dreams"

Grade 12
Poets and Pancakes

Short Answer Questions (4 marks)

Read the extract given below and briefly answer the questions that follows

1. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience – no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying.

- (i) Identify the chapter. Who is 'he'?
- (ii) What was 'he' in real life?
- (iii) How did the audience react to his speech?
- (iv) Why was his speech not a success? (2020)

Short Answer Questions (2 marks)

1. What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery' of those subjected to make-up'?
2. What is the example of national integration that the author refers to?
3. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?
4. Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on?
5. Why was the legal adviser referred to as the opposite by others?

Long Answer (6 marks)

7. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios? Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as unexplained mystery?
8. What do you understand about the author's literary inclinations?



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Answer Key

Short Answer Questions (4 marks)

Read the extract given below and briefly answer the questions that follows

2. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience – no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying.

- (i) Identify the chapter. Who is 'he'?
- (ii) What was 'he' in real life?
- (iii) How did the audience react to his speech?
- (iv) Why was his speech not a success? (2020)

Short Answer Questions (2 marks)

6. What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery' of those subjected to make-up'?
7. What is the example of national integration that the author refers to?
8. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?
9. Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on?
10. Why was the legal adviser referred to as the opposite by others?

Long Answer (6 marks)

9. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios? Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as unexplained mystery?
10. What do you understand about the author's literary inclinations?

Answers Of Chapter 6 Poets and Pancakes For The Above Questions

1. (i) The name of the chapter is Poets and Pancakes. He was the English poet who came to deliver a speech.
2. (ii) He was the editor of the British periodical, The Encounter.
3. (iii) The audience was left dazed as no one understood his accent.
4. (iv) His speech was not a success because he failed to make the audience understand his speech and the purpose of his visit.
5. The make-up room of Gemini Studios looked like a hair cutting salon. It had around half a dozen mirrors with incandescent lights at all angles around them. The artists would feel the heat coming from these lights. Thus, the writer uses the term 'fiery misery' to denote the uncomfortable situation of those subjected to make-up.
6. The division of the Gemini Studios' make up room was an example of national integration. According to the author, this is so because people from different regions and religions worked together in that department. The department had hierarchy system. The department was headed by a Bengali who was succeeded by a Maharashtrian. The other helpers included a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo Burmese and the local Tamils.
7. The job of the author was to cut newspaper clippings and file them. For the other employees, all he seemed to be doing is tearing newspapers, which according to them did not qualify as work. Therefore, they often considered him free and available for their miscellaneous work.
8. The office boy had joined the studio years ago in the hope of becoming an actor or a screenwriter, or a director, or a lyricist. The fact that he ended up becoming none of these left him frustrated. According to him, "great literary talent was being allowed to go waste in a department fit only for barbers and perverts". He used to direct his anger at the author even though it was meant for Kothamangalam Subbu.
9. A lawyer used to be a part of the Story Department at the Gemini Studios. Though, as a legal adviser, he was supposed to be involved in legal matters, his cagey yet stupid idea led to the end of an actress's career. Due to this, he was referred to as the illegal advisor, by the people.
10. The accent of Stephen Spender, the Englishman, was the main cause of the lack of communication between him and the people at Gemini Studios. Apart from that, the people did not have any idea about what he was talking. The Englishman's visit to the Gemini Studios is referred to as an unexplained mystery because no one could decipher his identity, whether he was a poet or an editor. Besides, when he spoke no one at the studio understood what he intended to say as his accent was beyond their comprehension.

11. Though the author had a very tedious and unchallenging job at the studios, his interest in literature and writing is apparent in his willingness to participate in the short story contest organized by the British periodical, The Encounter. Moreover, the author appears to be a keen reader visiting libraries and buying books on wide-ranging topics whenever he could afford them. Besides, the narrative also establishes the fact that the author was one of the most knowledgeable persons in Gemini Studios. His idea about how prose writing was not meant for geniuses but for those with patience and perseverance, highlight his reflective and deep thoughts on literature and creative writing.