



THE VILLAGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
"We Nurture Dreams"

QUESTION BANK FOR ASSESSMENT -1

CLASS VIII

READING

A. Read the passage.

Only two spiders found in the United States of America are deadly to humans: the black widow and the brown recluse. The black widow is found in all the forty-eight adjoining states, more commonly in the South and West than in the North.

An expert, Crabhill, describes it as "a shy and retiring spider that doesn't go looking for trouble". They bite only in self-defence. However, this spider's bite is much feared because its venom is fifteen times stronger than a rattlesnake's. Contrary to popular belief, most people who are bitten suffer no serious damage, let alone death. But bites can be fatal, usually to small children, the elderly, or the infirm. Fortunately, fatalities are rare. The black widow's bite is excruciatingly painful. Crabhill says, "Sometimes even morphine won't knock out the pain."

A black widow's bite can be treated but there is no effective treatment for the brown recluse's bite. This spider, sometimes called the violin spider because of a violin-like marking on its upper body, is found predominantly in the South, especially in the Gulf States, and in the West. They are far more to be feared than the US tarantula. Crabhill says, "All tarantulas native to the USA are not hazardous to life, although they will bite. As you get down to the New World tropics, some are extremely dangerous." He advises that if you have them as pets, the only safe rule is: "If you don't know where they came from, don't handle them."

Attempt any eight of the following questions.

1. Where is the black widow found?
2. Which spider does not go looking for trouble? What is its nature?
3. Name the spider that is more deadly than the black widow. Support your answer.

4. Why is morphine given to a person when bitten by a black widow?
5. Give another name for a brown recluse spider. Why is it called so?
6. In the United States of America, where is the brown recluse found?
7. What does the author warn his readers about keeping tarantulas as pets?
8. Why is Crabhill quoted throughout the passage?
9. In Paragraph 2, *excruciating* means:
 - a. mild
 - b. agonising
 - c. tedious

B. Read the passage.

Astronomers say that their work is hindered due to light pollution. It is also a problem for people who want to gaze at the stars in the sky and enjoy the beauty of a starry night. It has been noticed that glare from road lamps, commercial security lights and signs can cause discomfort and distraction. Even a neighbour's bright and misdirected yard lighting can adversely affect the quality of life of many people.

Light pollution also has an adverse effect on birds and other animals. Many migratory birds, for example, fly by night, when light from the stars and the moon helps them navigate. These birds are disoriented by the glare of artificial light as they fly over urban and suburban areas. Light pollution is considered to be one of the contributing factors in the dramatic decline of certain migratory songbird populations over the past several decades.

The quantity of light pollution from a given area depends on the number and brightness of light sources on the ground, the fraction of light that escapes above the horizontal surface, the reflection of surfaces near the light sources (e.g., roads, pavements, walls, windows), and the prevailing atmospheric conditions.

Light pollution can be reduced by using well-designed light fixtures with modern optical controls to direct the light downward and also by using the minimum amount of wattage for the area to be illuminated. National and local government agencies can help by passing and enforcing appropriate light-control laws and ordinances.

Attempt any eight of the following questions.

1. According to the passage, who is affected by light pollution?
2. What adversely affects the quality of people's life?
3. How does light pollution affect migratory birds?
4. Pick a sentence from the passage which talks about the effect of light pollution on the ecosystem?
5. What does the quantity of light pollution from a given area depend on?
6. Name a few reflecting surfaces given in the passage.
7. How can light pollution be reduced?
8. How can the government help to reduce light pollution?
9. Which word in paragraph 2 means *confused/bewildered*? Make a sentence with the word.

WRITING

1. Write a newspaper report on *Peacock population in India on the decline*.
2. You have been elected the School Pupil Leader. Write a diary entry about your experience on the day it was announced, and about the new challenges and responsibilities you would have to take up.
3. Your father has been transferred and you had to move to a new school. Write a blog about your experiences on the first day in your new school.
4. *Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on children below 18 years of age*. Do you agree or disagree? State your own point of view and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Then, say what you think might be the best solution.

GRAMMAR

1. There is an error in each line. Underline the error and write the correct word in the space provided.

- a. If I had known you were coming, I would bake some cookies. _____
- b. They have arrived by now, but they aren't here yet. _____
- c. The policeman asked the men what they are doing. _____
- d. I live in an apartment in the first floor. _____
- e. Take your feet from the table. _____
- f. Hi Sachin! Something smells good. What do you cook? _____
- g. I make some tomato soup. _____

2. Do as directed.

- a. The featherless head of a vulture could be seen from my bedroom window.
(Underline the adjectival phrase)
- b. Excess salt ruins the taste of food. (Rewrite as conditional sentence.)
- c. I love the house which has a beautiful flower garden in it. (Underline the clause in the sentence.)
- d. Trees have been thoughtlessly chopped down. (Choose *many* / *any* to complete the sentence.)
- e. He did not miss his guitar classes. (State what type of sentence this is.)

3. Choose the correct options and complete the sentences.

- a. I'm a bit busy at the moment. I _____ be able to see you later but I'm not sure yet.
i. must ii. might iii. could
- b. It is cloudy. It _____ rain in a few minutes.
i. may ii. will iii. must
- c. You can't be serious, Mano. You _____ be joking.

- i. could ii. might iii. must

4. Change the voice and rewrite the sentences.

- a. The dog brought home the newspaper.
- b. Ajay was picked up by his mother.
- c. I gave her a painting kit.
- d. Give the order.
- e. Parveen placed the books on the shelf.
- f. Let the door be opened.

TEXT BASED QUESTIONS

1. Answer the questions with reference to the context.

- a. *They walked in complete silence. There were no slogans, no shouts, just the shuffle of feet and a low murmur from the watching crowd.*
 - i. Who is referred to in the above lines?
 - ii. Where were they heading?
 - iii. Why were there no slogans or shouts?
- b. *The last thing I did was to feel if my revolver was handy and my sword loose in the scabbard.*
 - i. Who is the speaker? Where is he at the moment of action?
 - ii. Why is he there?
 - iii. Why does he check whether the revolver and the sword are handy?
- c. *She has not had to go through this confusion with the other two Indian children in the school. She opens up the folder and examines the immunization record and the birth certificate.*
 - i. Who does 'she' refer to in the above lines?
 - ii. What was the confusion?
 - iii. What did she see in the school records?
- d. *One glance at it was enough to cause me to spring to my feet with an exclamation of horror. Luckily they were so engrossed in the matter on hand that neither of them observed me.*
 - i. What does the narrator refer to in the above lines?
 - ii. Why was the narrator startled on looking at it?
 - iii. Where was the narrator?

2. Answer the questions in brief.

- a. How does Carole feel on being labeled a 'mulatto'?

- b. After acting his part, how did Patol Babu feel about his acting?
- c. What is the significance of the title, *Your World*?
- d. How was Claribel, the canary, a good choice for a pet in the space-station?
- e. What does the speaker, in *Hope is the Thing With Feathers*, mean by the bird not asking for even a single crumb?
- f. In the account *Coming Home to Delhi*, what is special about the lunchbox the narrator carried to school as a child?

3. Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

- a. Give a brief account of what ensued when the rumour of the bank collapse spread?
- b. How does the speaker in *The Lost Dances of Cranes*, express her displeasure about the extinction of a past glory in the world around her?
- c. What effort does the Principal take to make Gogol comfortable in school?
- d. Describe the tense situation Leisel and her parents were put through because of their kind nature.