

ST THOMAS SCHOOL, DHURWA, RANCHI – 834004
ENGLISH LITERATURE QUESTION ANSWERS
CHAPTER 1: The Shoemaker by Charles Dickens (Pg 6&7)
BOOK : New Aster (Advanced) 8 CLASS – VIII

COMPREHENSION :

A : Answer these questions :

Q1) What was the shoemaker doing when Defarge entered the room ?

Ans 1) He was involved in shoe making with his white head bent low.

Q2) How did the shoemaker react to more light in the room ? Why do you think he reacted the way he did ?

Ans 2) He put a hand between his eyes and the light coming from the half-opened door . He did this because he was in confinement and long seclusion from direct light and air for 18 years during the French Revolution.

Q3) When asked his name he says, 'One Hundred and Five, North Tower.' What do you gather from this reply?

Ans 3) One Hundred and Five was the designation given to him when he was thrown in the North Tower of Bastille prison after refusing to support a French noble.

Q4) What do you think was the reason for the old man to lapse into forgetfulness so often ?

Ans 4) After eighteen years of being physically and mentally removed from the world in the strict confinement of Bastille , Manette suffered greatly as it appeared that he had lost all sense of time , place and self. His blankness of expression is described as a black mist fallen on him as his memory gets faded and overclouded again and again.

Q5) Who was the young lady ? How did the shoemaker react when he saw her?

Ans 5) The young lady was the daughter of Monsieur Manette.

He stared at her with a frightened look and after a while started to form words with his lips, although it did not make any sound. Little

by little , in between his quick heavy breath, he asked “ What is this?”

B: Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. ‘Yes, for a moment . At first I thought it was quite hopeless, but I have unquestionably seen, for a single moment , the face that I once knew so well. Hush!’ let us draw further back. Hush!’

A) Who says these words ?

Ans : These words are spoken by Mr. Lorry.

B) Why did he think it was hopeless ?

Ans : He thought that Monsieur Manette would not recognise them at all as his memory power had diminished after being cut off from the world for eighteen years in prison.

C) Whose face does he recognise?

Ans : He recognises the face of Dr. Manette.

2. “ Monsieur Manette , do you remember nothing of me ?”

The shoe dropped to the ground, and he sat looking fixedly at the questioner.

A) Who is the speaker ?

Ans : Mr. Lorry is the speaker.

B) Who is Monsieur Manette?

Ans: He was a physician who was imprisoned for 18 years in Bastille during the French Revolution but after the fall of Bastille , he was brought by Monsieur Defarge , his friend and kept in his garret where he worked as a shoemaker.

C : Think and Answer

Q2) What can you say about the character of Manette and his daughter?

Ans :

Character Sketch Of Manette

He was a successful physician who became a victim of the pre - French Revolution era. He was imprisoned for 18 years in the Bastille as a result of going against the French aristocrats. He lost his identity and became deranged and withdrawn in the long long years of his confinement. He compulsively cobbled lady's shoes to ward off the horrors of imprisonment.

Character sketch of Manette's daughter

Lucie Manette was the daughter of Dr. Manette. She was brought up as an orphan but on knowing about her father's whereabouts , she showed her unconditional love for him and restored his physical and mental health. She was known to be a kind and a compassionate woman .

ASSIGNMENTS QUESTIONS (2020-2021)

I) Answer the following questions in one sentence.

1) What led Charles Dickens to become the voice of the poor and the working class ?

Ans 1) Charles Dickens had to work from a tender age , so he experienced the pain of poverty and became the voice of the poor.

Q2) Name any two popular novels of Charles Dickens .

Ans 2) David Copperfield and Oliver Twist.

Q3) What did the shoemaker answer when his name was asked ?

Ans 3) He answered, One Hundred and Five, North Tower.

Q4) Who had come to visit the shoemaker ?

Ans 4) Mr. Lorry and the shoemaker's daughter Lucie.

II) Answer the following questions in two or three sentences :

Q1) What was peculiar about the faintness heard in the shoemaker's voice?

Ans :1) The voice was so faint that it seemed to come from a distance. The faintness seemed to be pitiable and dreadful. The faintness was not due to physical weakness but due to confinement, solitude and disuse.

Q2) Where was the shoemaker ? What did the broad ray of light from the half-open door reveal about his tools and work ?

Ans 2) The shoemaker was in the garret. His few common tools and scraps of leather were at his feet and on his bench. There was an unfinished shoe on his lap which he had to do with.

Q3) Discuss about the physical appearance of the shoemaker.

Ans 3) He had white hair, haggard pair of eyes but exceedingly bright, white beard raggedly cut, hollow face and body withered and worn.

Q4) What were the shoemaker's clothing and why had it become dull and faded ?

Ans 4) He wore a ragged shirt which lay open at the throat. His loose stockings, old canvas frock and poor tatters of clothes had become parched yellow due to seclusion from direct sunlight and air.

III) Answer the following questions in five or six sentences :

Q1) "I said, couldn't you describe the kind of shoe, for monsieur's information?"

What information was given about the kind of shoe made by the speaker?

Ans 1) The information given was that it was a young lady's walking shoe. It was in the present mode but he had never seen the mode. He had only a pattern of it in his hand.

Q2) Who were the people and the things Mr. Lorry wanted Monsieur Manette to recall ? What was Monsieur Manette's expression ?

Ans 2) He wanted Monsieur to recall any old banker, old business, old servant, and old times.

He sat looking fixedly, by turns at both Mr. Lorry and Defarge.

Darkness had fallen on him and he looked at the two less attentively.

His eyes eyes in a gloomy abstraction sought the ground and looked about him in the old way.

Q3) Who was the young lady who came to visit Manette ? What were her repeated expressions on seeing Monsieur Manette?

Ans 3) Refer to answer A Q)5 (first part).

She stood looking at him , with hands raised in frightened compassion, if not to keep him off and shut out the sight of him . She tried to extend it towards him , trembling with eagerness to hold his face and love it back to life and hope.

Q4) How did the shoemaker react when he raised his eyes to glance at the young lady's face ?

Ans 4) Refer to answer A Q)5 (second part).
