

**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL, RANCHI-4**  
**Std. 7 Subject- English Literature (Second Term)**  
**Ch- 10 I AM MALALA**

**A. Answer these questions.**

**1. Describe the 'rubbish mountain'.**

**Ans. Just along the street from the new house of Malala was an abandoned strip of land that people used as a rubbish dump . There was no rubbish collection in Swat. Quickly, it became a rubbish mountain. It smelt very bad. Sometimes Malala and others would spot rats running through it and crows would circle overhead.**

**2. What were the challenges faced by Shehnaz? What help did she receive from Malala's family?**

**Ans. Shehnaz's mother had once worked in Malala's house. She and her sister had been sent out to collect garbage after their father had died leaving them poor. One of her brother was mentally ill and was doing strange things.**

**Malala's father had arranged a small allowance for Shehnaz's mother and a place for her and her brother at his school. Shehnaz came to live with Malala so that she could help her in her studies. In this way she received help from Malala's family.**

**3. What type of people did the narrator's mother fill the house with?**

**Ans. The narrator's mother filled the house with children whose mothers cleaned their house and helped in household works. She even helped the girls for whom it was hard to learn when they were not getting enough food at home ; like:**

**Malala's cousin- Aneesa who had come from the village, to live with them so she could go to school.**

**Shehnaz who had been sent out to collect garbage after her father had died .**

**Nooria whose mother did some of their washing and cleaning.**

**Alishpa whose mother helped the narrator's mother with the cooking.**

**4. Why did some richer parents take their kids out of school?**

**Ans. Some of the richer parents took their kids out of the school when they realized they were sharing classrooms with the sons and daughters of people who cleaned their houses or stitched their clothes. They thought it was shameful for their children to mix with those from poor families.**

**5. How did the dirty face of the girl from the dump affect the speaker?**

**Ans. The speaker imagined the girl- Shashaka, the dirty woman the people told them about in tales in the village. She was so scared that when her father came home from**

school, she told him about the scavenger children and begged him to go with her to look . She also persuaded him to give her free place at his school.

**6. Discuss the role played by Azaday Khan.**

**Ans.** Azaday Khan was a wealthy philanthropist who paid for Ziauddin to produce a leaflet asking, ' Is education not the right of these children?' ' These children' were actually the breadwinners of their houses and if they went to school, even for free, their whole family would go hungry. Still Ziauddin printed thousands of these leaflets, left them at local meetings and distributed them around town.

**7. Why was Malala's father famous? Why did the local commander call the narrator's father ' lethal'?**

**Ans.** Malala's father was a Pakistani education activist who protested against the Taliban's opposition to the education rights of girls. As a teacher he used to run a school where he gave away more than hundred free places. Though he was not a rich man, he supported every woman who wanted to become successful and not stay illiterate.He wasn't afraid to criticise the authorities, even the army. He was very skilful and accurate in his works. He also formed an organisation called ' Global Peace Council ' whose main aim was to preserve the environment of Swat and promote peace and education among people.

**8. What was the problem with 'ghost school' ?**

**Ans.** Influential people in remote areas took money from the government for schools which never saw a single pupil. Instead they used the building for their hujras or even to keep their animals. There was even a case of a man drawing a teacher's pension when he had never taught a day in his life.

**B.2. How was Malala's father a mentor and role model for her?**

**Ans.** Malala's father was an educated, articulate and charismatic man. He passes on to his daughter a passion for freedom, education and equality. Through hard work and perseverance he became a talented speaker. He used to run his school. Though the school was not really making money,he gave away more than hundred free places. In spite of Taliban's threats, he encourages Malala to fight for education and women's rights . He wasn't afraid to criticise the authorities , even the army. He continues to use his talents to fight for equal rights and equal education and encourages Malala to do exactly the same.

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