

AMRITA VIDYALAYAM

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2018 - '19

Class : VIII

Marks : 80

Time : 2½ hrs

ENGLISH

General Instructions :

This paper consists of three sections -

Section A - Reading - 20 marks

Section B - Writing and Grammar - 30 marks

Section C - Literature - 30 marks

1. Attempt all questions.

2. Do not write anything on the question paper.

3. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided to you.

4. Attempt all questions in each section before going on to the next section.

5. Read each question carefully and follow the instructions.

6. Strictly adhere to the word limit prescribed.

SECTION A - READING

1. Read the passage and answer the questions given below.

Long, long ago, in a big forest, there were many trees. Among the cluster of trees, there was a very tall pine tree. He was so tall that he could talk to the stars in the sky. He could easily look over the heads of the other trees. One day late in the evening, the pine tree saw a ragged, skinny girl approaching him. He could see her only because of his height. The little girl was in tears. The pine tree bent as much as he could and asked her: "What is the matter? Why are you crying?" The little girl, still sobbing, replied, "I was gathering flowers for a garland for Goddess Durga, who I believe would help my parents to overcome their poverty and I have lost my way." The pine tree said to the little girl, "It is late in the evening. It will not be possible for you to return to your house, which is at the other end of the forest. Sleep for the night at this place." The pine tree pointed out to an open cave-like place under him. The little girl was frightened of wild animals. The girl quickly crept into the cave-like place. The pine tree was happy and pleased with himself. He stood like a soldier guarding the place. The little girl woke up in the morning and was amazed to see the pine tree standing guard outside the cave. Then her gaze travelled to the heap of flowers that she had gathered the previous night. The flowers lay withering on the ground. The pine tree understood what was going on in the girl's mind. He wrapped his branches around the nearby flower trees and shook them gently. The little girl's eyes brightened. But a great surprise awaited her. The pine tree brought out a bag full of gold coins which had been lying for years in the hole in its trunk and gave it to the girl. With teary eyes she thanked her benefactor and went away.

1.1. Answer the following questions.

- Why was the girl crying?
- Where did the pine tree want the little girl to sleep for the night?
- Why was the little girl disappointed when she looked at the flowers and what did the tree do to make her happy?
- What lesson does this short story teach us?

8

1.2. Do as directed.

- a) What is meant by the word “cluster”? (Para 1)
 (i) group (ii) team (iii) class (iv) party
- b) What is meant by the word “approaching”? (Para 1)
 (i) calling (ii) touching (iii) coming close (iv) running towards.
- c) What is meant by the word “wild”? (Para 2)
 (i) cunning (ii) dirty (iii) unpolished (iv) dangerous
- d) What is meant by the word “withering”? (Para 2)
 (i) shrinking (ii) shrunk (iii) colourless (iv) unhappy

2. Read the poem carefully.

How do you go in a swing?
 Up in the air so blue?
 Oh, I do think it to be the pleasantest thing
 Ever a child can do!
 Up in the air and over the wall
 Till I can see so wide,
 Rivers and trees and cattle and all
 Over the country side....
 Till I look down on the garden green
 Down on the roof so brown....
 Up in the air I go flying again,
 Up in the air and down!

2.1. On the basis of your reading answer the following questions.

3

- a) According to the poet the air is _____.
- b) The pleasantest thing a child can do is _____.
- c) From far above the sky, the poet sees _____.

2.2. Find the words from the poem that mean the same as the following.

3

- a) nicest b) broad c) village

2.3. Answer the following questions.

2

- a) Who is the speaker of this poem?
- b) Suggest a suitable title for the poem.

SECTION B - WRITING AND GRAMMAR

3. Write a diary entry about your feelings on the day after watching the world cup football match final in 100-150 words.

8

4. Prepare an outline story based on the hints given.

12

One eyed mother suffering looks after her son son hates her of her appearance He leaves the home settles at a distant place comes after years students reunion visits his mother she was dead he knows that he lost his eye in his childhood mother donated one of her eyes feels guilty.

5. Fill in the blanks with correct verb forms.

2

- a) The wind _____ (blow) away the leaves that we _____ have (collect).
- b) She _____ (throw) away the letter that she _____ (have, write).

6. Change the voice.

2

- a) The police chased the thief.
- b) He had visited Delhi.

- 7. Fill in the blanks with 'had to, have to or has to'.** **3**
- a) We _____ to go for karate lessons last year.
b) She _____ to tell the matter to her parents.
c) We _____ to inform the problem to our principal.
- 8. Arrange the following words into meaningful sentences.** **3**
- a) been / have / I / childhood / mountain / from / attracted / by / mountains / to / they
b) of happiness / victory / is / of / a feeling / and / there
c) a / born / in / was / house / work / Oliver Twist

SECTION C - LITERATURE

- 9. Read the following lines and answer the questions given below.** **4**
- “For he is a friend in feline shape
A monster of depravity”
- a) Who is the speaker?
b) Who is the 'he' here?
c) What do you mean by depravity?
d) Identify the poetic device used.
- 10. Answer the following words in 30-40 words.** **8**
- a) What is Connie's Christmas present? Why it is considered as the best Christmas present in this world?
b) The ant tells the cricket to 'dance the water away'. What does it mean?
c) What does the phrase 'The king with his sword in his hand' suggest?
d) Why did the camel live in the middle of desert?
- 11. Answer the question in 100-120 words.** **8**
- Write an appreciation of the poem 'Macavity: The Mystery Cat'.
- 12. Answer any one of the following question in 150-200 words.** **10**
- Describe how major Ahluvalia explain the title of the lesson 'The Summit Within'.
- OR
- Who did the giant in the story 'The Selfish Giant' love most and why?