

## Chapter – 7

### A Visit To Cambridge

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#### Comprehension Check

**Q1. Which is the right sentence?**

1. “Cambridge was my metaphor for England.” To the writer,  
(i) Cambridge was a reputed university in England.  
(ii) England was famous for Cambridge.  
(iii) Cambridge was the real England.

**Answer.** 1. (iii) To the writer, Cambridge was the real England.

2. The writer phoned Stephen Hawking’s house

- (i) from the nearest phone booth.  
(ii) from outside a phone booth.  
(iii) from inside a phone booth.

**Answer.** 2. (ii) The writer phoned Stephen Hawking's house from outside a phone booth.

3. Every time he spoke to the scientist, the writer felt guilty because

- (i) he wasn’t sure what he wanted to ask.  
(ii) he forced the scientist to use his voice synthesiser.  
(iii) he was face to face with a legend.

**Answer.** 3. (ii) Every time he spoke to the scientist, the writer felt guilty because he forced the scientist to use his voice synthesiser.

4. “I felt a huge relief... in the possibilities of my body.” In the given context, the highlighted words refer to

- (i) shifting in the wheelchair, turning the wrist.  
(ii) standing up, walking.  
(iii) speaking, writing

**Answer.** 4. (i) In the given context, the highlighted words refer to shifting in the wheelchair, turning the wrist.

#### Working With The Text

**Q1. Answer the following questions.**

(i) Did the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking make the writer nervous? If so, why?

(ii) Did he at the same time feel very excited? If so, why?

Answer. (i) Yes, the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking made the writer nervous. He was to meet a great personality and that too one who had achieved greatness despite his disabilities. Clearly, it was a big moment, a great honour for the writer. So it is not surprising that he was nervous at the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking.

(ii) Yes, he felt excited at the same time because it made him stronger to see somebody like him achieving something huge. This made him aware of the many possibilities present before him, thereby helping him to reach out further than he ever thought he could.

**Q2. Guess the first question put to the scientist by the writer.**

**Answer.** The writer might have asked the scientist if he had been brave to reach where he had.

**Q3. Stephen Hawking said, "I've had no choice." Does the writer think there was a choice? What was it?**

**Answer.** The writer thought that there was a choice. Stephen Hawking could have chosen to leave everything, and be sad and depressed. He could have sulked. However, he chose to live creatively knowing the reality of his disintegrating body.

**Q4. "I could feel his anguish." What could be the anguish?**

**Answer.** Stephen Hawking's mind was active with many thoughts that he wanted to express. However, his thoughts came out in phrases, without reflecting his feelings or emotions. His sentences were mere lines, without any sentiment. The writer felt he could understand his anguish and frustration at that.

**Q5. What endeared the scientist to the writer so that he said he was looking at one of the most beautiful men in the world?**

**Answer.** The writer asked Stephen Hawking if he found it annoying that someone like him came and disturbed him in his work. To this query, the scientist replied in the affirmative, frankly and honestly. Then, he smiled his one way smile and this was what endeared him to the writer. The writer felt that he was looking at one of the most beautiful men in the world.

**Q6. Read aloud the description of 'the beautiful' man. Which is the most beautiful sentence in the description?**

**Answer.** The most beautiful sentence in the description is, ".you look at his eyes which can speak, still, and they are saying something huge and urgent...."

**Q7. (i) If 'the lantern' is the man, what would its 'walls' be?**

**(ii) What is housed within the thin walls?**

**(iii) What general conclusion does the writer draw from this comparison?**

Answer. (i) If 'the lantern' is the man, its 'walls' would be the man's body.

(ii) The incandescence or the inner glow of the man is housed within the thin walls.

(iii) The conclusion that the writer drew from this comparison was that the body exists only like a case made of shadows. It is just an accessory. It is the soul that matters. Each individual is what he is from his heart and soul, and not from the body.

**Q8. What is the scientist's message for the disabled?**

**Answer.** The message that he gave to the disabled was that they should concentrate on what they were good at.

**Q9. Why does the writer refer to the guitar incident? Which idea does it support?**

**Answer.** When Stephen Hawking said that things such as disabled Olympics were a waste of time, the writer agreed with him. He remembered the years which he spent trying to play a Spanish guitar that was considerably larger than he was. He was very happy when he unstrung it one night. It supports Stephen Hawking's idea that the disabled should only concentrate on what they are good at, and not take up things unnecessarily.

**Q10. The writer expresses his great gratitude to Stephen Hawking. What is the gratitude for?**

**Answer.** The writer expressed his gratitude to Stephen Hawking because he had been an inspiration for him. He saw him as the embodiment of his bravest self. He felt that if he had been as brave as Stephen, he would have achieved a lot. He felt he was moving towards that embodiment that he had believed in for many years. That is why he expressed his greatest gratitude to him as he had made him realise what great heights he could reach.

**Q11. Complete the following sentences taking their appropriate parts from both the boxes below. (i) There was his assistant on the line ... (ii) You get fed up with people asking you to be brave, ... (iii) There he was, ... (iv) You look at his eyes which can speak, ... (v) It doesn't do much good to know ... A**

- tapping at a little switch in his hand
- and I told him
- that there are people
- as if you have a courage account
- and they are saying something huge and urgent

**B**

- trying to find the words on his computer.
- I had come in a wheelchair from India.
- on which you are too lazy to draw a cheque.
- smiling with admiration to see you breathing still.
- it is hard to tell what.

**Answer.** (i) There was his assistant on the line and I told him I had come in a wheelchair from India.

(ii) You get fed up with people asking you to be brave, as if you have a courage account on which you are too lazy to draw a cheque.

(iii) There he was, tapping at a little switch in his hand trying to find words on his computer.

(iv) You look at his eyes which can speak, and they are saying something huge and urgent - it is hard to tell what.

(v) It doesn't do much good to know that there are people smiling with admiration to see you breathing still.

### Working With Language

**Q1. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using the appropriate forms of the words given in the following box.**

guide    succeed    chair    travel    pale    draw    true

(i) I met a \_\_\_\_\_ from an antique land. (ii) I need special \_\_\_\_\_ in mathematics. I can't count the number of times I have failed in the subject. (iii) The guide called Stephen Hawking a worthy \_\_\_\_\_ to Isaac Newton. (iv) His other problems \_\_\_\_\_ into insignificance beside this unforeseen mishap. (v) The meeting was \_\_\_\_\_ by the youngest member of the board. (vi) Some people say 'yours \_\_\_\_\_' when they informally refer to themselves. (vii) I wish it had been a \_\_\_\_\_ match. We would have been spared the noise of celebrations, at least.

**Answer.** (i) I met a traveller from an antique land.

(ii) I need special guidance in mathematics. I can't count the number of times I have failed in the subject.

(iii) The guide called Stephen Hawking a worthy successor to Isaac Newton.

(iv) His other problems paled into insignificance beside this unforeseen mishap.

(v) The meeting was chaired by the youngest member of the board.

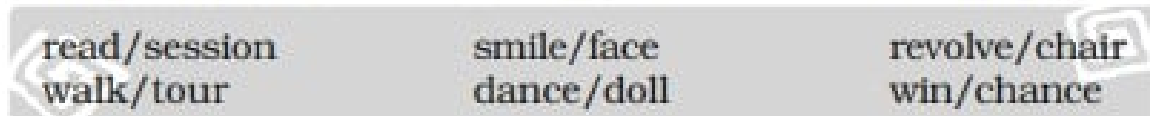
(vi) Some people say 'yours truly' when they informally refer to themselves.

(vii) I wish it had been a drawn match. We would have been spared the noise of celebrations, at least.

**Q2. Look at the following words.**

- walk
- Stick

**Can you create a meaningful phrase using both these words? (It is simple. Add -ing to the verb and use it before the noun. Put an article at the beginning.) a walking stick Now make six such phrases using the words given in the box.**



**Answer.** (i) Reading session (ii) Smiling face (iii) Revolving chair (iv) Walking tour (v) Dancing doll (vi) Winning chance

**Q3. Use all or both in the blanks. Tell your partner why you chose one or the other. (i) He has two brothers. \_\_\_\_\_ are lawyers. (ii) More than ten persons called. \_\_\_\_\_ of them wanted to see you. (iii) They \_\_\_\_\_ cheered the team. (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ her parents are teachers. (v) How much have you got? Give me \_\_\_\_\_ of it.**

**Answer.** (i) He has two brothers. Both are lawyers. (ii) More than ten persons called. All of them wanted to see you. (iii) They all cheered the team. (iv) Both her parents are teachers. (v) How much have you got? Give me all of it.

**Q4. Complete each sentence using the right form of the adjective given in brackets. (i) My friend has one of the \_\_\_\_\_ cars on the road. (fast) (ii) This is the \_\_\_\_\_ story I have ever read. (interesting) (iii) What you are doing now is \_\_\_\_\_ than what you did yesterday. (easy) (iv) Ramesh and his wife are both \_\_\_\_\_. (short) (v) He arrived \_\_\_\_\_ as usual. Even the chief guest came \_\_\_\_\_ than he did. (late, early)**

**Answer.** (i) My friend has one of the fastest cars on the road.

(ii) This is the most interesting story I have ever read.

- (iii) What you are doing now is easier than what you did yesterday.
- (iv) Ramesh and his wife are both short.
- (v) He arrived late as usual. Even the chief guest came earlier than he did.

### Speaking And Writing

**Q1. Say the following words with correct stress. Pronounce the parts given in colour loudly and clearly.**

camel	balloon
decent	opinion
fearless	enormous
careful	fulfil
father	together
govern	degree
bottle	before

word having more than one syllable, the stressed syllable is the one that is more prominent than the other syllable(s) (ii) A word has as many syllables as it has vowels. man (one syllable) ˈmanner (two syllables) (iii) The mark (ˈ) indicates that the first syllable in 'manner' is more prominent than the other

**Answer.** Do Attempt it.

**Q2. Underline stressed syllables in the following words. Consult the dictionary or ask the teacher if necessary.**

artist	mistake	accident	moment
compare	satisfy	relation	table
illegal	agree	backward	mountain

**Answer.** Do Attempt it.

**Q3. Writing a notice for the School Notice Board. Step 1** Discuss why notices are put up on the notice board. What kinds of 'notices' have you lately seen on the board? How is a notice different from a letter or a descriptive paragraph? **Step 2** Suppose you have lost or found something on the campus. What have you lost or found? You want to write a notice about it. If you have lost something, you want it restored to you in case someone has found it. If you have found something, you want to return it to its owner. **Step 3** Write a few lines describing the object you have lost or found. Mention the purpose of the notice in clear terms. Also write

your name, class, section and date. Step 4 Let one member of each group read aloud the notice to the entire class. Compare your notice with the other notices, and make changes, if necessary, with the help of the teacher. or

- Imagine that you are a journalist.
- You have been asked to interview the president of the village panchayat.
- Write eight to ten questions you wish to ask.
- The questions should elicit comments as well as plans regarding water and electricity, cleanliness and school education in the village.

Answer.

<b>Notice</b>
D.A.V. School
10 <sup>th</sup> September 20XX
Found a purse in the school playground. It has no name card in it. It seems that it belongs to some class VIII Student. The owner may contact the undersigned, prove his claim and take it away.
ABC
Roll No .....
VIII A

Or The questions that I would ask the president of the Village Panchayat: 1. What steps will you take for the development of education in your area? 2. What will you do for health facilities? 3. What will you do for roads? 4. What will you do for civil amenities? 5. How will you improve agriculture of your village? 6. What will you do for farmers? 7. What do you plan for female child promotion?

### Working With The Poem

**Q1. In the first stanza, find words that show (i) that it was very cold. (ii) that it was late evening. (iii) that the traveller was alone.**

**Answer.** (i) The word ‘rime’ shows that it was very cold.

(ii) The word ‘starlight’ shows that it was late evening.

(iii) The word ‘lonesomeness’ shows that the traveller was alone.

**Q2. (i) Something happened at Lyonesse. It was**

**(a) improbable.**

**(b) impossible.**

**(c) unforeseeable.**

**(ii) Pick out two lines from stanza 2 to justify your answer.**

**Answer.** (i) (c) Unforeseeable. (ii) "No Prophet durst declare Nor did the wisest wizard guess."

**Q3. (i) Read the line (stanza 3) that implies the following. 'Everyone noticed something, and they made guesses, but didn't speak a word'.**

**(ii) Now read the line that refers to what they noticed,**

**Answer.** (i) All marked with mute surmise. (ii) My radiance rare and fathomless.

### **When I Set Out For Lyonesse - (Working with the Poem)**

**Question 1: In the first stanza, find words that show**

**(i) that it was very cold.**

**(ii) that it was late evening.**

**(iii) that the traveller was alone.**

**Answer:** (i) that it was very cold – rime

(ii) that it was late evening – starlight

(iii) that the traveller was alone – lonesomeness

**Question 2: (i) Something happened at Lyonesse. It was**

**(a) improbable.**

**(b) impossible.**

**(c) unforeseeable.**

**(ii) Pick out two lines from stanza 2 to justify your answer.**

**Answer:** (i) Something happened at Lyonesse. It was

(c) unforeseeable

(ii) "No prophet durst declare;

Nor did the wisest wizard guess".

**Question 3: (i) Read the line (stanza 3) that implies the following.**

**'Everyone noticed something, and they made guesses, but didn't speak a word'.**

**(ii) Now read the line that refers to what they noticed,**

**Answer:** (i) "All marked with mute surmise".

(ii) "My radiance rare and fathomless".