



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic : **The Frog and the Nightingale**

Worksheet .No. : **2**

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Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : _____

Roll Number : _____

S.No. Read the following extracts and answer the questions. Marks

1. *“Not too bad - but far too long The technique was fine of course But it lacked a certain force’.* 4

(a) Why is the frog making the above comments?

Ans : The frog wishes to impress the nightingale as if he is an expert and get her to train.

(b) What defects does he point out in the nightingale’s songs?

Ans : The frog states that her song lacked energy and was too long.

(c) What was the reaction of the nightingale to the above comments?

Ans : The nightingale was impressed as she was very innocent.

(d) What does the word “**technique**” mean?

Ans: A method of doing something.

2. *For six hours, till she was shivering
and her voice was hoarse and quivering
Though subdued and sleep deprived
In the night her throat revived* 4

(a) Why had the nightingale come to this state?

Ans : The nightingale had sung for six hours at a stretch, so she was very tired.

(b) How did she revive?

Ans : At night her throat healed after rest.

(c) What would be the future of this kind of exertion?

Ans : She would succumb to such pressure and exertion and that is what happened.

(e) Give the synonym of the word “**hoarse**”.

Ans: Rough and unclear.

3. *“And my dear, lay on more trills
Audiences enjoy such frills
You must make your public happier
Give them something sharper, snappier* 4

We must aim for better billings.”

(a) What are the suggestions given by the frog for improvement?

Ans : The frog wanted more add-ons and fast-paced notes from the nightingale.

(b) Do you believe the frog’s suggestions are justified?

Ans : No, the frog wanted to tire and exploit the nightingale.

(c) What objective is there for the frog in giving the suggestions?

Ans : The frog wanted money and be the undisputed singer of the bog.

(d) What does the word “trills” mean?

Ans: Repeatedly and very quickly.

4. *At a voice so uninspired* 4
And the ticket office gross
Crashed and she grew more morose
For her ears were now addicted
to applause quite restricted.

(a) Why did the crowd stop listening to the nightingale?

Ans : The nightingale’s songs became dull, routine and uninspiring due to continuous singing.

(b) How did it affect the nightingale?

Ans : She was depressed because she had become addicted to praise and adulation.

(c) The nightingale is a typical artist. What character-trait of hers is being reflected here?

Ans : She thrives on the adulation and praise of her fans, and had become addicted to it.

(d) Give the synonym of the word “morose”.

Ans: Miserable.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

- (a) Why is frog’s joy both sweet and bitter? 2
Ans. Frog was happy to charge money for Nightingale’s song but was unhappy at the popularity of the nightingale in the bog. Financially he was happy to make profit but he did not like the competition and the applause that the nightingale was giving him.
- (b) How did the Bingle Bog creatures react to frog’s song and the nightingale’s song? 2
Ans : The creatures of Bingle Bog were very irritated by the loud, harsh singing of the frog. The frog was totally insensitive to their discomfort and no amount of

threats, beating could stop the frog. The nightingale's songs were a pleasant relief. She was musical, melodious and never disturbed the creatures of Bingle Bog for no reason.

- (c) How did the frog appear to the nightingale like a Mozart in disguise? 2
Ans: The nightingale admitted that there was nothing divine in her song. But she felt proud of her song. It was sweet and pleasant. But the frog was a crafty fellow. He planned to eliminate his rival in the bog. So he pointed out that there was not much to boast about the song. She was a beginner in the art of singing and needed proper training. He assured her to take upon himself the task of imparting training to her. The frog appeared to her like a Mozart in disguise.
- (d) How did the frog become the unrivalled king of the bog again? 2
Ans. The frog insulted and humiliated the nightingale. He made her practice continuously in rain and thunder. He instructed her to sing at very high notes. So out of sheer fatigue and stress, nightingale's vein burst and she died. So the bog had to tolerate the frog's singing once again.
- (e) What made the nightingale sad and sorrowful? 2
Ans: Excessive singing made the nightingale pale and sorrowful. The creatures in the bog lost interest in her song because it had become dull and boring. It had lost its previous freshness. The income at the ticket-office fell sharply. Finding her-self singing all alone the nightingale felt no delight in singing.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS(80-100 words)

1. What does the poet wish to convey in the poem 'The Frog and the Nightingale'? 8
Ans. This is an allegorical poem by Vikram Seth and reveals a deeper meaning beneath the emotional story line. The frog is a living symbol of cunning people, while the nightingale represents innocence and sensitivity to the extreme. Artists like the frog are acts without substance and prosper on the misfortune of others. They are hated and have little worth themselves, so they derive sadistic pleasure in tormenting and exploiting others. Naturally talented singers are sometimes not worldly-wise, so they fall prey to cunning businessmen. The poet mocks such music organisers who mint money by cheating and exploiting others. The poet also highlights the significance of public adoration in the life of an artist like the nightingale. She is innocent to praise and admiration but gradually, she also becomes addicted to it. The poet concludes that success is a game like tug of-war, in which the clever survive and the innocent and weak succumb to bitter defeat.
2. The nightingale was foolish and could be exploited. Explain in 100-120 words. 8
Ans: The nightingale had a typical temperament of an artist. She was very musical and her melody not only earned her great appreciation but also made some creatures cry. The crowd of her concerts consisted of some with titles and creatures from far also flocked to listen to her. She quickly became addicted to their praise but lacked acute business sense. She was not practical or worldly wise

and got very foolishly trapped by the clever frog. She never realised that he was making money and cheating her. She never saw through his manipulations that he wanted her to overexert. He criticised her needlessly and made her lose confidence. So it was the nightingale's fault to succumb to the clever frog's tricks. She never realised her own interest and welfare till the end. Her end was inevitable.

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS:

1. *And the whole admiring bog
Stared towards the sumac, rapt
And when she had ended, clapped
Ducks had swum and herons waded
to her as she serenaded* 4
 - (a) What was the reaction of the nightingale's song?
 - (b) Explain 'serenaded'.
 - (c) How did the nightingale sing and make a difference to the frog's songs?
 - (d) What does the word "rapt" mean?

2. *Flushed with confidence and fired
with both art and adoration
song and was a huge sensation
... And the frog with great precision
counted heads and charged admission* 4
 - (a) How had nightingale changed after her success?
 - (b) How did the frog make use of this situation?
 - (c) What do the above lines reflect about the nightingale and the frog's temperament?
 - (d) Give the synonym of the word "Flushed".

3. *Well, poor bird - she should have known.
That your song must be your own
That's why I sing with panache* 4
 - (a) How does the frog express his sympathy?
 - (b) What character-traits are reflected by the frog's comments?
 - (c) Explain 'panache'.
 - (d) Name the poem and the poet.