



Important snaps
by Team PIS
Class- X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

CHAPTER : THE FIRST FLIGHT

FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

TEACHER : MS. ROOPALI

Chapter 1 A Letter to God

- ▶ **Q1. What made Lencho angry ?**
- ▶ **A.** There were only seventy pesos in the envelope whereas Lencho had demanded a hundred pesos. The difference in the amount made him angry.
- ▶ **Q2. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter God ?**
- ▶ **A.** The postmaster sends money to Lencho in order to keep Lencho's faith in God alive and firm as he was completely moved by it.

Chapter 2 Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom

- ▶ **Q1. Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/why not?**
- ▶ **A.** Mandela does not think that the oppressor is free because according to him an oppressor is a victim of hatred who is behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. He realises that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity and peace.
- ▶ **Q2. How did Mandela's 'hunger for freedom' change his life?**
- ▶ **A.** Mandela realised in his youth that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. This changed the fearful man to a fearless rebel.
He sacrificed the comforts of a settled family life to fight for a greater cause. He joined the African National Congress and this changed him from a frightened young man into a bold one who fought against racial prejudice.

Chapter 3 Two Stories About Flying

- ▶ **Q1. Why does the narrator say, “I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota...”?**
- ▶ **A.** Seagull’s parents had tried everything but he was reluctant to fly due to fear of falling down. He looked at his brothers and sister but wouldn’t make any efforts. That’s why the whole family had left him alone and threatened and cojoked him to come but every effort went in vain.
- ▶ **Q2. “I’ll take the risk”. What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?**
- ▶ **A.** A huge storm was brewing up and the author was keen to reach his home to spend his holiday with his family. So, he decided to fly through the storm as he did not want to miss the chance to meet his family at breakfast. Thus he took the risk even when the visibility was almost zero in the storm.

Chapter 4 From the Diary of Anne Frank

- ▶ **Q1. Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?**
- ▶ **A.** Anne felt that paper had more patience than people to listen to her plight. So, it was easier for her to write all kind of thoughts which she had in her mind. Her personal diary was not meant for any one else to read.
- ▶ **Q2. What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?**
- ▶ **A.** Anne lived with her grandmother for sometime while her parents setled down in Holland. She was very close to her Grandmother. She writes in her diary . “No one knows how often I think of her and still love her”. On her 13th birthday by lightening up one candle for Grandmother she shows her love for her.

Chapter 5 The Hundred Dresses – I

- ▶ **Q1. Who won the drawing contest? What had the winner drawn?**
- ▶ **A.** Among the boys, Jack Beggles and among the girls, Wanda Petronski won the drawing contest. To show her determination she did not attend the school for two days and had drawn a • hundred sketches of dresses of different colours.. Each of them was capable to win the contest individually.
- ▶ **Q2. What does Miss Mason think of Wanda's drawings? What do the children think of them? How do you know ?**
- ▶ **A.** Miss Mason is very impressed with Wanda's drawings. She considers them really beautiful and worthy of winning individually. The children are also impressed by the drawing skills of Wanda that they all applaud and whistle when she wins among the girls.

Chapter 6 The Hundred Dresses – II

- ▶ **Q1. Why do you think Wanda gave Maddie and Peggy the drawings of the dresses ? Why are they surprised ?**
- ▶ **A.** When Maddie and Peggy wrote a letter to Wanda, she might have understood their feelings behind their letter and during the dresses game, she had observed both of them. So she requested Miss Mason to give two of her drawings to them and had taught them a lesson of life. Maddie and Peggy were surprised as she gifted them the drawings with their faces.
- ▶ **Q2. What does Maddie think hard about ? What important decision does she come to?**
- ▶ **A.** Maddie thinks about not to be mute spectator anymore that she had been in case of Wanda. She promised herself about not letting any injustice happen to anyone even if she would have to lose a friend in this.

Chapter 7 Glimpses of India

- ▶ **Q1. Who invites the comment – “he is dressed like a pader” Why?**
- ▶ **A.** Any person who is wearing a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites this comment. This is because the baker, known as a pader, used to dress like that.
- ▶ **Q2. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?**
- ▶ **A.** Yes, bread is an important part of Goan life. It is needed for marriage gifts, parties and feasts. Bread is also needed by a mother for preparing sandwiches during her daughter's engagement. Thus, it is necessary to have breads for every occasion, because of which the presence of a baker's furnace in the village is very important

Chapter 8 Mijbil the Otter

- ▶ **Q1. Why did Maxwell put the otter back in the box? How do you think he felt when he did this ?**
- ▶ **A.** As there was no other way to carry Mij to London, Maxwell put in the box again. He must have felt pity on the way the otter hurt himself. Moreover, he must be worried as well.
- ▶ **Q2. Why does Maxwell say the airhostess was “the very queen of her kind”?**
- ▶ **A.** The airhostess was very sympathetic after listening to Maxwell’s story. She understood how he might be feeling and then gave him permission to take the otter out of the box. Due to all this, Maxwell referred her as “the very queen of her kind”.

Chapter 9 Madam Rides the Bus

- ▶ **Q1. Why did Maxwell put the otter back in the box? How do you think he felt when he did this?**
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Chapter 10 The Sermon at Benares

- ▶ **Q1. Kisa Gotami again goes from house to house after she speaks with the Buddha. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?**
- ▶ **A.** Gautama Buddha asks Kisa to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where death had never knocked at the door. Kisa Gotami went from door to door, but couldn't find a single house where death had not taken a beloved away. She could not get it as death is ineluctable and anyone who is born is bound to die one day.
- ▶ **Q2. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house? What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?**
- ▶ **A.** After the death of her only son, Kisa Gotami was overcome with grief. She carried the dead body of her son in her arms and went from door to door asking for medicine to cure her child, but nobody could provide any medicine. For there is no such medicine available which can bring a dead person back to life.

Chapter 11 The Proposal

- ▶ **Q1. Can you now imagine what these characters will quarrel about next?**
- ▶ **A.** The words and expressions that have been used to describe each other by various characters of the play are Chubukov: intriguer, grabber, old rat Natalya: a lovesick cat, an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking' well-educated. Lomov: a good neighbour, impudent, pettifogger, malicious, double faced intriguer, rascal, blind hen, turnip ghost, a villain, scare crow, stuffed sausage, etc.
- ▶ **Q2. Chubukov says of Natalya: “..... as if she won't consent! She's in love; egad, she's like a lovesick cat.....” Would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.**
- ▶ **A.** Yes, Natalya is in love. This is clear by the way she behaves when she gets to know that Lomov came to propose to her. She starts weeping and asks her father to bring Lomov at once.

Poem Chapter 1 Dust of Snow

- ▶ **Q1. What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?**
- ▶ **A.** Generally, poets take the birds and trees which are known for their beauty and good qualities like peacock, parrot, cuckoo, mynah and trees full of beautiful flowers and fruits, etc. But here Frost has taken a totally different approach. He chose a crow, which is not often used in poems. Crow is black in colour with very harsh voice and is believed to be a symbol of bad omen. Thinking of a crow brings very depressing and sorrowful pictures to our mind.
- ▶ **Q2. What is a “dust of snow”? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet’s mood changed?**
- ▶ **A.** The ‘dust of snow’ means the fine particles or flakes of snow. The sudden shower in the form of the dust of snow changed the poet’s mood. The poet’s mood changed from sad to happy. He felt refreshed and wanted to enjoy the rest of the day.

Poem Chapter 2 Fire and Ice

- ▶ **Q1. For Frost, what do 'fire' and 'ice' stand for? Here are some ideas**
- ▶ **A.** 'Fire' stands for greed, avarice, lust, conflict and fury. 'Ice' stands for cruelty, intolerance, rigidity, insensitivity, coldness, indifference and hatred.
- ▶ **Q2. There are many ideas about how the world will 'end'. Do you think the world will end some day? Have you ever thought what would happen if the Sun gets so hot that it 'bursts' or grows colder and colder?**
- ▶ **A.** There are definitely many ideas about how the world will 'end'. I do believe that the world will end some day as anything that has a beginning will have an end. This stands true for the world also, if the Sun got so hot that it burst, the whole of the Earth would perish immediately as no part of the Earth can bear the heat of that intensity. But if the Sun grew colder and colder, everything will come to an end as without sunlight, life will end.

Poem Chapter 3 A Tiger in the Zoo

▶ **Q1. Read the following two poems one about a tiger and the other about a panther. Then discuss: Are zoos necessary for the protection or conservation of some species of animals?**

▶ **A.** Several species of animals are on the verge of extinction. Even tigers and lions are not safe in the forest due to poaching that is done for trade, etc. Zoos are, thus, necessary for the protection or conservation of these species. Zoos are safe and can also be used to educate the public about the importance of wild animals and their role in maintaining the ecological ' balance. Wildlife sanctuaries, reserves and national parks are some alternatives to zoos. These not only help in the protection and conservation of these species, but also provide them with a natural habitat.

▶ **Q2. Find the words that describe the two places and arrange them in two columns.**

▶ A.	In the Cage	In the Wild
	Stalks, Few steps of his cage, Quiet rage Locked in concrete cell, Stalking-the length of his cage Ignoring visitors. He hears the last voice Stares at the brilliant stars	Lurking in shadow, Sliding through long grass, Snarling around houses, Baring his white fangs, his claws, Terrorising the village

Poem Chapter 4 How to Tell Wild Animals

- ▶ **Q1. Does 'Dyin' really rhyme with 'lion' ? Can you say it in such a way that it does?**
- ▶ **A.** No, 'Dyin' does not rhyme with 'lion'. If we change the pronunciation of lion by speaking it as 'lying' then it may rhyme with the word 'dyin'.
- ▶ **Q2. How does the poet suggest that you identify the lion and the tiger? When can you do so according to him ?**
- ▶ **A.** A lion is a large and tawny beast. A Bengal Tiger has black stripes on its yellow coat. A lion roars when it falls upon its prey, while a tiger attacks silently. We can identify the two while roaming in the jungle.

Chapter 5 The Ball Poem

- ▶ **Q1. Do you think the boy has lost anything earlier? Pick out the Words that suggest the answer.**
- ▶ **A.** No, it seems that the boy had not lost anything earlier. The words that suggest so are 'He senses first responsibility in a world of possessions'.
- ▶ **Q2. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball? Try to explain this in your own words.**
- ▶ **A.** The poet says that the boy is learning to cope up with the loss of the ball. He is experiencing grief and learning to grow up in this world of possessions. He learns that there are so many things in life that are lost and cannot be brought back. He is sensing his first responsibility as he has lost the ball. The boy will learn how to stand up and leave the losses behind as he would have understood the true meaning and nature of loss.

Chapter 6 Amanda Poem

- ▶ Q1. What does the girl yearn for? What does this poem tell you about Amanda?
- ▶ A. A girl like Amanda yearns for freedom and space for herself. She is incapable to fulfil the expectations of her parents. Amanda is no less than a symbol for all the children who face similar fate irrespective of class, colour or nationality. Traditional societies demand a certain type of behaviour from the individuals and the training to produce such begins at a very young age. Parents ignore the innocence and understanding level of their children and thereby the young ends up killing their imagination and thoughts.
- ▶ Q2. Read the last stanza. Do you think Amanda is sulking and is moody?
- ▶ A. No, Amanda is neither sulking nor moody. She is simply not interested enough in the nagging business of her parents. Amanda cares more about her imagination and thought process over the manners her parents are trying to inculcate into her.

Chapter 7 Animals Poem

- ▶ **Q1. Do humans kneel to other humans who lived thousands of years ago? Discuss this in groups.**
- ▶ **A.** Yes, humans kneel to other humans who lived thousands of years ago as it is a cultural tradition to do so. (Students can discuss their own culture with their classmates and share the rituals and traditions of their culture and also get to know about other cultural practices.)
- ▶ **Q2. Mention three things that humans do and animals don't.**
- ▶ **A.** Animals do not cry and complain over their conditions. They do not commit sins and therefore do not weep for them. They are also very satisfied creatures and have no desire to possess material things. Humans, on the contrary, complain all the time, commit all sorts of sins and are affected with the madness of owning things.

Poem Chapter 8 The Trees

- ▶ **Q1. Where are the trees in the poem? What do their roots, their leaves and their twigs do?**
- ▶ **A.** In the poem, the trees are trapped in the poet's house. Their roots work all night to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor. The leaves try very hard to move towards the glass and put a lot of pressure on it so that it breaks, while the small twigs get stiff with exertion.
- ▶ **Q2. What does the poet compare their branches to?**
- ▶ **A.** The poet compares the branches to newly discharged patients of a hospital. The large branches of the trees become cramped due to the roof above them, and when they get free they rush stumblingly to the outside world. While doing so, they look half-shocked like the patients, who wait for a long time to get out of the hospital.

Poem Chapter 9 Fog

- ▶ **Q1. Does this poem have a rhyme scheme? Poetry that does not have an obvious rhythm or rhyme is called 'free verse'.**
- ▶ **A.** This poem does not have a rhyme scheme as the sentences do not end with like sounds. There is no pattern of similarity in the sounds of the ending words of any of the sentences, therefore the poem is written in free verse.
- ▶ **Q2. What does Sandburg think the fog is like? How does the fog come?**
- ▶ **A.** 1. Sandburg thinks that the fog is like a cat.
2. The fog comes silently like a cat on its small feet.
3. 'It' refers to fog.

Poem Chapter 10 The Tale of Custard the Dragon

- ▶ **Q1. Writers use words to give us a picture or image without actually saying what they mean. Can you trace some images used in the poem?**
- ▶ **A.** Writers always use such phrases and words that do not tell us directly about what they mean but always gives us an indication of the meaning. Such words or phrases are used to trigger our own imagination in painting the picture that they mean. Use of such images in the poem is the following: 'mouth like a fireplace', 'chimney for a nose', 'brave as a barrel full of bears', 'brave as a tiger in a rage', 'went at the pirate like a robin at a worm', etc.
- ▶ **Q2. Can you find out the rhyme scheme of two or three stanzas of the poem?**
- ▶ **A.** The rhyme scheme of the poem is 'aabb'.

Poem Chapter 11 For Anne Gregory

- ▶ **Q1. What does the young man mean by “great honey-coloured /Ramparts at your ear?” Why does he say that young men are “thrown into despair” by them?**
- ▶ **A.** The young man in the poem praises the great honey-colored hair of Anne. Anne's hair have been called rampart, meaning a wall. It is called so because they act as a wall, as they prevent young men from looking beyond those yellow hair and into her soul. Her hair are so attractive that young men cannot look at anything else. Anne's yellow hair are so pretty that young men hopelessly fall in love with her. She is so pretty that everyone wants her, which cannot happen; hence, they are thrown into despair.
- ▶ **Q2. What colour is the young woman's hair? What does she say she can change it to? Why would she want to do so?**
- ▶ **A.** Anne's hair are yellow, like the colour of honey. She says that she can change it to black, brown or carrot; she means that she can change it to any colour she wants. Anne says so to show that outer beauty is changeable and not permanent or real. She wants young men to look in her soul and love her for her inner beauty. In order to do so, she needs to show them the superficiality of her external beauty.

Chapter 1 A Triumph of Surgery

- ▶ **Q1. Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is 'a triumph of surgery'?**
- ▶ **A.** Mrs Pumphrey thinks that Tricki's recovery is a triumph of surgery because his illness was very serious. She was of the opinion that there were very few chances of Tricki to improve and he needed immediate medical attention. Thus, his revival without any medicinal treatment was a great achievement, according to her.
- ▶ **Q2. Do you think it is a real-life episode or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?**
- ▶ **A.** The story seems to be a mixture of both. It may be possible for rich persons to overfeed their pets due to love. It is not unusual for them to maintain a vast wardrobe for them either. But it is unlikely for a veterinary doctor to go out of the way and lie in order to save an animal. It is also unusual for anyone to consume food which is given in the name of a pet's health.

Chapter 2 The Thief's Story

- ▶ **Q1. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?**
- ▶ **A.** Hari's experience at theft had made him aware of differences in reactions of people when they're robbed. According to him, a greedy man shows fear; the rich, anger and a poor man, acceptance.
- ▶ **Q2. Do you think it is a significant detail in the story that Anil is a struggling writer? This explains his behaviour in any way**
- ▶ **A.** Yes, it is a significant detail that Anil is a struggling writer. His lifestyle was simple and he used to spend according to his pocket at all times. His struggle sometimes gave him a lot of income while at other times he used to worry about the next payment. Hari's observation about the discontinuation in his work justifies his behaviour regarding money.

Chapter 3 The Midnight Visitor

- ▶ **Q1. In this story, Ausable shows great 'presence of mind', or the ability to think quickly and act calmly and wisely, in a situation of danger and surprise. Give examples from your own experience, or narrate a story, which shows someone's presence of mind.**
- ▶ **A.** This story refers to the play 'If I Were You'. Gerrard was held hostage by a criminal. However, Gerrard treated the criminal as a guest and trapped him with his confidence. He managed to convince the criminal to run away as the police is behind him. He told the criminal to run through the exit door, which was actually a cupboard door. The criminal exited through the door and was trapped in the cupboard.
- ▶ **Q2. Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill of the day?**
- ▶ **A.** Fowler is a writer and he had come to meet Ausable. His first authentic thrill of the day came when he saw a man in Ausable's room pointing a pistol towards Ausable and himself.

Chapter 4 A Question of Trust

▶ **Q1. Who is speaking to Horace Danby?**

A. A lady standing in the doorway is speaking to Horace Danby. She was young and pretty and was dressed in red. She said she had come just in time, or else her family would have been robbed by Horace. Thus she pretended to be one of the members of the family living at Shotover Grange.

▶ **Q2. Who is the real culprit in the story?**

A. The real culprit in the story is the woman who pretended to be a member of the family living at Shotover Grange. She tricked Horace Danby into believing her, and cleverly took away all the jewels that were kept in the safe.

Chapter 5 Footprints without Feet

- ▶ **Q1. What makes glass or water transparent (what is the scientific explanation for this)? Do you think it would be scientifically possible for a man to become invisible, or transparent?**
- ▶ **A.** The fact that light can pass through glass or water makes them transparent. When light falls on an object, the reflected light from that object makes it visible to us. If some device can be made which can prevent reflection of light from the human body then the human body can be made invisible.
- ▶ **Q2. How would you assess Griffin as a scientist?**
- ▶ **A.** Griffin is a brilliant scientist, as he discovers how to make himself invisible. But he seems to enjoy the feeling of power which he gets out of his invisibility. The power to hurt anybody without getting noticed can give sadistic pleasure to some people. A true scientist should make discoveries for the larger benefit of society, not just for his own benefit.

Chapter 6 The Making of a Scientist

- ▶ **Q1. What are the qualities that go into the making of a scientist?**
- ▶ **A.** There are three essential qualities that make a scientist. The first is a first rate mind. Next is the presence of curiosity. Last but not the least, it is the will to do the best and win.
- ▶ **Q2. What experiments and projects does he do then undertake?**
- ▶ **A.** He undertook many projects and experiments. He worked on viceroy butterflies to show that they copied monarch butterflies. He studied bright spots on the monarch pupa and discovered a new hormone. Also, he found out how cells read their DNA.

Chapter 7 The Necklace

- ▶ **Q1. How do they replace the necklace?**
- ▶ **A.** After all other efforts fail, Loisel's decide to buy a new dential necklace to replace the lost one. M. Loisel pooled n eighteen thousand francs of his inheritance and borrowed :he rest. Then the couple managed to buy the new necklace :or thirty six thousand francs and returned it to the rightful 0wner.
- ▶ **Q2. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?**
- ▶ **A.** Matilda's pride and her materialistic aspirations coupled with her dishonesty pave the way for her ruin. She could have avoided it by learning to accept her current situation and being content with what she had.

Chapter 8 The Hack Driver

- ▶ **Q1. When the lawyer reached New Mullion, did 'Bill' know that he was looking for Lutkins ? When do you think 'Bill' came up with his plan for fooling the lawyer?**
- ▶ **A.** No, 'Bill' did not know initially that the lawyer was looking for him. He must have made his plan for fooling the lawyer when the lawyer told him that he was looking for Lutkins, as he knew that he was required as a witness but did not want to give his testimony.
- ▶ **Q2. Do you think the lawyer was gullible? How could he have avoided being taken for a ride?**
- ▶ **A.** Yes, the lawyer was gullible. He believed every word of what Oliver Lutkins said. He should have asked about Lutkins from other villagers. Instead, he depended completely on the hack driver.

Chapter 9 Bholi

- ▶ **Q1. Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school. What made her feel that she was going to a better place than her home?**
- ▶ **A.** The day she was going to school forced her parents to dress her nicely. She was bathed and her hair was properly done. Until then she was not being taken care of. The special treatment she received made her feel that she was going to a better place.
- ▶ **Q2. How did Bholi's teacher play an important role in changing the course of her life?**
- ▶ **A.** Bholi stammered and was just a bundle of nerves when she attended school in the beginning. Her teacher treated her kindly and encouraged her to have confidence and be bold. She taught her to read and write and made her an independent girl who was aware of her rights. Thus, she changed her life.

Chapter 10 The Book that Saved the Earth

- ▶ **Q1. The aliens in the play speak English. Do you think this is their language? What could be the language of i.e aliens?**
- ▶ **A.** No, English was not their language. If it had been so, they would not have misinterpreted the- nursery rhymes. They could be speaking some Martian language.
- ▶ **Q2. What guesses are made by Think-Tank about the books found on Earth?**
- ▶ **A.** Think-Tank first guesses them to be sandwiches. Then he calls them communication devices. After that he thinks them to be some kind of eye communication devices that have to be devices watched.