



CLASS X

ENGLISH LITERATURE READER

CHAPTER 3 - THE CHILD'S RETURN

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SOLUTIONS

A. Answer the following question in a sentence each:

Q1. How could Raicharan get a complete hold over Anukul's new-born son?

Ans: Raicharan could do so by giving unsparing love to the child.

Q2. What was to Raicharan an epoch in human history?

Ans: When the baby began to toddle it was an epoch in human history, to Raicharan.

Q3. What was Raicharan doing when the search party reaches him?

Ans: The search party found him rushing up and down the field crying 'Master, Master, little Master.

Q4. Why did Raicharan melt down his wife's ornaments?

Ans: Raicharan did so to make gold bangles and anklets for his son.

Q5. How did Anukul receive Raicharan when he went to him after many years?

Ans: Anukul's heart was filled with affection for his old servant and offered to take him back into service.

Q6. What was Phailna's feeling when he saw that he was the son of a wealthy magistrate?

Ans: Phailna was angry thinking that he had been cheated all this time of his birth right.

Q7. The money Anukul sent to Raicharan in his village came back. What does this show?

Ans: It shows that Raicharan did not return to his village.



B. Answer briefly:

Q1. How did Raicharan show his ingenuity to the little master?

Ans: Raicharan had to play the role of a horse, holding the rein in his mouth and prancing with his feet. He also had to wrestle with the little Master and pretended to fall defeated, otherwise a great outcry was sure to follow.

Q2. Whenever Raicharan took the little Master out for a walk, what ritual did Raicharan do with ceremonial pride?

Ans: Raicharan would put the gold bangles, anklets, the satin waistcoat and a gold embroidered cap on the little Master. He did this with ceremonial pride.

Q3. Describe the Padma in flood.

Ans: When the Padma was in flood, it looked like an enormous hungry serpent. It swallowed terraces, villages, corn fields and the bank of the river. Soil crumbled from the banks. The roar of the current could be heard from afar. Masses of foam, carried swiftly past, proved to the eye of swiftness of the stream.

Q4. Why was the little Master attracted to the Kadamba flower?

Ans: A few days ago Raicharan made a go-cart out of a Kadamba flower ball. And the little Master was so happy dragging it with a string that he did not ask Raicharan to play the horse the whole day. So, the boy was attracted to it.

Q5. "... Raicharan was at his wit's end." Why was Raicharan at his wit's end?

Ans: One day when the rain stopped Raicharan took the little Master out for a walk. In the midst of the flood water, the little Master saw a Kadamba tree in full flower. The child then wanted Raicharan to pluck some Kadamba flowers. Raicharan tried to distract the boy's attention but he could not, so he was at his wit's end.

Q6. "The mother went so far in her wild grief as to think it possible that Raicharan himself had stolen the child." What did the mother do?

Ans: The little Master disappeared. No one knew what exactly might have happened to him. Some people thought some gypsies might have stolen him. As for the mother, she even thought it possible that Raicharan himself might have stolen him for the gold the child had on him.



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Q7. Why did Raicharan resent his child?

Ans: Raicharan resented the child who was born to him. He did so because he thought the child was born to usurp the little Master's place in his heart. He loved the little Master so much that he could not love any other child, even his own son.

Q8. What are the arguments in favour of Raicharan's belief that his son was the little Master born as his son?

Ans: The reasons were:-

- i) His son was born soon after the little Master's death.
- ii) His wife could not have accumulated such merit as to give birth to a son in middle age, and
- iii) The new baby said Ba-ba and Ma-ma just like the little Master.

Q9. Why did Raicharan's son not look on his father as a father?

Ans: Phailna did not look on his father as his father. It was so because Raicharan had country manners. Moreover, he had never told anyone that he was Raicharan's son. He even looked down on him.

Q10. How did Raicharan run into shortage of money?

Ans: The money that Raicharan had brought from selling of his land at his village had been exhausted. His employer was finding fault with his work because he was old. On the other hand, the boy was demanding more and more money.

Q11. "Have you any proof?" why did Anukul ask this question?

Ans: Anukul was a magistrate. He was trained to ask for proof in making his judgement. This magistrate's nature in him made him ask Raicharan for proof.

C. Answer in 80 words each:

Q1. How was the little Master lost?

Ans: One day Raicharan took the little Master out on a walk. They reached a rice field along the bank of the river Padma. Suddenly the child saw a Kadamba flower tree in full bloom. He wanted some of the flowers to make go-carts out of the flower balls. Raicharan knew the danger of leaving the child alone and so he tried to push the go-cart away from there. But the child would not be put off. His mind was made up. Finally, Raicharan asked the child not to go out of the go-cart and went in the water to pluck some of the flowers. But soon the boy rushed to the river bank and pretended to fish. Then when Raicharan came back, he found the boy missing. Thus, the boy was lost.



Q2. Bring out the mother's reaction when she lost her son, the little Master.

Ans: When Raicharan and the little Master did not return till late afternoon, the mother became very anxious. She sent search party on all sides. Later she came to know that she lost her son, she was extremely distraught. Everyone thought, the Padma must have swallowed the child. But, the mother, wild in her grief, thought it possible that Raicharan might have stolen the boy for the gold ornaments that he had on him. It was an unreasonable doubt. But to the mother's heart anything was possible. Finally, she ordered Raicharan to leave her home.

Q3. Why did a change come over Raicharan with regard to his son?

Ans: Raicharan could not love his son because his heart was full of love for the dead little Master. He also thought to love his own son would be very wrong after what had happened to the little Master. However, a change gradually comes over Raicharan's mind. He noticed the way his child crawled about, its laughter, its crying were similar to those of the little master. Further, when the child cried, he felt his little Master was crying in the land of the dead asking for his Chan-na. He learnt to say Ba-ba and Ma-ma with a baby accent. When Raicharan heard those familiar sounds, the mystery suddenly became clear. The little Master could not cast off the spell of his Chan-na and therefore he had been reborn in his own house.

Q4. Why did Raicharan pamper the boy?

Ans: Raicharan found a great similarity between the dead little Master and his son, Phailna. He thought that the little Master loved him so much that he could not keep away from his Chan-na and so was born in the house. With these thoughts in his mind, Raicharan's attitude towards Phailna changed. He said to himself that the boy would not suffer from any neglect of his. He decided to bring up the boy as if he were a rich magistrate's son. He melted down the ornaments of his dead wife and made bangles and anklets for the boy. He bought beautiful clothes for the boy. He would not allow the boy to play with other children in the village. Later on, in the school too, he brought up the boy like a rich man's son. Thus, he pampered the boy.

Q5. Why did Raicharan decide to take Phailna to Anukul's house?

Ans: Raicharan grew older and older and his employee was continually finding fault with him for his incompetent work. He had been starving himself for the boy's sake. So he had grown physically weak and no longer up to his work. He would forget things and his mind became dull and stupid. But his employee expected a full servant work out of him and would not break excuses. The money that Raicharan had brought with him from the sale of his land was exhausted. The boy was continually grumbling about his clothes and asking for money. Moreover, the poor man wishes to compensate his Master and Mistress for he knew they were in grief for the lost of their only child. Perhaps Raicharan sacrificed his own happiness at the altar of the future of his son.



Q6. “It would be wiser to believe.”

Why did Anukul decide that it would be wiser to believe that the boy Raicharan had brought was his son?

Ans: When Raicharan brought Phailna to Anukul’s home, the mistress was wild with joy. She took him into her lap and was laughing and crying at the same time. She would touch him, kiss his hair and forehead and gazed at him with hungry, eager eyes. It was clear that she had accepted him as her lost son. Anukul was happy to see it all. Yet the magistrate in him made him ask for some proof that the boy was his lost son. Raicharan said that God alone knew that he had stolen the boy.

Anukul was not satisfied. On the other hand he saw how happy his wife was and felt that it would be futile to ask for proof. It would bring a lot of pain to his wife. So, he thought it would be wiser to believe for his wife’s sake.

EXTRA QUESTION & ANSWERS

Q1. “The baby had gold ornaments on his body. Who knows?”

Relate the reason why the Mistress accused Raicharan in the given manner.

Ans: Raicharan and the little Master did not come back even after the evening passed by. The Mistress became anxious, she sent men out on all sides to search. When they enquired about the missing child, he confessed that he did not know anything, how and where his little Master had gone. People gave various opinions, some even said that the child might have been stolen by the gypsies. The mother went so far in her wild grief as to think it possible that Raicharan himself had stolen her baby because the child had gold ornaments on its body.

Q2. “He was filled with remorse for his past neglect.” Bring out how Raicharan tried to compensate for his past neglect.”

Ans: Raicharan now gave himself entirely to the new baby and became his devoted attendant. He began to bring it up as if it were the son of a rich man. He bought a go-cart, a yellow satin waistcoat and a gold-embroidered cap. He refused to let the child play with anyone and he himself became his sole companion. As the baby grew up, he was so petted and spoilt and clad in such finery that the villagers regarded Raicharan as unaccountably crazy about the child.

At last, the time came for the boy to go to school. Raicharan sold his small piece of land, and went to Calcutta. There he got employment with great difficulty as a servant and sent Phailna to school. He spared no pain to give him the best education, the best clothes, the best food. Meanwhile he lived himself on a mere handful of rice.



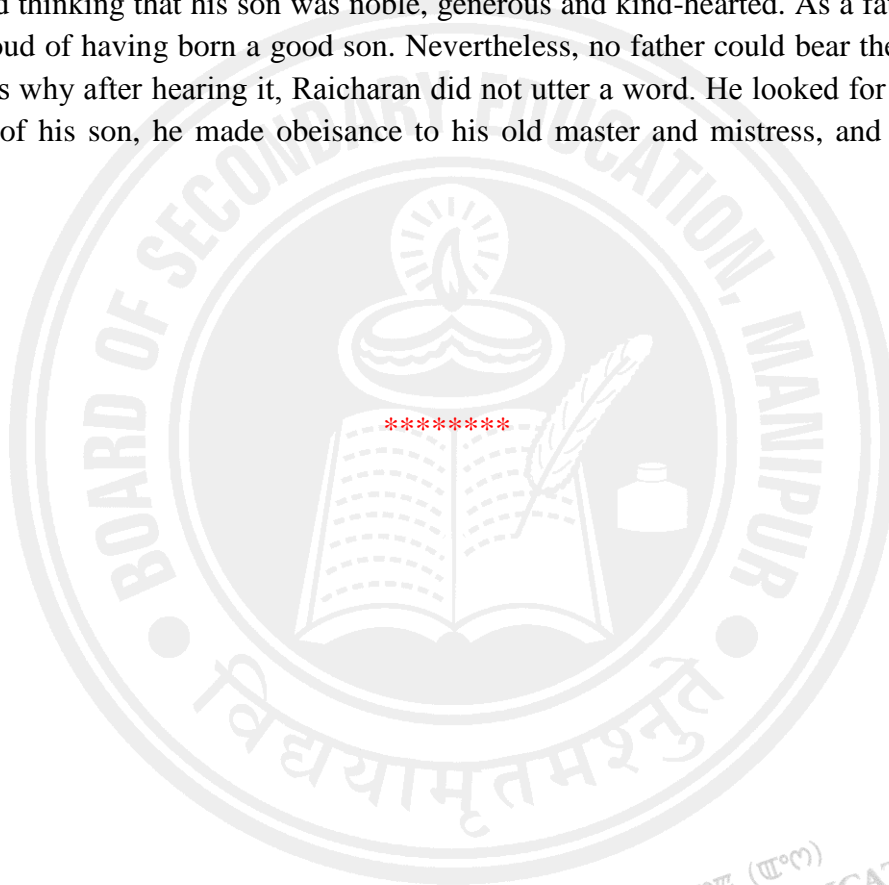
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Q3. “Father forgives him. Even if you don’t let him live with us, let him have a small monthly pension.” Write what Raicharan might have felt on hearing the statement.

Ans: Raicharan might have felt shocked on hearing the statement from his own son Phailna. Though poor, Raicharan had a human heart, the heart of a father who sacrificed his comfort and took the sole responsibility of bringing up his son to a fine and healthy boy. He provided him the best education, the best food and the best clothes. The poor servant might also have been touched thinking that his son was noble, generous and kind-hearted. As a father, he must have felt proud of having born a good son. Nevertheless, no father could bear the pain of this remark that’s why after hearing it, Raicharan did not utter a word. He looked for the last time on the face of his son, he made obeisance to his old master and mistress, and then left the place.



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