



CLASS X

ADDITIONAL ENGLISH

CHAPTER 4 – AFTER 20 YEARS

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SOLUTIONS

COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions in a phrase/sentence each:

1. Where were Jimmy Wells and Bob raised?

Ans:- Jimmy Wells and Bob were raised in New York.

2. Name the appointed place where the two friends are to meet after twenty years.

Ans:- The appointed place where the two friends are to meet after twenty years was Big Joe Brady 's restaurant.

3. What made the streets depeopled?

Ans:- The chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them made the streets depeopled.

4. What is the meaning of 'guardian of peace'?

Ans:- The meaning of 'guardian of peace' is a person or authority which is responsible for looking after the society.

5. Where was Bob to start for?

Ans:- Bob was to start for the West .

6. How has the West treated Bob?

Ans: The West has treated Bob very well by giving everything that he asked for.

7. How did the policeman leave Bob?

Ans: The policeman left Bob alone and wishes him luck.



8. Why did the other man wish the old restaurant to be there?

Ans:- The other man wished the old restaurant to be there because they could have had another dinner there.

9. How did Bob recognize the tall man was not Jimmy Wells?

Ans:- Bob recognized that the tall man was not Jimmy by looking at his nose. Jimmy has a Roman nose but the man had a pug nose.

10. Why was Bob wanted by the Chicago police?

Ans:- Bob was wanted by the Chicago police because he was a criminal .

11. Why did Jimmy not arrest Bob?

Ans:- Jimmy did not arrest Bob because he couldn't do it himself, he didn't have the heart to arrest his close friend.

12. What is the significance of 'Big Joe 'Brady's restaurant 'in the story?

Ans:- It is the point of parting for two friends and also the appointed location to meet again after twenty years .

APPLICATION

Answer the following questions in about 25-30 words each:

1. Relate the first meeting of Bob and Jimmy Wells after twenty years?

Ans: The first meeting of Bob and Jimmy Wells after twenty years was quite dramatic. Jimmy came and he saw Bob standing in the doorway of a darkened hardware store. He recognized Bob as a wanted criminal but Bob failed to recognise his friend Jimmy Wells.

2. How did Jimmy Wells manage to arrest Bob?

Ans: Jimmy Wells did not arrest Bob himself. He simply could not do the job as Bob was his intimate friend. Instead he sent another policeman in plainclothes to arrest Bob. The policeman arrested Bob by impersonating Jimmy Wells.

3. How did Bob become rich in the West?

Ans: Bob went to the West in search of fortune and the place gave him everything he had asked for. There he had to compete with some of the sharpest wits in order to become rich. Actually he became rich by becoming a gangster.



4. Give your first impression of the policeman.

Ans: The policeman looks quite impressive. He seemed to be a fine picture of a 'guardian of peace' with his stalwart form and slight swagger.

5. How do you know that the tall man is not Jimmy Wells?

Ans: First of all, the man appeared to be taller than Jimmy Wells by two or three inches. Again, according to Bob, Jimmy had a Roman nose but the tall man had a pug nose. From these we know that the tall man is not Jimmy Wells.

6. Where does the story reach its climax?

Ans: The story reaches its climax when Bob comes to know that the tall man he is walking with is not his friend Jimmy Wells. The story gets a new turn from that point.

7. Why did Bob's hand tremble a little by the time he had finished reading the note?

Ans: Bob must have been shocked by the letter from his friend whom he had failed to recognize in the first instance. So his hand trembles with emotion when he realized that he was going to be arrested because of his friend.

8. How does Bob impress you as a friend and a wanted gangster?

Ans: Bob was a faithful and loving friend. He fulfilled the appointment by coming in time though it may mean travelling a thousand miles. At the same time, he was a witty person who made his fortune in the West and became a successful gangster.

9. Give account of the 'note' Bob read.

Ans: The note tells how Jimmy had come to the appointed place on time and how he had recognized his friend as the wanted man by Chicago police. It also tells how Jimmy sent a policeman in plainclothes to arrest Bob as he could not do the job himself.

10. Give your comments on the title of the story.

Ans: The title of the story is quite appropriate. The story tells about two friends who parted their ways twenty years ago and the appointment they made to meet again exactly after twenty years.

11. How did Jimmy Wells treat Bob at the end of the story?

Ans: Jimmy Wells treated Bob with respect as his friend as well as a criminal. He did not arrest Bob by himself but he sent another policeman to do the job. He also wrote a letter telling his friend that he had been on the appointed place in time.



COMPOSITION

Answer the questions in about 100 words each:

1. Describe how the element of suspense works in the development of the story.

Ans: The story 'After Twenty Years' is a story which is built up on suspense. Right from the beginning suspense plays an important role. Bob was seen standing on the doorway of hardware by a policeman. He was waiting eagerly for his friend because of an appointment made twenty years ago. At that point it is quite impossible to tell whether his friend Jimmy Wells would turn up or not. The readers are kept in suspense as it is impossible to tell how the story will end. Again the identities of the policeman and the tall man remain climatic since the writer never gives a clear picture of it before the revelation was made.

2. "Jimmy Wells is a sincere friend and pragmatic policeman". Justify the above remark.

Ans: Jimmy Wells is surely a sincere friend as well as pragmatic policeman. Bob always has a high regard for him. According to him, Jimmy Wells is the truest and the staunchest person in the world. Jimmy also keeps his promise by coming to the appointed place on time and he also loves his friend Bob. On the other hand, he is also a policeman who has dedicated himself to the service. When he comes to know that his friend Bob is a wanted criminal, he becomes duty bound to arrest him. But being a true friend he cannot do the job himself and so he sends another policeman to arrest Bob along with a letter to tell Bob that he has been there at the appointed place on time. This proves his sincerity to a friend as well as the fact that he is a practical policeman.

3. Write how the writer tackles the problem of friendship and crime in the story.

Ans: In the story "After Twenty Years" the writer deals with the problem of friendship and crime in a very crafty and subtle manner. The story is about two friends whom destiny has made one a policeman and the other a criminal. Both love one another and it is agreed upon at the moment of their parting that they should meet again at their parting place exactly after twenty years. Both of them keep the appointment and at that moment the writer makes the policemen realize that his long lost friend is a wanted criminal. Now, the writer employs clever tactics by making the policemen send another policeman in plain clothes to arrest his friend along with a letter. In this story the writer wants to express that crime never pays.



4. Give a character sketch of Bob.

Ans:- Bob is the main character in the story “After Twenty Years”. He is brought up in New York along with his friend Jimmy Wells. In this story he is projected as an adventurous person. His desires for the adventure as well as his willingness to take risk in life makes him leave his home town to seek his fortune in the West. He is quite a clever person and at the same time a truthful, sincere and loving friend. He has a deep respect and love for Jimmy Wells and because of that he comes a thousand miles to keep the appointment. The writer also projects him as an egoist. Bob loves talking about his achievement and think highly of himself.

5. Attempt a comment on the physical atmosphere in “After Twenty Years”.

Ans:- The atmosphere that we find in the story looks rather deserted, gloomy and dreary. It corresponds to the mood of the story and there is nothing bright and blissful in it. The chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain that depeopled the streets make the atmosphere bleak and dull. Everything seemed to be quiet and there is not much activity to be seen. The cold drizzle and the wind that blows steadily heighten the sombre atmosphere.

6. Comment on the ending of “After Twenty Years”.

Ans:- The ending of the story is quite sad, dramatic and unexpected. It is never expected that the story will end in the manner it has ended. It is uncertain that the meeting of the two friends may or may not take place. It is hard to believe that the story will take a dramatic turn. The ending is a bit touching as it weighs the value of friendship and loyalty to the demand of a job as a policemen. Jimmy chooses loyalty to his job over friendship sending another policeman with a note for Bob to arrest him. Being forced to make this decision gives the story a sad twist.

