

NCERT Solutions for Class 8 English (Poorvi)

Chapter 5: Somebody's Mother

Let us discuss

I Arrange the events of the poem in the correct order of occurrence.

Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

1. The boy returned to his friends, feeling proud of what he had done.
 2. The old woman stood alone at the crossing, hesitant to move.
 3. A group of schoolboys passed by, playing, and laughing.
 4. The boy offered to help the old woman cross the street.
 5. The woman prayed for the boy who helped her.
 6. The children hurried past the old woman without offering help.
 7. The woman placed her hand on the boy's arm, and he guided her safely across the street.
 8. The boy thought about his own mother and hoped someone would help her one day.
- Answer: 2 → 3 → 6 → 4 → 7 → 1 → 8 → 5

II Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct answer from the options

given in the brackets.

1. The central theme of the poem is _____. (kindness and empathy/ adventure and courage)
2. The tone of the poem is _____. (humorous and playful/sympathetic and hopeful)
3. The poem is written in couplets with _____ lines in each stanza. (four/two)
4. The structure of the poem gives a rhythmic flow that reflects both the _____. (narrative and emotions/story's pace and message)
5. The poem follows a rhyme scheme of _____. (AABB/ABAB)

Answer:

1. kindness and empathy
2. sympathetic and hopeful
3. two

4. story's pace and message

5. AABB

III Pick examples from the poem for the following poetic devices.

Simile

Alliteration

Repetition

Answer:

4. Came the boys like a flock of sheep

5. The woman was old and ragged and grey

6. So meek, so timid

III Complete the following sentences appropriately explaining the imagery.

1. The poem uses imagery to describe scenes of a bustling street. We know this by the phrase _____.

2. The line 'The street was wet with a recent snow' suggests a cold and _____ weather, emphasising the woman's helplessness.

Answer:

1. 'Amid the throng of human beings who passed her by'.

2. slippery

IV Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.

The poet repeats the phrase Somebody's mother because it _____.

Answer: it reminds the readers that every elderly person is important and loved by someone, deserving kindness and respect.

V Complete the analogy:

The old woman: vulnerable and neglected :: The young boy: _____

. Answer: strong and beloved

Let us think and reflect

I Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. The woman was old and ragged and grey

And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.

The street was wet with a recent snow

And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

(i) What does the phrase 'ragged and grey' refer to ?

- A. The woman's emotional state that day.
- B. The woman's old and worn-out appearance.
- C. The weather conditions of the particular day.
- D. The colour of the street and the surroundings.

Answer: B. The woman's old and worn-out appearance.

(ii) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason:

The woman was 'bent' with the chill of the Winter's day because she was _____.

Answer: weak due to old age and the cold weather.

(iii) Identify the fact and opinion from the following sentences:

- A. The street was wet with recent snow. _____
- B. The woman was too weak to cross the street on her own.

___ Answer: A – Fact B – Opinion

(iv) Why do you think the woman's feet were described as 'aged and slow'?

Answer: The woman's feet were described so because she was old, weak, and unsteady due to her physical condition and the cold.

2. He guided the trembling feet
along, Proud that his own were firm and
strong. Then back again to his friends he
went, His young heart happy and well
content.

(i) What does the contrast between the 'trembling feet' of the old woman and the 'firm and strong' feet of the boy emphasise?

Answer: It emphasises the difference between the weakness of old age and the strength of youth.

(ii) Fill in the blank given below by selecting the correct option from the brackets.

- The poem tells us that the boy was 'proud' that his feet were strong.
- This tells us that the boy was __. (arrogant about being strong/grateful for his ability to help)

Answer: grateful for his ability to help

(iii) What is the boy most likely to tell his friends on getting back?

- A. I'm so glad I could help her.
- B. I'm worried about her safety.
- C. I'm surprised she forgot to thank me.
- D. I'm thankful for all your support.

Answer: A. I'm so glad I could help her.

(iv) Rectify the false sentence given below.

The young boy's actions were driven by a logical decision.

Answer: The young boy's actions were driven by empathy and kindness.

II Answer the following questions.

1. What might be the old woman's fears as she waited for a long time at the crossing?

Answer: She could be afraid of falling on the slippery road or getting hit by carriages and horses.

2. How does the poet show the helplessness of the old woman? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

Answer: The poet shows the helplessness of the old woman by describing her as timid, meek, and afraid to stir, standing alone and uncared for.

3. Why does the boy decide to help the old woman? What does this tell us about

him? Answer: The boy does so because he is kind-hearted and empathetic. It shows he values

others' needs and acts compassionately.

4. How was the boy's approach towards the old woman different from that of the other boys in the group?

Answer: While the other boys ignored the old woman, he noticed her difficulty and chose to help, showing empathy.

5. Justify the appropriateness of the title of the poem.

Answer: The title of the poem is appropriate as it reminds us that every elderly person

is the mother of someone like ours and deserves our respect and care.

What does the poem suggest about the role of empathy and humanity in society?

Answer: The poem suggests that small acts of kindness reflect the best of human nature and can have a deep, lasting impact.