

Topic: _____

Date: _____

Question 1

a) Explain using your own words what the writer means by, "determined to burn everything". (2)

Ans: "determined": set on, committed to, firm about, intent on
"burn": set ablaze, be on fire, set alight, go up in flames

b) Why was the writer "anxious to get home"? (2)

Ans: Any two from:

1. There was a huge whirlwind which scared him in anticipation of future events.
2. There was a risk of drought which signifies a big calamity.
3. The weather made him nervous since there was no surety of what it would bring next.
4. His son's condition made him worrisome.

c) Identify one condition the writer is suffering from as he feels his "ears buzz and his eyes blur". (1)

Ans: He was suffering from a sunstroke/ heatstroke

d) Explain using your own words, what kind of weather the area was experiencing. (2)

Ans: Two from the three:

1. The weather was unpredictable, it was changing at an hourly rate.
2. Earlier in the day, it brought chilly/icy/ freezing winds that penetrated his bones/skin.
3. Later as the day progressed, it shifted to boiling/ scorching/ searing heat that made his head heavy.

e) Identify two items that the family was planning to eat for breakfast? (1)

Ans: Two from the following:

1. Frogs
2. Land snail
3. Razor clam

f) How does the writer feel about not leaving when they had caught "enough frogs to eat with the morning rice"? (1) Why does he feel this way? (2)

Ans- i-: He feels enraged/ angry/ frustrated/cursed himself

-ii- It was a misjudgment on his part/ it was his mistake. If he had left then, they would have avoided this problem. His child would not have been bitten by the snake.

g) What had the father done to the snake? (1) Suggest what you think were the father's plans for the snake's future? (1)

Ans: -i- The father had killed the snake/ beaten it brutally

-ii- He wanted to take it back, possibly to eat it.

h) Give three feelings of the writer (the father) about this day, give details from the text to support your answer. (3)

-i- Angry/ enraged/ irritated/ aggravated(at the weather)

-ii- Disappointed/ cross/ vexed/ aggrieved (with himself, at the miscalculation)

-iii- Nervous/ scared (at what the day will hold now when he goes home)

-iv- Sad/ sorrowful (for his son)



+92 314 133 8667



jawxria



jaweriaamer@gmail.com

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- a An impression of the intense heat of the sun is conveyed as it is described by 'blazed' and 'determined to burn every living thing' 'to a crisp'.
- b isolated
- c The writer suggests that the setting is shadowy, extremely dry, with a cyclical wind blowing grass up into the sky.
- d The writer evokes sympathy for the father when he shows the physical hardship he is enduring. Tactile imagery shows his pain as his feet are 'blistered' and 'burning'. Tactile imagery also shows how uncomfortable the changing temperature is as the cold 'pierced his bones' and the heat made him feel his 'head would break into pieces.'
- e (i) The line 'he was shocked almost senseless by the trembling cry of his boy' effectively conveys the father's fear at his boy's injury.
- (ii) The word 'shocked' evokes the father's physical and emotional upset at the snake bite. Feeling 'senseless' further emphasises the father's shock and fear that his boy has been harmed and is in danger. The phrase 'trembling cry' conveys the father's recognition and concern that his boy is hurt and frightened.

↳ other options for "e" :-

- Vague anger again spilled over

- The last crack

Miss Jaweria