

VIII English Literature

Unit 3 Glimpses of the Past

Word Meanings

- recall - call to mind याद करनी
- martyr - one who suffers death for a cause शहीद
- rivalries - enmity दुश्मनी
- subdue - put down by force and authority दबाना
- thugs - young criminals गुंडे
- slaves - prisoners गुलाम
- misery - a feeling of intense unhappiness दुःख
- arrears - unpaid overdue debt कर्जा
- abandon - to leave त्याग देना
- scorned - to abuse डाँटना
- cripple - cause destruction नष्ट करना
- despise - feel contempt नफरत करना
- essence - main teaching सार
- trial - case मुकदमा
- oppression - to put undue pressure दबाना

grievances - feeling of resentment असह्युत
 rebellion - to oppose विरोध
 abolish - to remove completely पूर्णतया
अन्त करना
 deceived - cheated छलना दना
 pittance - a very small amount of नाम मात्र का
money
 sepays - soldiers सिपाई
 sore - angry नाराज
 pitched - substantial ठोस
 pounced - attacked टूट पड़ना

Question / Answers

Q.1: Do you think the Indian princes were short sighted in their approach to the events of 1757?

Ans: Yes, the Indian princes were short sighted in their approach to the events of 1757. They fought among themselves. They failed to understand that they were becoming weaker.

How did the East India Company subdue the Indian princes?

Indian princes fought with one another. The people had no peace due to their constant fights. The British took advantage of the situation and subdued the Indian princes one by one.

Quote words used by Raja Ram Mohan Roy to say that every religion teaches the same principles.

"Laws are of different colours. But the colour of their milk is the same. Different teachers have different opinions but the essence of every religion is the same."

In what way did the British officers exploit Indians?

The British officers drew huge salaries. They also made fortune in private.

businesses. This ruined the Indian traders.

Q.5. Name these people.

i) The ruler who fought pitched battle against the British and died fighting.

Ans. Tipu Sultan.

ii) The person who wanted to reform the society.

Ans. Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

iii) The person who recommended the introduction of English education in India.

Ans. Macaulay.

iv) Two popular leaders who led the revolt.

Ans. a) Bahadur Shah Zafar
b) Nana Sahib

Q.6. Mention the following

i) Two examples of social practices prevailing then

Ans. i) Untouchability b) Child Marriage

ii) Two oppressive policies of the British.

Ans. i) According to Regulation III of 1818, an Indian could be jailed without a trial in a court.

ii) The goods manufactured in England did not have any import duty while Indian goods were heavily taxed.

iii) Two ways in which common people suffered.

Ans:

i) British wanted quick profits, so they imposed heavy taxes on the farmers.

ii) Due to the wrong policies of the company, famines between 1822 and 1836 took fifteen lakh lives.

iv)

Four reasons for the discontent that led to the 1857 War of Independence.

Ans:

i) White soldiers drew big salaries while Indian soldiers got a pittance.

ii) British introduced the use of greased cartridges made from the fat of cows and pigs which was considered sacrilegious by both Hindus and Muslims.

iii) Many landlords had lost their

lands because of the British policies.
They were discontented.

iv) British policies had ruined expert
artisans and their business.

Poem - The Mystery Cat

Word - Meanings.

- paw** - clawed foot पंजा
- despair** - a state in which all hope is lost निराशा
- defy** - disobey अनुरोध करनी
- gravity** - attraction of the earth's centre दृश्याकर्षण
- levitation** - floating in the air without support विना सहारे उड़ना
- bafflement** - confusion अनुरोध
- mystery** - something that is impossible to understand असंभव
- stare** - gaze दृष्टि से रखना
- basement** - underground place तलवाली
- fiend** - devil शैतान
- depravity** - moral corruption अनैतिकता
- feline** - cat like बिल्ली जैसा
- sway** - to move झुकाव

monster - devil 21/11/14

Q.1. Is Macavity a cat really?

Ans. No, Macavity is not a cat.

Q.2. If not, who can Macavity be?

Ans. Macavity is a notorious criminal.

Q.3. "A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through. Which law is Macavity breaking in the light of the comment above?"

Ans. Macavity is breaking the law of gravity.

Q.4. Describe Macavity in two or three sentences.

Ans. Macavity is very tall and thin. His head is highly domed, and his eyes are sunken. He never combs his

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whiskers or dusts his coat. He sways his head from side to side like a snake.

Q.5. Having read the poem, try to guess whether the poet is fond of cats. If so, why does he call Macavity a fiend and monster.

Ans. Yes, the poet is fond of cats. But he does not like Macavity as he is a big criminal. He dodges the police every time. So, he calls him a fiend and monster.

Q.6. Has the poet used exaggeration for special effect. Find a few examples.

Ans. Yes, the poet used exaggeration for special effect.

- i) He breaks the law of gravity.
- ii) His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare.

iii) You may seek him in the basement,
you may look up in the air —
But I tell you once and once
again, Macavity's not there!

Q.7 Extract Based Questions.

Read the stanzas given below and answer the questions.

(1)

Macavity, Macavity, there is no one
like Macavity,
He's broken every human law, he
breaks the law of gravity.
His powers of levitation would make
a fakir stare,

And when you reach the scene of
crime — Macavity's not there —
You may seek him in the basement,
you may look up in the air —
But I tell you once and once again,
Macavity's not there.

a) Who has broken every human law?

Ans: Macavity has broken every human law.

b) What makes a fakir stare?

Ans: Macavity's power of levitation makes a fakir stare.

c) Which law of nature does Macavity break?

Ans: Macavity breaks the law of gravitation.

d) Can we find Macavity anywhere?

Ans: No, we can't find Macavity anywhere.