

**Extra Notes and Homework – Week 9**

**Instruction:** Make sure to answer the following questions in your respective copybooks.

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**Passage 2 – The Chinese Money-Lender**

- 1 Peter stood on the balcony of his son's apartment and sighed contentedly. Peter and his wife had been concerned when their son, Christopher, had announced his intention to emigrate but, Peter reflected, it had been the right decision after all, despite his parents' original misgivings. This country offered unsurpassed employment opportunities. Christopher's apartment was situated in a lively and increasingly popular location where accommodation was relatively inexpensive, there was an excellent public transport service and new restaurants and cafes were springing up all around.
- 2 Soon Peter and his wife, Marian, were on the bus for yet another trip to the market recommended by the guide books as a priority for tourists. Stalls selling fabrics in a plethora of sizes and colours were interspersed with food stalls, their tantalising aromas wafting in all directions. Peter bought an impressive warrior carved out of dark wood from a stallholder who assured him that the purchase was an opportunity not to be missed. At another stall, he purchased a tiny green tortoise which, the stallholder claimed, was made of genuine jade. Marian hid her impatience; she did not share her husband's love of shopping and, besides, she was less inclined to be swept away by smooth sales talk.
- 3 As they strolled on, Peter's attention was suddenly drawn by an antiques shop, crowded in amongst hardware stalls and food outlets. A glint of metal caught his eye and he quickly entered the shop, discovering that the source of his curiosity was a somewhat mysterious-looking ornament, the figure of a man, no more than three inches high, seated at a solid-looking desk. Peter peered intently at it. 'It's a Chinese money-lender,' said the young shop assistant who, it seemed, had eagerly appeared out of nowhere. Closer inspection showed the money-lender's desk to be stamped on the front and the base with indecipherable inscriptions. There was an over-laden moneybag at one end, its contents spilling over the desk, and an abacus balanced on the money-lender's knee. The gilded figure, hunched over the desk, with palms upturned as if beseeching yet more money, glittered in the shop lights. One look at his face – spectacles shining on his nose, mouth agape, trembling beard – revealed the satisfaction of a deal well concluded, and the desire for more money. He cried out to become another purchase.
- 4 The shop assistant turned his full attention towards the bewitched Peter. Simultaneously he positioned himself so that Peter could not see Marian's furrowed brow, her silent rebuke to Peter that enough money had already been spent that day. 'I will charge you a fair price for this money-lender,' promised the shop assistant. 'Peter, it's time we were heading back for lunch,' warned Marian. 'Whoever buys him will never have ill-fortune,' promised the shop assistant. The money-lender had cast his spell, and within

minutes Peter left the shop carrying his purchase, as the smiling shop assistant waved a cheerful farewell.

- 5 On the way back, Marian eventually saw the humour in the situation. Her awkward silence was short-lived and she soon linked her arm affectionately through her husband's, her free hand holding the jade tortoise and the wooden warrior, while Peter clutched the Chinese money-lender. 'You were really talked into that!' she laughed. 'Ah, but it's a unique work of art,' replied Peter, 'and who knows what it will bring?'
  
- 6 A few days later, their holiday over, it was their own house they were entering, dropping their bulging suitcases gratefully to the floor. Peter quickly unpacked the tortoise, the wooden warrior and, of course, the Chinese money-lender, while Marian took up the more mundane task of opening the pile of mail which had accumulated since their departure. In the living room, Peter, with the utmost care, was tenderly positioning the Chinese money-lender on a shelf. Now what was the best angle at which to display him for maximum aesthetic effect? He heard the rustling of paper and the ripping open of envelopes. Reluctantly he dragged his attention away from his new friend as he heard Marian's voice from the hallway: 'Peter, I can hardly believe this. I've won the top cash prize in that competition I entered before we went away ... I can hardly believe it!' Smiling, Peter adjusted the position of the Chinese money-lender yet again by a fraction of an inch. 'Oh, but I can believe it,' he said.

**Section 2: Reading for Meaning**

Answer **all** the questions below in the order set.

**From paragraph 1**

4 (a) How did Christopher's parents react to his announcement that he intended to emigrate?

.....[1]

(b) What, according to the passage, is the advantage of the country to which Christopher had emigrated? Answer **in your own words**.

.....  
 .....[2]

(c) What evidence is given to suggest that the location of Christopher's apartment was 'lively'?

.....  
 .....[1]

**From paragraph 2**

5 (a) Peter and Marian went on ‘yet another’ trip to the market. What effect does the writer achieve by the use of the word ‘yet’?

.....  
 .....[1]

(b) The stallholder ‘claimed’ that the tortoise was made of genuine jade. What effect does the word ‘claimed’ have that would not be achieved by ‘said’?

.....  
 .....[1]

(c) What **two** aspects of Peter’s character caused Marian’s ‘impatience’?

- (i) .....
- (ii) .....[2]

**From paragraph 3**

6 (a) The Chinese money-lender was ‘somewhat mysterious’. What **single** feature of the ornament was most mysterious?

..... [1]

(b) What do you think the shopkeeper was eager to do?

..... [1]

(c) Why did the Chinese money-lender glitter in the shop lights?

..... [1]

**From paragraph 4**

7 (a) Peter was ‘bewitched’. Pick out and write down the **single** word which continues the idea of ‘bewitched’?

..... [1]

(b) In what **two** ways did Marian try to indicate to Peter that he had already spent enough money that day?

- (i) .....
- .....

(ii) .....[2]

(c) Explain in **your own words** the **two** reasons why Peter was persuaded by the shop assistant to buy the Chinese money-lender.

.....  
 .....  
 .....[2]

**From paragraph 5**

8 On the way back, how did Marian show that she was still annoyed with Peter?

..... [1]

**From paragraph 6**

9 (a) Peter quickly unpacked the Chinese money-lender. Explain fully the other ways in which his behaviour indicated the importance to him of the Chinese money-lender.

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 ..... [2]

(b) ‘But I can believe it.’ What exactly did Peter believe?

.....  
 ..... [1]

**From the whole passage:**

10 Choose **five** of the following words. For each of them give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

- (a) priority (line 9) (e) intently (line 20)
- (b) plethora (line 9) (f) simultaneously (line 28)
- (c) tantalising (line 10) (g) unique (line 38)
- (d) wafting (line 10) (h) mundane (line 42)