

Dear Parents / Students

Due to the current situation, Knowledgeplus Training center is mobilized and will keep accompanying and supporting our students through this difficult time. Our Staff will be continuously, sending notes and exercises on a weekly basis through what's app and emails. Students are requested to copy the notes and do the exercises on their copybooks. The answers to the questions below will be made available on our website on knowledgeplus.mu/support.php every Friday. We thank you for your trust and are convinced that, together, we will overcome these troubled times.

Students can also email their work on info@knowledgeplus.mu

Grade 9- English (week 3)

Question1:

Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

Every family has a black sheep and Tom Ramsay had been the black sheep of his family for twenty years. I had watched him begin life decently enough: he went into business, married and had two children. But one day, without warning, he announced that he didn't like work and that he wasn't suited to married life. He wanted to enjoy himself. He left everything behind and spent two happy years living in Paris, spending all his money.

His relatives wondered what would happen when he would have no money left. They soon found out - he borrowed. He made a steady income from his friends and he made friends easily. But he always said that the money you spent on necessities was boring; the money that was fun to spend was the money you spent on luxuries. For this, he depended on his brother George.

George was insensible to Tom's charm. Once or twice he fell to Tom's promises to change and gave him considerable sums so that he might make a fresh start. With this money, Tom bought a new car and some very nice jewellery. George finally realised that his brother would never change and washed his hands of him but Tom, without any hesitation, began to blackmail him. It was not very nice for a respectable lawyer to find his brother serving drinks in his favourite restaurant. Tom said that to serve in a restaurant was a perfectly decent occupation, but if George could give him a couple of hundred pounds, he didn't mind, for the honour of the family, giving it up. George paid.

Poor George! Though only a year older than his brother, he looked sixty. He had not taken more than a fortnight's holiday in twenty-five years. He was in his office every morning at nine-thirty and never left before six. His life was blameless. He was glad he was growing old because that meant Tom was growing old too.

"In four years' time Tom will be fifty. He won't find life so easy then. We shall see if it really pays to work or be idle."

The other day, I saw George Ramsay sitting by himself in a restaurant, wearing an expression of deep gloom. "Do you know what's happening now?" he asked me.

I wondered if Tom had got into the hands of the police at last. George could hardly speak.

"You can't deny that all my life I've been hardworking, decent and respectable."

"True," I replied.

"And you can't deny that Tom has been a rude and worthless rogue."

"True as well."

George grew red in the face.

"A few weeks ago, he became engaged to a woman old enough to be his mother. And now she's dead and left him everything she had. Half a million pounds, a yacht and a house in London." George Ramsay beat his clenched fist on the table. "It's not fair, I tell you, it's not fair!" I could not help it. I burst out laughing and very nearly fell on the floor. George never forgave me.

(Adapted from 'The Ant and the Grasshopper' by Somerset Maugham)

From Paragraph 1

1. How many children did Tom Ramsay have? (1 mark)

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2. Which two consecutive words tell us that the change in Tom was unexpected? (1 mark)

.....

3. Why did Tom change his way of life? (1 mark)

.....

From Paragraph 2

4. What did Tom do when he ran out of money? (1 mark)

.....

5. "The money that was fun to spend was the money you spent on luxuries." (line 10). Which aspect of Tom's character do we see here? (1 mark)

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From Paragraph 3

6. At first, George trusted Tom. What evidence is there in this paragraph to show this? (1 mark)

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7. What did Tom do with the money George gave him? (1 mark)

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8. Explain fully how Tom blackmailed George. (2 marks)

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From Paragraph 4

9. By how many years was George older to Tom? (1 mark)

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10. In your opinion, why did George look sixty? (1 mark)

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11. Why was George happy that he was growing old? (1 mark)

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From Paragraph 5

12. Why do you think “George could hardly speak”? (lines 28-29) (1 mark)

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From Paragraph 6

13. “It’s not fair, I tell you, it’s not fair!” (line 39). What is George finding unfair? (1 mark)

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14. “George never forgave me.” (line 39). Why do you think George was so angry with the narrator?
(1 mark)

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15. Give the meaning of the following words or expressions as they have been used in the passage.

(5 marks)

(i) black sheep (line 1) :

.....

(ii) steady (line 7) :

.....

(iii) insensible (line 11) :

.....

(iv) washed his hands of (line 14) :

.....

(v) idle (line 24) :

.....

Question 2:

(Literature in English) (10 marks)

Read the poem below and answer the following questions.

A free bird leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends and dips his wing in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom.

(Adapted from 'Caged Bird', by Maya Angelou)

1. (a) Which of the following is a pair of rhyming words? Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

A wind, wing

B cage, rage

C rays, sky

(b) Find two more pairs of rhyming words in the poem and write them down. (2 marks)

(i)

(ii)

2. (a) What message do you think the poet is trying to convey by using the images of a caged bird and a free bird in this poem? (2 marks)

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.....

(b) The poet describes the caged bird with words such as “rage”, and “fearful” in the poem. What do these words suggest about the mood in the poem? (2 marks)

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3. Imagine that you are the caged bird. Write down your feelings about your situation. (3 marks)

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