

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

Week 2 (Grade 10&11- English)

Passage

This passage is about how a young mother reacts to her baby's illness.

1 The warm summer wore away, and a cold autumn set in, with rain, damp and an unseasonal frost at night. When I put gloves on the baby she chewed them and had to sit in her pram with cold, wet hands. I did not mind for myself, but I did not know how to keep her warm. She dribbled too and her chest was always damp. She resisted for some time but in the end she caught a cold.

2 I did not know what to do with her, as I hated going to the doctor. I had expected I would be finished with doctors once she was born, though I subsequently discovered there was an unending succession of health checks and vaccinations yet to be endured. Now, hearing Octavia's heavy spluttering, I knew I would have to take her, much as I would hate it. I felt I was bothering the busy doctor unnecessarily. But it was not a simple choice between comfort and duty, and moreover it was not even my own health that was in question, but Octavia's, and so I tried to dismiss the thought of sitting in a freezing cold waiting room with her. Had it been my own health, I would never have gone.

3 After I had made up my mind to see the doctor, I consulted my friend Lydia, who suggested that I should ring up the doctor and ask him to come and see me at home, instead of going to him; I immediately thought how nice it would be if only I dared. 'Of course you dare,' said Lydia. 'You can't take a sick baby out in weather like this.' Then, with sudden illumination, she said, 'Anyway, look how flushed she is! Why don't you take her temperature?'

4 Astounded, I stared at her, for truly the thought of doing such a thing had never crossed my mind. Looking back now, after months with the thermometer as necessary as a spoon or a saucepan, I can hardly believe this to be possible, but so it was; my life had not yet changed forever. I took Octavia's temperature and it was high enough to justify ringing for the doctor.

To my surprise, the doctor's secretary did not sound at all annoyed when I asked if the doctor could visit; I think I had half expected her to lecture me.

5 When the doctor arrived, he took Octavia’s pulse and temperature, and told me it was nothing serious, in fact nothing at all. Then he said he ought to listen to her chest; I pulled up her vest and she smiled and wriggled with delight as he put the stethoscope on her fat ribs. He listened for a long time and I, who was beginning to think that perhaps I should not have bothered him after all, sat there calmly aware of how innocent she was, how sweet she looked and that her vest could do with a wash. Had I known, I would have enjoyed that moment more, or perhaps I mean that I did enjoy that moment but have enjoyed none since. For he said, ‘Well, I don’t think there’s anything very much to worry about there.’ But I could see that he had not finished, and did not mean what he said. ‘Just the same,’ he added, ‘perhaps I ought to book you an appointment to take her along to the hospital.’

6 I suppose most people would have asked him what was wrong. I think that the truth was the last thing I wanted to hear. When I heard his voice coming at me, saying that the hospital appointment would probably be for the next Thursday, I was relieved a little; he could not be expecting her to die before next Thursday. I even mustered the strength to ask what I should do about her cold, and he said, ‘Nothing, nothing at all.’

7 When he had gone, I went back and picked Octavia up and sat her on my knee and gazed at her, paralysed by fear, aware that my happy state had changed in ten minutes to undefined anguish. I wept, and Octavia put her fingers in the tears on my cheek, as though they were raindrops on a window pane. It seemed that, in comparison with this moment, the whole of my former life had been a lovely summer afternoon.

Attempt all the questions.

Read Passage 2 in the Insert about how a young mother reacts to her baby’s illness and answer all the questions below.

From paragraph 1

1. (a) Which one feature of the weather was unusual for the time of year?

..... [1]

(b) Why did the baby have cold, wet hands when she was in her pram?

..... [1]

From paragraph 2

2. (a) The writer ‘hated going to the doctor’.

Give the one word used in the paragraph which reinforces this idea.

..... [1]

(b) Give two reasons why the writer didn’t want to go to the doctor.

•

.....

•

..... [2]

From paragraph 3

3. 'I immediately thought how nice it would be if only I dared.'

What does this tell you about the writer's character?

.....

..... [1]

4. How does Lydia change the writer's outlook?

.....

..... [1]

From paragraph 4

5. What makes the writer eventually contact the doctor?

.....

..... [1]

6. Explain in your own words how the writer thought the doctor's secretary would react when the writer asked 'if the doctor could visit' (lines 23–24).

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

From paragraph 5

7. There is a contrast created when Octavia 'smiled and wriggled with delight' while the doctor listened to her chest 'for a long time'.

(a) Describe how Octavia was feeling.

..... [1]

(b) Describe how the doctor was feeling.

.....[1]

8. The writer says 'I could see that he had not finished, and did not mean what he said.' What does this tell us about the writer's reaction to the doctor?

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

From paragraph 6

9. Why did the writer feel 'relieved a little'?

..... [1]

From paragraph 7

10. Explain in your own words why the writer says 'the whole of my former life had been a lovely summer afternoon' (lines 43–44).

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

11. From paragraphs 2–6 inclusive

For each of the words or phrases below, circle the letter (A, B, C or D) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

12. From paragraphs 2–6 inclusive

For each of the words or phrases below, circle the letter (A, B, C or D) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

(a) subsequently (line 7)

A next B eventually C later D rapidly [1]

(b) in question (line 11)

A in hand B at risk C talked about D asked for [1]

(c) illumination (line 17)

A knowledge B light C intelligence D realisation [1]

(d) astounded (line 19)

A amazed B puzzled C horrified D offended [1]

(e) mustered (line 38)

A earned B forced C gathered D seized [1]

13. Re-read paragraphs 5 and 7, which contain phrases that tell us about the behaviour or feelings of the writer.

Explain:

- The meaning of the phrases as they are used in the passage
- The effect of the phrases as they are used in the passage.

(a) 'sat there calmly aware of how innocent she was' (line 29)

Meaning:
.....

Effect:
..... [2]

(b) 'as though they were raindrops on a window pane' (lines 42–43)

Meaning:
.....

Effect:
..... [2]

Total marks for Passage: [25]