

**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
BOKARO STEEL CITY**

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE SESSION 2009-2010

Class : IX

Subject : English

Assign. No. 3

Section – A (Reading)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Most of us take life for granted. We know that one day we must die but usually we picture that day as far away in the future. When we are in buoyant health death is unimaginable. We seldom think of it. So we go about our petty tasks, hardly aware of our listless attitude towards life.

The same lethargy, I am afraid, characterizes the use of all our faculties and our senses. Only the deaf appreciates hearing, only the blind appreciates the manifold blessings that lie in sight. Particularly does this observation apply to those who have lost sight and hearing in adult life. But, those who have never suffered impairment of sight or hearing seldom make the fullest use of these blessed faculties. Their eyes and ears take in all sights and sounds hazily, without concentration, and with little appreciation. It is the same old story of not being grateful for what we have until we lose it, of not being conscious of health until we are ill. I have often thought that it would be a blessing if each human being was stricken blind and deaf for a few days at some time during his early adult life. Darkness would make him more appreciative of light: silence would teach him the joys of sound.

Now and then, I have tested my seeing friends to discover what they see. Recently, I was visited by a very good friend who had just returned from a long walk in the woods and I asked her what she had observed "Nothing in particular," she replied. I might have been incredulous had I not been accustomed to such responses, for long ago, I became convinced that the seeing see little. How was it possible, I ask myself, to walk for an hour through the woods and see nothing worthy of note? I, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through touch.

If I get so much pleasure by mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight. Yet, those who have eyes, apparently see little. The panorama of colour and action which fills the world is taken for granted. It is human, perhaps, to appreciate little that which we have and too long for that which we have not, but it is a great pity that in the world of light, the gift of sight is used only as a convenience rather than as a means of adding fullness to life.

If I were the president of a university I would establish a compulsory in 'How to use your Eyes'. The professor would try to show his pupils how they could add joy to their lives by really seeing what passes unnoticed before them. He would try to awaken their dormant and sluggish faculties.

- Hellen Keller

- 1.1. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions.

- a) Why do we take life for granted?
- b) Why do the deaf and the blind appreciate the blessings of hearing and sight?
- c) The author compares the indifference of people to their blessings to two other typical attitudes. What are these?
- d) When will human beings appreciate their blessings in a better way?
- e) 'Those who have eyes see very little.' How does the author think of changing it?

2. You are Raman Lamba. Write a message for your cricket captain Deepak Seth that you have sprained your foot and you would not be able to play in tomorrow's match. Your doctor has

advised you complete bed rest for a week but you hope that you shall be fit and fine to play all matches after one week. (word limit - 50)

3. Obesity is a common problem these days. Mostly middle aged men and women suffer from it but a good number of school children are also getting affected. Write an article in nearly 150 - 200 words on the dangers of obesity. Also suggest some methods to avoid becoming obese.
4. Water problem is increasingly felt every year. Scientists have been working mankind against a serious water crisis in the years to come. Yet, irrespective of all warnings humans go on polluting and wasting water in every possible way. Write a letter to the Editor of 'India Today' on the water crisis along with the problem, also suggest ways and means to fight this problem.
5. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correct word in your note book.

	Wrong word	Correct word
He hanged his heavy tail	eg. hanged	hung
down so loosely and looked so	a)
miserably that the burglar stroked	b)
his head, at which is revived.	c)
The burglar open the gate and	d)
gone out and the dog followed him.	e)
They walked together like old friend.	f)

6. In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before it and the word that comes after it.

Attila the hero of the day	eg. Attila / the - was
Even the lady the house softened	a)
towards. She said, "Whatever	b)
one say of Attila, one has to	c)
admit he is a very cunning detective.	d)
He is deep forwards. It was	e)
well that Attila had no power of speech.	f)

7. Look at the newspaper items below. Use the information in the headlines to complete the paragraphs.

a) **SCHOOL BOY AWARDED FOR BRAVERY**

Rajan, a class VIII student of Govt. School Naraina who had saved the lives of his two class mates was in a public function by the Chief Minister of Delhi.

b) **ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE IN WEST DELH**

Residents of colonies are suffering a lot of inconvenience on account of

c) **WOMAN COMMITS SUICIDE**

Rukmini Devi, a 35 year old house wife and a mother of three was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom. It is suspected that she because of a family dispute.

8. Rearrange the words and phrases given below to form meaningful sentences.

a) problem / my / perhaps / himself / he / begun / understand / to / had

- b) tolerance / I / take / of / began / to / advantage / his
- c) I / my / brother / my / minded / manners / with / and / kite-flying / concealed / my

9. Read the given dialogues.

Man : Who told you that I am a criminal?

Woman : It is written all over your face.

Man : Stop talking nonsense. I am the lord and master of this place.

Now complete the passage given below.

Angrily the man questioned the woman (a) The woman replied (b) The man ordered the woman(c) and added that (d)

10. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions briefly.

O haste thee, haste ! the lady cries

Though tempests round us gather;

I'll meet the raging of the skies

But not an angry father.

- i) Who is the lady mentioned here?
- ii) Whom is the lady addressing and what is she urging the person to do?
- iii) What has been referred to "as the raging of the skies"?

11. Mention a few things in the nature of Satish's mother because of which Arun started hating her. (Word limit - 50 - 75)

12. Imagine you are Katy, John Perkins wife. Distressed by your husband's neglect of you, one day you decide to share your problem with Jane, your childhood friend. You write a letter to share with Jane how lonesome and unhappy you feel because of your husband's behaviour and routine. Write Katy's letter in about 150 - 200 words.

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