

KERALA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOME ASSIGNMENT (DATE : __ 14th December – 19th December _____)



CLASS	SUBJECT	TOPIC / CHAPTER	MODULE / ASSIGNMENT	REFERENC E LINKS
IX	English Language	Notice Writing	Write a notice informing students about a charity fair that is going to be organised in the school to collect donations for the needy group of people.	
IX	English Literature	A face in the dark	<p>Answer the following questions:</p> <p>1. How does the watchman enhance the surprise element of the story? Ans. Introduction of the watchman is full of doubts and mystery. After seeing the faceless boy, Mr Oliver was terrified and started running towards the school crying for help. While running through the forest, Oliver came across the watchman holding a lantern in the middle of the path. It is not known or mentioned later from where he had appeared in this deserted forest. When he is supposed to help the frightened Mr Oliver, he himself turns out to be a ghostly figure making the story more surprising. We may say that the role of the watchman is shocking and surprising. These elements of the story act as a twist in the tale and leave the reader intrigued.</p> <p>2. How did Oliver react after seeing the face of the boy? Ans. When Oliver witnessed the boy in the late hours of the evening sitting on a rock in the pine forest, he got worried for him. Students were not allowed to be out at night. Initially, he was angry but when he understood that the boy was crying continuously he went near him and asked him to look up. The boy neither looked up nor replied. When Oliver went close to the boy, he lifted his face and Oliver was shocked. The torch fell from Oliver's hand and he started</p>	

running towards the school building crying for help. The boy was without any eyes, nose or lips. He had no features. He was a faceless boy.

3. How does Ruskin Bond create an atmosphere of strangeness, mystery and supernaturalism in this story?

Ans. On seeing the featureless face, Oliver ran away from there, calling for help. He was still running towards the school building when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path and bumped into a watchman. The watchman asked him why he was running. Oliver told him about seeing a boy weeping in the forest who had no face. When Oliver asserts that he had seen a boy with no face in the forest, the watchman raised his lamp to show his face and ask Oliver if the boy was like him. The watchman too was without a face. Hence, the story ends with a thrilling climax as Oliver runs into another apparition while he is trying to run away from one. However, the climax is reached when the wind blew out the lamp, leaving the readers to imagine what might have happened to Oliver. Here, the author has created an eerie atmosphere in the story where a strong wind was blowing and pine trees made mysterious sounds, indicating something evil was likely to happen. The batteries of Oliver's torch were running down, creating an atmosphere of fear and suspense. By the use of the words strange, soundless weeping, the author has tried to create an atmosphere of strangeness, mystery and supernaturalism. He makes the supernatural appear entirely natural by his artistic skill, and therefore, it becomes hard to ignore. The seeds of fear and suspense are sowed in the minds of readers.

IX	English Language	E mail Writing	Write an E-mail addressing the principal of neighboring school informing them about the fair and requesting them to be a part of this charity fair.	
IX	English Language	Comprehension	<p>Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: My husband Pele and I were staying in a holiday house overlooking the beautiful, lush rainforests of Indonesia. The glass walls framed a fine view across the Bagon Valley to what had been the summer palace of President Suharto. The first morning we strolled hand in hand up a winding pathway, heading to the main building for breakfast. But once we arrived at the dining room, I realized we'd forgotten our money, so I volunteered to run back to the house. Making my way down the path, I turned the last corner only to find a giant bird, similar to an emu, standing outside our front door.</p> <p>“Hey baby, what are you doing?” I cooed, moving slowly so as not to frighten it. Having a deep, abiding fascination with all creatures great and small, I wanted a closer look. This was my first mistake.</p> <p>As I came within a few meters, he took a big breath and let out a nasty hiss, stopping me in my tracks. “That’s not very friendly,” I said, clueless. He hissed again and I promptly made the second mistake of turning and running, instead of backing away slowly. As I rounded the corner I heard his razor-sharp claws scrabbling on the cobblestones. “Oh!” His steps sounded like a drum as they hit the ground, quickly coming too close for comfort. I suddenly changed direction and headed into the trees. Dodged in and out of the foliage. I hoped my tactic would fool him. A crash behind me indicated no such luck. Jumping over a</p>	

small bush, I found myself out in the open and not far from the dining room. Picking up speed, I bolted over the plants and rockeries surrounding the perimeter and dashed through the gate. When I turned to close it, the bird was nowhere to be seen.

I didn't realize it and at the time, but I had just come face to face with a cassowary, a bird also found in Australia's north Queensland rainforests. Cassowary's weigh kilos or more, stand about 180 centimeters tall and have saber-like toenails that can open a human from chin to groin like a zipper and kill humans. "What's wrong?" Pele asked as I stumbled back into the dining room. "A big bird chased me all the way from the house," I replied.

"What?" he asked incredulously. "You're scared of a bird?" "It's as big as me and very mean," I said in a rather sulky voice. "Oh, all right," he laughed. "I'll come with you." Much to Pele's amusement, I stayed behind him on the path and held onto the back of his shirt as we approached the corner of the house.

"See! There it is. Look at the size of the thing!" Pele chuckled at the hysteria in my voice. "It's all right," he soothed. Calmly and confidently he walked toward the cassowary. "Shoo! Go on, get out," he said. He made actions with his arms as if it were a pigeon on a window ledge. The response of the cassowary was the same as before: a big hiss and a step forward. "Hmm," said Pele and stopped, not so sure of himself. He tried again. "Go on." The cassowary then ran a few paces at us, hissing aggressively, so we quickly retreated around a corner of the house. Pele picked up a rock the size of his hand and threw it hard, hitting the bird squarely in the chest. It didn't budge. "What are we going to do?" I pleaded. This time, Pele picked up a cane chair. "Stay behind and I'll keep him back. When we get to the door, open it." Again I held on to the back of his shirt and we started towards the door. This greatly displeased the already annoyed

			<p>cassowary. Charging at us he ripped at the chair with 50 those lethal claws. Pele stopped to steady the chair – and possibly his resolve. Pele threw the chair at the bird and slammed the door shut. Ducking the flying cane, the bird ran straight at the glass wall, only to bounce off. But it didn't slow down at all. Pecking and scratching at the glass, it continued the assault with a sickening ferocity. It was another 15 minutes before the bird weakened and slowed its attack. Thirty minutes later, we quietly opened the door and crept back to the main building.</p> <p>With close reference to the last paragraph of the extract and in not more than 50 words describe how the couple got into their room when they were together.</p> <p>Give a title to the passage and give a reason to justify your choice.</p>	
IX	English Literature	A face in the dark	<p>1. How did Mr Oliver usually spend his evenings? Ans. Mr Oliver usually spent his evenings in Shimla bazaar which had cinemas and restaurants. He used to stroll into the town in the evening as he was a bachelor and returned after dark taking a shortcut through the pine forest to the school.</p> <p>2. Why did he take a shortcut while returning? Ans. Mr Oliver was returning to school at night after spending time in Shimla bazaar. He was quite bold and did not worry about the terrible sounds made by the pine trees when the strong winds blew. Oliver took the shortcut as he wanted to reach the school in less time.</p> <p>3. What did Oliver carry with him? Why? Ans. Unlike most people, Mr Oliver used to take a shortcut through the pine forest, but the forest was dark and it was difficult to determine the way at night.</p>	

			<p>Therefore, he carried a torch that helped him to find his way back home.</p> <p>4. Describe the posture of the boy. Ans. The boy sat on a rock with his head down and his face held in his hands. His body shivered continuously. It seemed that the boy was either in some pain or freezing with cold. Mr Oliver could figure out that the boy was weeping.</p> <p>5. Why did Oliver think that the boy was a miscreant? Ans. Oliver had noticed a boy with his school cap sitting on a rock at night. The hostel boys were not supposed to come out after dark. It was a punishable misdeed. So, when he saw the boy, he assumed that he was a miscreant, a person who has done some mischief.</p>	
IX	English Literature	A face in the dark	<p>Long Answer type questions:</p> <p>1. Give a brief description of the public school in which Mr Oliver taught at Simla. Ans: Mr Oliver was an Anglo-Indian teacher in a public school at Simla. It was one of the best public schools in India. It was often referred to as the “Eton of the East”. Most of the students came from wealthy Indian families. They dressed themselves up in the smart school uniform which included blazers, caps and ties. The school was situated about three miles away from the Simla Bazaar which was known for its cinemas and restaurants. Mr Oliver had been teaching in this school for several years.</p> <p>2. What is your impression of Mr Oliver, the Anglo-Indian teacher, in the story, “A Face in the Dark” ? Ans: Mr Oliver is teaching in a famous public school at Simla. He is a normal kind of teacher who takes interest in his students and is quite active in his routine. He often visits the Simla Bazaar which is full of hustle and bustle because of its cinemas and restaurants. Being a bachelor, Mr Oliver has hardly</p>	

			<p>any company in the evening. In order to get over his loneliness he strolls out to the Simla Bazaar and often returns at night through the dark pine forest. This shows that he is a daring man without any nervousness or irrational fear. He always carries his torch in order to see through the darkness of the forest. Still, he experiences a paranormal incident on a particular night when he sees a school boy sitting on the dark rocks in the forest. This meeting unnerves not only the teacher but also the reader of the story.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

DIRECTOR ACADEMICS