

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
**SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**  
**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**WEEK FOUTEEN: LESSON ONE**

**SUBJECT:** English 'A'

**GRADE:** Eleven (11)

**TOPIC: COMPREHENSION**

**Instruction:** Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items -----on the basis of what is stated or implied.

She had always been a small woman – short, light – bones, delicately structured – but now, under the white hospital sheet, she was becoming tiny. I thought of a doll with huge, fierce eyes. There had always been a fierceness in her. It showed in that angry, challenging thrust of the chin when she issued an opinion, and a great one she had always been for issuing opinions. 5

“I tell people exactly what’s on my mind,” she had been fond of boasting. “I tell them what I think, whether they like it or not.” Often they had not liked it. She could be sarcastic to people in whom she detected evidence of the ignoramus or the fool.

It’s not always a good policy to tell people exactly what’s on your mind,” I used to caution her.10

“If they don’t like it, that’s too bad,” was her customary reply, “because that’s the way I am.”

And so, she was. A formidable woman. Determined to speak her mind, determined to bend those who opposed her. In that time when I had known her best, my mother had hurled herself at life with chin thrust forward, eyes 15 blazing, and an energy that made her seem always on the run.

She ran after squawking chickens, a knife in her hand, determined on the beheading that would put dinner in the pot. She ran when she made the beds, ran when she set the table. One

Thanksgiving she burned herself badly when, running up from the cellar oven with the ceremonial turkey, she tripped on the stairs and tumbled back down ending on the bottom in the debris of giblets, hot gravy, and battered turkey. Life was combat, and victory was not for the lazy, the timid, the slugabed, the drugstore cowboy, the mush mouth afraid to tell people exactly what was on their mind whether people liked it or not. She ran.

But now her running was over.

Adapted from Russell Baker. In My Day. Retrieved 23 February 2015

From <http://WWW>.

Douban.com/note/173685719

1. The mother's "thrust of the chin" (line 4) is done in  
(A) fear (B) hatred (C) defiance (D) contemplation
2. The son cautioned his mother about telling people exactly what she thought because he  
(A) was affronted about his arrogance  
(B) thought others would be offended  
(C) found her behavior aggressive
3. Why does the writer choose the expression "A formidable woman" (line 13) to describe the mother?  
(A) He is intimidated by her.  
(B) Her words often provoked anger.  
(C) The difference in style shows the constancy of her character.  
(D) He emphasizes her strength which he finds admirable.
4. The behaviours the mother finds contemptible include  
I. Timidity II. Laziness III. cowardice  
(A) I and II only (B) I and III only (C) II and III only (D) I, II and III
5. What does "In that time when I had known her best" (lines 14-15) say about the mother-son relationship?  
(A) They had grown apart  
(B) They admired each other  
(C) They had always had a close relationship

(D) The son had forgotten things about his mother

6. The incident at Thanksgiving shows the mother's own attitude to be of  
(A) hastiness (B) aggressiveness (C) impudence (D) determination
7. What literary device is used in line 15, "my mother had hurled herself at life"?  
(A) Irony (B) Imagery (C) Repetition (D) Onomatopoeia
8. The final sentence of the extract implies that the mother has  
(A) become lazy and sleepy  
(B) lost her physical strength  
(C) hurt her leg in the hospital  
(D) died leaving the son to reminisce

**Instructions:** Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items -----on the basis of what is stated or implied

### **The View from my Terrace**

Marcus wheeled himself out of his accustomed place at the table on the terrace and the sight struck him immediately. How could it not? It was an abomination, a desecration, a heresy, a sight unbelievable. There was a house on the hillside! His hill, the one which overlooked the village and which his terrace faced. It was a small house to be sure; he estimated it 5 to be no more than twenty feet by twelve, with one door and one window on the long side which faced him. From the distance, it was no more than a doll's house, or what a child might draw: a wooden hut similar to those which sprung up daily in the squatter settlements which everywhere littered the hillsides, ringing the city visible evidence of society out of 10 control. But his hillside wasn't a squatter settlement and no other house marred his view. His house sat on a slight rise above the village in the valley, and from there he had an uninterrupted view of the mountains on all sides. Far away there were houses, proper ones, that is; but none close enough to mar his vision.

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It had never occurred to him that the hillside he gazed at every day would ever be defaced with human habitation. It was so steep and inhospitable. Few trees grew on it except for the occasional clump of mangoes, it was mostly covered with grass which burned every year in the dry months and agaves which from time to time flowered yellow. Half way up the hill 20 and directly in front of his favourite seat on the terrace was the only tree

of any size and this was a silk-cotton tree which would one day become a giant but which was still small as cotton trees go. Year after year he watched its progress as it shed its leaves in the winter months and turned a bright green in the spring. And now immediately behind this tree, as it 25sheltering in its arms, someone had built a house. On his hill. It wasn't really his hill, but who else was there to claim it, who else had gazed at it three hundred and sixty-five mornings every year for the past twelve years?

**Source unknown**

9. Which word BEST describes the home-owner's attitude towards the hillside near his house?  
(A) Angry (B) Proud (C) Pleased (D) Possessive
10. The words "struck him" (line 2) suggest that to the home-owner the sudden appearance of the squatter's house  
(A) stirred disgust at the nature of the home  
(B) awoke interest in how quickly it was built  
(C) aroused shock at the unexpected neighbor  
(D) stimulated pain because of the loss of privacy and control
11. the phrase "sat on" (line 12) tells us that the house is  
(A) set into the hillside  
(B) comfortably situated  
(C) precariously located  
(D) placed directly on the hill
12. Which of the following did the home-owner believe gave him the right to claim the hill?  
(A) Its proximity to his house  
(B) It was not easy accessible  
(C) The length of time he lived there  
(D) No one had moved in for some time
13. The word "littered" (line 10) highlights the owner's belief that the squatters' settlements were  
I. temporary II. A blemish III. Poorly built  
(A) II only (B) I and II only (C) II and III only (D) I, II and III
14. Which of the following BEST captures the home-owner's biggest fear?  
(A) The silk cotton tree would become gigantic

- (B) Proper houses would be built on the hillside
- (C) The hillside would become a squatters' settlement
- (D) Littering would become a problem on the hillside

15. The repetition of 'his hill' (lines 4,26) by the narrator

- (A) Displays the depth of his disgust
  - (B) Shows how persistent his shock was
  - (C) Presents the home-owner's stubbornness
  - (D) Emphasizes the passion behind his attitude
16. Which word BEST sum up the home-owner's view of squatters' settlement?
- (A) "sprung up daily" (line 9)
  - (B) "society out of control (line 10)
  - (C) "marred his view" (line 12
  - (D) "house, proper ones" (line 14)