Chapter 4: Travel and Adventure

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Exercise 4.1 — Let us discuss — The Tunnel (Part I)

Q1 Suraj compares the train to a magical creature. Pick the phrases that convey the meaning.

SOLUTION

The following phrases from the text compare the train to a magical/mythical creature:

'snorting and puffing like some green, black, and gold dragon' — the train is directly likened to a dragon.

'some beautiful monster out of Suraj's dreams' — it is called a monster from his

dreams.

'roared a challenge to the jungle' — it acts like a living creature challenging the wild.

'charged straight at the tunnel, and into it, thundering past Suraj like the beautiful dragon of his dreams' — reinforces the dragon imagery when Suraj next sees the train.

Answer: The phrases are: 'snorting and puffing like some green, black, and gold dragon'; 'some beautiful monster out of Suraj's dreams'; 'roared a challenge to the jungle'; 'thundering past Suraj like the beautiful dragon of his dreams'.

Q2 Suraj knew that the train was close by because _____.

SOLUTION

Suraj heard the shrill whistle of the engine in the distance.

Shortly after, a sound like distant thunder issued from the tunnel, confirming the train was passing through.

Answer: Suraj knew the train was close because he heard its shrill whistle in the distance, and then a sound like distant thunder issued from the tunnel.

Q3 What did Suraj see inside the tunnel?

SOLUTION

Inside the tunnel, Suraj found the walls damp and sticky.

A bat flew past him.

A lizard scuttled between the lines.

The tunnel grew pitch dark about twenty yards in; he could only see a small round circle of light at the other end.

The tunnel was still full of smoke from the train.

Answer: Inside the tunnel Suraj found damp and sticky walls, a bat flying past, a lizard scuttling between the lines, and pitch darkness — he could only see a small circle of light at the far opening.

Q4 Select the correct option. What does Sunder Singh convey about the tunnel? He says that _____ (it is damp and sticky inside / he has lent it to the Government).

SOLUTION

Sunder Singh says: 'It is truly my tunnel, since no one else will have anything to do with it. I have only lent it to the Government.'

He conveys a sense of ownership and pride — the tunnel belongs to him in spirit even though it is technically under the Government.

Answer: He has lent it to the Government.

Q5 The watchman has created a system through which he informs the locomotive driver about any danger in the tunnel. The following flow chart shows this system. Refer to the text and complete the flow chart: (i) _____ [No danger found → Goes to take a nap]; (ii) _____ [Danger found → (iv) _____]; (iii) _____ [Night → (v) _____ → Waves his lamp to warn the locomotive driver].

SOLUTION

The watchman's daily routine as described in the text:

(i) Every day, before the train came through, he would WALK THE LENGTH OF THE TUNNEL.

(ii) If no danger was found — he would RETURN TO HIS HUT (and take a nap).

(iii) If danger was found — he would WALK BACK UP THE LINE.

(iv) He would WAVE A RED FLAG to warn the engine driver (daytime).

At night: (iii) He LIT AN OIL LAMP and made a similar inspection.

(v) If danger found at night — he walked back up the line and WAVED HIS LAMP to warn the approaching engine driver.

Answer: (i) Walks the length of the tunnel. (ii) Returns to his hut / No danger found → Goes to take a nap. (iii) At night, lights an oil lamp and inspects the tunnel. (iv) Walks back up the line and waves a red flag. (v) Walks back up the line and waves his lamp to warn the locomotive driver.

Exercise 4.2 — Let us discuss — The Tunnel (Part II)

Q1 Sunder Singh knew that the leopard was in the tunnel because _____.

SOLUTION

Sunder Singh heard a rhythmic sawing sound — 'as if someone cutting through the branch of a tree'.

He recognised this sound as the leopard's call/presence in the tunnel and said, 'It's the leopard. I think it's in the tunnel.'

Answer: Sunder Singh heard a rhythmic sawing sound coming from the tunnel and recognised it as the leopard.

Q2 Why do you think Suraj was unable to do any shouting in the tunnel in the beginning? (i) He was afraid of the leopard. (ii) He didn't want to disturb the leopard. (iii) He was trying to listen for the leopard. (iv) He didn't really believe Sunder Singh.

SOLUTION

The text says: 'Suraj followed close behind, but he found he was unable to do any shouting. His throat was quite dry.'

A dry throat is a classic sign of fear. Suraj was frightened by the leopard.

Answer: (i) He was afraid of the leopard.

Q3 What made the leopard disappear into the darkness?

SOLUTION

Suraj and Sunder Singh shouted together; their voices rang through the tunnel.

The leopard was uncertain about how many humans were present in the tunnel with it.

Confused and alarmed by the noise, the leopard turned swiftly and disappeared into the darkness.

Answer: Suraj and Sunder Singh shouted together; their voices rang through the tunnel. The leopard, uncertain about how many humans were there, turned swiftly and disappeared into the darkness.

Q4 How did Suraj know Sunder Singh was at the tunnel?

SOLUTION

As the night mail passed by the cutting, Suraj (who was travelling in the train) strained his eyes looking out.

Just as the engine let out a shrill whistle, he saw a lamp at the entrance of the tunnel.

He could not see Sunder Singh himself, but he saw the lamp, and he knew his friend was out there.

Answer: Suraj saw the lamp at the tunnel entrance as the night mail passed. Though he could not see Sunder Singh, he knew the watchman was there because of the lit lamp.

Q5 Why did Suraj's father take him along to Delhi?

SOLUTION

Suraj's father was going to Delhi on a business trip.

He complained that he didn't know where Suraj went most of the time.

He decided to take the boy along so Suraj could 'learn something about his business'.

Answer: Suraj's father took him to Delhi on a business trip because he didn't know where Suraj spent his time and wanted him to learn something about his business.

Exercise 4.3 — Let us think and reflect — The Tunnel (Extract I)

Q1 Read the extract: 'Suraj had to turn and look back at the opening to reassure himself that there was still daylight outside. Ahead of him, the tunnel's other opening was just a small round circle of light. The tunnel was still full of smoke from the train, but it would be several hours before another train came through. Till then, the cutting belonged to the jungle again. Suraj didn't stop, because there was nothing to do in the tunnel and nothing to see. He had simply wanted to walk through, so that he would know what the inside of a tunnel was really like.' Answer the following: (i) Write whether the following statement is true or false: Suraj looked back at the opening of the tunnel to check if the train was coming. (ii) Choose the correct option: Suraj did not stop anywhere in the tunnel because _____. A. there was nothing to see in the tunnel. B. the tunnel was damp and sticky. C. he was in a hurry to get out of the tunnel. D. it was time for another train to come. (iii) What does the sentence 'Till then, the cutting belonged to the jungle again' mean? (iv) Suraj wanted to know the inside of the tunnel. What character trait of Suraj is highlighted here?

SOLUTION

(i) FALSE. Suraj looked back to reassure himself that there was still daylight outside — he was not checking for the train.

(ii) A. there was nothing to see in the tunnel. The text explicitly states: 'there was nothing to do in the tunnel and nothing to see.'

(iii) 'Till then, the cutting belonged to the jungle again' means that once the train had passed and the next train would not come for several hours, the railway cutting became part of the jungle's domain once more — the wildlife and stillness reclaimed the space until the next train disturbed it.

(iv) Suraj's desire to walk through the tunnel just to experience its inside shows his curious and adventurous character. He acts out of curiosity and a desire for new experiences.

Answer: (i) False — he looked back to reassure himself that there was still daylight. (ii) A — there was nothing to see in the tunnel. (iii) The cutting became part of the jungle once more, undisturbed by trains for several hours. (iv) Suraj is curious and adventurous.

Q2 Read the extract: "'The train will soon be here," said Suraj. "Yes, my friend. And if we don't drive the leopard out of the tunnel, it will be run over and killed. I can't let that happen." "But won't it attack us if we try to drive it out?" asked Suraj, beginning to share the watchman's concern. "Not this leopard. It knows me well. We have seen each other many times. It has a weakness for goats and stray dogs, but it will not harm us. Even so, I'll take my axe with me. You stay here, Suraj.'" Answer the following: (i) What was the watchman's concern? (ii) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason: Sunder Singh was sure that the leopard in the tunnel would not attack him and Suraj because _____. (iii) Select the sentences that are true: A. Suraj wants to see the leopards in the jungle. B. Suraj is concerned about Sunder Singh's safety. C. The leopard in the tunnel attacks goats and stray dogs. D. Sunder Singh wants to protect Suraj. E. Sunder Singh knows all about the animals in the jungle. (iv) Choose the correct option to complete the sentence: Sunder Singh decides to take his axe with him. This tells us that he was _____. A. violent. B. cautious. C. bold. D. afraid.

SOLUTION

(i) Sunder Singh's concern was that if the leopard was not driven out of the tunnel, the approaching night mail would run it over and kill it. He could not let the leopard be harmed.

(ii) Sunder Singh was sure the leopard would not attack because he and the leopard knew each other well — they had seen each other many times. The leopard had a weakness for goats and stray dogs but would not harm humans.

(iii) The true sentences are: C — 'It has a weakness for goats and stray dogs' is stated directly; D — Sunder Singh tells Suraj to 'Stay here', showing he wants to protect him. (B is partially shown by 'beginning to share the watchman's concern' but relates to the leopard's safety, not Sunder Singh's. A is not mentioned. E is too broad — he knows this leopard but 'all about the animals' is not supported.)

(iv) B. cautious. Taking his axe as a precaution, even while being confident, shows caution — not violence, not mere boldness, and not fear.

Answer: (i) Sunder Singh was concerned that the leopard in the tunnel would be killed by the approaching night mail train. (ii) ...the leopard knew him well and had never harmed humans — it only had a weakness for goats and stray dogs. (iii) C and D are true. (iv) B. cautious.

Exercise 4.4 — Let us think and reflect — The Tunnel (Section II Questions)

Q1 What does Sunder Singh convey by saying that he has lent his tunnel to the Government?

SOLUTION

Sunder Singh says: 'It is truly my tunnel, since no one else will have anything to do with it. I have only lent it to the Government.'

By saying this, Sunder Singh conveys a deep sense of personal ownership and attachment to the tunnel.

He has spent many years there and cares for it as though it is his own, even though it legally belongs to the Government.

He also suggests that no one else values or takes responsibility for the tunnel — only he does.

The statement shows his pride, his sense of belonging, and his humorous, self-assured personality.

Answer: Sunder Singh conveys that he feels a deep, personal ownership of the tunnel. He has cared for it so long and so devotedly that he regards it as truly his — he merely 'lends' it to the Government, implying that his bond with it is stronger than any official claim.

Q2 According to Sunder Singh, 'It is safer in the forest than in the town.' What example does Sunder Singh give to support his opinion? What does this tell us about him?

SOLUTION

Sunder Singh says: 'Nothing happens to me out here. But last month, when I went into town, I was almost run over by a bus.'

This example — nearly being run over by a bus in town while nothing bad happens to him in the jungle — supports his view that the forest is safer.

This tells us that Sunder Singh is completely at home in the jungle; he is more comfortable with wild animals and nature than with city life.

It also reveals his gentle humour and the irony that a man who lives near leopards feels safer than he does in a town.

Answer: Sunder Singh says that last month, when he went to town, he was almost run over by a bus — whereas nothing harmful ever happens to him in the jungle. This tells us he is completely at ease in the forest, has deep knowledge of nature, and has a quiet, ironic sense of humour.

Q3 Sunder Singh has become part of the jungle life. Support the view with a suitable reason.

SOLUTION

Sunder Singh has lived at the tunnel for many years and is deeply integrated into the jungle's rhythms.

He knows the leopard personally — 'It knows me well. We have seen each other many times.'

He is familiar with all the night sounds of the forest: the barking deer, the fox, the nightjar.

He inspects the tunnel at night by lamplight, moving through the darkness as naturally as any forest creature.

He feels safer in the jungle than in the town, showing how much it has become his home.

He even 'owns' a leopard in his own eyes, reflecting how the jungle's creatures are part of his daily life.

Answer: Sunder Singh has become part of jungle life because he knows the leopard personally, recognises all the night sounds of the forest, moves through the dark tunnel without fear, and feels safer in the jungle than in any town. The jungle and its creatures are his constant companions.

Q4 Sunder Singh and Suraj form an unlikely friendship. What draws them together?

SOLUTION

The friendship is 'unlikely' because Sunder Singh is an old watchman who has lived alone in the jungle for many years, while Suraj is a young boy from the town.

What draws them together is a shared sense of curiosity and wonder about the natural world.

Suraj is drawn to the adventure of the tunnel, the train, and the jungle — things Sunder Singh lives and breathes.

Sunder Singh is a storyteller and a keeper of the jungle's secrets (the leopard, the night mail); Suraj is eager to listen and experience.

Both are calm and brave in the face of danger (the leopard episode), and both share a love for the simple beauty of the jungle.

Answer: What draws them together is a shared curiosity and sense of adventure. Suraj is fascinated by the tunnel, the train, and the jungle — the very things that define Sunder Singh's world. The old watchman, lonely but wise, finds in Suraj an eager companion, and their joint bravery in driving the leopard out cements their bond.

Q5 Why is Sunder Singh referred to as a 'firefly'?

SOLUTION

In the final lines, Suraj thinks of Sunder Singh as 'a firefly for those travelling thousands as he lit up the darkness for steam engines and leopards.'

A firefly is a small creature that glows in the dark, providing a tiny but significant light in the night.

Sunder Singh, with his oil lamp, lights up the darkness of the tunnel and the forest every night — he is the single point of light in a vast dark jungle.

Just as a firefly's light guides others through the dark, Sunder Singh's lamp guides and protects the night mail train and the leopard.

The metaphor also captures how Sunder Singh is small and alone in the immensity of the jungle, yet vital and bright.

Answer: Sunder Singh is called a 'firefly' because, like a firefly, he is a small, solitary source of light in the vast dark jungle. Every night he carries his lamp through the tunnel, lighting up the darkness for the steam engines and protecting creatures like the leopard — a modest but essential presence.

Q6 Do you think Suraj is an adventure-loving boy? Give reasons.

SOLUTION

Yes, Suraj is clearly adventure-loving.

He cycled out of town, took a jungle path to a small village, walked over a scrub-covered hill, and went all the way to the tunnel exit — just to watch the train come through.

He walked the entire length of the pitch-dark tunnel out of curiosity.

When Sunder Singh told him to stay behind while he went to drive the leopard out, Suraj refused and said, 'No, I'm coming with you. It will be better than sitting here alone in the dark!'

He came to see the night mail with Sunder Singh, spending the evening in the jungle.

All of these show his love for adventure, curiosity, and fearlessness.

Answer: Yes, Suraj is adventure-loving. He cycled into the jungle just to watch a train emerge from a tunnel, walked through the pitch-dark tunnel alone, and insisted on accompanying Sunder Singh to drive the leopard out despite the danger. His actions throughout the story show curiosity, courage, and a love of adventure.

Exercise 4.5 — Let us learn — The Tunnel (Part I: Phrases)

Q1 Complete the following sentences using the suitable phrases from the text given in the box: [drifting smoke / approaching engine / sawing sound / flickering lights]. 1. We could hear the _____ of the train long before it came into view at the station. 2. The street was completely dark but the little boy walked to his house guided by the _____ from the houses. 3. The _____ from the carpenter's workshop grew louder every hour. 4. From the balcony, she watched the _____ from her neighbour's chimney float across the backyard.

SOLUTION

1. 'approaching engine' — we could hear the sound of the approaching engine long before the train arrived.
2. 'flickering lights' — the tiny, unsteady lights from the houses guided the boy.
3. 'sawing sound' — a rhythmic sawing sound is associated with cutting wood.
4. 'drifting smoke' — smoke drifting from a chimney, as seen from a balcony.

Answer: 1. approaching engine. 2. flickering lights. 3. sawing sound. 4. drifting smoke.

Q2 Match the sound words in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2: 1. creaking — (i) making a noise like a long 's' sound; 2. chatter — (ii) making a long low sound when a door or wooden object moves or is moved; 3. hissing — (iii) repeated series of short high sounds made by birds or monkeys; 4. rustle — (iv) blowing with short, quick blasts, as the wind; 5. puffing — (v) a soft low, dry sound made by the movement of things such as leaves, paper, etc.

SOLUTION

1. creaking → (ii) making a long low sound when a door or wooden object moves or is moved.
2. chatter → (iii) repeated series of short high sounds made by birds or monkeys.
3. hissing → (i) making a noise like a long 's' sound.
4. rustle → (v) a soft low, dry sound made by the movement of things such as leaves, paper, etc.
5. puffing → (iv) blowing with short, quick blasts, as the wind.

Answer: 1-(ii), 2-(iii), 3-(i), 4-(v), 5-(iv).

Q3 Complete the sentences below by filling in the blanks with the correct form of the sound words from Column 1 [creaking / chatter / hissing / rustle / puffing]: 1. The steam engine reached the station _____ black smoke into the sky. 2. Suddenly the snake raised its hood and made a _____ noise. 3. When the wind blew, I heard the _____ of the wooden roof. 4. He heard a _____ of leaves behind him when he was walking in the woods. 5. I get disturbed by the continuous _____ of the monkeys in the neighbourhood.

SOLUTION

1. puffing — 'puffing black smoke' describes the blowing of smoke in short blasts.
2. hissing — a snake makes a hissing (long 's') sound.
3. creaking — a wooden roof creaks when the wind blows.
4. rustle — dry leaves make a soft rustling sound.
5. chatter — monkeys make a repeated series of short, high chattering sounds.

Answer: 1. puffing. 2. hissing. 3. creaking. 4. rustle. 5. chatter.

Q4 Read the passage about Sunder Singh's routine and notice the use of 'would'. Why is the word 'would' used here? (i) to make a polite request; (ii) to express a desire; (iii) to talk about a habit in the past.

SOLUTION

The passage describes Sunder Singh's regular daily routine in the past: 'Every day, before the train came through, he would walk the length of the tunnel... he would return to his hut... he would walk back up the line...'

These are repeated actions that he performed regularly over a period of time in the past.

Therefore 'would' is used to talk about a habit in the past.

Answer: (iii) to talk about a habit in the past. 'Would' here describes Sunder Singh's regular, repeated past actions — his daily routine as a watchman.

Q5 Complete the sentences using the verb in brackets with the correct form of 'used to' or 'would'. Example given: 'When I was a child we used to live in a village near a forest.' (i) _____ (grow) vegetables in our back garden. (ii) Every day we _____ (get up) early and go for a walk. (iii) The weather in summer _____ (be) really nice. (iv) There was a lake near the house and we _____ (go) there every Sunday for a picnic. (v) Winters _____ (be) rather cold. (vi) In the evenings, my father _____ (tell) us incredible stories. (vii) and we _____ (listen) with admiration.

SOLUTION

The sentence is a reminiscence about childhood, describing repeated past habits. 'Used to' is used for states/situations that no longer exist; 'would' is used for repeated actions.

(i) would grow — repeated action (growing vegetables daily).

(ii) would get up — repeated daily action.

(iii) used to be — a past state (the weather being nice) that may no longer be the same; 'be' as a state verb prefers 'used to'.

(iv) would go — repeated action (going to the lake every Sunday).

(v) used to be — past state.

(vi) would tell — repeated action.

(vii) would listen — repeated action.

Answer: (i) would grow. (ii) would get up. (iii) used to be. (iv) would go. (v) used to be. (vi) would tell. (vii) would listen.

Exercise 4.6 — Let us explore — The Tunnel

Q1 The Atal Tunnel is 9.02 kilometres long, runs under the Rohtang Pass, and was constructed on the Manali–Leh Highway under freezing temperatures. It has been certified by the World Book of Records as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet'. What makes the Atal Tunnel a remarkable engineering achievement?

SOLUTION

The Atal Tunnel is remarkable for several reasons:
It is 9.02 km long, making it the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet — certified by the World Book of Records.
It was built under the Rohtang Pass on the Manali–Leh Highway — one of the most challenging terrains in the world.
Construction was carried out in extremely difficult conditions: freezing temperatures and difficult mountain terrain.
The tunnel is a strategic and national achievement, providing year-round connectivity to the Leh–Ladakh region, which was previously cut off in winter.

Answer: The Atal Tunnel is remarkable because it is the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet (9.02 km), built under the Rohtang Pass in freezing temperatures and extremely difficult mountainous terrain on the Manali–Leh Highway.

Q2 The history of Indian Railways spans over 165 years. The first passenger train ran on 16 April 1853 between Bori Bunder (Mumbai) and Thane, covering 34 kilometres, operated by three locomotives named Sahib, Sultan, and Sindh. In 1864, Delhi Junction was built. What are two key milestones in the early history of Indian Railways mentioned in the text?

SOLUTION

Milestone 1: On 16 April 1853, the first passenger train in India ran between Bori Bunder (Mumbai) and Thane, covering 34 kilometres. It was operated by three locomotives named Sahib, Sultan, and Sindh and had thirteen carriages.
Milestone 2: In 1864, North India received its first railway station — Delhi Junction, near Chandni Chowk.

Answer: Two milestones: (1) On 16 April 1853, India's first passenger train ran between Bori Bunder (Mumbai) and Thane covering 34 km, pulled by locomotives Sahib, Sultan, and Sindh. (2) In 1864, Delhi Junction near Chandni Chowk became North India's first railway station.

Exercise 4.7 — Let us discuss — Travel (Poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay)

Q1 The main ideas of each stanza of the poem are given below. Write the number of the stanza against the matching main idea: (a) At night, the speaker imagines the train and hears its engine in the quiet. (b) The speaker feels a strong desire to take any train, no matter where it goes. (c) The speaker hears the train whistle during the day, even though the train is far away.

SOLUTION

Stanza 1: 'The railroad track is miles away, / And the day is loud with voices speaking, / Yet there isn't a train goes by all day / But I hear its whistle shrieking.' — The speaker hears the train whistle during the day even though the train is far away.

Stanza 2: 'All night there isn't a train goes by, / Though the night is still for sleep and dreaming, / But I see its cinders red on the sky, / And hear its engine steaming.' — At night, the speaker imagines/sees the train and hears its engine in the quiet.

Stanza 3: 'My heart is warm with the friends I make, / And better friends I'll not be knowing; / Yet there isn't a train I wouldn't take, / No matter where it's going.' — The speaker feels a strong desire to take any train, no matter where it goes.

Answer: (a) Stanza 2. (b) Stanza 3. (c) Stanza 1.

Q2 Read the poem and write the rhyming words from each stanza. (Example given: Stanza (i): away-day.) 2. Stanza (ii): ___. 3. Stanza (iii): ___.

SOLUTION

Stanza (ii): 'by' and 'sky' rhyme (lines 1 and 3); 'dreaming' and 'steaming' rhyme (lines 2 and 4).

Stanza (iii): 'make' and 'take' rhyme (lines 1 and 3); 'knowing' and 'going' rhyme (lines 2 and 4).

Answer: Stanza (ii): by–sky; dreaming–steaming. Stanza (iii): make–take; knowing–going.

Q3 Identify the rhyme scheme of the poem from the options given below: 1. AABB. 2. ABCA. 3. ABAB. 4. ABBC.

SOLUTION

Stanza 1: 'away' (A), 'speaking' (B), 'day' (A), 'shrieking' (B) — ABAB.
Stanza 2: 'by' (A), 'dreaming' (B), 'sky' (A), 'steaming' (B) — ABAB.
Stanza 3: 'make' (A), 'knowing' (B), 'take' (A), 'going' (B) — ABAB.
The rhyme scheme is ABAB throughout.

Answer: 3. ABAB.

Q4 Identify the word in the poem that personifies the whistle of the train.

SOLUTION

The line reads: 'But I hear its whistle shrieking.'
'Shrieking' is a word normally used for a human or animal making a high, piercing cry.
By using 'shrieking' for the train's whistle, the poet gives it a human/living quality — this is personification.

Answer: 'Shrieking' — the train's whistle is said to shriek, a word associated with humans or animals, giving it a living quality.

Q5 Tone refers to the attitude the poet has about the poem. Which of these words can be used to describe the poet's tone in this poem? [serious / content / excited / curious / enthusiastic / critical / worried / joyful / thoughtful]

SOLUTION

The poet feels a warm contentment about her friends but an irresistible, joyful longing for travel.
The tone is enthusiastic — there is energy and passion in 'there isn't a train I wouldn't take'.
It is also content/joyful — the speaker is at peace with her life and friends yet happily restless.
Curious and thoughtful also apply — she reflects on why the train draws her so powerfully.
The tone is NOT serious, critical, or worried.

Answer: The tone is enthusiastic, joyful, and content — the poet is happy with her life and friends but feels an irresistible, warm excitement for travel and the trains that represent it.

Q6 Select the words that tell us what the train symbolises for the poet: 1. education; 2. adventure; 3. comfort; 4. opportunities.

SOLUTION

The train in the poem symbolises adventure — the poet is drawn to any train 'no matter where it's going', reflecting a spirit of exploration.

It also symbolises opportunities — each train could take her somewhere new, opening up new possibilities.

'There isn't a train I wouldn't take' shows that every train is an invitation to something new.

'Comfort' is not a symbol here — the poem does not mention comfort on trains.

'Education' is not referenced.

Answer: 2. adventure and 4. opportunities.

Q7 The poet repeats the line, '...there isn't a train goes by,' in all three stanzas to _____. (highlight the speaker's fascination with the train / suggest that the area has many trains passing through)

SOLUTION

The repetition of '...there isn't a train goes by' in all three stanzas emphasises that no train passes without capturing the speaker's attention.

It is not about the frequency of trains but about the speaker's intense, unchanging fascination with every train.

The repetition creates a refrain that underscores her obsession and longing.

Answer: Highlight the speaker's fascination with the train.

Q8 The poem contrasts the busy day with the stillness of the night. What is the common factor in these?

SOLUTION

During the day: the setting is loud and busy ('the day is loud with voices speaking') — yet the speaker hears the train whistle.

At night: the setting is still and quiet ('the night is still for sleep and dreaming') — yet the speaker sees the cinders and hears the engine.

The common factor in both is the speaker's constant awareness of and longing for the train — whether day or night, busy or still, the train is always present in her mind.

The train — and the desire to travel — is the unchanging element that connects both contrasting moods.

Answer: The common factor is the speaker's constant, undiminished longing for the train. Whether the day is loud or the night is still, the train always occupies her thoughts — it is the one constant across all conditions.

Q9 Imagery is a literary device that uses descriptive language to create mental pictures and appeal to the reader's senses. Select the phrases from the poem that are examples of imagery (one example given: 'day is loud').

SOLUTION

Imagery examples from the poem (beyond the given example):

'its whistle shrieking' — sound imagery; we can hear the sharp, high cry of the whistle.

'I see its cinders red on the sky' — visual imagery; we picture glowing red sparks against the dark night sky.

'hear its engine steaming' — sound/sensation imagery; we hear the hissing steam of the engine.

'the night is still for sleep and dreaming' — tactile/atmospheric imagery; we feel the quiet calm of the night.

'My heart is warm' — tactile imagery; warmth felt in the chest conveys emotion vividly.

Answer: Imagery examples: 'its whistle shrieking' (sound); 'cinders red on the sky' (visual); 'hear its engine steaming' (sound); 'the night is still for sleep and dreaming' (atmosphere); 'My heart is warm' (tactile).

Exercise 4.8 — Let us think and reflect — Travel (Poem, Extract I)

Q1 Read the extract: 'My heart is warm with the friends I make, / And better friends I'll not be knowing...' (i) Choose the suitable option to complete the following: The line 'My heart is warm' refers to a heart that is ___. A. filled with worries. B. full of love. C. feeling upset. D. experiencing anger. (ii) What does the speaker say about her current friends? (iii) What does the line 'better friends I'll not be knowing' suggest about the speaker's feelings toward their current friends? (iv) Complete the following suitably: The tone of the speaker in these lines is _____. (grateful/content)

SOLUTION

(i) B. full of love. 'My heart is warm' is a metaphor for a heart full of affection and love for friends.

(ii) The speaker says her heart is warm with the friends she makes — she values and cherishes them deeply.

(iii) 'Better friends I'll not be knowing' means the speaker believes she could never find better friends than the ones she currently has. It suggests she is deeply satisfied with and grateful for her friendships — they are irreplaceable to her.

(iv) The tone is grateful/content — both words apply, but 'grateful' fits the idea of appreciating what she has.

Answer: (i) B — full of love. (ii) The speaker says her heart is warm with the friends she makes — she deeply values them. (iii) It suggests she believes no better friends could exist; she is completely satisfied and grateful for her current friendships. (iv) grateful.

Exercise 4.9 — Let us think and reflect — Travel (Poem, Section II Questions)

Q1 What does the phrase 'cinders red on the sky' tell us about the train at night?

SOLUTION

'Cinders' are the glowing, partially burnt pieces of coal or wood that come out of a steam engine's chimney.

'Cinders red on the sky' creates an image of red-hot sparks flying up into the dark night sky from the steam engine.

It tells us that the train at night is a dramatic visual sight — its engine burns coal, and the glowing sparks light up the darkness.

It also shows the speaker can see — or imagine — the train even in the dark, such is her fascination with it.

Answer: 'Cinders red on the sky' tells us that the steam train's engine throws glowing red sparks high into the night sky as it burns coal. It makes the train a vivid, dramatic sight even in darkness.

Q2 What is the significance of the repeated references to the train's whistle?

SOLUTION

The train's whistle is mentioned in stanza 1: 'I hear its whistle shrieking' and is implied throughout the poem.

The whistle is the most distant, far-reaching sound a train makes — it can be heard even when the train itself is 'miles away'.

The repeated reference to the whistle emphasises that the train is always in the speaker's consciousness, even when it is far and invisible.

It symbolises the call to adventure and travel — a summons that the speaker cannot resist or ignore.

The shrieking whistle also conveys the train's vitality and urgency, which the speaker responds to deeply.

Answer: The repeated references to the train's whistle show that it is the symbol of travel's call — heard even when the train is miles away. It represents the irresistible summons to adventure that the speaker can never ignore, day or night.

Q3 What does the line 'no matter where it's going' reveal about the speaker's attitude towards travel?

SOLUTION

The line 'there isn't a train I wouldn't take, / No matter where it's going' reveals that the speaker's desire to travel is unconditional.

She does not care about the destination — the journey itself, the act of travelling, is what matters to her.

This shows a free-spirited, adventurous attitude: she is open to any direction, any experience, any unknown place.

It also suggests a restless wanderlust — a deep inner need to keep moving and exploring.

Answer: The line reveals that the speaker's love of travel is unconditional — the destination does not matter, only the journey. It shows she is adventurous, free-spirited, and driven by a restless wanderlust to explore the unknown.

Q4 Do you think the poet actually sees and hears the train? Why or why not?

SOLUTION

No, the poet does not literally see or hear the train each time.

She says 'the railroad track is miles away' — the train is too far to actually see.

At night, she says 'All night there isn't a train goes by... But I see its cinders red on the sky, / And hear its engine steaming' — yet the train is far away and she hears it in her mind's eye.

These are imagined experiences, driven by the power of memory, desire, and fascination.

The poem is about how the idea of trains and travel has taken hold of her imagination so completely that she hears and sees them even when they are absent.

The repeated 'there isn't a train goes by' confirms the train is a constant presence in her mind, not always in reality.

Answer: No, the poet does not literally see or hear the train each time. The railroad is miles away and the trains are imagined. Her fascination with travel is so strong that she hears the whistle and sees the sparks in her mind's eye even when no train is actually near.

Exercise 4.10 — Let us learn — Travel (Poem: Expressions)

Q1 Read the expressions from the poem in Column 1 and match them with what they indicate in Column 2: 1. miles away — (i) The speaker's affection for their friends; 2. cinders red — (ii) The fast and powerful movement of the train; 3. heart is warm — (iii) The busy and noisy atmosphere during the day; 4. day is loud — (iv) The glow of the train's sparks lighting up the night sky; 5. engine steaming — (v) The distance of the train from the speaker.

SOLUTION

1. miles away → (v) The distance of the train from the speaker. 'The railroad track is miles away' clearly indicates distance.
2. cinders red → (iv) The glow of the train's sparks lighting up the night sky. Cinders are glowing red sparks.
3. heart is warm → (i) The speaker's affection for their friends. 'My heart is warm with the friends I make' expresses warmth and love.
4. day is loud → (iii) The busy and noisy atmosphere during the day. 'The day is loud with voices speaking.'
5. engine steaming → (ii) The fast and powerful movement of the train. Steam power drives the engine's movement.

Answer: 1-(v), 2-(iv), 3-(i), 4-(iii), 5-(ii).

Q2 Use the expressions from Column 1 to fill in the following blanks correctly: 1. After meeting her old friend, her _____ with the joy of rekindled memories. 2. As I arrived at the railway station I could hear the _____. 3. The marketplace is bustling, and the _____ with the chatter of shoppers and vendors. 4. The bonfire glowed brightly, throwing _____ into the dark night sky. 5. The sound of a train could still be heard _____ as the evening grew quiet.

SOLUTION

1. 'heart is warm' — 'her heart is warm with the joy of rekindled memories.'
2. 'engine steaming' — 'I could hear the engine steaming.'
3. 'day is loud' — 'the marketplace is bustling, and the day is loud with the chatter of shoppers and vendors.'
4. 'cinders red' — 'throwing cinders red into the dark night sky.'
5. 'miles away' — 'could still be heard miles away as the evening grew quiet.'

Answer: 1. heart is warm. 2. engine steaming. 3. day is loud. 4. cinders red. 5. miles away.

Q3 Match the meanings in Column 1 with the sound words in Column 2: 1. shouting loudly, often in anger or excitement — (i) wailing / (ii) hollering; 2. crying out in fear or excitement — (i) wailing / (ii) hollering; 3. crying loudly with grief or sorrow — (iii) screeching; 4. making a high-pitched, piercing sound — (iv) yelling; 5. calling out loudly, often in a casual or informal way — (v) [blank]; 6. crying softly in a low, broken voice — (vi) bawling; 7. crying loudly and uncontrollably — (vii) screaming. [Match: 1-hollering/yelling, 2-screaming, 3-wailing, 4-screeching, 5-hollering, 6-whimpering, 7-bawling]

SOLUTION

The printed table (Column 2) lists: (i) wailing, (ii) hollering, (iii) screeching, (iv) yelling, (v) whimpering, (vi) bawling, (vii) screaming.

Matching by meaning:

1. shouting loudly, often in anger or excitement → (iv) yelling.
2. crying out in fear or excitement → (vii) screaming.
3. crying loudly with grief or sorrow → (i) wailing.
4. making a high-pitched, piercing sound → (iii) screeching.
5. calling out loudly, often in a casual or informal way → (ii) hollering.
6. crying softly in a low, broken voice → (v) whimpering.
7. crying loudly and uncontrollably → (vi) bawling.

Answer: 1-(iv) yelling; 2-(vii) screaming; 3-(i) wailing; 4-(iii) screeching; 5-(ii) hollering; 6-(v) whimpering; 7-(vi) bawling.

Q4 Complete the following paragraph using suitable words from Column 2 [wailing / hollering / screeching / yelling / whimpering / bawling / screaming]: 'The street was filled with a variety of sounds. A shopkeeper was 1. _____ to attract customers, while a child nearby was 2. _____ at his friend to wait for him. From the other side of the road, a toddler was 3. _____ uncontrollably after dropping his ice cream, and his mother tried to calm him as he began 4. _____ softly. In the background, someone's loud 5. _____ voice added to the bustling noise of the busy evening.'

SOLUTION

1. hollering — calling out loudly in a casual or informal way (shopkeeper attracting customers).
2. yelling — shouting loudly (child calling out to a friend).
3. bawling — crying loudly and uncontrollably (toddler after dropping ice cream).
4. whimpering — crying softly in a low, broken voice (the toddler calming down).
5. hollering/yelling — a loud voice in the background adding to the noise. Either fits; 'yelling' is more likely given context.

Answer: 1. hollering. 2. yelling. 3. bawling. 4. whimpering. 5. yelling.

Exercise 4.11 — Let us discuss — Conquering the Summit (Arunima Sinha)

Q1 Read the statements below and explain each in your own words: 1. Arunima Sinha is considered a beacon of hope and resilience. 2. Arunima decided to climb Mount Everest despite losing her leg. 3. Bachendri Pal's guidance was crucial in Arunima's journey to the summit of Mount Everest. 4. Arunima's achievements go beyond just physical endurance. 5. Arunima's autobiography inspires readers around the world.

SOLUTION

1. Arunima Sinha is a beacon of hope and resilience: A beacon is a light that guides others. Arunima's story — surviving a devastating train accident, losing her leg, and then climbing the world's highest peak — shows that no obstacle is too great to overcome. She gives hope to millions who face difficulties.
2. Arunima decided to climb Everest despite losing her leg: After her accident in 2011, Arunima was fitted with a prosthetic leg. Instead of giving in to despair, she was inspired by an article on Mount Everest and made a vow to climb it. She trained rigorously and conquered Everest in 2013.
3. Bachendri Pal's guidance was crucial: Bachendri Pal was the first Indian woman to summit Everest. When Arunima approached her, Bachendri Pal instilled confidence in her, saying Arunima had already 'conquered the Everest within her'. Her mentorship and belief in Arunima were vital to her success.
4. Arunima's achievements go beyond physical endurance: Arunima did not just climb one peak — she summited the Seven Summits (the highest peak on each continent). Her journey was also about mental fortitude, positive mindset, and proving that the human spirit can triumph over adversity.
5. Arunima's autobiography inspires readers: Her book 'Born Again on the Mountain: A Story of Losing Everything and Finding It Back' records her journey from the accident to the summit. It inspires readers across the world to never give up and to pursue their goals despite setbacks.

Answer: 1. Arunima's story of rising from a devastating accident to conquering Everest makes her a source of hope and inspiration for anyone facing hardship. 2. After losing her leg, she vowed to climb Everest and fulfilled it in 2013 with rigorous training and determination. 3. Bachendri Pal mentored Arunima and gave her the confidence that she had already won the inner battle. 4. She went on to summit all Seven Summits, showing mental strength and a positive mindset beyond just physical achievement. 5. Her autobiography shares her extraordinary journey and encourages readers worldwide never to abandon worthy goals.

Exercise 4.12 — Let us think and reflect — Conquering the Summit (Extract I)

Q1 Read the extract: 'Bachendri Pal instilled confidence in Arunima and said, "My child, you decided to climb Mount Everest in these situations with a prosthetic leg — you have conquered the Everest within you; the world will realise it later." On 21 May 2013, after 52 exhausting days, Arunima Sinha reached the summit of Mount Everest. Standing at the top of the world, she felt a surge of emotions — pride, relief, and an overwhelming sense of achievement.' (1) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason: Bachendri Pal said that Arunima had conquered the Everest within her because _____. (2) How might Arunima have felt after what Bachendri Pal told her? (3) Choose a phrase from the extract which shows that reaching the summit of Mount Everest was tiring. (4) Select the correct option to complete the sentence: After her success when Arunima felt 'an overwhelming sense of achievement', she would have most likely said, '_____.' (i) I am confident of my abilities. (ii) I will accomplish this soon. (iii) I am excited to begin this climb. (iv) I finally realised my dream.

SOLUTION

(1) Bachendri Pal said Arunima had conquered the Everest within her because despite losing her leg in a terrible accident, Arunima had shown extraordinary mental strength and determination by resolving to climb Everest — she had already overcome the inner barriers of fear, self-doubt, and despair that were her true mountains to conquer.

(2) Arunima would have felt deeply encouraged, uplifted, and confident after Bachendri Pal's words. The mentor's belief in her would have strengthened her resolve and given her the mental courage to face the physical challenge ahead.

(3) The phrase 'after 52 exhausting days' shows that reaching the summit was tiring.

(4) (iv) I finally realised my dream. — An 'overwhelming sense of achievement' after a long, hard struggle corresponds to finally reaching a long-held dream.

Answer: (1) ...she had resolved to climb Everest even after losing her leg, showing she had already overcome the greatest mountain — the one within her mind. (2) Arunima would have felt deeply encouraged and confident. (3) 'after 52 exhausting days'. (4) (iv) I finally realised my dream.

Exercise 4.13 — Let us think and reflect — Conquering the Summit (Section II Questions

Q1 What did Arunima do in order to fulfil her ambition of conquering Mount Everest?

SOLUTION

After her accident, Arunima received a prosthetic leg and underwent physiotherapy.
She was inspired by an article about Mount Everest and resolved to climb it.
She completed a basic mountaineering course at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi.
She underwent eighteen months of rigorous training.
She approached Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman to summit Everest, for guidance and mentorship.
After 52 exhausting days of climbing, she reached the summit of Mount Everest on 21 May 2013.

Answer: Arunima completed a basic mountaineering course at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, underwent eighteen months of rigorous training, sought guidance from Bachendri Pal, and then climbed for 52 days to reach Everest's summit on 21 May 2013.

Q2 Arunima is a beacon of hope and resilience. Support this statement with evidence from the text.

SOLUTION

Arunima survived a life-threatening train accident in 2011 that resulted in the amputation of her leg — a devastating blow that would have broken most people.
Despite this, she resolved to climb Mount Everest, showing extraordinary resilience.
She trained rigorously for eighteen months with a prosthetic leg.
In 2013, she became the first Indian female amputee to summit Everest — an achievement that inspires millions.
She went on to summit all Seven Summits by July 2016, including Mount Vinson in Antarctica in January 2019, becoming the world's first female amputee to climb it.
Her message 'Never give up and work hard' continues to inspire people worldwide.

Answer: Arunima survived a devastating train accident, lost her leg, yet trained rigorously and became the first Indian female amputee to summit Everest in 2013. She then went on to complete the Seven Summits. Her journey from devastation to triumph makes her a beacon of hope and resilience.

Q3 Arunima's autobiography is titled 'Born Again on the Mountain: A Story of Losing Everything and Finding It Back'. Why do you think this title is appropriate?

SOLUTION

'Born Again on the Mountain' is appropriate because Arunima's life was effectively reborn on the mountains she climbed — after losing everything (her health, her leg, her former life as a sportsperson), it was through mountaineering that she found a new identity, purpose, and strength.

'A Story of Losing Everything' reflects the accident — she nearly died, lost her leg, and had to rebuild her life from nothing.

'Finding It Back' reflects her triumphant return — not just walking again but climbing the world's highest peaks, winning awards, and inspiring millions.

The mountain is literally and metaphorically the place where she was reborn.

Answer: The title is appropriate because Arunima lost nearly everything in the accident — her health, her leg, her former life. It was through the challenge of mountaineering that she found herself again. The mountain was the place of her rebirth: 'Born Again on the Mountain' captures her journey from loss to triumph.

Q4 Arunima says, 'Failure is when we don't have goals worthy enough.' What would be the most likely impact of this statement on readers?

SOLUTION

This statement redefines failure — it is not about falling short of a goal, but about not having goals that matter enough.

For readers, the most likely impact is to make them reflect on whether their own goals are meaningful and ambitious enough.

It encourages readers to set worthy, challenging goals rather than settling for easy or mediocre ones.

It is also motivating — it suggests that anyone who has a worthy goal and works hard for it cannot truly fail.

It could inspire readers who feel they have failed to re-examine whether their goal

was worthy enough, and to set new, bigger aspirations.

Answer: The statement would inspire readers to reflect on and raise the ambition of their own goals. By redefining failure as the absence of worthy goals rather than falling short, Arunima motivates readers to dream bigger and work harder, reassuring them that striving for a worthy goal is itself a form of success.

Exercise 4.14 — Let us learn — Conquering the Summit (Phrases and Grammar)

Q1 Read the underlined phrases in sentences (i)–(v) and match them with their appropriate meanings: 1. genuine, sincere efforts; 2. strength of mind; 3. periods of time filled with tiring and demanding activities; 4. an incident or experience that significantly changes a person's life; 5. a source of inspiration or encouragement. (i) Nisha was relieved when the final match was over after several exhausting days of practice. (ii) Despite several failures, her heartfelt attempts to learn the guitar showed her determination. (iii) Moving to a new city was a life-altering event for Jagan. (iv) Competing in the marathon requires not just physical strength but also mental fortitude. (v) The lighthouse served as a beacon of hope for the sailors lost at sea.

SOLUTION

(i) 'several exhausting days of practice' → 3. periods of time filled with tiring and demanding activities.
(ii) 'heartfelt attempts' → 1. genuine, sincere efforts.
(iii) 'life-altering event' → 4. an incident or experience that significantly changes a person's life.
(iv) 'mental fortitude' → 2. strength of mind.
(v) 'beacon of hope' → 5. a source of inspiration or encouragement.

Answer: (i)-3, (ii)-1, (iii)-4, (iv)-2, (v)-5.

Q2 Complete the following table by filling in the gaps with the correct parts of speech. Example: determination (noun) / determined (adjective) / determine (verb) / determinedly (adverb). Fill in: relief (noun) — _____ (adjective) — _____ (verb) — relievedly (adverb); _____ (noun) — inspiring (adjective) — inspire (verb) — _____ (adverb); resistance (noun) — _____ (adjective) — _____ (verb) — resistantly (adverb); success (noun) — successful (adjective) — _____ (verb) — _____ (adverb).

SOLUTION

The printed table has four rows with blanks to complete (the example row is determination/determined/determine/determinedly).
Row 2: relief (noun) — relieved (adjective) — relieve (verb) — relievedly (adverb).
Row 3: inspiration (noun) — inspiring (adjective) — inspire (verb) — inspiringly (adverb).

Row 4: resistance (noun) — resistant (adjective) — resist (verb) — resistantly (adverb).
Row 5: success (noun) — successful (adjective) — succeed (verb) — successfully (adverb).

Answer: relief / relieved / relieve / relievedly. inspiration / inspiring / inspire / inspiringly. resistance / resistant / resist / resistantly. success / successful / succeed / successfully.

Q3 Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an', 'the', or 'x' (where no article is required): 'We planned (i) _____ adventurous trip to (ii) _____ remote island. (iii) _____ island was known for its beautiful landscapes and (iv) _____ diverse wildlife. On (v) _____ first day, we set out to explore (vi) _____ island's dense jungle. (vii) _____ guide led us through (viii) _____ thick foliage and showed us (ix) _____ hidden waterfall. In (x) _____ evening, we gathered around (xi) _____ campfire to share stories and enjoy (xii) _____ meal we cooked. (xiii) _____ experience was truly unforgettable, and we felt (xiv) _____ connection with (xv) _____ nature.'

SOLUTION

(i) an — 'adventurous' begins with a vowel sound.
(ii) a — 'remote' begins with a consonant sound; introducing a new noun.
(iii) The — specific island already mentioned.
(iv) x — no article before 'diverse wildlife' (uncountable/general).
(v) the — 'the first day' is specific.
(vi) the — the specific island's jungle.
(vii) A — 'guide' introduced for the first time.
(viii) the — refers to the specific thick foliage they walked through.
(ix) a — introducing a waterfall for the first time.
(x) the — 'the evening' is a specific time.
(xi) a — introducing 'campfire' for the first time.
(xii) the — 'the meal we cooked' is specific.
(xiii) The — refers back to the experience just described.
(xiv) a — 'connection' introduced first time.
(xv) x — no article before 'nature' (abstract/uncountable noun used generally).

Answer: (i) an. (ii) a. (iii) The. (iv) x. (v) the. (vi) the. (vii) A. (viii) the. (ix) a. (x) the. (xi) a. (xii) the. (xiii) The. (xiv) a. (xv) x.

Q4 There is an error in each underlined part of the following sentences. Correct the error: (i) We waited for a hour before the bus finally arrived. (ii) The guide insisted on an uniform jacket for the group's safety during the trek. (iii) Mount K2 is a second highest peak in the world. (iv) A Ganga is a sacred river in India. (v) Challenges are faced with courage and determination by a brave. (vi) A North Star has guided travellers for centuries.

SOLUTION

(i) 'a hour' → 'an hour'. 'Hour' begins with a vowel sound (/aʊ/), so 'an' is required.
(ii) 'an uniform' → 'a uniform'. 'Uniform' begins with a consonant sound (/juːˈ/), so 'a' is required.
(iii) 'a second highest' → 'the second highest'. Superlative/ordinal rankings use 'the'.
(iv) 'A Ganga' → 'The Ganga'. Proper nouns for rivers use 'the'.
(v) 'by a brave' → 'by the brave'. 'The brave' refers to a specific group of people; no article is needed with 'brave' as a noun without 'the'.
(vi) 'A North Star' → 'The North Star'. There is only one North Star; unique entities use 'the'.

Answer: (i) an hour. (ii) a uniform. (iii) the second highest. (iv) The Ganga. (v) by the brave. (vi) The North Star.

Exercise 4.15 — Let us explore — Conquering the Summit

Q1 The Mountain Railways of India are designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The three railways are the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and the Kalka–Shimla Railway. The Matheran Hill Railway and Kangra Valley Railway are on the tentative list. What makes India's Mountain Railways significant as a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

SOLUTION

India's Mountain Railways are designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because they are outstanding examples of hill railways.

They were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as ingenious engineering enterprises — constructing railways through difficult mountain terrain was a remarkable achievement.

All three (Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, Kalka–Shimla Railway) are still fully operational as 'living examples' of this engineering heritage.

They represent not just historical interest but also continued connectivity in hilly terrain.

They are owned by the Railway Ministry of the Indian Government and remain accessible to travellers today.

Answer: India's Mountain Railways are significant because they are outstanding examples of 19th–20th century mountain engineering, still fully operational as living heritage. The three UNESCO-designated railways (Darjeeling Himalayan, Nilgiri Mountain, and Kalka–Shimla) showcase how ingeniously railways were built through challenging hill terrain.

Q2 The Vande Bharat Express is India's first indigenous semi-high-speed train, flagged off on 15 February 2019 on the New Delhi–Kanpur–Allahabad–Varanasi route at 160 km/h. Why is the Vande Bharat Express called an excellent example of the 'Make in India' success story?

SOLUTION

The Vande Bharat Express is India's first indigenous semi-high-speed train — 'indigenous' means it was designed, developed, and built entirely in India.

'Make in India' is a government initiative that promotes manufacturing and production within India.

The Vande Bharat Express demonstrates India's ability to develop advanced rail

technology domestically without depending on foreign designs.
Running at 160 km/h, it matches the speed and efficiency of modern international trains.
It symbolises India's aspirations for modern, efficient, and comfortable rail travel — a sign of the country's growing technical and manufacturing capability.

Answer: The Vande Bharat Express is called a 'Make in India' success because it is the first train designed and built indigenously in India, running at 160 km/h. It demonstrates India's technical capability to create modern, fast, and comfortable trains without foreign dependence.

Q3 Some of the underwater rail tunnels include the Thames Tunnel in London, the Seikan Tunnel in Japan, and the Channel Tunnel between England and France. India's first underwater metro route in Kolkata started in March 2024, running beneath the Hooghly River. What is significant about India's first underwater metro route?

SOLUTION

India's first underwater metro route in Kolkata, which started in March 2024, is significant because it runs beneath the Hooghly River — making it a landmark in Indian engineering.
Until this point, India had no underwater metro or rail tunnels of this kind.
It places India alongside countries like the UK and Japan that have major underwater rail tunnels.
The Kolkata metro extension shows India's growing capability in advanced urban transportation and tunnel engineering.
It improves connectivity within Kolkata, offering a faster and more efficient transit option under a major river.

Answer: India's first underwater metro route in Kolkata (March 2024) is significant because it is the first metro rail line in India to pass beneath a major river (the Hooghly). It marks a milestone in Indian infrastructure, placing India alongside countries with underwater rail tunnels, and demonstrates advanced engineering capability.

Q4 Among the trains mentioned — Mountain Railways, Vande Bharat Express, and underwater metro routes — which do you think would be the most adventurous to travel in? Discuss your view with a reason.

SOLUTION

This is an open-ended discussion question. A model answer:

The Mountain Railways (such as the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway) would be the most adventurous to travel in.

They wind through steep mountain terrain on narrow gauge tracks, offering breathtaking views of valleys, forests, and peaks.

The journey on these heritage trains is slow, scenic, and unpredictable — you pass through clouds, mist, and high altitude, making it a true adventure.

Unlike the underground metro or the high-speed Vande Bharat, the mountain railways engage you directly with the natural world around you.

Answer: Model answer: The Mountain Railways would be the most adventurous — they travel through steep mountain terrain on heritage narrow-gauge tracks, offering stunning views of forests and peaks. The slow, winding journey through mist and high altitude makes it a genuine adventure unlike any other train ride.