# Chapter 4: Vitamin-M

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20 exercises · 40 questions


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## Exercise 4.1 — Check Your Understanding — Vitamin-M (Part I)

Q1 Why did Grandpa dislike living in the city with his daughter?

SOLUTION

Grandpa had spent most of his life in a small brick house in a quiet town and was accustomed to a peaceful, self-reliant existence.

He hated the noise and bustle of city life. He had cherished his town home — 'Such a wonderful place…! With that big mango tree in the garden! It is so quiet that at dusk you can even hear a leaf fall!' — and was forced to move to the 'poky little flat' in the 'horrible, crowded city' only after he slipped and fell in his garden and lay outside all night with no one to help him.

Additionally, city life stripped him of his independence. Vidya (his daughter) forbade him to go out alone, which he found deeply humiliating given that he had looked after himself — cooking, shopping, and keeping house — for decades after his wife's death.

Answer: Grandpa disliked the noise, bustle, and cramped space of city life, and resented losing the independence he had enjoyed in his quiet hometown.

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Q2 Why did Vidya not want her father to go out alone?

SOLUTION

Vidya had two frightening experiences with Grandpa's safety in just the past month.

First, he absent-mindedly took a double dose of his medicines and had to be admitted to the hospital. Second, he once went for a walk and forgot the way back home, causing the family several anxious moments before he was found.

Given these incidents, Vidya feared that Grandpa, with his failing memory and limited sight and hearing, could come to serious harm if he ventured out unsupervised.

Answer: Vidya feared for Grandpa's safety because he had already been hospitalised after a medicine overdose and had once got lost while out for a walk.

Q3 Was Ravi in favour of his mother treating Grandpa like a child? How can you say so?

SOLUTION

No, Ravi was not in favour of it.

The text says 'Ravi winced at the over-loud tone his mother used when speaking to Grandpa, as though she were speaking to a child who couldn't hear or understand too well.' His wince reveals embarrassment and discomfort at his mother's approach.

When Grandpa accused Vidya of treating him 'like a baby,' Ravi quickly defended his mother with 'Of course not, Grandpa. Mamma would never treat you like a baby … or a prisoner' — yet this defensive reply also shows that Ravi privately recognised the truth in Grandpa's complaint. Ravi's decision to follow Grandpa secretly rather than forbidding him to go out also shows he respected Grandpa's dignity and autonomy.

Answer: No — Ravi winced at his mother's over-loud, childlike tone with Grandpa, showing he found it disrespectful, and he chose to follow Grandpa secretly rather than restrict him outright.

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Q4 Would Ravi be able to keep up his promise to his mother?

SOLUTION

Ravi had promised his mother: 'You go to work. Grandpa'll be fine at home with me.'

In a literal sense, Ravi does not keep the promise — he fails to keep Grandpa at home and even loses track of him on the bus. However, the spirit of the promise (ensuring Grandpa comes to no harm) is fulfilled, because Grandpa returns home safely on his own.

Interestingly, it is Grandpa who turns the tables — he tells Vidya that Ravi 'just disappeared instead of staying at home to look after me,' which humorously lets Ravi off the hook while also hinting that Grandpa was fully aware of the situation.

Answer: Not literally — Grandpa goes out and Ravi loses him. But the spirit of the promise is kept: Grandpa returns home safely. Grandpa even cleverly deflects blame by telling Vidya that Ravi 'disappeared.'

## Exercise 4.2 — Check Your Understanding — Vitamin-M (Part II)

**Q1** Complete the flow chart by describing Grandpa's day out.

1. Grandpa first stops at _____
2. buys _____
3. Grandpa next goes to _____
4. Ravi gets scolded by _____ and _____
5. Grandpa drinks _____ and eats _____
6. _____ and watches _____
7. Next Grandpa walks quickly to a _____ and _____

SOLUTION

1. the children's park (where he buys peanuts and sits watching children play)
2. a paper-cone of peanuts
3. the tea stall
4. the little boy's mother (with an umbrella) and the lady vendors under the banyan tree
5. a sugary cup of tea (forbidden at home) / bananas and an ice cream (all banned items)
6. Ravi hides behind a shiny silver car / and watches Grandpa at the tea stall
7. a bus stop / boards a bus

Answer: 1. children's park 2. paper-cone of peanuts 3. tea stall 4. the little boy's mother; vendor ladies 5. sugary tea; bananas and ice cream 6. behind a car; Grandpa 7. bus stop; boards a bus

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**Q2** Was Grandpa lost as feared by Ravi's mother?

SOLUTION

No, Grandpa was not lost. While Ravi feared the worst when he could not locate Grandpa after getting off the bus, Grandpa had already made his own way home.

When Ravi opened the front door, the first thing he heard was 'the gentle whirr of Grandpa snoring in his bedroom.' Grandpa had returned safely, and independently, without any help — showing that he was far more capable than his family gave him credit for.

Answer: No. Grandpa was not lost at all — he had already returned home safely and was asleep in his bedroom when a frantic Ravi came back.

Q3 How would Ravi feel after seeing Grandpa?

SOLUTION

Ravi would feel enormous relief mixed with a rush of affection.

The text describes: 'Ravi was suddenly overcome with affection for his grandfather and gave him a hug.' Having spent a stressful day trailing Grandpa through the city — hiding behind bushes, being humiliated, losing him on the bus — Ravi had been 'frantic' and 'sick with worry.' Seeing Grandpa safe and asleep would have released all that tension and replaced it with gratitude and love.

Answer: Ravi would feel immense relief and a surge of affection — he had been frantic with worry, and finding Grandpa safe and snoring at home moved him to give the old man a hug.

Q4 Do you think Ravi's mother will get to know about what had happened?

SOLUTION

It is unlikely that Vidya gets the full truth, at least not immediately.

When Vidya asks what they did, Grandpa cleverly says he had 'a quiet morning' but claims Ravi 'just disappeared instead of staying at home to look after me.' This statement redirects suspicion to Ravi while concealing Grandpa's own outing entirely. Ravi is left 'confused and embarrassed' and cannot contradict Grandpa without revealing that he had been secretly following him.

The gift of a detective book — 'Great stories, Ravi. You can pick up some really good tips on how to be a detective. How to avoid getting fooled when one is trailing a suspect' — suggests Grandpa knew all along and was having gentle fun at Ravi's expense, but is unlikely to expose the whole episode to Vidya.

Answer: Probably not in full — Grandpa deflects with a half-truth, Ravi cannot speak up without admitting he was secretly trailing Grandpa, and both seem content to let the episode remain between them.

## Exercise 4.3 — Check Your Understanding — Vitamin-M (Part III)

Q1 Describe how Ravi's emotional reaction upon finding Grandpa safe at home reveals his feelings towards his grandfather.

SOLUTION

After a day of anxiety, humiliation, and frantic searching, Ravi opened the front door to hear 'the gentle whirr of Grandpa snoring in his bedroom.'

His first act was to kneel down near the bed and put his cheek against the old man's face — a tender, instinctive gesture of relief and love. The text notes: 'Ravi was suddenly overcome with affection for his grandfather and gave him a hug.'

This reaction reveals that beneath the surface tension (Vidya's instructions, Ravi's dilemma), Ravi genuinely cares for Grandpa. His affection is not duty-bound; it is spontaneous. The sensory details he notices — Grandpa's 'wrinkled skin had more creases than lines on a map'; 'Grandpa smelt of eucalyptus ointment and shaving cream' — show an intimacy and tenderness that underlines how deeply he loves the old man.

Answer: Finding Grandpa safe, Ravi knelt beside him, pressed his cheek to the old man's face, and hugged him — a spontaneous, affectionate response showing he loves Grandpa deeply beyond mere obligation.

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Q2 What might be the significance of Grandpa's habit of giving gifts to everyone on his birthday rather than receiving them?

SOLUTION

Grandpa's custom of giving gifts on his own birthday (to 'every child in the house') rather than receiving them reveals several important traits.

First, it shows his generosity and his reversal of the conventional birthday role — he gives rather than takes, which reflects his nurturing, caring nature.

Second, it demonstrates his sharp, reliable memory for the feelings and needs of others, even as his family worries about his forgetfulness. He remembers Vidya's failure to circle the right date and gently turns the Vitamin-M accusation back on her: 'My daughter needs some Vitamin-M, I think—for her memory.'

Third, the gesture is quietly subversive — it reasserts Grandpa's authority, dignity, and emotional intelligence in a household where he is treated as the dependent.

Answer: It shows Grandpa's deep generosity, his razor-sharp memory for relationships, and his quiet way of reasserting dignity — turning the 'failing memory' label back on those who had underestimated him.

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Q3 Why do you think Grandpa gave Ravi a detective story book as a gift? What might this suggest about Grandpa's awareness of Ravi's actions earlier in the day?

SOLUTION

Grandpa gave Ravi The Best Detective Stories with the specific comment: 'Great stories, Ravi. You can pick up some really good tips on how to be a detective. How to avoid getting fooled when one is trailing a suspect, for instance,' delivered 'solemnly.'

This strongly suggests Grandpa was aware the whole time that Ravi had been following him. The word 'solemnly' and the very precise reference to 'trailing a suspect' — exactly what Ravi had been doing — make it clear this is no coincidence.

The gift is simultaneously a joke, a gentle rebuke (Ravi was a rather clumsy detective, getting scolded, evicted, and tricked by the wrong cap), and an expression of affection. Grandpa does not expose Ravi to Vidya; instead he gives him a private, playful signal that he knew and that he is on Ravi's side.

The twinkle in Grandpa's eye — 'Ravi was too busy trying to decide whether the twinkle in Grandpa's eye was an innocent gleam or a mischievous one' — confirms that Grandpa's apparent frailty conceals a sharp, alert mind.

Answer: The gift is Grandpa's private way of telling Ravi he knew he was being followed all day. 'How to avoid getting fooled when trailing a suspect' is a playful, affectionate clue — Grandpa's memory and awareness are perfectly intact.

## Exercise 4.4 — Critical Reflection — Vitamin-M (Extract Questions)

Q1 Read the extract and answer the questions.

"Grandpa hated the noise and bustle of city life and when they were on their own, he often spoke longingly of his small brick house in town. 'Such a wonderful place…! With that big mango tree in the garden! It is so quiet that at dusk you can even hear a leaf fall!' But then Grandpa had slipped and fallen in the garden late one evening while he was pottering around and lain outside all night because there was no one at home to help him up."

(i) Choose the emotion displayed by the Grandfather. A. regretful B. apologetic C. nostalgic D. wistful

(ii) Complete the following sentence with a reason. 'Grandpa hated the busy and noisy city life because _____.

(iii) Why did Grandpa come to the city despite his dislike for city life?

(iv) Choose an expression similar in meaning to 'you can even hear a leaf fall'. A. end of one's life B. arrival of autumn C. sign of good luck D. pin drop silence

(v) State one advantage and one disadvantage of the Grandfather living in the house in town.

SOLUTION

(i) C — nostalgic. Grandpa looks back longingly at his peaceful, beloved town home and recalls it with warmth and yearning, which is the defining feature of nostalgia.

(ii) Grandpa hated the busy and noisy city life because it was the complete opposite of the tranquil environment he had lived in for most of his life — his town home was so quiet that 'at dusk you can even hear a leaf fall,' whereas the city was crowded and full of bustle.

(iii) Grandpa came to the city despite his dislike because he had slipped and fallen in his garden one evening and lay outside all night with no one to help him. This accident alarmed his daughter Vidya, who locked up the town house and brought him to live with the family so he would have care and company.

(iv) D — pin drop silence. 'You can even hear a leaf fall' conveys an absolute, undisturbed quiet, exactly like 'pin drop silence.'

(v) Advantage: Grandpa was independent and happy there, living life on his own terms in a peaceful, familiar environment surrounded by nature (the mango tree, the quiet garden). Disadvantage: If he fell or had a medical emergency, there was

no one to help him — he lay outside all night after his fall with no assistance.

Answer: (i) C — nostalgic (ii) it was noisy and crowded, unlike his beloved quiet town (iii) he slipped and fell alone at night; Vidya brought him to the city for his safety (iv) D — pin drop silence (v) Advantage: independence and peace; Disadvantage: no one to help in an emergency

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Q2 Read the extract and answer the questions.

"'I had a quiet morning, but I don't know about Ravi. He just disappeared instead of staying at home to look after me like you told him to,' answered Grandpa coolly, while Ravi just looked confused and embarrassed. Grandpa had another surprise for Ravi. A gift-wrapped parcel! 'But, Papa, Ravi's birthday was three months ago. Have you forgotten?' exclaimed Ravi's mother, impatiently."

(i) Choose the option that displays the tone of the Grandfather's response. A. apologetic B. hurtful C. calm D. puzzled

(ii) Why was Ravi confused and embarrassed?

(iii) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason. 'Ravi's mother was impatient because _____.'

(iv) State whether the following sentence is true or false. 'Grandfather forgot that Ravi's birthday was three months ago.'

(v) Why did Grandpa say he didn't know what kind of morning Ravi might have had?

SOLUTION

(i) C — calm. Grandpa answers 'coolly,' without agitation, defensiveness, or confusion. His tone is composed and measured.

(ii) Ravi was confused and embarrassed because Grandpa's statement — that Ravi 'just disappeared instead of staying at home to look after me' — was a neat reversal of reality. Ravi knew he had spent the entire morning trying (unsuccessfully) to trail Grandpa, yet he could not contradict Grandpa without admitting that he had been secretly following him. The accusation left him with no good response.

(iii) Ravi's mother was impatient because she believed Grandpa had given Ravi a birthday gift three months late, which she assumed was another instance of his poor memory — forgetting Ravi's birthday date.

(iv) False. Grandpa had not forgotten. He corrected Vidya: 'No. But you know I always give a gift to every child in the house on my birthday.' Grandpa

remembered the date perfectly — it was his own birthday, and the gift was a deliberate tradition.

(v) Grandpa said this because he knew Ravi had been out all morning following him through the city rather than staying home. It was a sly, witty remark — Grandpa was aware of what Ravi had been doing but expressed it in a way that was technically accurate (Ravi had 'disappeared') while keeping Grandpa's own outing out of the conversation.

Answer: (i) C — calm (ii) Grandpa accused him of disappearing, and Ravi couldn't deny it without revealing he'd been secretly trailing Grandpa (iii) she assumed Grandpa had forgotten Ravi's birthday date — another memory lapse (iv) False — Grandpa knew exactly what he was doing; the gift was a birthday tradition of his (v) Because he knew Ravi had been tailing him and wanted to tease him with a knowing half-truth

## Exercise 4.5 — Reading for Meaning — Vitamin-M (Answer the questions)

Q1 Grandpa is portrayed as a person with failing memory in the beginning of the story. Give two evidences to disprove the statement.

SOLUTION

Despite the story's opening suggestion of poor memory, two episodes clearly disprove this:

1. Chess mastery: Grandpa recalls thousands of chess games in precise detail — 'That's the opening move Karpov made when he played against the computer,' or 'You're making the same mistake that Bobby Fischer made in his historic match against Spassky.' This is extraordinary long-term memory for a man supposedly forgetting everything.

2. Birthday gifts: Grandpa gives a gift-wrapped present to every 'child in the house' on his own birthday, a tradition he has maintained over the years. When Vidya exclaims that Ravi's birthday was three months ago, Grandpa calmly corrects her: 'No. But you know I always give a gift to every child in the house on my birthday.' He also gives gifts to both Ravi's parents. His memory for relationships and traditions is impeccable.

Additionally, his final detective-book gift to Ravi — with its knowing reference to 'trailing a suspect' — proves he was alert and aware of Ravi's movements throughout the day.

Answer: 1. He recalls thousands of chess games with named grandmasters in precise detail. 2. He remembers his own tradition of giving birthday gifts to every family member and corrects Vidya's assumption that he had forgotten Ravi's birthday. Both show sharp, reliable memory.

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Q2 Give two characteristic traits of each of the following characters.
(i) Grandfather (ii) Ravi (iii) Ravi's mother

SOLUTION

(i) Grandfather:
Independent and dignified — He fiercely resists being treated as a dependent child, citing 75 years of self-reliance, and goes out on his own despite his family's objections.
Witty and sharp — He out-manoeuvres everyone: he tricks Ravi, deflects Vidya's

suspicion with a cool half-truth, and delivers the detective-book gift as a private joke, all while pretending to be oblivious.

(ii) Ravi:
Caring and loyal — He follows Grandpa secretly through the city to keep him safe, driven by genuine love rather than a sense of duty.
Resourceful but awkward — He tries hard to be a 'detective' but gets scolded, evicted from a ladies' salon, and ultimately tricked by the yellow cap, showing good intentions paired with comic ineptitude.

(iii) Ravi's mother (Vidya):
Anxious and overprotective — Her past scares (hospital admission, Grandpa getting lost) have made her fearful; she forbids Grandpa to go out and instructs Ravi to keep him home.
Well-meaning but condescending — She uses an 'over-loud tone' as though speaking to a child who can't hear or understand, and forgets her own father's birthday tradition — ironically demonstrating her own memory lapse.

Answer: (i) Grandpa: independent/dignified; witty/sharp (ii) Ravi: caring/loyal; resourceful but comic (iii) Vidya: anxious/overprotective; well-meaning but condescending (and forgetful of Grandpa's tradition)

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Q3 Why was Ravi worried about what Grandfather had at the tea stall?

SOLUTION

Grandpa had been placed on a restricted diet at home. At the tea stall, however, he 'took his time sipping a sugary cup of tea (he was forbidden sugar at home), then ate two bananas (another banned item), then tucked into an ice cream bought from the cart.'

Ravi was worried because all three items were medically banned for Grandpa. Given that Grandpa had already been hospitalised that very month after accidentally taking a double dose of his medicines, consuming forbidden food and drink could have serious health consequences. The narrative even notes: '(Mother would faint if she saw this!)', underscoring how alarmed Ravi was on his mother's behalf and on Grandpa's health.

Answer: All three items Grandpa consumed — sugary tea, bananas, and ice cream — were medically forbidden at home. Given his recent hospitalisation, Ravi feared this could harm Grandpa's health.

Q4 Do you think it was easy for Ravi to follow his Grandfather? If yes, why? If no, why not?

SOLUTION

No, it was definitely not easy for Ravi to follow his grandfather — in fact it was a comedy of mishaps.

1. At the children's park, he had to crouch behind a bush shaped like an elephant. A child asked if he was playing hide-and-seek, and the child's mother threatened him with an umbrella, forcing Ravi to 'crawl out of the park on all fours.'

2. At the tea stall, he hid behind a banyan tree, but the vendors assumed he was a rival trader and surrounded him, demanding he move.

3. He then hid behind a silver car.

4. Trying to follow Grandpa into the barber shop, he accidentally entered a Ladies' Hairdressing Salon and was thrown out 'amidst a volley of feminine shrieks.'

5. Finally, he sprinted onto a bus — only to discover the 'Grandpa' he had been tracking was a total stranger wearing a yellow cap that Grandpa had gifted to him.

Every step was an embarrassing failure, making it clear that following his grandfather was far from easy.

Answer: No — every attempt went wrong: he was threatened in the park, surrounded by vendors, evicted from a ladies' salon, and ultimately tricked by a stranger in Grandpa's yellow cap. The 'surveillance' was a comic disaster.

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Q5 'Ravi is a good detective'. Give one argument in favour of and against the given statement.

SOLUTION

In favour: Ravi shows the key detective trait of persistence. Despite being scolded at the park, surrounded by vendors, evicted from the salon, and nearly losing his quarry at the bus, he never gave up. He tracked Grandpa from the park to the tea stall to the barber shop to the bus — a long pursuit through a busy city.

Against: Ravi is decidedly not a good detective. A good detective would not be seen. Ravi was spotted, scolded, threatened, and thrown out at every location, and he was ultimately 'fooled' (Grandpa's own word) by a stranger in a similar yellow cap — he boarded an entire bus chasing the wrong person. Grandpa's

detective-book gift mocks this incompetence directly: 'How to avoid getting fooled when one is trailing a suspect.'

Answer: For: He was persistently determined, tracking Grandpa across multiple locations without giving up. Against: He was far too visible — he was scolded, threatened, evicted, and finally completely fooled by a stranger in a similar cap, proving he was a poor undercover operative.

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Q6 Was Grandfather aware that Ravi was following him? How do you know?

SOLUTION

Yes, Grandpa was almost certainly aware.

The clearest evidence is the detective book gift. Grandpa gives Ravi The Best Detective Stories and says, 'You can pick up some really good tips on how to be a detective. How to avoid getting fooled when one is trailing a suspect, for instance.' The word 'trailing' is precisely what Ravi had been doing all day, and 'getting fooled' is exactly what happened with the yellow cap. This is far too specific to be a coincidence.

Further hints: Grandpa gives the cap away in the barber shop to a stranger — an act that seems generous but effectively destroys Ravi's tracking signal. Whether deliberate or not, it caused Ravi to follow the wrong person.

Finally, the story ends with Ravi studying 'the twinkle in Grandpa's eye' to decide 'whether [it was] an innocent gleam or a mischievous one' — the text leaves room for ambiguity, but the mischievous reading is strongly supported.

Answer: Yes — Grandpa's gift of a detective book with specific advice about 'how to avoid getting fooled when trailing a suspect' is far too targeted to be accidental. The twinkle in his eye confirms he knew.

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Q7 In your opinion, who needs Vitamin-M? And why?

SOLUTION

The story cleverly inverts the original premise. Vidya opens the story wishing someone would invent 'Vitamin-M' for old people's failing memories — pointing the finger squarely at Grandpa.

By the end, however, it is Vidya who has forgotten her own father's birthday tradition, prompting Grandpa to turn the joke on her: 'My daughter needs some

Vitamin-M, I think — for her memory.'

In my opinion, it is Vidya and, to a lesser extent, society in general who need Vitamin-M. They need it not for factual memory but for memory of human dignity — they forget to remember that the elderly are fully capable, independent, and deserving of respect. Grandpa's memory for chess, relationships, and traditions is sharp; what the family 'forgets' is his autonomy and self-worth.

Grandpa himself needs no Vitamin-M at all.

Answer: Ironically, Vidya needs it most — she forgets Grandpa's birthday tradition and forgets his dignity. Grandpa, targeted as the forgetful one, has the sharpest memory of all.

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Q8 Some people believe society shows bias based on age (being young or old). Give an example where you might have experienced or observed such discrimination, when opinions were disregarded because of age.

SOLUTION

Age-based bias, or ageism, occurs when a person's views are dismissed or their autonomy restricted simply because of how old (or young) they are.

Example from the story: Grandpa — a former lawyer who had looked after himself for 75 years — is treated as though he cannot make basic decisions about going to the corner shop. His medical knowledge (correct doses), his social skills (conversing freely at the tea stall), and his sharp awareness (knowing Ravi was trailing him) are all ignored because his family has categorised him as 'old and forgetful.'

A real-life parallel: In many families, elderly grandparents' suggestions about diet, traditions, or family matters are quietly set aside with 'Times have changed, Dada/Nana,' without genuinely hearing their perspective — a subtle but real form of age discrimination.

Conversely, young people often find their ideas dismissed with 'You're too young to understand' in classroom or family discussions, even when their reasoning is sound.

Answer: Grandpa in the story is a clear case — a 75-year-old former lawyer is treated as incapable of choosing when to go to the corner shop. Similarly, in real life, elderly family members' advice is often politely ignored because they are seen as 'out of touch,' and young people's views are dismissed as immature — both are age-based discrimination.

## Exercise 4.6 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Movement and Sound Words

Q1 Classify the words given in the box into movement words (Column 1) and sound words (Column 2). Then fill in the blanks in the detective passage with appropriate words.

Words: pottering, boomed, twirling, crouch, bustle, crawl, creeping, thudded, ducked, shrieks, zigzagging, whirr, evicted, briskly, sprinting, grunted, jumping, darted, trailing, snoring

Passage:
Detective Shankar, 1. _____ the mysterious suspect through the dimly lit side lanes, away from the 2. _____ of the city, quickened his pace 3. _____. The suspect's heavy footsteps 4. _____ across the street, unaware of his pursuit. Shankar 5. _____ his magnifying glass had to 6. _____ behind the market stalls, 7. _____ through the lanes to avoid being seen. Shankar 8. _____ when he hit himself against a pole. This alarmed the suspect and he 9. _____ into the night leaving only the distant 10. _____ of the sleeping city behind.

SOLUTION

Column 1 — Movement words: pottering, twirling, crouch, crawl, creeping, ducked, zigzagging, evicted, briskly, sprinting, jumping, darted, trailing

Column 2 — Sound words: boomed, bustle, thudded, shrieks, whirr, grunted, snoring

Passage answers:
1. trailing
2. bustle
3. briskly
4. thudded
5. (Shankar) darted (or: 'Shankar, clutching his magnifying glass, had to')
6. crouch
7. creeping
8. grunted
9. zigzagging / darted
10. whirr

Answer: Column 1 (movement): pottering, twirling, crouch, crawl, creeping, ducked, zigzagging, evicted, briskly, sprinting, jumping, darted, trailing. Column 2 (sound): boomed, bustle, thudded, shrieks, whirr, grunted, snoring. Passage: 1-trailing, 2-bustle, 3-briskly, 4-thudded, 5-darted, 6-crouch, 7-creeping, 8-grunted, 9-zigzagging/darted, 10-whirr

## Exercise 4.7 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Synonyms for 'dilemma'

Q1 Study the highlighted word in the sentence from the text: 'Off he went, twirling his walking stick jauntily, leaving Ravi in a dilemma.' Fill in the boxes with synonymous words.

1. QU_ ND_ _ Y
2. PR_ D _ C _ M _ NT

SOLUTION

The word 'dilemma' means a situation in which a person must choose between two or more difficult alternatives.

1. QUANDARY — a state of uncertainty or confusion about what to do.
2. PREDICAMENT — a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation.

Both words are strong synonyms for 'dilemma' in this context: Ravi is caught between two equally uncomfortable choices — accompany Grandpa (hurting his pride) or let him go alone (risking his mother's anger).

Answer: 1. QUANDARY 2. PREDICAMENT

## Exercise 4.8 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Word Table

Q1 Fill in the table below. Check your answers with the help of a dictionary.
Word | Meaning | Part of Speech | Synonym | Antonym
1. craftily 2. dilemma 3. furious 4. boomed 5. humiliation 6. attire

SOLUTION

1. craftily — in a clever and cunning manner; adverb; synonyms: cunningly, slyly; antonyms: honestly, straightforwardly

2. dilemma — a situation requiring a choice between two difficult options; noun; synonyms: quandary, predicament; antonyms: certainty, solution

3. furious — extremely angry; adjective; synonyms: enraged, livid; antonyms: calm, pleased

4. boomed — spoke or sounded in a loud, deep manner (past tense of 'boom'); verb; synonyms: thundered, roared; antonyms: whispered, murmured

5. humiliation — the feeling of being made to feel ashamed or foolish; noun; synonyms: embarrassment, degradation; antonyms: honour, dignity

6. attire — clothing or outfit; noun; synonyms: apparel, garb; antonyms: undress, nakedness

Answer: 1. craftily: adverb, cunningly/slyly, honestly 2. dilemma: noun, quandary, certainty 3. furious: adjective, enraged, calm 4. boomed: verb, thundered, whispered 5. humiliation: noun, embarrassment, honour 6. attire: noun, apparel, nakedness

## Exercise 4.9 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Match Emotions

Q1 Match the emotions/expressions in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2. One meaning is extra.

Column 1: 1. embarrassed 2. countered 3. flushed 4. stricken 5. gleam

Column 2: (i) affected severely by an unpleasant feeling (ii) to be confused (iii) expression of emotion (iv) reply to an argument (v) felt uncomfortable (vi) became red in the face

SOLUTION

1. embarrassed → (v) felt uncomfortable
2. countered → (iv) reply to an argument
3. flushed → (vi) became red in the face
4. stricken → (i) affected severely by an unpleasant feeling
5. gleam → (iii) expression of emotion (a gleam in the eye expresses an inner feeling)

Extra (unused) meaning: (ii) to be confused

Answer: 1-(v), 2-(iv), 3-(vi), 4-(i), 5-(iii). Extra meaning: (ii) to be confused.

## Exercise 4.10 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Prepositions

Q1 Read the highlighted words in the following phrases from the story. Now revisit the story and underline the prepositions.

1. I'll just walk across to the corner shop…
2. … he felt a shadow fall over him…
3. …the vendors sitting under the tree…
4. Ravi took position behind a big banyan…

Then fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

I walked (i) _____ (through, between, against) the village, crossed a bridge (ii) _____ (over, under, beside) a brook, and found a quiet garden (iii) _____ (among, near, across) a cottage. Sitting on a bench (iv) _____ (on, at, in) the garden, I enjoyed the peaceful surroundings. Later, I strolled (v) _____ (beside, through, along) a riverbank, exploring the forest and heading (vi) _____ (into, towards, beyond) the unknown.

SOLUTION

Prepositions in the story phrases: across, over, under, behind — all show spatial relationship.

Fill in the blanks:

(i) through — walking through a village means passing from one side to the other.

(ii) over — a bridge is built over a brook (spanning it from above).

(iii) near — a garden found near a cottage (close by).

(iv) in — sitting on a bench in the garden (location within the garden).

(v) along — strolling along a riverbank (following the course of the river).

(vi) towards — heading towards the unknown (direction of movement).

Answer: (i) through (ii) over (iii) near (iv) in (v) along (vi) towards

## Exercise 4.11 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Interrogative Sentences and R

Q1 Read the dialogues from the story:

1. 'Shall we play chess or watch the cricket match on TV, Grandpa?' asked Ravi.
2. 'Who are you?' said the little boy's mother.
3. 'What did you both do today?' asked Ravi's mother.
4. 'Have you forgotten?' countered Grandpa.
5. A small child came up to him and asked, 'Are you playing hide and seek?'

Choose the correct answer:

A. The words in the quotes are (i) _____ (exclamatory/interrogative) sentences.

B. Sentences 1, 4, and 5 are (ii) _____ (Wh-/Yes, No type) interrogative sentences.

C. Sentences 2 and 3 are (iii) _____ (Wh-/Yes, No type) interrogative sentences.

So, there are (iv) _____ (two/three) types of interrogative sentences.

SOLUTION

A. (i) interrogative — all five sentences ask questions; none express strong emotion with an exclamation mark.

B. (ii) Yes, No type — Sentences 1, 4, and 5 can each be answered with 'yes' or 'no': 'Shall we…?' / 'Have you forgotten?' / 'Are you playing…?'

C. (iii) Wh- type — Sentences 2 and 3 begin with a Wh- word: 'Who are you?' and 'What did you both do today?'

So, there are (iv) two types of interrogative sentences: Yes/No type and Wh- type.

Answer: (i) interrogative (ii) Yes, No type (iii) Wh- type (iv) two

## Exercise 4.12 — Vocabulary and Structures in Context — Reported Speech Exercise

Q1 Complete the following sentences in reported speech based on the given conversation between Arvind and Priya.

Conversation:
Arvind: Do you help in taking care of your grandparents at home?
Priya: Yes, I do. We take turns making sure they're alright. Do you have grandparents living with you?
Arvind: No. My parents and I visit my grandpa every weekend. How do you manage your grandparents' medical needs?
Priya: We have a schedule for giving medications and visits to the doctor.

Arvind asked Priya if she 1. _____for which Priya replied in the affirmative and said that they 2. _____. Priya further asked Arvind 3. _____. Arvind replied in the negative and said that 4. _____ every weekend. He further enquired 5. _____. Priya responded by saying that they 6. _____.

SOLUTION

In reported speech, the tense shifts back one step (present → past), pronouns change, and time/place words change.

1. helped in taking care of her grandparents at home
2. took turns making sure they were alright
3. whether he had grandparents living with him
4. his parents and he visited his grandpa
5. how she managed her grandparents' medical needs
6. had a schedule for giving medications and visits to the doctor

Answer: 1. helped in taking care of her grandparents at home 2. took turns making sure they were alright 3. whether he had grandparents living with him 4. his parents and he visited his grandpa 5. how she managed her grandparents' medical needs 6. had a schedule for giving medications and visits to the doctor

## Exercise 4.13 — Vocabulary — I Cannot Remember My Mother (word match)

Q1 Match the words in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2.
Column 1: 1. hover 2. hum 3. cradle 4. shiuli 5. morning service 6. gaze
Column 2: (i) sing a tune with your lips closed (ii) a type of flower (coral jasmine) (iii) look steadily for a long time (iv) rituals conducted in a temple (v) linger or remain near a place (vi) a small bed for a baby

SOLUTION

Match each word to its meaning using the sense it carries in the poem.

1. hover — (v) linger or remain near a place.
2. hum — (i) sing a tune with your lips closed.
3. cradle — (vi) a small bed for a baby.
4. shiuli — (ii) a type of flower (coral jasmine).
5. morning service — (iv) rituals conducted in a temple.
6. gaze — (iii) look steadily for a long time.

Answer: 1-(v), 2-(i), 3-(vi), 4-(ii), 5-(iv), 6-(iii)

## Exercise 4.14 — Check Your Understanding — I Cannot Remember My Mother (Fill in th

Q1 Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

Stanza 1
1. The poet remembers his mother while he _____.
2. The poet remembers the _____ but not the _____.
Setting: _____ (outdoor/indoor)

Stanza 2
1. The poet remembers his mother in the _____ season.
2. The poet remembers his mother by the smell of _____.
Setting: _____ (outdoor/indoor)

Stanza 3
1. The poet feels that his mother _____ at him from the _____.
Setting: _____ (outdoor/indoor)

SOLUTION

Stanza 1:
1. The poet remembers his mother while he is playing / in the midst of his play.
2. The poet remembers the tune but not the words / song (specifically 'the tune of some song that she used to hum while rocking my cradle').
Setting: indoor (a child at play, likely indoors with playthings)

Stanza 2:
1. The poet remembers his mother in the early autumn season.
2. The poet remembers his mother by the smell of shiuli flowers.
Setting: outdoor (the shiuli flowers float in the air; the morning temple service scent drifts from outside)

Stanza 3:
1. The poet feels that his mother gazes / looks at him from the sky (the blue of the distant sky).
Setting: outdoor (the poet sends 'my eyes into the blue of the distant sky' from his bedroom window — vision directed outward)

Answer: Stanza 1: 1. plays/is at play  2. tune; words/song  Setting: indoor. Stanza 2: 1. early autumn  2. shiuli flowers  Setting: outdoor. Stanza 3: 1. gazes; sky  Setting: outdoor

## Exercise 4.15 — Check Your Understanding — I Cannot Remember My Mother (Senses

Q1 The senses of olfactory (smell), auditory (hearing), and visual (sight) are three of the five basic senses. Give examples of references to senses from the poem. Complete the table.
Stanza | Lines from the Poem | Senses
(One entry is given: Stanza 3 has olfactory already filled — note: the table has an example row for Stanza 3 showing '...the tune of some song that she used to hum while rocking my cradle' under olfactory — please complete the remaining rows for Stanza 1 and Stanza 2.)

SOLUTION

Note: The given example in the textbook table shows Stanza 3 in the olfactory row with the humming-tune lines — this appears to be a printing layout issue in the source. The humming tune is auditory (Stanza 1). The correct mapping based on the poem text is:

Stanza 1 — Auditory (hearing):
Lines: 'a tune seems to hover over my playthings, / the tune of some song that she used to hum while rocking my cradle'
The poet hears (in memory) the lullaby his mother hummed.

Stanza 2 — Olfactory (smell):
Lines: 'the smell of the shiuli flowers floats in the air / the scent of the morning service in the temple / comes to me as the scent of my mother'
The poet smells the shiuli flowers and the temple incense, which trigger the memory of his mother's scent.

Stanza 3 — Visual (sight):
Lines: 'only when from my bedroom window I send / my eyes into the blue of the distant sky, / I feel that the stillness of my mother's gaze on my face / has spread all over the sky'
The poet looks at the sky and feels the visual memory of his mother's loving gaze.

Answer: Stanza 1 — Auditory: the humming tune of her lullaby. Stanza 2 — Olfactory: the smell of shiuli flowers and temple incense evoking mother's scent. Stanza 3 — Visual: gazing at the blue sky and feeling the stillness of the mother's gaze spread across it.

## Exercise 4.16 — Check Your Understanding — I Cannot Remember My Mother (Literary

Q1 Read the poem silently once again and complete the following.

1. Two examples of alliteration from the poem are (i) _____ and (ii) _____.
2. An example of onomatopoeia is _____.
3. The poem uses imagery extensively. Explain.
4. Although the poem does not have a rhyme scheme, it is enjoyable because _____.
5. What is the tone of the poet? Why do you say so?
6. What impact does the title of the poem have on the overall mood of the poem?
7. The poet uses 'I cannot remember my mother' as a refrain because _____.
8. The poet uses symbolism to indicate the memory of his mother's presence. Identify the symbols used in the poem.

### SOLUTION

1. Two examples of alliteration:
(i) 'the smell of the shiuli flowers' — repetition of the 's' sound: smell / shiuli
(ii) 'the stillness of / my mother's gaze' — repetition of the 'm' sound: my / mother (or 'morning service' — m/m); alternatively 'hovering… her… hum' (h sounds in Stanza 1)

2. Onomatopoeia: 'hum' — the word 'hum' imitates the actual sound of humming, a soft continuous musical sound.

3. The poem uses imagery extensively by appealing to three different senses to paint the memory of the mother:
— Auditory imagery: 'a tune seems to hover over my playthings' (we can almost hear the lullaby)
— Olfactory imagery: 'the smell of the shiuli flowers floats in the air' and 'the scent of the morning service' (we can smell the flowers and incense)
— Visual imagery: 'the blue of the distant sky' and 'the stillness of / my mother's gaze … spread all over the sky' (we can see the vast, still sky)
Each stanza uses a different sense to recreate an elusive memory, making the emotion vivid and concrete.

4. Although the poem does not have a rhyme scheme, it is enjoyable because of its musical quality achieved through the refrain ('I cannot remember my mother'), its rich sensory imagery, and its deeply personal, meditative tone. The free verse

feels natural and sincere, drawing the reader into the poet's emotional world without forcing artificial rhyme.

5. The tone of the poet is gentle, wistful, and quietly longing. The repeated line 'I cannot remember my mother' carries sadness at the loss of memory, yet the stanzas show that sensory fragments of her presence — a tune, a scent, the sky — linger. The tone is not despairing but reflective and tender, suggesting love that transcends the limits of conscious memory.

6. The title 'I Cannot Remember My Mother' establishes the mood of gentle sorrow and longing from the very first line. It signals to the reader that the poem is about loss — not of the mother through death alone, but of the direct memory of her presence. This prepares the reader for the emotion that follows and makes each sensory fragment in the stanzas feel precious and bittersweet.

7. The poet uses 'I cannot remember my mother' as a refrain because it is the emotional anchor of the poem. Its repetition at the beginning of each stanza reinforces the central paradox: the poet cannot consciously remember his mother, yet her presence surrounds him through senses — a tune, a scent, the sky. The refrain also creates a rhythmic, incantatory quality that mirrors the act of trying — and failing — to grasp a fading memory.

8. Symbols used in the poem:
— The hovering tune / lullaby: symbolises the mother's love and nurturing — the sound of being rocked and cared for as an infant.
— The shiuli flowers and temple incense: symbolise the mother's spiritual presence and the sacred, pure quality of her memory.
— The blue sky: symbolises the infinite, all-encompassing nature of the mother's love and gaze — vast, still, and ever-present even in her absence.

Answer: 1. (i) 'smell of the shiuli' (s/s sound); (ii) 'my mother's / morning' (m/m sound) or 'hum … hover' (h/h). 2. 'hum' (imitates the sound). 3. Auditory (hovering tune), olfactory (shiuli/temple scent), visual (blue sky) — three senses make the memory vivid. 4. Its refrain, rich sensory imagery, and sincere meditative voice make it musical and moving without rhyme. 5. Wistful and tender — sad at lost memory, but comforted by sensory echoes. 6. Establishes gentle sorrow and paradox from the start. 7. To anchor the paradox (can't remember, yet senses her everywhere) and create a rhythmic, incantatory quality. 8. Tune = her nurturing love; shiuli + incense = her sacred/spiritual presence; blue sky = her infinite, all-encompassing gaze.

## Exercise 4.17 — Critical Reflection — I Cannot Remember My Mother (Extract Questions

Q1 Read the extract and answer the questions.

'I cannot remember my mother
only sometimes in the midst of my play
a tune seems to hover over my playthings,'

(i) Complete the following sentence appropriately. 'The poet is reminded of his mother during his _____.'

(ii) What is the primary emotion conveyed by the line 'a tune seems to hover over my playthings'? A. It enhances the joy of play. B. It disrupts the playtime atmosphere. C. It activates memories of the mother. D. It symbolises the carefree nature of childhood.

(iii) In the context of the poem, what role does the hovering tune play during the speaker's playtime?

(iv) State whether the following sentence is true or false. 'The poet experiences the tune lingering over playthings only occasionally during playtime.'

(v) How could the poet feel his mother's presence, even though she isn't there?

### SOLUTION

(i) The poet is reminded of his mother during his play / playtime ('only sometimes in the midst of my play').

(ii) C — It activates memories of the mother. The tune does not enhance the joy or disrupt it; it functions as an involuntary trigger that brings the mother's memory to the surface.

(iii) The hovering tune acts as an unconscious sensory bridge between the poet's present moment (playing) and the distant past (being rocked in his cradle). It is the lingering echo of his mother's lullaby — a melody she used to hum — which, though he cannot consciously remember its source, surfaces unbidden during childhood play, momentarily connecting him to her presence.

(iv) True — the poem says 'only sometimes in the midst of my play,' meaning the experience is occasional, not constant.

(v) The poet feels his mother's presence through sensory memory rather than conscious recollection. Even though he cannot remember her face or form, her lullaby — 'the tune of some song that she used to hum while rocking my cradle' — has been absorbed into his being. It surfaces involuntarily during play, showing that her love is embedded in his earliest sensory experiences and continues to

make itself felt through sounds, scents, and sights long after conscious memory has faded.

Answer: (i) play/playtime (ii) C (iii) It is an unconscious sensory trigger — the echo of the cradle lullaby — that briefly reconnects the poet to his mother's presence during play. (iv) True (v) Through involuntary sensory memory: her lullaby tune surfaces during play, her scent through shiuli flowers, and her gaze in the stillness of the sky — presence felt through senses, not conscious recall.

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Q2 Read the extract and answer the questions.

'I feel that the stillness of
my mother's gaze on my face
has spread all over the sky.'

(i) What does the poet suggest about the stillness of his mother's gaze spreading over the sky? A. The mother's gaze is physically present in the sky. B. The sky is a symbolic extension of the mother's presence. C. The sky mirrors the mother's emotions. D. The stillness is fleeting and unrelated to the mother.

(ii) What emotion does the poet associate with the 'stillness' of his mother's gaze? A. a sense of grief B. a sense of anticipation C. a sense of nostalgia D. a sense of serenity

(iii) State whether the following sentence is true or false. 'The poet suggests that the mother's gaze has a tangible and visual effect on the sky.'

(iv) What is the purpose of likening the mother's gaze to the sky?

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately. 'The tone of the poet in the given extract is _____ because _____.'

SOLUTION

(i) B — The sky is a symbolic extension of the mother's presence. The mother is not literally in the sky; rather, the vast, still, blue sky becomes the poet's way of visualising her calm, all-encompassing love.

(ii) D — a sense of serenity. The word 'stillness' conveys tranquillity and peace, not grief or restlessness. The gaze is described as calm and enveloping, spreading a sense of quiet over everything.

(iii) False — the effect is emotional and symbolic, not tangible or literally visual. The sky does not physically change; it is the poet's inner feeling ('I feel that…') that perceives the mother's gaze as spread across the sky.

(iv) Likening the mother's gaze to the sky serves two purposes: it conveys the infinite, boundless nature of a mother's love (the sky has no borders and is always present), and it captures the quality of her gaze — still, wide, encompassing, and gentle. The sky also suggests eternity, implying that even in death the mother's loving attention continues to surround the poet.

(v) The tone of the poet in the given extract is wistful and serene because the poet longs for his mother's presence (hence the wistfulness) but finds comfort in the thought that her stillness and love have spread beyond her physical form and into the vast, peaceful sky.

Answer: (i) B (ii) D (iii) False — the effect is symbolic/emotional, not tangible (iv) To convey the infinite, boundless, and ever-present nature of the mother's love, like the sky (v) Wistful and serene — because the poet longs for her yet finds quiet comfort in the sky's stillness

## Exercise 4.18 — Reading for Appreciation — I Cannot Remember My Mother (Answer th

Q1 What is the emotional impact of the refrain, 'I cannot remember my mother'?

SOLUTION

The refrain 'I cannot remember my mother' is the emotional heartbeat of the poem. Repeated at the opening of each stanza, it creates a sustained mood of gentle sorrow and longing.

Its primary emotional impact is paradoxical: each time the poet says he cannot remember, the stanza that follows proves that some part of the memory does survive — through a tune, a flower's scent, or the stillness of the sky. This tension between forgetting and remembering makes the refrain deeply moving.

For readers who have lost or been separated from their mothers, the line resonates as a universal human experience. The simplicity of 'I cannot remember' is more affecting than elaborate lament — it is the quiet ache of a child who lost his mother too early to hold onto a conscious image of her.

The repetition also creates a musical quality, like a song returning to its chorus — fitting, since the poem is about a tune that hovers from the mother's cradle songs.

Answer: It creates a sustained, paradoxical ache — each 'I cannot remember' is followed by proof that she is present in sensory memory. The simplicity of the admission, repeated three times, is more moving than elaborate grief, resonating as a universal experience of early loss.

Q2 Interpret the connection between the poet's mother and the following:
(i) shiuli flowers (ii) humming tune

SOLUTION

(i) Shiuli flowers: The shiuli (coral jasmine / Parijat) blooms in early autumn and releases a sweet fragrance in the morning. The poem says: 'the smell of the shiuli flowers floats in the air / the scent of the morning service in the temple / comes to me as the scent of my mother.'
The connection is through smell — the mother's scent, absorbed by the infant poet, is now triggered by the shiuli's fragrance. The association also links the mother to the temple morning service, giving her a sacred, pure quality. Each autumn, when the flowers bloom, the mother's presence returns to the poet through this olfactory memory.

(ii) Humming tune: The poet says 'a tune seems to hover over my playthings, / the tune of some song that she used to hum while rocking my cradle.' The mother hummed lullabies while rocking the infant to sleep — one of the most intimate early memories a child can have.

Even though the poet cannot consciously remember the words or even the full song, the tune has been imprinted on his earliest consciousness. During play, it surfaces involuntarily — floating above his toys like a ghost of her presence — connecting him to the safety and love of being held by his mother.

Answer: (i) The shiuli's autumn fragrance triggers the infant memory of his mother's scent and her presence at the temple morning service — smell as the most direct path to an early, pre-verbal memory. (ii) The mother's lullaby was hummed over his cradle; though the words are gone, the tune is embedded in his earliest self and resurfaces unbidden during play, carrying the feeling of her care.

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Q3 What role does nature play in the poet's description of the memory of his mother?

SOLUTION

Nature serves as the medium through which the poet recovers fragments of his mother's presence, since conscious memory is lost to him.

In Stanza 2, the shiuli flowers (a natural, seasonal bloom) carry the scent of his mother and her temple devotion, linking her to the sacred rhythms of the natural world.

In Stanza 3, the sky — vast, still, and blue — becomes the canvas on which the poet projects his mother's gaze. The natural sky is transformed into a symbol of her all-encompassing, serene presence.

Nature is thus not merely a backdrop but an active participant: it is what survives when conscious memory fails. The seasonal return of the shiuli and the ever-present sky mean that the mother is never fully absent — nature brings her back every autumn, every time the poet looks upward.

This also reflects a broader truth about childhood memory: the earliest impressions are often sensory and tied to the natural world rather than to verbal or visual recollections.

Answer: Nature is the medium of recovery — the shiuli's scent in autumn and the stillness of the sky provide what conscious memory cannot: a sensory route back to the mother. Nature recurs each season, ensuring she is never permanently lost.

Q4 What can be inferred about the poet's perception of the mother–child relationship?

SOLUTION

From the poem, the poet perceives the mother–child relationship as one of the deepest and most formative bonds, one that shapes a person's very senses even before conscious thought is possible.

His mother's lullaby, her scent, and the quality of her gaze have been absorbed by the infant self and remain embedded at a level deeper than conscious memory. This suggests the poet believes the bond between mother and child is primal — it exists in the body and the senses, not just in the mind.

The poem also implies that a mother's love is infinite and all-present, like the sky — it cannot be contained or lost, only transformed. Even death or separation cannot sever the connection entirely; it simply shifts from the realm of memory to the realm of sensory experience.

Finally, the poem conveys that the mother–child relationship carries a sacred, almost spiritual quality (linked to the temple scent and the shiuli, a flower associated with worship), suggesting the poet sees maternal love as something close to divine.

Answer: The poet sees the mother–child bond as primal and indestructible — imprinted in the senses (sound, smell, sight) before conscious memory forms. A mother's love, like the sky, is infinite and ever-present; even after physical separation, it endures in the body's deepest sensory traces.

## Exercise 4.19 — Vocabulary in Context — Sensory Words (Classify)

Q1 Work in pairs to classify the sensory words given in the box into Visual, Auditory, Olfactory, and Tactile categories. One example has been done for you (glowing = Visual, hiss = Auditory, aroma = Olfactory, sticky = Tactile).

Words: rustle, sticky, glowing, hiss, rough, chilled, aroma, gigantic, stale, sizzle, minuscule, scent, gloomy, deafening, vibrant, pungent, squeaky, stinky, crimson, fluffy, fragrant, smooth, slimy, ear-splitting, hairy

SOLUTION

Visual: glowing, gigantic, minuscule, gloomy, vibrant, crimson
(These words relate to appearance, size, colour, or light.)

Auditory: hiss, rustle, sizzle, deafening, squeaky, ear-splitting
(These words relate to sounds.)

Olfactory: aroma, stale, scent, pungent, stinky, fragrant
(These words relate to smell.)

Tactile: sticky, rough, chilled, fluffy, smooth, slimy, hairy
(These words relate to touch or texture.)

Answer: Visual: glowing, gigantic, minuscule, gloomy, vibrant, crimson. Auditory: hiss, rustle, sizzle, deafening, squeaky, ear-splitting. Olfactory: aroma, stale, scent, pungent, stinky, fragrant. Tactile: sticky, rough, chilled, fluffy, smooth, slimy, hairy.

## Exercise 4.20 — Vocabulary in Context — Sarojini Naidu Passage (Fill in sensory words)

Q1 Fill in the blanks with sensory words from the box for the following passage by Sarojini Naidu. There are two extra words.

Words: scarlet, shrill, sizzle, perfumes, flaming, scents, sweetness, essence, smooth

Passage:
'Come and share my exquisite March morning with me: this sumptuous blaze of gold and sapphire sky; these 1. _____ lilies that adorn the sunshine; the voluptuous 2. _____ of neem and champak and serisha that beat upon the languid air with their implacable 3. _____; the thousand little gold and blue and silver breasted birds bursting with the 4. _____ ecstasy of life in nesting time. And, do you know that the scarlet lilies are woven petal by petal from my heart's blood, these little quivering birds are my soul made incarnate music, these heavy 5. _____ are my emotions dissolved into aerial 6. _____, this 7. _____ blue and gold sky is the "very me"…'

SOLUTION

1. scarlet — 'scarlet lilies' (visual: the vivid red colour of the lilies; also appearing later as 'the scarlet lilies' confirming the colour).
2. perfumes — 'the voluptuous perfumes of neem and champak and serisha' (olfactory: fragrant smells).
3. scents — 'their implacable scents' (olfactory: the persistent, overwhelming fragrances).
4. shrill — 'the shrill ecstasy of life' (auditory: the piercing, high-pitched sounds of birds in nesting time).
5. perfumes / scents — 'these heavy scents' (olfactory: heavy fragrances — 'perfumes' is also used above, so 'scents' fits here).
6. essence — 'dissolved into aerial essence' (the intangible, distilled quality — the abstract form of the emotions).
7. flaming — 'this flaming blue and gold sky' (visual: the burning, brilliant colour of the sky).

Extra (unused) words: sizzle, smooth

Answer: 1. scarlet 2. perfumes 3. scents 4. shrill 5. scents (or perfumes) 6. essence 7. flaming. Extra words: sizzle, smooth.