

The Laburnum Top

Case Study Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt, She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up Of chitterings, a tremor of wings, and trillings- The whole tree trembles and thrills.

(A) Who is 'She' in the given lines?

- (a) A snake
- (b) A parrot
- (c) A goldfinch
- (d) A sparrow

(B) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The tree becomes lively when the mother bird pays a visit to her young ones.

(C) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

In the given extract, the word 'chitterings' refers

Ans. (A) (c) A goldfinch

Explanation: 'She' is the goldfinch in the given lines. Hence, (c) is correct.

(B) True.

Explanation: In the poem, the poet describes how the visit of the goldfinch changes the Laburnum tree. The mother bird transforms the tree and makes it come alive as the chicks of the goldfinch start to rustle and chirp upon seeing her. Once the goldfinch leaves the tree, it becomes quiet and still again.

(C) sound made by the young ones of goldfinch.

Explanation: In the given extract, the word 'chitterings' refers to the sound made by the young ones upon seeing the goldfinch. Before the arrival of the mother bird, the tree was silent, appearing as if no bird lives in it.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

It is the engine of her family. She stokes it full, then flirts out to a branch end Showing her barred face identity mask. Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings She launches away, towards the infinite And the laburnum subsides to



empty.

(A) The phrase, 'showing her barred face identity mask' shows that the tree:

- (a) protects the goldfinch and her family.
- (b) hides the goldfinch and her family.
- (c) provides shelter to goldfinch and her family.
- (d) gives the goldfinch her identity.

(B) Fill in the blank with an appropriate answer.

In the given extract, the phrase 'She stokes it full' means that the goldfinch

(C) Where does the goldfinch leave again?

Ans. (A) (d) gives the goldfinch her identity.

Explanation: After the bird leaves tree, the laburnum tree becomes silent and death-like once again. The phrase refers to the bird's barred or covered face acting as an identity mask. Her striped face makes her distinctive, and this face becomes her identifying mark as she remains hidden in thickness. Hence, (d) is correct.

(B) has fed the young ones.

Explanation: The expression 'She stokes it full' means that the mother bird has fed the young ones, who now have the energy to become active and make noise.

(C) After feeding her young ones and making the tree full of life, the goldfinch flies towards the infinite sky in a mysterious way. With the departure of the bird, the tree again transforms to silence and emptiness.