

## 1. Read the given stanza and answer the questions :

[5]

Step up to the challenge  
 There is no crowd to see,  
 It's just you and the future  
 And where you want to be.

I. What does the line, 'There is no crowd to see' suggest about facing challenges?

II. Complete the following suitably.

The line 'It's just you and the future' suggests that \_\_\_\_\_ .

III. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word/ phrase from the extract.

Latha will \_\_\_\_\_ her efforts to improve her vocal performance by practicing harder each day.

IV. Select the most suitable title for the extract.

A. he Struggles of Change

B. Facing the Future Alone

C. A Journey of Growth

D. The Power of Fear

V. Complete the analogy by using a word from the extract.

achieve : goal :: face : \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** 1. The line 'There is no crowd to see' suggests that facing challenges is often a **private struggle** and one must rely on **personal courage and determination** rather than external approval.

2. an individual alone is responsible for shaping their own future.

3. Latha will **step up** her efforts to improve her vocal performance by practicing harder each day.

4. (B) Facing the Future Alone

5. achieve : goal :: face : challenge

## 2. Answer the following six questions in about 40- 50 words each :

[18]

I. The poet uses a metaphor in the line, 'The first step is the hardest'. Explain why this is metaphorical. In the Poem "Believe in Yourself".

**Ans. :** The line "The first step is the hardest" is metaphorical because the "first step" does not literally mean walking or stepping. Instead, it represents beginning a new challenge or making an important decision in life. The poet compares starting a difficult task to taking a physical step, showing that the initial effort or action in pursuing change or growth often feels the most challenging.

II. The poem uses antithesis in a couple of lines.

**Antithesis** is a rhetorical device that pairs contrasting or opposite ideas in a parallel grammatical structure to highlight differences or create emphasis. It



simplifies complex ideas through contrast, making them easier for readers or listeners to understand. Consider the famous quote from Neil Armstrong when he stepped onto the moon: "Setting foot on the moon may be a small step for a man, but a giant leap for mankind." Here, the antithesis lies in contrasting the 'small step' for an individual with the 'giant leap' for all humanity. The parallel structure of the two phrases highlights the incredible significance of this event, presenting it as both a personal and massive achievement.

Other examples:

- Speech is silver, but silence is gold.
- Patience is bitter, but it has a sweet fruit.
- Man proposes, God disposes.

**Ans. :** The lines that show **antithesis** are :

**"Will it pull you forward / Or push you back in fear?"**

These lines are antithetical because they present **opposite possibilities** : moving forward versus being held back. The contrast highlights the choice a person faces when confronting challenges-either courage and progress or fear and hesitation. Using antithesis emphasizes the tension and importance of deciding which path to take.

III. What is the significance of the metaphor, 'The first step is the hardest' in the context of personal growth? In the poem "Believe in Yourself".

**Ans. :** The metaphor "The first step is the hardest" signifies that beginning any new challenge or change is often the most difficult part of personal growth. It highlights that taking initiative requires courage, determination, and self-confidence. Once a person overcomes this initial hesitation, the path toward growth and progress becomes clearer, showing that action is the first key to achieving goals.

IV. What message does the antithesis in the poem convey about the nature of personal development? In the poem "Believe in Yourself".

**Ans. :** The antithesis in the poem, seen in lines like "Will it pull you forward/Or push you back in fear?", conveys that personal development involves choices between progress and stagnation. It emphasizes that growth is not automatic; individuals must confront fears, make conscious decisions, and act courageously to move forward.

V. Do you think the poet's message is realistic in the context of real-world struggles? (Clue: Evaluate whether simply 'believing in yourself' is enough to overcome obstacles or other factors are also necessary.)

**Ans. :** The poet's message is realistic to an extent. Believing in oneself is essential, but real-world struggles often require effort, persistence, planning, and sometimes support from others. Self-belief acts as a foundation, but practical steps and perseverance are also necessary to overcome obstacles.



VI. Consider a situation where you or someone you know had to take a difficult first step towards a goal. How does the poem's message about the importance of self-belief apply to this situation?

**Ans. :** For example, when someone starts learning a new skill like public speaking, the first presentation can feel daunting. Applying the poem's message, self-belief gives the courage to take that first step, which then builds confidence and momentum, making subsequent efforts easier and reinforcing personal growth.

