

\* Select the most appropriate options as answers and complete the following sentences : [10]

1. The old woman bent over because :

- (A) she was tired      (B) she was hungry      (C) it was cold      (D) she was weak

**Ans. :** (C) it was cold

2. The street was covered with :

- (A) Dust      (B) Snow      (C) Water      (D) Leaves

**Ans. :** (B) Snow

3. The old woman was standing for a long time :

- (A) At a busy intersection      (B) In front of her house  
(C) At the market      (D) Near the playground

**Ans.:** (A) At a busy intersection

4. How did people treat the old woman?

- (A) They cared for her      (B) They ignored her  
(C) They talked to her      (D) They gave her food

**Ans. :** (B) They ignored her

5. The woman was afraid to move because of :

- (A) dogs      (B) the dark  
(C) children      (D) carriages and slippery street

**Ans. :** (D) carriages and slippery street

6. The children on the street were :

- (A) Playing football      (B) Running home happily  
(C) Helping the woman      (D) Sleeping

**Ans. :** (B) Running home happily

7. \_\_\_\_\_ finally stopped to help the old woman.

- (A) The happiest boy      (B) A shopkeeper      (C) A policeman      (D) Another old man

**Ans.:** (A) The happiest boy

8. The old woman crossed the street :

- (A) Alone, slowly      (B) With the boy's strong arm  
(C) With her stick      (D) With the help of a passer-by

**Ans. :** (B) With the boy's strong arm

9. The boy felt \_\_\_\_\_ after helping the woman.

(A) sad (B) angry (C) proud and happy (D) scared

**Ans. :** (C) proud and happy

10. The old woman prayed to God :

(A) To be rich (B) To be strong  
(C) For her health (D) To be kind to the boy

**Ans. :** (D) To be kind to the boy

**\* Say whether the following sentences are true or false :** [5]

11. The children were very sad because school was over.

**Ans. :** False

12. The woman quickly crossed the road without any help.

**Ans. :** False

13. The happiest boy in the group helped the old woman.

**Ans. :** True

14. The poet reminds us that the old woman is someone's mother.

**Ans. :** True

15. The old woman prayed for herself only that night.

**Ans. :** False

**\* Select the most appropriate words from the box and fill in the blanks in the text given below :** [5]

16. The old woman was very poor and looked \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** sad

17. The children were happy because \_\_\_\_\_ was over.

**Ans. :** school

18. The old woman was afraid of the carriage's wheels and the \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

**Ans. :** horses

19. The boy helped the woman by giving his \_\_\_\_\_ arm.

**Ans. :** strong

20. The old woman prayed to \_\_\_\_\_ for the noble boy.

**Ans. :** God

**\* Answer The Following Questions In One Sentence.** [12]

21. Who is the poet of the poem 'Somebody's Mother?'

**Ans. :** The poet of the poem 'Somebody's Mother' is Mary Dow Brine.

22. Do you like this poem? Why or why not?

**Ans. :** Yes. I do like this poem very much. I like this poem because it teaches us to be kind to people who need help.

23. Hailing the snow, piled white and deep'. What does the word 'hailing' means here?

**Ans. :** The word 'hailing' means here 'welcoming.'

24. What did the boy tell his friends?

**Ans. :** The boy told his friends that the old woman was somebody's mother. She was fragile, weak, and poor. He helped her hoping that some person would help his mother when she became old, poor, and weak.

25. What might be the old woman's fears as she waited for a long time at the crossing?

**Ans. :** The old woman's fears might be that she could be afraid of falling on the slippery road because of recent snowfall or getting hit by carriages and horses. So she waited for a long time at the crossing.

26. How does the poet show the helplessness of the old woman? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

**Ans. :** The poet shows the helplessness of the old woman when he describes the old woman as timid and meek woman who is afraid of falling so she could not stir. She continued standing alone along the road side. She was uncared. Nobody helped her in her misery.

27. Why does the boy decide to help the old woman? What does this tell us about him?

**Ans. :** The boy decides to help the old woman because he is kind-hearted and empathetic boy. His kindness shows that he values the needs of other people. He acts compassionately towards human beings.

28. Justify the appropriateness of the title of the poem.

**Ans. :** The title of the poem is quite appropriate because it reminds us that every elderly lady is the mother of someone as our own. Every elderly woman deserves our respect, care and empathy.

29. What does the poem suggest about the role of empathy and humanity in society?

**Ans. :** The poem suggests that the role of empathy and humanity in society is extremely important and vital. Our small acts of kindness reflect the best of human nature. The act of kindness has a deep, lasting impact on the person as individual and society as whole.

30. What did the old woman say in her prayers that night? Why?

**Ans. :** The old woman prayed to God to be kind to the boy who had helped her because she was greatly impressed by the noble character of the little boy.

31. Where was the woman standing in the poem 'Somebody's Mother'?

**Ans. :** The woman in the poem 'Somebody's Mother' was standing at the road crossing.

32. How did the boy help the old woman?

**Ans. :** The boy stopped near the old woman and asked her if he could help her to cross the street. The old woman was glad to accept his offer and placed her hand on his arm. The boy led her carefully to cross the street.

**\* Answer the following questions.**

**[20]**

33. How can you define the title 'Somebody's Mother'?

**Ans. :** The title 'Somebody's Mother' is very meaningful in the poem. It reminds us that the old, ragged, and lonely woman at the crossing is not just a stranger-she is also a mother to someone. Even though society ignores her, the boy realises that she is as precious to someone as his own mother is to him. By helping her, he shows respect for all mothers. The little highlights universal motherhood, compassion and empathy.

34. Discuss the theme of the poem 'Somebody's Mother'?

**Ans. :** The theme of the poem is quite simple. It highlights the importance of empathy and compassion in life towards others, especially those who are weaker in the society or who are in great need of help. The young boy's kindness towards the elderly woman serves as a powerful example of this. This example exhorts the young children to follow it.

35. What was the purpose of Brine to write the poem 'Somebody's Mother'?

**Ans. :** Brine wrote this unique poem in order to share her interest in sharing a certain way of treating other people. She did not like people's indifference towards the people in need. She wanted to show a sad scene of the behaviour of the people. She purposefully transforms the poem into something optimistic with only one act of kindness.

36. What do you know about the tone of the poem 'Somebody's Mother'?

**Ans. :** The tone of the poem 'Somebody's Mother' is critical one. The critical tone is found in the first few lines and an optimistic one in the second part of the poem. The poet or the speaker is clearly judging those people who ignore the old woman and don't take the time to help her cross the road. It is the young boy only who helps her and sets an example for the elderly ones.

37. How does the poem depict respect for the elderly people?



**Ans. :** The poem exhibits that the people don't understand the importance of respecting and caring for the elderly ones. The woman is weak so the boy wants to help her. This notion highlights the need for compassion and understanding towards older individuals. The poem also tells us that we should give proper respect to the older people whenever we help them.

38. Describe the condition of the old woman as she stood waiting at the crossing.

**Ans. :** The old woman was standing at the road crossing, bent over, looking weak, poor, and afraid due to the slippery road (from recent snowfall) and the danger from carriages and horses. She was lonely and uncared for.

39. How is the attitude of the crowd different from that of the little boy?

**Ans. :** The attitude of the crowd was indifferent; they ignored the old woman and did not take the time to help her cross the street. The little boy, however, was empathetic and kind; he took her seriously, understood her difficulty, and stopped to help her cross carefully.

40. How did the old woman feel after being helped by the boy?

**Ans. :** The old woman felt glad and grateful. She was deeply impressed by the boy's kindness and noble character. She prayed to God to be kind to him.

41. Explain the theme and moral lesson of the poem 'Somebody's Mother'.

**Ans. :** The theme of the poem is the importance of empathy, compassion, and respect, especially towards the elderly and those in need. The moral lesson is that everyone is someone's mother/son/daughter, and therefore, we should treat all elderly people with the same care and respect we would show our own family, as acts of kindness have a profound impact.

42. Narrate the incident how the boy helped the old woman cross the street.

**Ans. :** The boy stopped near the old woman who was waiting fearfully at the crossing. He asked her if he could help her cross the street. The old woman was glad to accept his offer and placed her hand on his arm. The boy then led her carefully to cross the street, supporting her with his strong arm.

\* Answer the following questions.

[6]

43. What does the young boy tell his friends? Why does old lady pray to God?

**Ans. :** The young boy tells his friends that he helped the old lady because he imagines his own mother in that situation and he wants someone to help her if he isn't around her when she is "poor and old and gray." He's thinking about how kindness passes from one person to another. It may also be possible that his own example inspires his friends to think in a similar way.

That night, the old woman, who is described as "somebody's mother," prays for the boy who helped her cross the street, calling him "somebody's son." This reversal

shows how much the woman appreciates his act of kindness and how she recognizes him in the same way he did her. Thus, the poem has a unique tone.

44. What is the Structure and Form of the poem "Somebody's Mother?"

**Ans. :** 'Somebody's Mother' by Mary Dow Brine is a 19-stanzas poem. The entire poem is divided into sets of two lines which are known as couplets. The couplets are simple, rhyming in a pattern of AABBCC, and so on, with perfect rhymes throughout the entire poem. Some end sounds are repeated, like "snow" and "slow" in and "low" and "go". Thus, the poem has a unique effect on the students and readers.

\* Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions given below it : [28]

The woman was old and ragged and grey  
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.  
The street was wet with a recent snow  
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

45. What does the phrase 'ragged and grey' refer to?

- (A) The woman's emotional state that day.
- (B) The woman's old and worn-out appearance.
- (C) The weather conditions of the particular day.
- (D) The colour of the street and the surroundings.

46. Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason :

The woman was 'bent' with the chill of the Winter's day because she was \_\_\_\_\_.

47. Identify the fact and opinion from the following sentences :

- (A) The street was wet with recent snow \_\_\_\_\_.
- (B) The woman was too weak to cross the street on her own \_\_\_\_\_.

48. Why do you think the woman's feet were described as 'aged and slow'?"

**Ans. :** 1. (B) The woman's old and worn-out appearance.

2. an old lady so she had become physically weak. Apart from it due to cold weather she was feeling cold.

3. (A) Fact because it is the condition of the street.

(B) Opinion because the woman was standing alone and needed help to cross the street.

4. In my opinion, the woman's feet were described as 'aged and slow' because she was an old lady. She was weak. Her feet were unsteady due to her physical condition and the extremity of cold.

He guided the trembling feet along,  
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,  
His young heart happy and well content.

49. What does the contrast between the 'trembling feet' of the old woman and the 'firm and strong' feet of the boy emphasise?

50. Fill in the blank given below by selecting the correct option from the brackets.  
The poem tells us that the boy was 'proud' that his feet were strong.  
This tells us that the boy was \_\_\_\_\_. (arrogant about being strong/grateful for his ability to help)

51. What is the boy most likely to tell his friends on getting back?

- (A) I'm so glad I could help her.
- (B) I'm worried about her safety.
- (C) I'm surprised she forgot to thank me.
- (D) I'm thankful for all your support.

52. Rectify the false sentence given below.

The young boy's actions were driven by a logical decision.

**Ans. :** 1. The contrast between the 'trembling feet of the old woman and the 'firm and strong' feet of the boy emphasises the difference between the old woman's weakness because of her old age and the boy's strength of youth.

2. grateful for his ability to help

3. (A) I'm so glad I could help her.

4. The young boy's actions were driven by empathy, kindness and his helping nature.

The woman was old and ragged and grey  
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.  
The street was wet with a recent snow  
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

53. The woman was \_\_\_\_\_ and grey. (ragged/joyful)

54. What season is mentioned here?

55. How was the woman dressed?

56. Why were her feet slow?

**Ans. :** 1. ragged

2. Winter

3. She was old, ragged, and grey.

4. Because she was aged and weak.

Past the woman so old and grey  
Hastened the children on their way.  
Nor offered a helping hand to her-  
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir.

57. The children did not offer a \_\_\_\_\_ hand to the woman. (helping/working.)

58. How did the woman feel?

59. Who passed by the woman?

60. Why was the woman afraid to stir?

**Ans. :** 1. helping

2. Meek, timid, and afraid.

3. The school children.

4. She feared carriage wheels or horses' feet in the street.

At last came one of the merry troop,  
The gayest laddie of all the group;  
He paused beside her and whispered low,  
"I'll help you cross, if you wish to go."

61. The gayest laddie of all the group paused beside the old lady and \_\_\_\_\_ to help her cross. (whispered/said loudly)

62. Who was the gayest laddie of the group?

63. What did the gayest laddie offer to do?

64. How did the laddie speak to her?

**Ans. :** 1. whispered

2. One boy of the merry troop was the gayest laddie of the group.

3. The gayest laddie offered to help the old lady cross the road.

4. The laddie spoke to her in a whisper.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,  
For all she's aged and poor and slow",  
"And I hope some fellow will lend a hand  
To help my mother, you understand."

65. "She's somebody's \_\_\_\_\_, boys, you know." (mother/friend)

66. What hope did the boy express?

67. Who is referred to as 'she' here?

68. Why did the boy compare her with his mother?

**Ans. :** 1. mother

2. That someone would help his own mother one day.

3. The old woman.

4. Because he felt every mother deserves care and help.

And "somebody's mother" bowed low her head  
In her home that night, and the prayer she said  
Was "God be kind to the noble boy,  
Who is somebody's son" and pride and joy!"

69. That night, somebody's mother prayed, "God be kind to the \_\_\_\_\_ boy."  
(noble/proud)

70. What did somebody's mother do at home that night?

71. For whom did she pray?

72. How did she describe the boy in her prayer?

**Ans. :** 1. noble

2. Somebody's mother bowed her head and prayed at home that night.

3. She prayed for the noble boy.

4. She described the boy in her prayer as somebody's son, and pride and joy.

