

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

1. Who is the narrator of the story?

- (A) Sven Olsen (B) Claribel
(C) A crew member on the space station (D) A Martian explorer

Ans. : (C) A crew member on the space station

2. What type of creature is Claribel?

- (A) A cat (B) A bird (C) A mouse (D) A monkey

Ans. : (B) A bird

3. Why did Sven bring Claribel to the space station?

- (A) For research purpose (B) As a secret pet
(C) To test gravity (D) As a gift for the crew

Ans. : (B) As a secret pet

4. What special ability does a canary bird has?

- (A) Singing Earth songs (B) Detecting gas leaks or low oxygen
(C) Turning invisible (D) Flying in space

Ans. : (B) Detecting gas leaks or low oxygen

5. What happened to Claribel when the oxygen started running low?

- (A) She started screaming (B) She panicked
(C) She fell unconscious (D) She tried to hide

Ans. : (C) She fell unconscious

6. Why was Claribel's presence valuable on the space station?

- (A) She kept the crew entertained
(B) She helped with experiments
(C) She acted as an early warning system
(D) She was part of an important project

Ans. : (C) She acted as an early warning system

7. How does the narrator first realize Claribel's presence in the space station?

- (A) He finds a cage in Sven's room
(B) He hears a whistle in his office
(C) She is introduced to the crew
(D) She flies into the space station

Ans. : (B) He hears a whistle in his office

8. What is the central theme of the story "Feathered Friend"?

- (A) Animals should always be in space
- (B) Space is dangerous for animals
- (C) Small things can make a big difference
- (D) Technology is better than nature

Ans. : (C) Small things can make a big difference

9. "Without Claribel, we should soon have been slightly dead" means-

- (A) No entertainment
- (B) Bird was food
- (C) Bird saved their lives
- (D) Captain joked

Ans. : (C) Bird saved their lives

10. What was unusual about Claribel?

- (A) Sang at night
- (B) Only bird in space
- (C) Spoke like humans
- (D) Built a nest

Ans. : (B) Only bird in space

*** Say whether the following sentences are true or false :**

[5]

11. Claribel was a cat brought to the space station secretly.

Ans. : False

12. The crew members were very upset about having Claribel aboard.

Ans. : False

13. Claribel's collapse helped the crew understand the problem with the air system in the space station.

Ans. : True

14. There is always day and night in a space station.

Ans. : False

15. The canary was only brought aboard as a pet with no other use.

Ans. : False

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

[5]

16. _____ brought Claribel to the space station.

Ans. : Sven Olsen

17. Claribel was first made known through a _____.

Ans. : musical whistle

18. The author refers to her presence workplace as a _____ cubbyhole.

Ans. : little

19. The crew were working in _____ -hour shifts.

Ans. : twelve

20. Claribel's reaction helped the crew detect a problem with _____ leak.

Ans. : oxygen

*** Answer The Following Questions In One Sentence.**

[8]

21. Where does the story 'Feathered Friend' take place?

Ans. : The story takes place in a space station.

22. How did the narrator describe the space station's morning routine?

Ans. : The narrator said there is no real morning, but it felt like 6 a.m. on Earth.

23. What problem did Claribel help the crew detect?

Ans. : Claribel helped the crew to detect a failure in the oxygen system.

24. Why does canary bird react quickly to changes in air?

Ans. : They react quickly to air changes because they are very sensitive to air quality.

25. Who brought Claribel to the space station?

Ans. : Sven Olsen brought Claribel to the space station.

26. What hit the narrator when he looked up suddenly?

Ans. : An angle beam hit the narrator when he looked up suddenly.

27. Why do the crew use terms like 'morning' and 'night' in space?

Ans. : The crew use terms like 'day' and 'night' for convenience, even though there's no real day or night.

28. What situation made the crew realize there was a problem?

Ans. : When Claribel collapsed due to low oxygen, the crew members understood there was a problem with oxygen level.

*** Answer the following questions.**

[30]

29. What was the purpose of the alarm? What had caused its failure?

Ans. : The alarm's purpose was to identify and notify the crew in the event that oxygen levels dropped or there were any other potentially fatal atmospheric changes occurring within the space station. The system failed because the second alarm circuit was not yet connected, leaving the system unfinished and unable to react quickly.

30. How does the crew's reaction to Claribel change over the course of the story?



Ans. : The crew initially thought that Claribel, the canary, was just a pet that wasn't needed on the high-tech space station. They recognized her actual worth, however, when she passed out from low oxygen and warned them of a dangerous issue. As she successfully saved their lives, their attitude shifted from indifference to respect and gratitude.

31. What does the last part of the story tell us about the significance of unusual ways of problem solving?

Ans. : The conclusion highlights how sometimes straight-forward, natural solutions may surpass modern technology in resolving complicated issues.

A tiny bird named Claribel was able to succeed when modern alarms failed, demonstrating the importance of using unusual instruments or intuition.

32. Justify the appropriateness of the title of the story.

Ans. : The title Feathered Friend is appropriate as the story revolves around Claribel, a small canary bird who turns out to be a true friend by saving the lives of the astronauts.

Her feathers symbolize her identity as a bird, and "friend" highlights her life-saving role in the story.

33. Without Claribel, we should soon have been slightly dead.' What does this line suggest about uncertainty of life in space?

Ans. : This sentence illustrates the crew's near-death experience with dark humor. It emphasizes the unpredictability and danger of space existence, when even a little equipment malfunction might be deadly. It also demonstrates how functional systems and occasionally even a little bird, are crucial to astronauts' survival.

34. Why was there no rule against keeping pets in space?

Ans. : Since no one had thought it necessary, there was no law prohibiting pet ownership. According to the narrator, Sven would have disregarded the rule even if it had existed.

35. Who was Claribel and how did she come aboard the space station?

Ans. : Claribel was a canary and Sven Olsen took Claribel onto the space station. Because he thought she would be helpful in identifying issues in the atmosphere, he kept her hidden.

36. How did Claribel alert the crew to the emergency?

Ans. : Claribel abruptly and silently passed out. The crew was able to identify a drop in oxygen levels since they realized something was wrong with the air supply.

37. What was the narrator doing when he first discovered Claribel?

Ans. : In his office, the narrator was looking through technical store listings when he heard a strange musical whistle—it was Claribel's song.

38. Why were the crew on twelve-hour watches and what was their effect?

Ans. : Due to space restrictions, the crew were on twelve-hour watches, but this was tolerable because space requires minimal sleep. It still resulted in weariness and disturbed sleep, though.

39. Why did the narrator first mistake the sound of the whistle for a station announcement?

Ans. : The narrator first mistook the sound of the whistle for a station announcement because, in the routine environment of a space station where announcements are common, an unfamiliar sound might easily be categorized as a standard communication system alert.

40. How did the crew react when they first noticed Claribel on board?

Ans. : Initially, the crew reacted with surprise and perhaps mild displeasure or indifference, viewing the canary as an unnecessary pet that did not belong on a high-tech space station. Their attitude later shifted to respect and gratitude after she saved their lives.

41. Describe the role of Claribel, the canary, in the story.

Ans. : Claribel's primary role evolves from being an unofficial pet to a crucial early warning system. Her biological sensitivity to air quality allowed her to detect a dangerously low oxygen level by collapsing, an issue that the mechanical alarms failed to report quickly. In doing so, she saved the entire crew's lives.

42. Explain how the story highlights the limitations of technology and the unexpected value of simple solutions.

Ans. : The story highlights the limitations of technology by showing that the sophisticated, half-a-million-dollar alarm system failed because it was unfinished and couldn't react quickly. In contrast, the simple, natural 'solution'—a small canary bird—proved immediately effective because of its innate biological ability to sense air quality, demonstrating that nature can sometimes surpass complex, automated systems.

43. How did the attitude of the crew toward Claribel change from the beginning to the end of the story?

Ans. : At the beginning, the crew (except perhaps Sven) viewed Claribel as just a pet that was unnecessary on the high-tech station. Their attitude shifted dramatically to one of deep respect and gratitude after she collapsed, signaling the low oxygen problem and successfully saving all their lives.

* Answer the following questions.

[12]

44. Explain how has the writer presented science fiction with a touch of humour.

Ans. : Arthur C. Clarke blends serious science with humour : a canary floating gracefully in space, the crew hiding her from VIPs, and the ironic twist that half a million dollars' worth of equipment failed, but a bird succeeded.

The story is both enjoyable and thought-provoking because of the clever storytelling and scientific realism that bring humor to a serious situation.

45. How would Sven reflect on his experience of almost losing Claribel and for saving the lives of the entire crew?

Ans. : Sven would probably be really proud and appreciative. He unofficially brought Claribel with him, yet her presence saved lives. He may be upset about almost losing her, but he may also be pleased that his meager act of bringing her on board benefited the crew.

He would most likely consider the value of following instincts and nature, as well as how even the tiniest creatures may have a profound impact.

46. What is implied about the use of technology versus nature in the story "Feathered Friend"?

Ans. : The story emphasizes that although humans in space mainly depend on sophisticated technology, nature can occasionally be much more useful. A small bird named Claribel was able to identify an issue that more complex machines were unable to do. This implies that biological processes and instincts have intrinsic worth. The narrative serves as a reminder that not everything must be automated. In its most basic form, nature can frequently accomplish goals that technology cannot.

47. How does the story portray Sven Olsen's character?

Ans. : In the story, Sven Olsen is shown as a quiet, wiry man who satisfies the physical demands of space travel. By bringing Claribel aboard in secret despite no formal permission, he demonstrates his compassion and even a hint of rebellion. Claribel helps prevent danger, proving that his foresight in keeping the canary was appropriate. Sven loves safety even if it means breaking some regulations. He is also sensible and observant.

*** Read the following prose extract carefully and answer the questions given below: [20]**

Sven was one of our best construction men, and excelled at the tricky and specialised work of collecting assorted girders as they floated around in free fall, making them do the slow-motion, three-dimensional ballet that would get them into their right positions, and fusing the pieces together when they were precisely dovetailed into the intended pattern: it was a skilled and difficult job, for a space suit is not the most convenient of garbs in which to work.

48. What can be inferred about Sven's abilities from his job description?

(a) He is good at following instructions but lacks creativity.

- (b) He possesses a strong understanding of working in space.
- (c) He struggles with the complexities of construction in space.
- (d) He prefers working on simpler tasks rather than complex jobs.

49. How can we conclude that Sven was working in zero gravity?

50. Select the option that is correct for both (Assertion) A and (Reason) R.

(A) : Sven's job required him to make girders perform a 'three-dimensional ballet' in space.

(R) : Working in zero gravity allows objects to float, making precise positioning more challenging.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

51. Replace the underlined word with a word similar in meaning from the extract.

During the festival, people wore colourful outfits that represented their culture.

Ans. : 1. (b) He possesses a strong understanding of working in space.

2. We can infer that Sven was operating in zero gravity because the sentence refers to girders "floating around in free fall" and the task as a "slow-motion, three-dimensional ballet". A zero-gravity environment where items float and move slowly is evident from these descriptions.

3. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

4. Rewritten sentence : During the festival, people wore colourful garbs that represented their culture.

"Jim!" There's something wrong with the air! That's why Claribel's passed out. I've just remembered that miners used to carry canaries down to warn them of gas."

"Nonsense!" said Jim. "The alarms would have gone off. We've got duplicate circuits, operating independently."

"Er-the second alarm circuit isn't connected up yet," his assistant reminded him. That shook Jim; he left without a word, while we stood arguing and passing the oxygen bottle around like a pipe of peace.

52. Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The narrator references canaries and miners in order to _____.

(highlight the historical use of canaries as warning systems/explain the reason that caused Claribel to faint suddenly)

53. Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.

Jim initially dismisses the warning about the air because _____.

54. What does the phrase 'shook Jim' mean in the context of the information in the extract?

Jim was _____.

- (a) physically pushed by someone
- (b) startled by unexpected information

- (c) cold and needed to warm up
- (d) trying to shake off sleepiness

55. What does the crew's action of passing the oxygen bottle around 'like a pipe of peace' suggest about their response to the situation?

Ans. : 1. The narrator references canaries and miners in order to **highlight the historical use of canaries as warning systems.**

2. Jim initially dismisses the warning about the air because **he trusted the station's alarm system and believed it would have gone off if something was wrong.**

3. (b) startled by unexpected information

4. It suggests that the crew was calm, cooperative, and united in handling the emergency together, much like how a "pipe of peace" symbolizes shared understanding and harmony among people.

To the best of my knowledge, there's never been a regulation that forbids one to keep pets in a space station. No one ever thought it was necessary-and even had such a rule existed, I am quite certain that Sven Olsen would have ignored it.

Actually, he was a wiry little fellow, like most of the early spacers, and managed to qualify easily for the 150-pound bonus that kept so many of us on a reducing diet. Had he been built otherwise, his chances of getting a job in space would have been very slim.

56. Was there ever a regulation against keeping pets in a space station?

57. Who would have ignored the rule even if it existed?

58. What does the writer imply about Sven's determination?

59. Find a word from the passage which is opposite in meaning to 'chubby'.

Ans. : 1. No, there was never a regulation that forbade keeping pets in a space station.

2. Sven Olsen would have ignored it.

3. The writer implies that he was determined to work in space and would ignore rules if necessary.

4. 'wiry'

I first became aware that Claribel was aboard when I was sitting in the little cubbyhole laughingly called my office, checking through my lists of technical stores to decide what items we'd be running out of next. When I heard the musical whistle beside my ear, I assumed that it had come over the station intercom, and waited for an announcement to follow. It didn't; instead, there was a long and involved pattern of melody that made me look up with such a start that I forgot all about the angle beam just behind my head. When the stars had ceased to explode before my eyes, I had my first view of Claribel.

60. What task was the narrator performing when he first heard Claribel?

61. What did the narrator see after his surprise reaction?

62. What did the narrator assume on hearing the musical whistle?
63. Find a word from the passage which means 'stopped'.

Ans. : 1. The narrator was checking through his lists of technical stores when he first heard Claribel.
2. The narrator saw Claribel for the first time.
3. He assumed that it had come over the station intercom.
4. 'ceased'

We were now on twelve-hour watches, which was not as bad as it sounds, since you need little sleep in space. Though of course there is no 'day' and 'night' when you are floating in permanent sunlight, it was still convenient to stick to the terms. Certainly, when I woke that 'morning' it felt like 6:00 a.m. on Earth. I had a nagging headache, and vague memories of fitful, disturbed dreams. It took me ages to undo my bunk straps, and I was still only half awake when I joined the remainder of the duty crew in the mess. Breakfast was unusually quiet, and there was one seat vacant.

64. Why were twelve-hour watches not difficult in space?
65. What difficulty did the narrator face when getting out of bed?
66. How many seats were vacant during breakfast?
67. Find the word from the passage which means 'rest'.

Ans. : 1. The twelve-hour watches were not difficult because people need very little sleep in space.
2. It took a long time for narrator to undo his bunk straps as he was still half awake.
3. Only one seat was vacant during breakfast.
4. 'remainder'

Student Bro

