

Maharashtra Board Class 10 My English Coursebook Solutions Chapter 3.2 A Lesson in Life from a Beggar

English Workshop:

1. Complete the following table:

Question 1.

Complete the following table:

Utterance	Who said	To whom
“Shwetha is a very beautiful girl, isn’t she?”		
“When a pony is young, he looks handsome?”		
“It’s a beautiful day.”		
“No, the sun is too hot.”		
“I’m all excited, it’s nice to meet old friends.”		
“Let’s chat.”		
“We won’t get a taxi in this rain.”		
“Then, what’s the secret of your energy?”		
“A beggar changed my life.”		

Answer:

Utterance	Who said	To whom
1. “Shwetha is a very beautiful girl, isn’t she?”	The writer	Meena
2. “When a pony is young, he looks handsome.”	Meena	The writer
3. “It’s a beautiful day.”	The writer	Meena
4. “No, the sun is too hot.”	Meena	The writer
5. “I’m all excited, it’s nice to meet old friends.”	Meena	The writer

2. State whether the following statements are (✓) or (X). Correct the wrong ones:

Question 1.

State whether the following statements are (✓) or (X). Correct the wrong ones:

Answer:

(a) The author and Meena were Wrong great enemies.

Corrected sentence: They were good friends.

(b) Meena was a very cheerful Wrong person initially.

Corrected sentence: Meena was forever unhappy.

(c) Meena stayed alone in an Wrong apartment in Delhi.

Corrected sentence: She stayed alone in an apartment in Mumbai.

(d) Meena was the second child of Wrong her parents.

Corrected sentence: She was the only child of her parents.

(e) The author spotted Meena at Bombay's Flora Fountain. [✓]

(f) The beggar and the young girl were playing on the road because there was a lot of traffic.

[X]

Corrected Sentence: The beggar and the young girl were playing on the road because there was no traffic.

(g) The scene of the beggar and the girl made Meena peep into her own life. [✓]

(h) The beggar became Meena's role model. [✓]

(i) It took Meena almost two years to put the change into effect. [✓]

(j) Meena was able to give Gurudakshina directly to her Guru, the beggar. [X]

Corrected Sentence: Meena gave Gurudakshina indirectly by sponsoring his granddaughter to a boarding school.

3. Choose the correct alternative and rewrite the sentences:

(Answers are directly given and underlined.)

Question (a)

Meena who is an LIC officer, is

1. a pessimistic person
2. an optimistic person
3. a disabled person.

Answer:

Meena who is an LIC officer, is a pessimistic person.

1. a pessimistic person
2. an optimistic person
3. a disabled person.

Question (b)

The writer was standing near Akbarallys, a popular department store because

1. she was waiting for her friend Meena.
2. she was waiting for the rain to stop.
3. she wanted to buy something in Akbarallys.

Answer:

The writer was standing near Akbarallys, a popular department store because she was waiting for the rain to stop.

1. she was waiting for her friend Meena.
2. she was waiting for the rain to stop.
3. she wanted to buy something in Akbarallys.

Question (c)

The only thought in the writer's mind till they reached the Grand Hotel was

1. why the rain was not stopping.
2. what had brought about such a change in Meena.
3. how the beggar had changed the entire life of Meena.

Answer:

The only thought in the writer's mind till they reached the Grand Hotel was what had brought about such a change in Meena.

1. why the rain was not stopping.
2. what had brought about such a change in Meena.
3. how the beggar had changed the entire life of Meena.

Question (d)

Meena sponsored the granddaughter of the beggar because

1. she was alone in her life after his death.
2. it was a token of respect to the beggar.
3. she was rich and so she wanted to help.

Answer:

Meena sponsored the granddaughter of the beggar because it was a token of respect to the beggar.

1. she was alone in her life after his death.
2. it was a token of respect to the beggar.

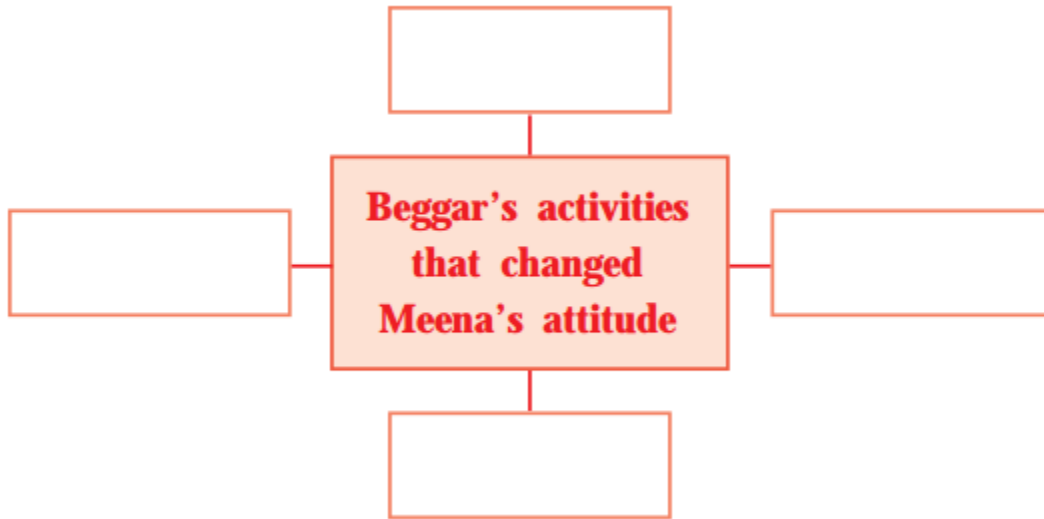
3. she was rich and so she wanted to help.

4. How did the beggar change Meena's attitude?

Discuss with your partner Complete the following web.

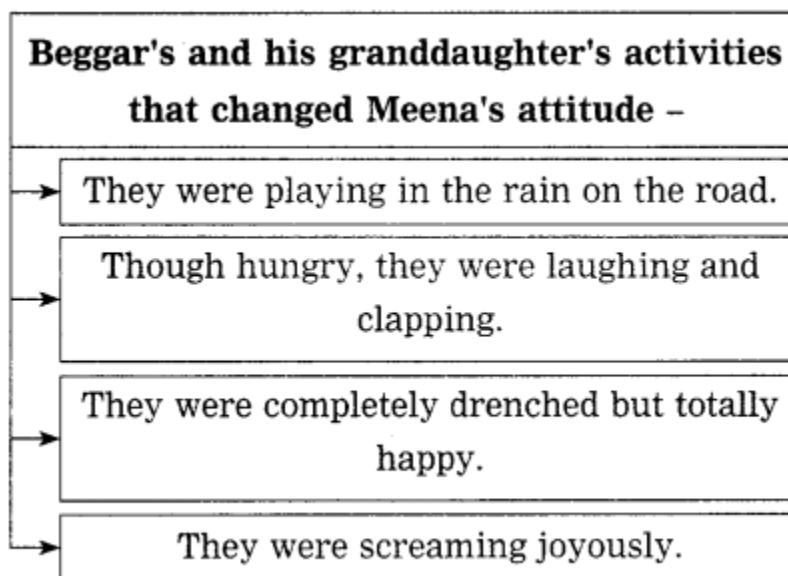
Question 1.

How did the beggar change Meena's attitude? Complete the following web with the help of the information from this passage:



(Answer is directly given.)

Answer:



5. Write in your own words:

Question (A)

How did Meena show her gratitude to her guru?

Question (B)

Why would Meena be sad initially? Give reasons. Pick out sentences from the passage which prove that Meena was a pessimist.

1. She was forever unhappy.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Answer:

1. She was forever unhappy.
2. Whenever author met her, she would start to feel depressed.
3. Her gloom and cynicism had a way of spreading to others.
4. She never had anything positive to say about anything.
5. She always had negative responses to everyone and everything.
6. She would be pessimist all the time.

6. Find antonyms of the following words from the story.

Question (A)

Find antonyms of the following words from the story.

1. optimistic ×
2. drizzle ×
3. lie ×
4. new ×
5. ugly ×
6. frowned ×
7. hell ×
8. unhappy ×
9. disrespect ×
10. unimportant ×

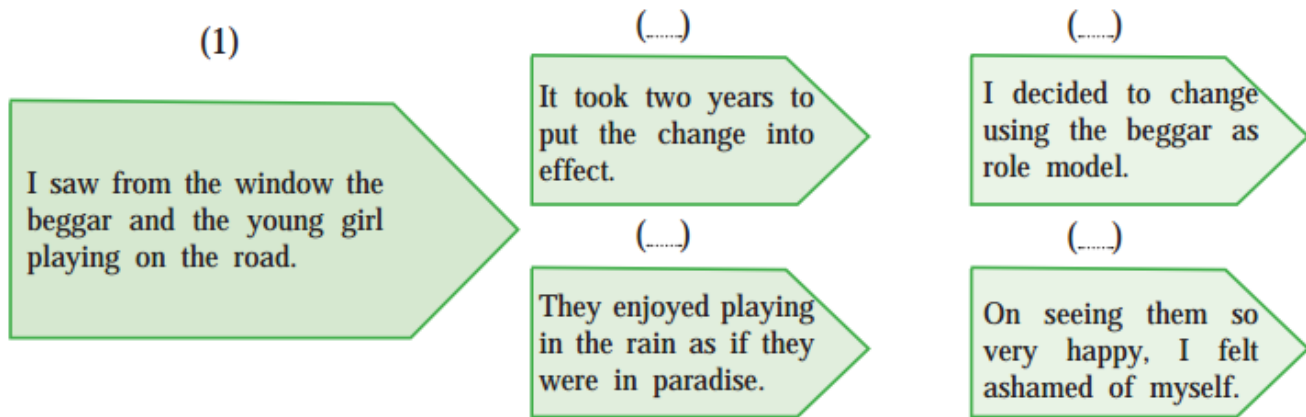
Answer:

1. optimistic × pessimistic

2. drizzle × pouring
3. lie × truth
4. new × old
5. ugly × beautiful
6. frowned × laughed
7. hell × paradise
8. unhappy × happy
9. disrespect × respect
10. unimportant × important

Question (B)

Go through the points below showing Meena's encounter with the beggar that transformed her completely. The sequence of events are jumbled up below. Arrange the events according to the occurrence. Fill in the number as per sequence.



Answer:

(1)

I saw from the window the beggar and the young girl playing on the road

(5)

It took two years to put the change into effect.

(4)

I decided to change using the beggar as role model.

(2)

They enjoyed playing in the rain as if they were in paradise.

(3)

On seeing them so very happy, I felt ashamed of myself.

7. How did the beggar change Meena’s attitude towards life? Write it down in 5 to 6 lines.

Question 1.

How did the beggar change Meena’s attitude towards life? Write it down in 5 to 6 lines.

1. The incident made Meena to look at her own life.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Answer:

1. The incident made Meena to look at her own life.
2. She realized that she had many comforts of which they had none.
3. But they knew how to be happy with life as it was.
4. She found that she had more to be grateful for than most people could imagine.
5. She felt ashamed of herself.
6. She decided to change her attitude towards her life.

8. Summarise the story with the help of the points given below.

Question 1.

Summarise the story with the help of the points given below.

- (a) Meena's initial attitude
- (b) Meena's meeting with Sudha Murthy in Mumbai.
- (c) Beggar's incident
- (d) Change in attitude.

Summary Maker

Dos	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use important/relevant points/incidents/events short forms of the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Select irrelevant/less important points/incidents/events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make a paragraph containing the message, theme etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● exceed the word limit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use your own language taking help of the sentences in a topic and key words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● reproduce/copy the text

Answer:

Meena and Sudha were very good friends. Meena was an LIC officer and earning a good salary. But she was always unhappy and never had anything I positive to say on any subject or about any person. So whenever Sudha met her, she would start to feel depressed. Meena stayed alone in an apartment and had the habit of complaining about anything and everything; she wasn't a very pleasant company and nobody wanted to visit her.

After some days Meena was transferred to Bombay and soon Sudha forgot about her. Many years later, Sudha was caught in the rain at Bombay's Flora Fountain. She didn't have an umbrella. She was standing near Akbarallys and waiting for the rain to stop. Suddenly she saw Meena. But her first reaction was to run. She was anxious to avoid being seen by her. But she couldn't escape.

Meena saw her and caught hold of her hands ; warmly. She was very cheerful and excited to meet Sudha. She was also ready to get wet and walk in the rain. But Sudha was so surprised that she couldn't believe she is meeting her pessimistic friend Meena. So she enthusiastically asked her, "Was there a Prince Charming who had managed to change her so?"

Meena told her there wasn't anybody like that but a beggar changed her life who used to stay in front of her house with his five-years-old granddaughter. She used to give her leftover to that beggar everyday. One monsoon day she was surprised to see the beggar. As it was raining heavily, she couldn't give anything to that beggar. She didn't want to get wet in that pouring rain she was just looking out of her bedroom window when she saw the beggar and the young girl were playing on the road because there was no traffic.

They were enjoying the rain and laughing, clapping and screaming joyously as if they were in paradise. Hunger and rain did not matter. They were totally drenched but totally happy. That scene forced Meena to look at her own life. Even though she had so many comforts, none of which they had. But they had the most important of all assets one which she lacked.

They knew how to be happy with life as it was. So she decided to change her attitude towards life using the beggar as her role model. It took her almost two years to put the change into effect but now she finds happiness in every small thing, in every situation and in every person.

Sudha was surprised to listen to the changed story of her friend and asked Meena enthusiastically, whether she had given any gurudakshina to her guru or not. But Meena told her that the beggar was dead and she had sponsored his granddaughter to a boarding school as a mark of respect to him. Sudha was stunned but happy to hear the changed story and attitude of her friend.

9. Write the above summary making Meena the narrator. Begin with I worked in Bangalore in LIC. Sudha was my school friend

Question 1.

Write the above summary making Meena the narrator. Begin with I worked in Bangalore in LIC. Sudha was my school friend

Answer:

Lesson in a Life from A Beggar

I worked in Bangalore in LIC. Sudha was my good friend, living in the same city. Being pessimistic and having the habit of complaining about anything and everything, nobody was friendly with me. One day I was transferred to Mumbai and no one was in contact with me. [Note: Students should try to complete the remaining part of summary of the story as told by Meena, in their notebook.]

Project:

Question 1.

Divide the class in four groups. Collect four different stories written by Sudha Murthy. Select a story for every group and write it in the form of a play. Enact it in front of the class.

Language Study:

1. Punctuate the following sentences:

Question 1.

(a) did you give any gurudakshina to your guru i asked.

(b) no there isnt anyone like that she said.

Answer:

(a) "Did you give any gurudakshina to your guru?" I asked.

2. Add a suffix to the following words and make nouns.

Question (a)

Add a suffix to the following words and make nouns.

1. kind
2. happy
3. ignore
4. assure
5. imagine
6. depute
7. manage
8. assess

Answer:

1. Always be kind to poor, needy and disabled people in the society.

2. Why don't you look happy today?

[Note : Students may frame sentences based on the remaining words on their own.]

Question (b)

Make four words (minimum 3 letters each). Using letters from the word 'Pessimistic'.

1.
2.
3.
4.

Answer:

1. Pessimist,
2. mist,
3. pest,
4. pet

3. Change into indirect speech:

Question (a)

“Meena, it’s a beautiful day.” I said.

Answer:

I told Meena that it was a beautiful day.

Question (b)

“Hey! I am really excited. It’s nice to meet old friends. What are you doing here?” Meena said to the writer.

Answer:

Meena exclaimed with excitement (joy) that it was nice to meet old friends. She further asked the writer what she was doing there.

Question (c)

“We won’t get a taxi in this rain,” I grumbled,

Answer:

I grumbled that we would not get a taxi in that rain.

Question (d)

“So what? We’ll buy an umbrella and then go to the Grand Hotel,” she said.

Answer:

Meena insistently asked her (the writer) what difference could it make and further told her that they would buy an umbrella and then go to the Grand Hotel.

Question (e)

“Did you give any gurudakshina to your Guru?” I asked.

Answer:

I asked her if she had given any gurudakshina to her guru.