

THE ENEMY

Q.1 Give two reasons why Dr Sadao was not sent abroad with the Japanese troops?

Ans. Dr Sadao was not sent abroad with the Japanese troops firstly because the General was ailing and might need an operation any time and secondly he was perfecting a discovery which was likely to 'render wounds entirely clean'. So his presence in Japan was indispensable.

Q.2 Who was the 'misty figure' that had been washed ashore in front of Dr Sadao's beach house? How did the doctor and his wife establish his identity?

Ans. The 'misty figure' who had been washed ashore in front of Dr Sadao's House was an American prisoner of war (P.O.W) who was fatally wounded. It appeared that he had been badly tortured and shot. His flesh had been scraped by the dangerous spiky rocks near the shore. Dr Sadao and Hana were able to establish his identity as a U.S sailor from the faint lettering on his battered cap that spelled 'U.S Navy'.

Q.3 How and why did Dr Sadao stop the bleeding of the injured man on the beach? What dilemma did Dr Sadao and his wife have to face soon after?

Ans. Medical Instinct and ethics made Dr. Sadao staunch the bleeding of the American

prisoner of war. He immediately packed the wound with wild sea moss to stop the bleeding momentarily. But soon he and his wife found themselves in a dilemma - should they save the mortally wounded man or hand him over as a prisoner, for he belonged to an enemy country.

Q.4 What makes Dr Sadao comment, "This man must have extraordinary vitality"

Ans. The American prisoner of war was bullet-ridden and his survival under all adverse conditions was nothing short of a miracle. Any other man would have collapsed due to gaping wounds, excessive bleeding and excruciating pain. So the doctor rightly says that the man has extraordinary vitality.

Q.5 What reason would you ascribe to the General beating his wife?

Ans. A psychological analysis of the General's personality would reveal that he is a cowardly person suffering from inferiority complex and believes in overprotecting himself. Such a person tends to exercise his authority on the weak and helpless. Probably that is why he beats his wife brutally.

Q.6 "Ignorance of the human body is the surgeon's cardinal sin". Do you agree

with the observation of the American Anatomy professor.

Ans. I do agree with this observation. A surgeon's main field of activity is the human body and if he does not have its thorough knowledge, he has no right to operate on it and if he does so, he is committing a "cardinal sin". It is nothing short of committing a virtual murder.

Q.7 Why does Dr Sadao mutter the words 'My friend' while treating the American prisoner of war? What is ironical about his words?

Ans. When one is deeply engrossed in one's work, one becomes oblivious of the surroundings and often mutters a few words aloud. Dr Sadao's is in habit of murmuring his patients and calls them "my friend". Here it is ironical because the patient Dr Sadao is operating on is actually a sailor of an enemy country and not his friend.

Q.8 Give details of the two things that happened on the seventh day after the wounded American was brought into the house by Sadao.

Ans. On the seventh day two important things happened as far as the Sadaos were concerned. Firstly, all the servants gathered their belongings and departed in the morning without having discharged their

Secondly, in the afternoon, Flana saw a uniformed messenger enter the house with the General's message.

Q.9. What secret plan did the General have about the American Soldier staying under the care of Sadao?

Ans. The General offered to send his own private assassins to Sadao's house to help him get rid of the American. He further informed the doctor that they were capable assassins and without much aid and noise would kill the man by causing internal bleeding. They would also dispose off the body, he assured Sadao.

Q.10. Why did Sadao feel that the General was in the palm of his hand?

Ans. Dr Sadao felt that the General was in the palm of his hand i.e. he was under his control because he was indispensable for the General's well being & survival. The General did not trust any other doctor. He knows that if he is arrested and tried for saving and sheltering an enemy sailor, the General in his own interest will see to it that no harm comes to Dr Sadao.

Q.11 Gazing out to the sea from where the young man had come, Sadao was reminded of other whitemen he had known. Who were they and what did Sadao

remember about them?

Ans. As Dr Sadao stood gazing at the sea, after the wounded American's escape he is remembered of a few persons he had met during his stay in America. He is reminded of the dull professor and his silly talkative wife where he had met Hana, his anatomy professor who insisted on 'mercy with the knife' and his fat and untidy landlady.

Q.12 If you were Dr Sadao, what would you have done to the American sailor?

Ans. I would have also done all I could to save the sailor from the jaws of death. Once he was fully recovered, I would have handed him over to the police to let the law decide his fate. This way I would have been true to both my profession and my country.

Q.13 How did Dr Sadao help the American prisoner to escape? What precautions did he want the man to take?

Ans. On the evening of the American prisoner's escape, after it got dark, Sadao dragged out his stout boat down to the shore, put food, bottled water & two quilts in it and tied it to the post. He gave his personal flashlight. He advised him to signal two flashes at the same instant the sun dropped over horizon. He warned him not to signal

in darkness. He also instructed him to eat raw fish only, for a fire would be seen. He then told him to row to a particular island and wait for a Korean fishing boat. Finally, he wrapped a black cloth about his blond hair and dressed him in Japanese clothes. Thus the American was able to make good escape with the help of Dr. Sadao.

Q.14 Give pen portrait of Hana.

Ans. Hana is a correct combination of head and heart. She is a perfect homemaker who is capable of switching over to any domestic role with ease. When her servants decide to leave her she steps into their shoes and discharges the duties of a governess and kitchen maid without demur and with efficiency. In her zest for patriotism she does not lose sight of the fact, that the wounded American is a human being first and an enemy afterwards.

Her active participation in all vital decisions that the couple takes, speaks volumes for her presence of mind, confidence and determination. To save the POW's life or to hand him over to the police, is the question that haunts her incessantly. Being cooperative and understanding, eventually she joins hands with her husband and renders all possible help to him in making the operation

a success. She is not the woman to dither before her domestic helps, yet she is magnanimous enough to make on-the-spot payment of their wages.

To sum up, she is an epitome of femininity. She plays the perfect wife, a capable and devoted mother and a skilled homemaker.

EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL

Q.1) What kind of a person was Evans?

Ans. Evans was a habitual and a congenital kleptomaniac. Currently he was serving a term in the Oxford Prison. He had been imprisoned earlier also and had broken jail thrice. He was a master planner. He was very sociable and knew how to keep intimate contacts at the right quarters. In the words of Governor, he was a pleasant sort of chap with no record of violence.

Q.2) How do you account for the fact that Evans selected German only for his O-level examination?

Ans. One can find two obvious reasons for this choice. First of all he was the only candidate offering this subject and secondly he had an excellent rapport with the German tutor who would eventually be instrumental in his escape. So he rightly opts for German.

Q.3) Who were the two visitors Evans received in the morning of the day of his examination?

Ans. The two visitors Evans had at 8.30 am on the day of the examination were the two prison officers namely Mr Jackson the senior prison officer of the prison's D Wing and a burly, swirly

looking man called Stephens, who had been only recently recruited.

Q.4) What made Evans clip his hair short?

Ans. Evans escape from the prison was a well thought of plan. The duplicate McLevery who was to invigilate during the O-level German examination had short hair. In order to give a practical shape to their plan Evans hair had to look like McLevery's hence Evans clipped them short.

Q.5) Why did the Governor instruct Jackson to search McLevery?

Ans. The Governor asked Jackson to search McLevery, the invigilator, just in case he has brought something unwittingly which might prove to be a potential weapon that Evans could use and hold him as 'hostage' and try escaping from prison.

Q.6) McLevery had a small semi-inflated rubber ring. What explanation does McLevery give about it? What did it actually contain?

Ans. Regarding the small semi-inflated rubber ring, McLevery tells Jackson that he is suffering from haemorrhoids (piles) and the tube helps him when he has to sit for a long time. Actually, the tube contained pig's blood which was treated properly against coagulation.

Q.7) What significance would you attach to the supposed phone call from the Magistrates' court was it genuine or just a ploy of Evans' gang? What was the purpose of the call?

Ans. The phone call was a hoax. The master planners had once again misled the gullible Governor by telling him that it was a call from the Magistrates' office demanding a prison van and a couple of prison officers in connection with a remand case. As a matter of fact the van was needed to make the final escape of Evans from the hotel possible.

Q.8) A photocopied sheet had been carefully and cleverly superimposed over the last (originally blank) page of the question paper. What was its real purpose?

Ans. The real purpose of the cleverly superimposed photocopied sheet on the question paper was to give the final details of the escape plan to Evans. It was also meant to make the authorities believe that the wounded man was actually 'McLerry' and that he wanted to help them rearrest the escapee.

Q.9) How did the Governor manage to reach Evans in the hotel?

Ans. The Governor finally realised that it was Evans who had gone out with Carter and that he was impersonating McLerry. He thought about the six-digit

reference on the answer sheet (Index no. and centre no. 313/271) put the two together and with the help of 'Ordinance Survey Map for Oxfordshire' reached the hotel.

Q.10) Jackson is really a 'Moron' and care-less enough to mistake a stranger's voice on phone to be the Governor's Discuss.

Ans. An officer, who is an important part of the prestigious Oxford Prison should have kept his eyes and ears wide open and shown vigilance. His mistook a stranger's voice on the phone to be the Governor's and calling Stephens excitedly shows how immature he is. He really is a moron, playing into the hands of the master planners.

Q.11) Out of sheer frustration the Governor tells the police officer to take the wounded man with him because, he is the only one 'who seems to know what's happening'. Do you think Governor committed a mistake here?

Ans. The wounded man, Evans is right before him. Agreed he is disguised as McLeery, but the Governor who has spent a number of years in this ~~line~~ line should have learnt to examine criminals minutely rather than getting flustered. Thus he plays the greater moron than his subordinates by letting Evans escape. This was blunder done by him.

Q.12) In spite of strict vigilance, how did Evans' friend manage to give the material for disguise in the cell?

Ans. Despite all vigilance, Evans' friend disguised as 'McLerry', the invigilator managed to smuggle the disguise material into the cell with ingenuity. He came wearing two parson's dresses with black fronts and collars. Apart from it he also brought an extra pair of spectacles. All this was passed on to Evans when Stephens' vigilant eyes were away from the peep hole.

Q.13) Who do you think is the driver of the van who eventually takes Evans to freedom?

Ans. The driver of the prison van who finally throws dust into the eyes of the Governor and leads Evans to freedom is McLerry because whenever he utters a word, the writer does not fail to add that he spoke in a 'broad Scots accent'. The driver too has a 'broad Scots accent'. Hence there is hardly any doubt about McLerry being the driver.

Q.14) What were the precautions taken for the smooth conduct of the examination?

Ans. Since Evans had already escaped from the jail on three earlier occasions, there was always a lurking fear that

he might make another attempt to escape. Therefore all possible precautions were taken to see that the O-level German examination arranged in the prison did not provide him with any means of escape. The Governor personally monitored all security arrangements and heavily guarded the Recreational Block. Evans cell was thoroughly checked by Jackson to ward off the possibility of any incriminating material which can be used in his escape. His nail scissors, nail file and razor were taken away. Prison officer Stephens was posted outside his cell to keep a constant vigil on his activities. Even the invigilator, McLerry was frisked to make sure that he carried no objectionable material with him.

Q.15) Reflecting on the story, what do you feel about Evans - having the last laugh?

Ans. In spite of all the precautions taken by the jail authorities to check Evans' escape from the Oxford Prison, this habitual jail-breaker outwits them and slips out of their hands. Right from the German teacher's entry into the prison to the last encounter of the Governor and Evans in the hotel. Evans outsmarts them and proves that they are a pack of 'good-for-a-giggle' officers who are no match to his crafty scheming. Neither they verify the German teacher's antecedents nor that of McLerry. Thus, both the accomplices of Evans help him to have his last laugh.

by befooling the authorities. Evans carries out all his plans right under the nose of the prison officers without arousing any suspicion. Even at the last moment at the hotel, when the Governor feels that he has finally nabbed Evans, the prisoner dodges him and slips away and thus has his last laugh.

Q-16} How does the story 'Evans tries an O level' bring out the virtue of sympathy? Discuss?

Ans. Crime is condemnable but not the criminal. Nobody is a born criminal and invariably circumstances lead a person to crime. Most of the prisoners in custody have one pitiable story or the other to tell. Thus the prison staff, who meet the convicts daily and constantly interact with them develop a rapport with prisoner. With the passage of time they begin to identify themselves with their pains and suffering and usually become sympathetic towards them.

The Governor has great regard for Evans' intelligence and his presence of mind and in the author's words Evans and Jackson are 'warm enemies' and that somewhere in his heart Jackson had a tiny core of compassion for Evans. Thus both have a soft corner for Evans. Their sympathetic attitude towards Evans proves that though against crime they

had no aversion for the criminal.

Q.17) Stuart McLerry marches ahead towards the Oxford Prison, do you get a hint here of his not being a genuine invigilator?

Ans. When the author writes about McLerry's suitcase, he meaningfully writes that it contains all that he would need for his 'morning duties', 'including things he would need for invigilation work, sealed question paper, envelope, a yellow invigilation form, special authentication card and the like.

Apart from invigilation stuff, which is insignificant for him, he is taking along with him the escape paraphernalia like the inflated rubber tube, the double parson's dress that he is wearing, the question paper where a photocopied sheet has been carefully and cleverly superimposed over the last page etc.

Q.18) Describe how Carter was dodged by the wounded man?

Ans. The wounded man dodged Carter by misleading him into believing that he had spotted Evans driving towards Epsfield Islay, so much so that they seemed to have lost track of the car. Carter left him at the Examination office to be picked up by the Redcliffe ambulance, but he slipped away before the ambulance arrived. He could not imagine in his wildest dreams that the man accompanying him was Evans himself.

Q.19) Draw a pen portrait of Governor.

Ans. The Governor of Oxford Prison is an officer of average intelligence, but unfortunately he overestimates himself. Rather than taking extra precautions like bugging the cell of Evans etc, he should have tried to understand Evans. He is poor judge of others' character. The vital matters needing his personal attention are often left to others by him. Searching McLeery, checking of Evans' cell escorting the so called wounded McLeery needed his attention but were neglected by him. However he shows streaks of intelligence and deducing power by correctly locating the hotel. But here too, he leaves vital issues in the hands of others and does not accompany Evans to the prison and eventually loses him.

Q.20) What is the message conveyed?

Ans. It conveys the message that presence of mind, a cool head, well planned and well turned moves can give one an edge over others. One should never take one's rivals for granted and should never jump to hasty conclusions as they prevent one from seeing the obvious. The story also conveys that a multidimensional approach is very important while tackling tricky problems and a ready wit adds spice to the entire scenario. Without these all our energy and endeavours prove to be nothing but a waste of time.

AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS -

Adrienne Rich

Q.1) Are Aunt Jennifer's tigers real? Give reasons.

Ans. Although, the tigers can be seen prancing about in the panel, they are certainly not real as they have been woven by Aunt Jennifer. They are merely embroidered on panel. Actually she wants to be like tigers, fearless and confident.

Q.2) What does prancing tigers symbolize?

Ans. Prancing tigers are a symbol of the spirit of freedom within Aunt Jennifer which remains subdued. They also symbolise her suppressed desire to shed fear of her male counterpart. A creator of tigers has to be unafraid and courageous.

Q.3) Why are they referred to as 'denizens of a world of green'?

Ans. The tigers which symbolically refer to the male counterpart, are the natives of the jungle or the green world. Besides the general meaning of the 'wild', the world of green can symbolise the male animal instinct.

Q.4) Why do the tigers not fear the man beneath the tree?

Ans. Unlike Aunt Jennifer, the tigers are fully conscious of their physical strength and power. So they do not fear the man

sitting beneath the tree.

Q.5) Explain "They pace in sleek chivalric certainty".

Ans. The movement of the tigers is sleek, graceful, elegant, majestic and royal. They are sure of their purpose. Gallantly and confidently they move ahead undeterred by any obstacles or hindrances.

Q.6) Why were Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer is a victim of gender oppression at the hands of her husband. She feels so nervous and terrified that her hands shake and flutter when she sits down to knit.

Q.7) Why does she find it hard to pull the ivory needles?

Ans. Suppressed under the weight of male domination, Aunt Jennifer has become a nervous wreck. She finds it difficult to pull the ivory needles through the tapestry more because of mental suppression than because of physical weakness.

Q.8) Why is the wedding band described as 'massive'?

Ans. The expression is symbolic of the fact of male authority and power. Matrimony binds the woman physically as well as mentally. Likewise Aunt Jennifer is trapped in gender oppression &

feels herself burdened by the authority of her husband.

Q. 9) How is Aunt Jennifer affected by the weight of matrimony?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer suffers from implied slavery and feels trapped in something more than gender oppression. Living in a male dominated world, she seems to have lost her identity. The freedom that she dreams of through her art is itself symbolic of her oppressed self.

Q. 10) "Aunt Jennifer's hands will lie" Explain Jennifer's death.

Ans. It is symbolic of her complete submission to her constraints. It also signifies her state of complete helplessness.

Q. 11) Explain 'Terrified hands'.

Ans. It is "Synecdoche". Aunt Jennifer has allowed herself to be imprisoned not only in the prison of the family ideology, but also in the prison of male chauvinism. Her terrified hands shows that even after her death could not liberate her from the chains of her mental suppression.

Q. 12) What are the hands still ringed with?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's hands are still ringed with or surrounded by the audaciously domineering nature of her husband. Thus they have the stamp of the trying time.

she spent in her husband's company.

Q.13) How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tiger's attitudes?

Ans. 'Denizens' means inhabitants and 'Chivalric' means gallant and fearless. Tigers are territorial by nature and take pleasure in being the masters of their domain. They are proud of their identity and position. The poet attributes similar traits of character and attitude to men who, like the tigers, love to be the masters of their domain. They do not fear men (hunters).

Q.14) Of what or of whom is Aunt Jennifer terrified with in the third stanza?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer is terrified of her harsh, callous, unfeeling and domineering husband whose wedding ring is still there in her fingers. Aunt Jennifer's fear of her husband outlasts her body and life. She is also afraid of the bondage that her marriage has turned out to be.

Q.15) Do you sympathise with Aunt Jennifer? What is the attitude of the speaker towards Aunt Jennifer?

Ans. Aunt Jennifer indeed deserves our sympathy. Despite all efforts to get rid of gender bias, she still remains victimised by the male dominance and gender bias prevailing in many societies of the world. Even the speaker feels sorry for her.

Q.16) What different feelings of Aunt Jennifer are revealed in the poem?

Ans. The three quatrains of the poem express different feelings of Aunt Jennifer as a victim of the male world. The first stanza expresses her fears, the second implied her slavery and the third shows the struggles and ordeals of her spirit.

Q.17) Describe the tigers created by Aunt Jennifer?

Ans. The tigers created by Aunt Jennifer are dynamic, dominant and full of freedom. They are bright and yellowish coloured. They are the denizens of the forest. They are chivalric, fearless and full of dignity and pride. They are self-confident.

Q.18) Do you think the poem has a veiled message in it? If so, what is it?

Ans. "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" is a feminist poem and the dominated state of the Aunt highlights the pitiable condition of a number of women exploited at the hands of men, particularly, their husbands. Thus the poem is a strong plea against such an exploitation of the fair sex.

It also conveys that the creator of beautiful art is a helpless weakling.