

## *THE GHAT OF THE ONLY WORLD*

Q1. Both of them had a huge roster of common friends in India and abroad. Both of them loved rogan josh. Roshanara Begum and Kishore Kumar were the favorites of both. Both of them shared a mutual indifference to cricket and an equal attachment to old Bombay films.

Q2. Shahid loved to socialize with his friends. Because of being highly gregarious there was never an evening when there was not a party in his living room. He was very fond of good food and loved to serve the same to the people around. He loved the spirit of festivity. This he said, meant that he didn't have time to be depressed. He was a great fan of Kishore Kumar and Roshanara Begum. He was also fond of old Bombay films.

Q3. Shahid knew that death would knock his door anytime but he was not in the least scared of it. He was rather philosophical about his death and felt that he would meet his beloved ones on the other Ghat (here, afterlife).

Shahid was in a hospital once to undergo a surgical procedure that was intended to relieve the pressure on his brain. When it was time to leave the ward a blue-uniformed hospital escort arrived with a wheelchair. Shahid waved him away and declared that he was strong enough to walk out of the hospital on his own. But he was weak enough than he had thought and his knees bent after no more than a few steps. His brother Iqbal went back for the wheelchair. Leaning against the cheerless hospital wall, extreme happiness descended on Shahid. When the hospital orderly returned with the wheelchair, Shahid gave him a wide smile and asked where he was from? The man replied that he was from Spain (Ecuador). Shahid clapped his hands gleefully and cried at the top of his voice that he always wanted to learn Spanish just to read Lorca (Garcia Lorca; a famous poet and dramatist of Spain).

Q4. James Merrill, the poet radically changed the direction of Shahid's poetry. After meeting James Merrill Shahid began to write with strict Metrical patterns and Verse forms. No one had a greater influence on Shahid's poetry than James Merrill. In the poem in which Shahid most explicitly prefigured his own death, 'I Dream I Am at the Ghat of the Only World', he awarded the envoy to Merrill: 'Shahid Hush! This Is Me James. The Loved One Always Leaves'.

Q5. Shahid was full of humour. His fatal illness didn't hinder him from making the people around him cheerful. Shahid was a great practitioner of repartee. Once he was questioned by a woman security guard that was he carrying something dangerous with him? Shahid worked poetry in his answer and replied "only my heart". In the hospital he told the hospital orderly that he wanted to learn Spanish but he had failed in doing so and missed to read Lorca.

Q6. Amitav Ghosh had promised to write something for his friend as was wished by Shahid himself. It was Shahid who actually wanted Ghosh to write something after his (Shahid's) death. This facilitated Ghosh to do what he was entrusted with. Shahid left for the other world (here, Ghat) and created a big void around.

Q7. 'The Ghat of the only world' is the title of the famous poem written by Aga Shahid Ali in which he remembers all his loved ones.

'The Ghat of the only world' is a friend's tribute. Ghosh recollects all the memories of his beloved friend to fulfill his promise.

This is as Shahid is going to die. After his death, he can only go to heaven. Here when the author says Ghat, he is actually talking about heaven. Heaven is the only place where people like Shahid can go after their death. Thus the chapter is called "The Ghat of the Only World".

### **CHARACTER SKETCH OF MRS BENNET**

The character of Mrs Bennet is very humorous. When she comes to know that a rich young gentleman, Mr Bingley, has taken the Nether field Park, she gets extremely delighted because she hopes that Mr Bingley might marry one of her daughters. Mr Bingley's being single makes Mrs Bennet all the more particular about it. She is very particular to develop friendship with the young man. She is very sure that the friendship will come to fruition, as far as, the marriage of one of her daughters is concerned.

She compels her husband Mr Bennet not to miss such an acquaintance for the sake of their daughters. She gets vexed when there is no response from her husband. Mr Bennet rather points out that she should accompany the girls and Mr Bingley might like her the best of the party. He even remarks that Mr Bingley might like Lizzy's trimming her hat. Mrs Bennet gets very sad on perceiving how her husband makes light of her worries. She is a mother but lacks the foresight. She gets irritated quickly and thereby proves to be very short-tempered. She is very firm that her design will bear fruit.

Q1. Netherfield Park is a house which is vacant for a long time. It was to let. A rich young gentleman, Mr Bingley, rents the house. When Mrs Bennet comes to know about it, she is extremely delighted because she hopes that Mr Bingley might marry one of her daughters and Mr Bingley's being single makes Mrs Bennet all the more particular about it. She tells all this to her husband. She wants him to form an acquaintance with Mr Bingley for the sake of their daughters.

Q2. Mr Bingley takes over the Netherfield Park. He is a young man of large fortune from the north of England. He earns four or five thousand a year and is unmarried.

Mrs Bennet has got three daughters of marriageable age and hopes that Mr Bingley might marry one of her daughters. Therefore she is happy for having a young and rich man in her neighbourhood.

Q3. Mrs Bennet insists her to make an acquaintance with Mr Bingley, who is young and unmarried man of large fortune, because she sees in him (Mr Bingley) a go-od match for one of her daughters, who are of marriageable age.

Q4. Mrs Bennet out of disappointment says these words to her husband. She wants her husband to form an acquaintance with Mr Bingley, a young and wealthy m-an, who has come to live in their neighbourhood. In Mr Bingley she sees a perf- ect match for one of her three daughters. Mr Bennet does not appear serious and teases his wife that the young man would be more delighted to see her and she should rather go and visit him. On hearing this from her husband Mrs Bennet gets vexed and says the given words or lines.

Q5. Mrs Long had promised that she would introduce Mrs Bennet and her daughters to Mr Bingley at the assemblies (gatherings). But Mrs Bennet doesn't think that Mrs Long would do any such act/thing. According to Mrs Bennet, she (Mrs Long) has got two nieces of her own and she would not like Mr Bingley to fall in love with any of the daughters of Mrs Bennet. So, she says that Mrs Long is a selfish lady and she would like Mr Bingley to marry one of her nieces.

Q6. Mrs Bennet comes to know that a young, unmarried and wealthy man has come to live in their neighbourhood. She sees in Mr Bingley a perfect match for one of her daughters. She insists her husband to make an acquaintance with Mr Bingl- ey for the sake of their daughters. But Mr Bennet pretends to have no interest i- n Mr Bingley. He rather teases his wife that Mr Bingley would be more pleased to see her. He even teases his daughters with witty remarks. Observing his daughter employed in trimming a hat, he says, 'I hope Mr Bingley will like it, Li- zzy'. Mrs Bennet feels annoyed for Kitty's coughing and scolds her. Mr Bennet says, "Kitty has no discretion in her coughs. Then Mr Bennet says, Let's return to Mr bingley". His wife Mrs Bennet cries out, "I'm sick of Mr Bingley". Only then does Mr bennet reveal that he has already paid a visit to Mr Bingley. It comes as a great surprise to the ladies. Mrs Bennet exclaims delightfully, "WHAT AN EXCELLENT FATHER YOU'VE GOT".

Q7. Mrs Bennet is a mother of three daughters who are of marriageable age. She in- forms her husband the Netherfield park (house in their neighbourhood) has be- en taken by a rich, young man (Mr Bingley), who has come from north of Engla- nd. In Mr Bingley she finds a good match for one of her daughters. Mr Bingley's being single makes her all the more particular about it. So she asks rather insists her husband to pay the young man a visit as to form an acquaintancewith him -(Mr Bingley) for she doesn't want some other mother with an eligible daughter would exploit such a golden opportunity. But Mr Bennet pretends to have no interest in Mr Bingley. He rather teases his wife that Mr Bingley would be more pleased to see her. He even teases his daughters with witty remarks. Observing his daughter employed in trimming a hat, he says, 'I hope Mr Bingley will like it, Lizzy'. Mrs Bennet feels annoyed for Kitty's coughing and scolds her. Mr Bennet says, "Kitty has no discretion in her coughs. Then Mr Bennet says, Let's return to Mr bingley". His wife Mrs Bennet cries out, "I'm sick of Mr

Bingley". Only then does Mr Bennet reveal that he has already paid a visit to Mr Bingley. It comes as a great surprise to the ladies. Mrs Bennet exclaims delightfully, "WHAT AN EXCELLENT FATHER YOU'VE GOT".

### **LONG WALK TO FREEDOM**

Q1. The Autumn Day here has a symbolical meaning. It symbolises the season of fruits when the South Africans will taste the sweet fruits (their freedom) after a long season/summer of oppression.

Besides South Africa is a part of Southern Hemisphere, where the autumn months are March to May while as in Northern Hemisphere these months are the time of Spring Season.

Q2. Mandela calls Apartheid an extraordinary human disaster and freedom from it as a glorious human achievement.

Q3. He mentions and sets various ideals for liberating his people (South Africans) from bondage which has been there. He mentions to liberate his people from poverty, deprivation, suffering and gender discrimination.

Q4. They had come to celebrate and honour the South Africa's first representative democratic and non-racial government. It signified the common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

Q5. He means to say that what he is today, it is because of the sacrifices of all those people who had gone before him. His becoming the first black president of India has not been possible without their sacrifices. That is the reason why he called himself 'simply the sum of all those African Patriots' who had gone before him.

Q6. Mandela is correct in what he says. Because the oppression in South Africa produced the great persons like the Oliver Tambo, the Walter Sisulu, the Chief Lutthulis, the Yusuf Dadoo, the Bram Fischers and the Robert Sobukwe who were the men of extra-ordinary courage, wisdom and generosity.

The deeper the oppression, the higher the character also proved true in case of Mandela as he felt not only for the oppressed but also for the oppressor. He saw the oppressor not as a cruel master but a helpless slave (prisoner) of hatred locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness.

Q7. The twin obligations a man has are the obligations to his family, parents, wife, and children and he has an obligation to his community and country.

Q8. Mandela experienced many hardships and felt that freedom was the ultimate goal. He was deprived of his freedom when it came to perform his duty to the family. He observed that South Africans were forced to live apart, a twilight existence of secrecy and rebellion and it shocked him. But slowly he observed that he was not the one whose freedom was curtailed but the freedom of everyone who looked like him. People wanted to be free and this gave a new meaning and impetus to his hunger. People instilled faith and strength in him. The South Africans were not treated as human beings and this made him to go ahead in his struggle for freedom.

Q9. Mandela observed that his people wanted to be free from slavery. This feeling in his people gave him a fresh impetus to fight for freedom. Now the hunger for his own freedom became a greater hunger for the freedom of his people. It was this desire for the freedom of his people that transformed Mandela from a frightened young man into a bold one, drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, forced a life-loving man to live like a monk. People thus were his power and strength.

### **CHARACTER SKETCH OF PAPPACHI:**

Pappachi had retired from government services in Delhi and came to live in Ayemenem. Pappachi found it difficult to cope up with the ignominy of retirement. Pappachi had no feelings of love for his wife Mammachi, who had taken to trade of pickle and jam making and thus had earned fame. Mammachi had almost turned blind due to conical corneas but Pappachi never helped her because he thought it improper and below his dignity. He lacked the qualities of a good and loving husband. Pappachi was egocentric. He would beat Mammachi every night but one such night Pappachi was warned by Chacko not to beat Mammachi again.

Pappachi was badly hurt by this incident. He was stubborn and thereby stopped talking to his wife and it continued till the end of his days.

Pappachi was a man of unusual tastes. He always wore a well-dressed three piece suit and his gold pocket watch just to struck an impression around, although, he would sweat freely inside. No one in the house was allowed to sit in his favorite mahogany rocking chair. After chacko incident, Pappachi would sit on the verandah and sew buttons on his shirt, though the buttons were intact. He wanted to create an impression that Mammachi had neglected him. He wanted to spoil the image of his wife. He also succeeded to some small degree in corroding Ayemenem's view of working wives. A great shock of his life was the moth which he had

discovered was not named after him. Pappachi had been an Imperial Entomologist but his designation was changed to Joint Director, Entomology.

Pappachi was 17 years older than his wife. He felt jealous of his wife who appeared to be still in her prime.

Pappachi always kept the photograph of himself as a young man on his drawing table. This photograph was taken in a photographer's studio in Vienna where he had done the six month diploma course in entomology. It was during those few months when Mammachi took her first lessons in the violin. The lessons were abruptly stopped when Mammachi's teacher praised the qualities of Mammachi.

At Pappachi's funeral, Mammachi cried. Ammu said "Mammachi was crying more because she was used to him than she loved him. She was used to having him slouching around the pickle factory and was used to being beaten from time to time."

#### **Character sketch of Mammachi:**

Mammachi is an admirable woman. Mammachi has taken to pickle-making commercially soon after the retirement of Pappachi (her husband). She has risen to fame in her trade.

Mammachi has almost lost her eyesight owing to conical corneas but she continues her trade of pickle-making in which she is not given a helping hand by her husband. Actually she belongs to a society which is dominated by men. She is used to the cruel treatment perpetrated on her by Pappachi. The poor creature never complains against the harsh treatment meted out to her. Although, she is busy in pickle-making, in order to bring prosperity to her home. She is not treated well. Pappachi is jealous of her rising fame.

Throughout the text it is clear that she is least bothered about the discovery of moth. She is a silent worker who has grown accustomed to her surroundings.

Q2. It is Pappachi's son Chacko who says these words. Chacko has come for a summer vacation from Oxford and he has grown very strong due to rowing to which he is very fond of. One day he hears Pappachi beating Mammachi and he quickly strides into the room and twists Pappachi's wrist (with which he has been beating Mammachi) at his (Pappachi's) back and warns him never to do that again.

Q3. Pappachi and Mammachi had nothing in common with each other. Mammachi was used to the cruel treatment perpetrated on her by Pappachi. Pappachi was of the idea that beating his wife up was his right. Mammachi cried at his funeral not because she loved him but because she had become used to his beatings and his slouching around the pickle factory.

It amazes the one how humans become habituated to unusual things which can make them to suffer various aches and pains. Such was the relationship between Pappachi and Mammachi.

Q4. In the story, we find two converse aspects of Mammachi's character. Initially we find her to be out of luck because of the unfair treatment she is meted out. She is a silent worker who is has grown accustomed to her surroundings. But later in the text we find how she persists with her job of pickle-making. She gets no help from her husband but she continues with her newly found lucrative venture of pickle-making. She earns a name for herself which Pappachi resents. Thus, she proves herself to be an independent and resilient woman.

Q5. It is apparent throughout the text that Pappachi's life is full of irony. Pappachi breaks his favourite mahogany chair but ironically no one shows any reaction. To impress the people around he drives his sky blue Plymouth but perspires badly inside his woolen suits. There is irony in the incident when after twelve years, he comes to know that the moth discovered by him will not be named after him, but ironically after the person, who was far junior to Pappachi and whom Pappachi had disliked always.

Q6. The instances of humour are as under:

1. Pappachi would sit on the verandah and sew buttons although every button was intact
2. Pappachi liked to struck the impression around while driving.
3. He put the moth in the sun for a few hours for alcohol to evaporate.
4. The discovery was of little importance as he was told that the moth had been identified as a slightly unusual race of well-known species.
5. After twelve years, he received a real blow as the moth deceived him(moth was named after a person who was far junior to Pappachi and whom Pappachi had always disliked).

### **THE SERMON AT BENARES**

Q1. A sermon is a long talk in which someone advises other people how they should behave in order to be better people. Whereas a lecture is a formal talk on a serious or specialist subject given to a group of people especially students.

Q2. A woman named Kisa Gotami had an only son and he died. She was so grief-stricken that she carried the dead child to all her neighbors asking them for some medicine that could bring her son back to life. No she didn't get it coz there is no medicine which can bring dead back to life.

Q3. After she spoke to Budha she became joyous. Budha actually asked her to get a handful of mustard seed from any house but a condition was set that no death had occurred in that

house. Kisa Gotami went to procure the mustard but before and getting it, she was told that the living are few, the dead are many.

Q4. Kisa Gotami became hopeless when she couldn't procure the mustard seeds. She sat down and observed the lights of the city as they flickered up and were extinguished again. She thought to herself that the fate of all men is such that their lives flicker up and are extinguished again. She thought that she had been selfish in her grief as death is common to all.

Budha wanted her to understand that death is common to all.

Q5. Kisa Gotami understood the reality only the second time. She understood death is common to all. Budha made her realize that she had been selfish in her grief. She realized that no one could escape death. Budha made her realize if selfishness is surrendered, it is a path that could lead one to immortality.

Q6. Selfishness is to think about your own advantage. Kisa Gotami was selfish in her grief. She had not realized that death is common to all and no one could escape it. Her selfishness made her think wrongly that there would be some medicine which could bring her dead son back to life. But the fact dawned upon her that everyone has to die