

## The Eyes are not Here

### Comprehension I: The Eyes are not Here

**Question 1:**

The narrator guessed that the couple who saw the girl off at Rohana was probably her parents because:

- a. They were middle-aged
- b. They seemed very anxious
- c. They accompanied the girl to the railway station
- d. They gave detailed instructions about the care she had to take

**Answer:**

(d) They gave detailed instructions about the care she had to take.

**Question 2:**

Why did the narrator feel he would never be able to discover something about the girl's looks?

**Answer:**

The narrator was blind and did not want to ask questions that might reveal his blindness. Besides, the girl was leaving soon.

**Question 3:**

The narrator was born completely blind. (Say True/False)

**Answer:**

False

**Question 4:**

What did the narrator infer when the girl was startled by his voice?

**Answer:**

The narrator inferred that, like many sighted people, she had not noticed what was directly in front of her.

**Question 5:**

The girl told the narrator that her aunt would be meeting her at Saharanpur. She likely mentioned this because:

- a. She wanted to introduce her aunt to the narrator.
- b. She wanted to signal that he couldn't take advantage of her, assuming she was alone.
- c. It was a casual remark.

**Answer:**

(b) She wanted to signal that he couldn't take advantage of her, assuming she was alone.

**Question 6:**

How could the narrator, being blind, describe Mussoorie?

**Answer:**

He may have seen Mussoorie before he lost his eyesight, as he was not born blind.

**Question 7:**

Why did the narrator remark that the girl had an interesting face?

**Answer:**

He wanted to please her and maintain the pretence of being sighted.

**Question 8:**

For the narrator, hiding his blindness was a (challenge/game/child's play). Choose the correct answer.

**Answer:**

(b) game

**Question 9:**

The new fellow traveller realised that the girl was blind. (Say True/False)

**Answer:**

True

**Question 10:**

How does the story conclude with a revelation?

**Answer:**

The narrator thought he was successfully fooling a sighted person. However, he realized that the girl was also blind and had been hiding it, much like he was. Both were unknowingly "playing the same game."

## **B. Close Study: The Eye Are Not Here**

Read the following extracts carefully, discuss them in pairs, and then write the answers to the questions given below.

**Question 1:**

"You may break, You may shatter the vase if you will, but the scent of the roses will linger there still...."

a. What figure of speech is used in the passage above?

**Answer:**

Metaphor

b. What is the vase compared to?

**Answer:**

A person

c. What does the shattering of the vase represent?

**Answer:**

A person's departure

d. What does 'the scent of the roses' symbolize?

**Answer:**

Their memories

**Question 2:**

"Once again, I had a game to play, a new fellow traveller."

a. What type of game does the speaker play with his fellow travellers?

**Answer:**

He plays a game by pretending to be normal-sighted, trying to deceive the other person.

b. What does this reveal about his attitude?

**Answer:**

It shows he resents his blindness and feels that sighted people are often overly confident in their perception.

c. Who had outwitted whom in the game the narrator previously played?

**Answer:**

The girl had outwitted the narrator.

### **III. Paragraph Writing: The Eyes Are Not Here**

**Question 1:**

Give examples showing how the narrator tried to appear normal-sighted during his encounter with the girl.

**Answer:**

- He initiates a conversation with the girl to engage her.
- He mentions that he "heard" her rather than saw her, keeping his blindness hidden.
- He describes Mussoorie in October as if he can visualize it.
- He sits facing the window, pretending to observe the view, and makes a casual remark about the trees.

- He comments vaguely on her face, saying it's "interesting."

**Paragraph:**

To initiate the conversation and prevent her from noticing his blindness, he described the scenery based on his memories. When he asked her a question about the view, she suggested he look out the window himself. To continue his pretense, he commented that she had an "interesting face," concealing the fact that he had no idea how she actually looked.

**Question 2:**

Everyone thinks they can outwit others, but sometimes they themselves are outwitted. Explain this with reference to the story.

**Answer:**

- The narrator enjoys playing a game of deception with strangers, concealing his blindness.
- He assumes everyone he meets is sighted and does not mention his own blindness.
- Focused on maintaining his act, he overlooks details about what the other person might reveal.

**Paragraph:**

After overhearing the girl's conversation with her parents, the narrator didn't catch anything unusual that would hint at her having a disability. He assumed she was sighted, unknowingly deceiving himself. It appears he also misled the girl, as she didn't realize that her fellow traveller was blind either.

**Question 3:**

The story concludes with the new fellow traveler informing the narrator that the girl was completely blind. How do you think the narrator would feel upon learning this truth?

**Answer:**

- The narrator is still absorbed in thoughts about the girl who just left.
- As the new traveller enters the compartment, he prepares to play his favourite game again.
- The traveller's unexpected comment about the girl being blind would likely shock and embarrass him.

**Paragraph:**

This twist offers both readers and the narrator a powerful lesson about how initial assumptions shape our perception (or misperception) of others and the world around us.

**IV. Vocabulary Exercises:**

**Here is the revised version of the exercise with correct answers filled in:**

**Question 1.**

\_\_\_\_\_ our many faults, our parents love us.

- a) Besides
- b) Even though
- c) In spite of
- d) Having

**Answer:**

(c) In spite of

**Question 2.**

It's late to go for a walk now; \_\_\_\_\_ it has started raining.

- a) in case
- b) besides
- c) however
- d) even though

**Answer:**

(b) besides

**Question 3.**

Do you enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ cricket?

- a) to play
- b) to playing
- c) for playing
- d) playing

**Answer:**

(d) playing

**Question 4.**

We are looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_ you again.

- a) to seeing
- b) to see
- c) see
- d) seeing

**Answer:**

(a) to seeing

**Question 5.**

Esther \_\_\_\_\_ with the dog.

- a) befriended
- b) made friends
- c) made friend
- d) made friendly

**Answer:**

(b) made friends

**Question 6.**

The balloon \_\_\_\_\_ when the child stepped on it.

- a) burst
- b) busted
- c) has busted
- d) had busted

**Answer:**

(a) burst

**Question 7.**

He would have attended the meeting if he \_\_\_\_\_ time.

- a) has had

- b) had had
- c) would have had
- d) had

**Answer:**

(b) had had

**Question 8.**

There were \_\_\_\_\_ guests today when compared to yesterday.

- a) less
- b) lesser
- c) few
- d) fewer

**Answer:**

(d) fewer

**Question 9.**

“Where are you? I have been \_\_\_\_\_ you the whole morning.”

- a) searching
- b) searching for
- c) searched
- d) searched for

**Answer:**

(b) Searching for

**Question 10.**

Reaching the top of the mountain, we \_\_\_\_\_ energy left for the descent.

- a) had hardly any
- b) hadn't hardly any
- c) had hardly any
- d) had hardly any

**Answer:**

(a) had hardly any

11. Everyone brought \_\_\_\_\_ lunch to the picnic.

- a) their
- b) there
- c) theirs
- d) his/her

**Answer:**

(d) his/her

**Question 12.**

The package containing books and records \_\_\_\_\_  
last week.

- a) is delivered
- b) was delivered
- c) are delivered
- d) were delivered

**Answer:**

(b) was delivered

**Question 13.**

Which hand do you write \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) in
- b) with
- c) on
- d) about

**Answer:**

(b) with

**Question 14.**

Noel, the little 'Power Ranger' shot \_\_\_\_\_ the  
criminal but he escaped.

- a) on
- b) at
- c) for
- d) no preposition

**Answer:**

(b) at

**Question 15.**

I have been trying to learn to play the guitar for so many years, but I \_\_\_\_\_ yet.

- a) did not succeed
- b) will not succeed
- c) have not succeeded
- d) had not succeeded

**Answer:**

(c) have not succeeded

**Question 16.**

It was difficult to see through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the headlights of the vehicles.

- a) brilliance
- b) dazzle
- c) shine
- d) glare

**Answer:**

(d) glare

**Question 17.**

The idea of a balanced diet is very difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone who is illiterate.

- a) put through
- b) put across
- c) take in
- d) makeover

**Answer:**

(b) put across

**Question 18.**

I had scarcely passed my twelfth birthday when I entered the inhospitable regions of examinations, through which for the next seven years I \_\_\_\_\_ to journey.

- a) will be destined
- b) would be destined
- c) was destined

d) destined

**Answer:**

(c) was destined

**Question 19.**

Growing up means \_\_\_\_\_ getting larger, using our senses and brains to become more aware of the things around us.

a) neither nor

b) either or

c) not only.. but also

d) both as well as

**Answer:**

(c) not only but also

**Question 20.**

I am not too sure but I think these are those books.

a) boys

b) boys

c) boys

d) Boyes

**Answer:**

(a) boys

**Question 21.**

When asked about the mischief, the three boys looked at\*\*

a) each other

b) one another

c) the other

d) one other

**Answer:**

(b) one another

**Question 22.**

My first impression of the site was one of disillusionment.

a) on arriving

b) at arriving

- c) while arriving
- d) when arriving

**Answer:**

- (a) on arriving

**Question 23.**

\_\_\_\_\_ my good advice, Latha walked home in the rain.

- a) Rejecting herself of
- b) Away from
- c) Contrary to
- d) With

**Answer:**

- (c) Contrary to

**Question 24.**

If you ask nicely, a mother will probably \_\_\_\_\_ the chocolate.

- a) let you have
- b) allow you to have
- c) allow you to have
- d) let you have

**Answer:**

- (a) let you have

**Question 25.**

Of the two toys, the child chose \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) the most expensive
- b) the less expensive
- c) the least expensive
- d) the most expensive of them

**Answer:**

- (b) the less expensive

## A. Modals

How good is your knowledge of your class/ school?

Answer the following questions using only the expressions

given below. Form groups of 4 each and read your answers to your group.

It could/might/maybe ..... (to express possibility)

It must be ..... (to express your conclusion.)

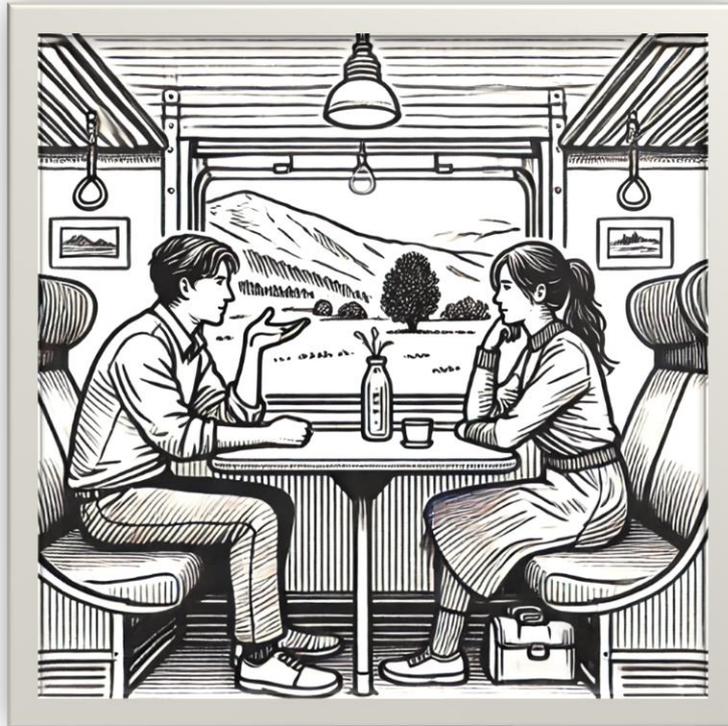
It can't be ..... (to express strong improbability)

1. Who is the most intelligent boy/girl in your class?
2. Who is the most diligent boy /girl in your class?
3. Which is the most useful subject of your study?
4. Which is the most unhealthy food your friend eats?
5. When will you get your progress card for the next exam?
6. Who is the heaviest eater in your class?
7. Who is the most responsible student in your class?
8. Which is the busiest month of your academic year?
9. Who will be the top scorer this year in your class?
10. Who has the most creative bent of mind in this class?

### **Answers:**

1. It must be Vijaya.
2. It may be the boy who sits in the 2nd row.
3. It must be English.
4. It must be Pizzas.
5. It might be two weeks after the next exam.
6. It can't be Bhim.
7. It may be Jagadish.
8. It must be in March.
9. It must be Narendra.
10. It may be Sunil.

## **The Eyes Are Not Here Summary**



"The Eyes Are Not Here" is an engaging and thought-provoking story by Ruskin Bond. The narrator, blind and able to distinguish only between light and darkness, is travelling on a train. Although he hasn't been blind from birth, he now plays a regular game of pretending to see, hoping others won't realize his blindness. When a girl enters the compartment, he listens to her voice and the sound of her slippers, pretending he is normal-sighted as he begins a conversation with her.

He opens by asking where she is headed, and the girl, surprised to realize she isn't alone, replies that she will be getting off at Saharanpur, where her aunt will meet her. They continue a light conversation, exchanging remarks about Mussoorie in October and the scenery outside. The narrator compliments her by saying she has an interesting face, and she responds that he is quite gallant.

Soon, her station arrives, and she begins to leave. The narrator feels regretful as he wishes to know more about her, even wondering about her hairstyle, but she bids him goodbye and

exits. As she leaves, there is a bit of confusion at the doorway, and another man enters the compartment. Noticing the narrator's serious expression, the man apologizes for not being as attractive as the girl who just left. The narrator seizes this chance and asks if the man noticed whether the girl had long or short hair. The man replies that he hadn't noticed her hairstyle—but that she was, in fact, blind.

The narrator is left in stunned silence, as he had not realized the girl's blindness. Throughout their conversation, she had replied thoughtfully and cleverly, giving the impression of being fully sighted. Just as the narrator had hidden his blindness from her, she too had hidden hers from him. This unexpected twist leaves both the narrator and the reader with a sense of irony and amazement, adding depth to the story and making it a truly memorable tale.

