



Sree Sainath Nagar, Tirupati – 517102

Holiday Assignment

Class : IX

Subject : English

A. Read the following passage carefully.

WELL RESCUED

Ulhas Mandlik, 35, a power-loom owner from Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra, and his mother were homeward-bound one evening when heavy rain forced them to take shelter beneath a bridge. Not far away, a small group of labourers huddled together under a part of the cement housing above a 16 meter deep well used to pump water for irrigation.

Suddenly, Mandlik and his mother heard the labourers scream. When the two got to the well, they were told that a five year old boy named Hariya had fallen in through a side opening in the structure. Ignoring his mother's fears, Mandlik quickly knotted together lengths of flimsy rope belonging to the labourers and asked them to lower him into the dark well. "I hope the rope holds," he thought. As he descended, Mandlik noticed the metal rungs on the wall of the well. He grabbed hold of one and started climbing down, when he saw the boy clinging to a pipe running up the well's centre. Grabbing the child, Mandlik started to climb praying that the old rungs wouldn't give away and plunge them both into the churning water below. Their luck held and within a few minutes, Mandlik clambered to ground level and handed over Hariya to his sobbing father. The man fell at Mandlik's feet and offered him some money as a reward. Refusing the cash, Mandlik took Hariya and his family to a nearby eatery and offered them steaming tea to warm them up. Several organizations have honoured Mandlik for his bravery and presence of mind on that wet day three years ago. "I am happy I was at the right place at the right time," he says, "and was able to return a little boy to his family."

Read the questions given below and write the option you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet.

(a) What first drew Ulhas and his mother to the well?

- (i) shelter from the heavy rain. (ii) the return journey home.
(iii) news of a small boy's fall. (iv) the labourer's screams.

(b) What were Ulhas' mother's fears really associated with?

- (i) the rusted rungs inside the wall. (ii) the risk to the life of the rescuer.
(iii) the churning water inside the well. (iv) doubts about the safety of the boy.

(c) Which of the following could be learning from the report?

- (i) it is best not to involve oneself involving others. (ii) one should not take shelter even in situations beneath a bridge in the rain.
(iii) one cannot predict when an accident may befall. (iv) metal rungs alongside the wall of a well may not always be useful.
any person.

(d) Which of these expressions best describes Ulhas in view of this incident?

- (i) disregard for an elder's warnings. (ii) disbelief in one's own abilities.

(iii) faith only in prayers for success.

(iv) concern for others with no expectations.

(e) Which of these did Hariya's father express on receiving his son?

(i) gratitude.

(ii) relief.

(iii) anxiety.

(iv) peace.

B. A list of books is recommended for you below. You must read the stories and write a review in about 120-150 words on any two books.

1. Kabuliwala by Rabindranath Tagore

2. Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand

3. Children's Omnibus – Ruskin Bond

4. Malgudi Days – R.K. Narayan

5. The Pterodactyl's Egg – Annie Besant

6. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain