



CLASS - VII ENGLISH NOTES AUGUST

5. When Life Came to a Standstill

I. ERC:

1. “It is just that split second sensation. There is no impact with a rock or the ocean floor or anything else at all.”

a) What is the 'split second sensation'?

The 'split second sensation' is a shock-like sensation.

b) Who experienced the sensation?

Preethi Srinivasan experienced the sensation.

c) What happened immediately after this?

Immediately after this, Preethi realised that she could not move.

d) Why are 'rock' or 'ocean floor' mentioned in the above line?

Preethi did not collide with a rock or the ocean floor when she dived into the water.

2. “But all this was nipped in the bud in a split second on that fateful day of July. The bitter truth that this meritorious girl had to swallow was that she would have to spend the rest of her life as a quadriplegic.”

a) What does 'nipped in the bud' mean?

'Nipped in the bud' means stopped at an early stage.

b) What was nipped in the bud?

Preethi's promising cricket and swimming careers were nipped in the bud.

c) Who is the 'meritorious' girl?

Preethi Srinivasan is the 'meritorious' girl.

d) Why is the day in July called fateful?

The day in July is called fateful because within a split second Preethi's world was turned upside down.

3. “Had the right diagnosis and treatment been done that day, perhaps things would have been different.”

a) Whose diagnosis and treatment is being referred to?

Preethi Srinivasan's diagnosis and treatment are being referred to.

b) What had happened?

While swimming at a private beach, Preethi had been suddenly paralysed.

c) What was the misdiagnosis?

Paralysis was misdiagnosed as spondylitis.

d) How could things have been different?

Things could have been different if she had been correctly diagnosed. She could have recovered or the impact may have been mitigated had the diagnosis been correct.

II. Short Answers:

1. Why did the group of college-goers stop on the way back from Puducherry?

The group of college-goers stopped on the way back from Puducherry to spend some time at a private beach owned by a classmate's father.

2. Why did Preethi stumble and what was she doing at the time?

Preethi stumbled because a receding wave churned the sand beneath her feet and tripped her. She was at the private beach and had just entered the water for a swim.

3. When did Preethi realise that something was wrong?

When, after a shock-like sensation, Preethi could not move at all, she realised that something was wrong.

4. What did Preethi do till she was rescued?

Preethi held her breath and waited till she was rescued.

5. Where was Preethi taken for treatment and what was the treatment given?

Preethi was taken to a hospital in Puducherry. She was treated at the hospital for spondylitis.

6. Which incident proved Preethi's immense love for cricket?

The fact that Preethi attended a cricket coaching camp that was organised for 300 boys shows her immense love for cricket.

7. What were her achievements in the field of cricket?

At the tender age of eight, Preethi was the youngest ever to play for the Tamil Nadu Women's Cricket Team. She had captained the Under 19 Tamil Nadu Cricket Team to its only victory in 1997.

8. How did Preethi's father ensure that her learning continued?

Preethi's father tried to get her admitted to some university in Tamil Nadu for a degree in Psychology. However, as she had to compulsorily attend contact classes and the buildings were not disabled friendly, she could not join anywhere. Hence,

her father brought her all the books so that she could continue her studies without a break, although she could not get a degree.

9. Whom does Preethi give credit to for her being alive today?

Preethi gives credit to her parents for her being alive today because they were with her every moment of every day, taking care of and encouraging her.

III. Long Answers:

1. What qualities do you think Preethi possesses? Give examples from the passage to support your answer.

Answers may vary. Accept all relevant answers. Sample answer—Preethi possesses exemplary presence of mind. She could monitor her own first aid even when she was in such a critical and painful situation. She possesses tremendous courage so as to not resign to her fate. She picks herself up and decides to help others like herself. Preethi is a great sports enthusiast. Above all, she is humane. Her understanding and sympathy for other differently abled people led to the founding of Soulfree.

2. Do you think we show enough respect and care for the disabled? Why do you think this is so?

Answers may vary. Accept all relevant answers.