

CLASS VII : UNIT ONE: THE ONE WHO SURVIVED: ADA BLACKJACK

2a. Ada decided to join the expedition as an assistant because she needed the money for the treatment of her only son. Ada's son Bennet was also very ill and needed constant attention and care. She lived with her grandmother. They were very poor and there was very little food left in the house. Ada had lost her husband as well and so no one was there to earn the money in their household. It was during such a time that Ada decided to join the expedition.

2b. Ada's skills as a cook and a seamstress helped her to become the assistant of a team of four men who are going to explore the Arctic. When the four men first met Ada, they thought Ada was a frail woman who would find it difficult to survive the harsh conditions in Wrangel Island. However, it was Ada who survived the expedition. She took care of all the men, cooked for them and sewed clothes for them. At a certain point, she had to take care of one of the men who fell ill, with almost no resources at her disposal. She learnt to hunt and it was because of these skills that she finally discovered that she was a good explorer too.

2c. Lorne Knight does not traverse the icy sea with Maurer, Crawford and Galle because he had fallen seriously ill. He was too frail to even sit up properly. The three other men who went out to traverse the icy sea and look for help did not return. They perished in the cold and in hunger.

Reading 2

a. Ada's ability to survive the bitter cold of Wrangel island without much food or clothing was a miracle because she was the only one who survived. The other strong and well trained men could not; all of them died. Though she was a skilled cook and a talented seamstress, surviving the Arctic without any help and all alone was nothing a short of a miracle. Her determination and the will to return home to her son helped her to learn how to hunt and survive.

SECTION TWO: PACKING

3. a. Jerome was not happy with George and Harris because they were just sitting idle and not doing anything to help him with the packing. Jerome had to teach them actually how to do everything.

When he had said that they should leave the packing entirely to him he had thought that he would be the boss and coordinate the activity; Harris and George would work according to his instructions.

3. b. George and Harris offered to pack the picnic baskets. They did so because Harris said that they had less than twelve hours time in hand before they had to start their journey. It was already 10.05 pm and they needed to finish the packing.

3c. Montmorency played his part very well. He came in and sat on things that the three friends were trying to pack. He put his paws into the jam and played with the teaspoons. He pretended that the lemons were rats; so he chased them and killed three of them. His contribution made the whole task more difficult and that is why Harris had to chase him with a frying pan.

3d. The foolish and funny things which George and Harris did when they started to pack the hampers are:

They broke a cup.

Harris packed the strawberry jam on the top of a tomato and squashed it; then he tried to pick it out with a teaspoon.

George accidentally trod on the butter.

They spread salt over everything and packed heavy things on the top of the pies and smashed them.

Harris sat on the butter which they had managed to scrape out of the kettle.

SECTION 3: TRAINS

1a. i. it is moving in the dark.

1b. iii. fascinate the poet

2a. The poet calls the trains tedious because of the long journey it makes every day. In the dark of the nights the trains move like huge elephants, in the hot afternoons when people sleep they still continue their journey. They go on through hills, bridges and streams never stopping for a while. Their restless journey continues all day and night.

2b. In the middle of the night the train reminds the poet of a huge crawling serpent. When he hears the low distant rumbling sound of the train he wakes up from his sleep and sits on

his bed rubbing his eyes. And beneath the flickering light of the moon the train appears like a huge serpent.

2c. The poem ends with an obvious question which arises in the mind of the poet. He asks the simple question; where do the trains go at the end of their restless journeys? This question puzzles the poet because each and every one of us at the end of each day retires to our homes and we go to sleep. But the trains are always moving. They cross bridges, streams, hills and plains- it seems to the poet that their journey is never going to end. It surprises him that the trains never stop, so he wonders whether the trains stop and rest at all. Thus he ends the poem with this question.

2d. Trains are fascinating because they help people to travel long distances. They can take us anywhere at any point of the day. It is a very useful mode of transport. One can avail this transport throughout the year. Trains are also capable of traversing forests, mighty streams, hills and plains. However difficult the road might be, a train can always help you to travel the distance you need to travel.
