

KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY

Class - VIII

Subject - English I

03.06.20

Dear Students,

Here is a Comprehension for you. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

(a) (b) can be answered by you. So solve it.

(c) part is new to you. It will be taught in the class.

Thank You.

Read the passage given below and then answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow:

Nevertheless, the actual struggle does not commence this moment. You have only placed all your powers in my hands. I will now wait upon the Viceroy and plead with him for the acceptance of the Congress demand. The fourteenfold constructive programme is, of course, there for you to carry out. What more should you do? I will tell you. Every one of you should, from this moment onwards, consider yourself a free man or woman, and act as if you are free and are no longer under the heel of this imperialism. 5

It is not a make-believe that I am suggesting to you. It is the very essence of freedom. The bond of the slave is *snapped* the moment he considers himself to be a free being. He will plainly tell the master: 'I was your *bondslave* till this moment, but I am a slave no longer. You may kill me if you like, but if you keep me alive, I wish to tell you that if you release me from the bondage of your own accord, I will ask for nothing more from you. You used to feed and clothe me, though I could have provided food and clothing for myself by my labour. I hitherto depended on you instead of on God, for food and *raiment*. God has now inspired me with an urge for freedom and I am today a free man and will no longer depend on you.' 10 15

You may take it from me that I am not going to strike a bargain with the Viceroy for ministries and the like. I am not going to be satisfied with anything short of complete freedom. Maybe, he will propose the abolition of salt tax, the drink evil, etc. But I will say: 'Nothing less than freedom.' 20

Here is a *mantra*, a short one, that I give you. You may imprint it on your hearts and let every breath of yours give expression to it. The *mantra* is: 'Do or Die.' We shall either free India or die in the attempt; we shall not live to see the *perpetuation* of our slavery. Every true Congressman or [Congress] woman will join the struggle with an *inflexible* determination not to remain alive to see the country in bondage and slavery. Let that be your pledge. Keep jails out of your consideration. If the Government keeps me free, I will spare you the trouble of filling the jails. I will not put on the Government the strain of maintaining a large number of prisoners at a time when it is in trouble. Let every man and woman live every moment of his or her life hereafter in the consciousness that he or she eats or lives for achieving freedom and will die, if need be, to attain that goal. Take a pledge with God and your own conscience as witness, that you will no longer rest till freedom is achieved and will be prepared to lay down your lives in the attempt to achieve it. He who loses his life will gain it; he who will seek to save it shall lose it. Freedom is not for coward or the faint-hearted. 25 30 35 40

From the speech during the passing of 'Quit India' Resolution—
Mahatma Gandhi

QUESTIONS

(a) Give the meaning of each of the following five words, as used in the passage:

- (i) snapped, (ii) bondslave, (iii) raiment, (iv)perpetuation, (v) inflexible.
- (b) Answer the following questions in your own words:
- (i) What should Indians consider themselves as the movement starts?
 - (ii) How and when does a bondman snap his chains and become free?
 - (iii) What would Mahatma Gandhi ask from the Viceroy?
 - (iv) What was Gandhiji's *mantra* for the people?
 - (v) What should be the pledge of every Congressman and woman?
 - (vi) Explain the underlying idea of the quotation : "He who loses his life, will gain it; he who will seek to save it shall lose it."
- (c) (i) Summarize Mahatma Gandhi's speech as given above in ~~60~~⁵⁰ words.