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The question answers of

'The Cold Within'

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Question 1. Extract.

~~noted~~ Six humans trapped by
happenstance

In bleak and bitter cold.

Each one possessed a stick of
wood.

As so the story's told,

Their dying fire in need
of logs,

But the first one held her back,

For of the faces round the fire

She noticed one was black,

The next man looking cross
the way

Saw one not of his church,

And could not bring himself
to give

The fire his stick of birch.

Q. 1. Who are the people referred to in the above extract? Why do they need logs?

Ans. The people referred to are six indifferent people who are trapped together by chance in biting cold. They need logs so that they can renew the dying fire to prevent themselves from cold.

Q 2 State how the following theme is connected with the theme of the poem. Their dying fire is need of logs.

Ans. Literally, it refers to the fire that is dying and needs to be kept alive with the use of a log. Metaphorically, it can

be understood as the fire of compassion in their hearts that is dying. To keep it burning what they need is a log of wood, but they do not use it. Thus, by the end each one of them dies from the cold within.

Q 3. What does the first one hold back and why?

Ans. The first person holds back her log because she was guided by her racist attitude towards the black man. So she does not use log to prevent the black man from getting its warmth.

Q 4. What character traits would you associate with the first one and the next man? Why?

Ans The first one can be said to be holding a racist attitude as she does not want to benefit the black man. The next man can be said to be a bigot who on seeing that one of the men in the group does not belong to his religion, prevented himself from using his log to renew the fires.

Thank you