



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

ENGLISH THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: XI Sec: ____

SHORT QUESTIONS

1 **Why was it hard for the author to believe that his grandmother was once young and pretty?**

Ans. The author had only seen and known his grandmother as an old woman. It had been the same situation for twenty years. As a child, therefore, he found it hard to believe that she was young and pretty once upon a time.

2 **Briefly describe the typical routine of the grandmother - Village – City.**

Ans. During her village life, every day she would prepare the author for school. She dressed him up, gave him breakfast and would accompany his grandson to school because his school was attached to the temple. While the children learned alphabets and prayer the grandmother would read the scriptures at the temple. But after she came to the city, there wasn't much to do. So she would sit and do some clothing work in her spinning wheel and at the afternoon she would feed the sparrows. These were her routines in both village and city.

3 **Mention the three phases of the author's relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad.**

Ans. The author's relationship with his grandmother went through several changes with time. In the first stage living in a village with her, his grandmother took care of all the needs of the child. She was quite active and agile. It was her domain and she was the queen of her kingdom. In this period she was the sole unchallenged guardian, mentor and creator of the child.

The turning point came in their relationship when they came to city to stay with the author's parents. In city, he joined an English School and started to go to school in a motor bus. Here the role of his grandmother in his bringing up was curtailed a little bit. Now she could not accompany him to the school. Despite taking lot of interest in his studies she could not help him in his lessons because he was learning English, law of gravity, Archimedes' principle and many more such things which she could not understand and this made her unhappy. She found herself at loss as she could not change the things her way. She was dismayed and withdrew herself to some extent. Perhaps she had realized that in the makeover of the child, her role was finished and this very thought saddened her most.

4 **What were the three ways in which author's grandmother spent her days after he went to school?**

Ans.

- Reciting prayers.
- Spinning the wheel.
- Feeding sparrows.

5 **The grandmother had a divine beauty. How does the author bring this out?**

Ans. The author brings out the inner beauty of the grandmother by comparing her to a snow covered winter landscape. This comparison shows her calmness and serenity. The author brings it out in the serenity and peacefulness that lit up her face.