

UNIT – 2 – PROSE
THE NIGHT THE GHOST GOT IN
JAMES GROVER THURBER

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

- a. Where was the author when he heard the noise?
The author had just stepped out of the bathtub when he heard the noise.
- b. What did the narrator think the unusual sound was?
The narrator thought that the unusual sound was that of the steps of a man walking rapidly. First he thought that it was his father or his brother Roy. Then he suspected that it was a burglar. Finally he concluded that it was a ghost
- c. What were the various sounds the brothers heard when they went downstairs?
They heard footsteps of a man walking rapidly around the dining table. Then they heard the steps running up stairs heavily towards them.
- d. Who were the narrator's neighbours?
Bodwell, a retired engraver, and his wife were the narrator's neighbours.
- e. How did the Bodwells react, when a shoe was thrown into their house?
Bodwell was shouting, frothing a little, shaking his fist. Mrs. Bodwell suggested to sell their house and move to Peoria.
- f. What did the Bodwells think when they heard the mother shout?
The Bodwells thought that there were burglars in their house.
- g. What was the grandfather wearing?
The grandfather was wearing a long flannel nightgown over long woolen pants, a night cap and leather jacket around his chest.
- h. What conclusions did grandfather jump to when he saw the cops?
The grandfather thought that the cops were all deserters from General Meade's army.
- i. Were the policemen willing to leave the house?
No, the policemen were not willing to leave the room without getting somebody.
- j. What made the reporter gaze at the author?
The author had put on one of his mother's dress. So the reporter gazed at the author.

Answer the following questions in a sentence or two.

1. Why was the narrator sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps?
The narrator was sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps because it was because of him that such a hullabaloo of misunderstandings was created at home.
2. Why did Herman and the author slam the doors?
Herman and the author slammed the doors because they heard the footsteps coming upstairs towards them.
3. What woke up the mother?
The slamming of the doors woke up the mother.

4. What do you understand by the mother's act of throwing the shoe?
I feel that the mother's act of throwing the shoe was incomparable. It was unwanted and unnecessary at that moment.
5. Why do you think Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house?
They felt disturbance when narrator's mother threw a shoe and broke the glasses of the window. Mr. Bodwell already had mild attacks earlier. He was afraid when the glasses of window were broken. So they wanted to sell the house and move to Peoria.
6. How did the cops manage to enter the locked house?
The cops broke and open the heavy front door by banging their shoulders against it.
7. Why were the policeman prevented from entering grandfather's room?
The grandfather believed that General Meade's men, under steady hammering by stonewell Jackson, were beginning to retreat and even desert. If he happened to see the cops he might mistake them for the deserters. So the policemen were prevented from entering grandfather's room.
8. Who used the zither and how?
Zither was used by the narrator's pet, a guinea pig. It would always sleep on the zither.
9. Mention the things that the grandfather imagined.
The grandfather imagined the cops as cowardly dogs and Lily-livered cattle.

B. Answer the following questions in about 100 – 150 words.

1. Describe the funny incident that caused the confusion in the house.

PROSE	:	The Night The Ghost Got in
AUTHOR	:	James Grover Thurber
THEME	:	Imagination of odd things leads to absolute humour
CHARACTERS	:	The narrator, Herman his brother, their mother, their grandfather, Mr. Bodwell and his wife & the cops

The narrator had stepped out of his bath tub when he heard the footsteps in the dining hall. He suspected it to be that his father and brother or a burglar. Finally he decided that a ghost had got in their house. He woke up Herman, his brother. He was alarmed. The narrator has only the bath towel around his waist. When they heard the footsteps coming up the stairs they rushed into the room and slammed the door. This woke up the mother. She thought that the burglars would have entered. So she wanted to call the police. They didn't know how to call the police. The mother took a shoe and flung it to the neighbour's house. The neighbour Mr. Bodwell, who had mild attacks earlier, was shouting. His wife thought of selling the house and moving over to Peoria. Then she called the police. About eight cops and a few reporters came and started banging the door. They broke open the door and entered. They created a hullabaloo and went upstairs. They ransacked the floor. One of them found an old zither. They could not find the burglars. Just then they heard a creaking sound in the attic. Grandfather was turning over on the bad. They went up to his room. He thought that they were deserters from Meade's army. He gave a smack to a cop. He pulled out the gun from him and threw it. That cracked the rafters. A cop shot grandfather. Later he went back to bed. The cops too left. At breakfast next morning grandfather told them that it was tough for him to look for water in the dining room the previous night.

2. Narrate the extensive search operation made by the policemen in the house.

A patrol wagon with eight cops and a few reporters came in a short time. They banged at the front door. They broke open by banging their shoulders against it. The bevelled glass broke into pieces. They threw all the doors wide open. Drawers were yanked open. Windows were shot up and pulled down. Furniture fell with great sound. About half a dozen policemen ransacked the floor. They pulled the beds from the walls. They tore of the clothes from the hooks in the closets. They pulled the suitcase and boxes off the shelves. The whole house was disordered and chaotic.

SYNONYMS		SYNONYMS	
absolute	complete	chaos	confusion
advent	arrival	cadenced	rhythmic
rapidly	quickly	despondent	deject, gloomy
ceased	stopped	instantly	immediately
faint	dull, not bright	trod	crushed heavily
burglar	thief	tiptoed	walked on toe
gripped	held firmly	pale	dull
slammed	struck violently	peer	look
ventured	risky journey, risked	gruffly	sadly
intuitively	instinctively	incomparable	unwanted
thrill	excitement	heaving	throwing
enormously	largely	fancy	attract
bang	hit	hoarse	harsh sound
bevelled	made to shape	bounded	leaped
whooping	Shouting loud	tromping	marching
emerged	Came out	ransack	search thoroughly, untidy
hysterical	emotional, panic stricken, nervous	snapped	spoke sharply
hammering	pounding	retreat	Withdraw
desert	leave, withdrew	evidently	obviously, apparently
fetch	gather	grabbed	seized
distinctly	clearly	phony	fake
wispy	lean	suspicion	doubt
frank	honest	gaze	look, stare
blaspheming	speaking in an offensive way	glare	stare, look
tarryhootin	lingering around shouting	bothered	cared
indignant	angry, surprised	frothing	foaming, to produce lot of saliva in mouth
demand	ask, request	yank	to pull with a jerk
suppose	assume, guess	rushed	hurried
excited	thrilled	commendably	admirably
sprang	leapt	intervene	mediate

ANTONYMS		ANTONYMS	
absolute	partial, incomplete	chaos	calm, peacefulness
advent	departure	busily	idly, inactively
cadenced	unrhythmic, nonmetrical	rapidly	slowly
faint	bright, strong	expected	unexpected
despondent	hopeful	ceased	continued
instantly	gradually	rushed	slowed
excited	unexcited, bored	narrow	wide
hoarse	smooth, soft, melodious	rending	fixing, joining
ransack	tidy	hysterical	calm, peaceful
retreat	forward	evidently	doubtfully
indignant	calm, content, peaceful	distinctly	indistinctly
phony	genuine, true, real	cursing	blessing

UNIT – 2 – POEM
THE GRUMBLE FAMILY
LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY

Read the following lines from the poem and answer the questions given below.

1. There's a family nobody likes to meet;
They live, it is said, on Complaining Street

- a) Where does the family live?
The family lives on complaining street.
- b) Why do you think the street is named as 'Complaining Street'?
The people in this street are always complaining and grumbling.

2. They growl at that and they growl at this;
Whatever comes, there is something amiss;

- a) What does the word 'growl' mean here?
'Growl' means the people make a low guttural sound about everything.
- b) Why do they find everything amiss?
The people are totally dissatisfied with their circumstances. So they find everything amiss.

3. Nothing goes right with the folks you meet
Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

- a) What is the opinion about the folks you meet down the street?
Nothing happens rightly for the folks you meet down the street.
- b) What does the word 'gloomy' mean here?
'Gloomy' means the people appear depressed and frightened in life.

4. The worst thing is that if anyone stays
Among them too long, he will learn their ways;

- a) What is the worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them?
If anyone stays with them they too will acquire their negative qualities.
- b) What are the ways of the Grumble family?
The grumble family is never satisfied in life. They are discontented. They aggressively grumble about everything. Nothing happens rightly for them.

5. And so it were wisest to keep our feet
From wandering into Complaining Street;

- a) What is the wisest thing that the poet suggests?
The wisest thing that the poet suggests is to keep away from their people and not to get acquainted with them.
- b) What does the phrase 'to keep our feet from wandering' refer to?
We should not walk into this complaining street even leisurely.

6. Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song,
No matter if things do sometimes go wrong;

- a) What does the poet expect everyone to learn?
Everyone should move around with a happy smile and a joyful heart.
- b) What should we do when things go wrong sometimes?
We should face life optimistically and happily when things go wrong.

B. Answer the following question in about 80 – 120 words.

- 1. Write a paragraph on 'The Grumble Family' and their attitude towards other folks.
The Grumble family lives on Complaining Street. No one likes to meet the members of this family. The family members are never satisfied with their life. They are also discontented. They growl disparagingly at everything. They find nothing right in whatever happens. Though their status is high they are called grumblers. They are always gloomy in nature and they never stop growling. Even if something good happens they grumble that they have nothing to grumble. It is not wise to walk into their street. No one should meet them. If not they will acquire the grumbling nature.
- 2. If you were to live in the Complaining Street, how would you deal with the people who grumble?
First of all it wouldn't be that easy for me to live in the Complaining Street. I have to be highly optimistic to face the grumblers. I would take the first step to meet them. When they express their dissatisfaction or discontentment I would tell them about the greatness of life. I would stress the need for change of attitude towards life. Despite their noble status the neighbours label them as grumblers. I would help them feel how their reputation is affected and motivate them to accept life as it comes. They should stop being pessimistic. They should understand that challenges in life should be faced with a fighting spirit and not by growling. Though no one wishes to relate to them. I would go wholeheartedly. By my positive thinking and enthusiastic spirit. I would slowly bring about a transformation for the better.
- 3. From the poem 'The Grumble Family' what kind of behaviour does the poet want the readers to possess?
'The Grumble Family' conveys an excellent message. We should accept life as it unveils before us. We should be optimistic to face the trials in life. Life is not a bed of roses; rather it contains thorns too. We must accept the joys and sorrows on equal footing and approach life without grumbling. Grumbling is going to bear fruit. It only creates more agony and stress. Pain and sacrifice bring patience and endurance. We should try to find a solution to the problem that brings displeasure and discontentment. We should not be pessimistic. We should see the lighter and better ride of over efforts and only then we will succeed. Success succeeds optimism, failure follows pessimism. We should also give the spirit of optimism to those who are dejected. Sad thoughts keep you down in sigh and sorrow! Joyful thoughts bring a better tomorrow!

UNIT – 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY READER

ZIGZAG

ASHA NEHEMIAH

A. Identify the speaker / character.

SL.No	Dialogue / description about the character	Character / speaker
1	'Even though I clearly said no!'	Dr. Ashok T.Krishnan
2	'The one that spits deadly poison straight into its opponent's eyes'	Maya
3	'Remember the tiny penknife he gave me last year.'	Maya
4	'It's Somu's thoughtless ways that reduce me to tears.'	Mrs. Krishnan
5	'Come in, Zigzag, come in dear!'	Visu
6	Zigzag must be Uncle Somu's pet snake.	Aravind
7	You're both quite mistaken.	Dr. Krishnan
8	It's his favourite pet, you know.	Dr. Krishnan
9	A talented artist	Mrs. Krishnan
10	Great hit indeed	Mrs. Krishnan
11	But Zigzag is different	Dr. Krishnan
12	May I take Zigzag to school papa?	Aravind
13	When is Zigzag coming papa?	Maya
14	This is Zigzag	Visu
15	How I'm going to miss him.	Visu
17	Twenty one languages, he supposed to know.	Mrs. Krishnan
18	We've been blessed.	Lakshmi
19	It's raining papayas and bananas in this room.	Lakshmi
20	The art critic	Mrs. Jhunjhunwala
21	Don't worry.	Dr. Krishnan
22	Er. why don't you wait in the car, Zigzag?	Dr. Krishnan
23	Don't you dare sleep!	Dr. Krishnan
24	You there in blue T.Shirt.	Zigzag
25	Don't swing on the curtain.	Zigzag
26	My boy	Dr. Krishnan

B. Read the story again and write how these characters reacted in these situations:

1. You're both quite mistaken.

Dr. Krishnan : He tried to remove their fear.

Mrs. Krishnan : She was filled with horror.

2. It's Somu's thoughtless ways that reduce me to tears.

Dr. Krishnan : He tried to ease the situation.

Mrs. Krishnan : She was irritated.

3. Just wait till zigzag settles down in this new home.

Visu : He comforted to the children

Aravind and Maya : They were disappointed.

4. Zigzag hardly never sleeps.

Somu : He made fun of Doctor's views.

Dr. Krishnan : He just read casually.

5. You are an absolute treasure

Dr. Krishnan : He had a sense of relief and sighed.

Zigzag : The bird was color and cool.

D. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Why did Dr. Ashok's cousin call him?
Dr.Ashok's cousin called him if they could keep Zigzag with them when he left for Alaska.
2. Mention two expressions which shows that Mrs. Krishnan was not willing to have Zigzag at home?
Mrs. Krishnan angrily responded to her husband when he described Zigzag. She was also irritated about thoughtless ways.
3. What other various pet did Somu have?
Somu had a giant green-and-gold fighting beetle, Spitfire, and African sidewinder, a pet make.
4. What was Mrs. Krishnan busy with?
Mrs. Krishnan was busy getting her painting ready for the exhibition next week.
5. What commotion did the boomerang cause in the neighborhood?
The boomerang sliced though all the TV aerials, damaged several cars and knocked out their watchman.
6. What happened when Somu left Zigzag with the Krishnans?
Zigzag was standing cool and unmoved. he had a grumpy expression in his cola-coloured eyes.
7. How did Zigzag communicate with the Krishnans?
Zigzag communicated with the Krishnans just by winking solemnly by dropping one wrinkled eyelid.
8. What was the e-mail message sent to Somu by Dr.Krishnan?
Dr.Krishnan asked Somu for clear instructions on how to stop zigzag from snoring.
9. What did Aravind confess?
Aravind tried imitating a caging lion, a hungry hyena and a ferious dog. He even tried a loud frightening coyote call. But Zigzag would not wake up. So Aravind confessed that African witch doctor's bird never obeyed scientific rules.
10. Why did Mrs. Jhunhunwalla buy the painting?
Mrs. Jhunhunwalla bought the painting because she loved the new technique of painting with streaky orangey bits.

Answer in a paragraph in about 100 – 150 words

1. Write in your own words the various commotions caused by zigzag at Dr.Krishnan's residence.
Aravind brought a plate full of juicy fruit slices and some nuts. Zigzag picked up a wallet, winked one eye and flew up to deposit the nut on the chandelier. Slowly all the nuts were transferred to the chandelier and on to the blades of the ceiling fan. After Vasu left it perched on the curtain and went to sleep with a big snore. The sound grew louder as if a herd of elephants were trumpeting in the room. It almost pounded their eardrums and their heads ached. Maya squirted water from the pistol gun wetting the curtains, sofa and the wall. Zigzag slept on undisturbed though Aravind tried his best with imitations of a roaring lion, a hungry hyena, and a ferocious dog and coyote call. Unable to bear the snore the family shunt themselves in the bedroom. Mrs. Krishnan was putting cotton wool in her ears. Just then their maid Lakshmi shrieking as if she had been electrocuted. Hearts hammering they rushed to the studio to find Lakshmi dancing and clapping. She yelled that it was raining papayas and bananas in the room. The family froze in horror. Lakshmi had switched on the fan. Half-pecked fruit streamed off the fan. A guava landed on her cheek. A walnut hit her forehead with a loud smack. A slice of ripe papaya whizzed off the fan splattering all over Mrs. Krishnan's painting. It spread streaks of gooey orange pulp and shiny black seeds all over it. Mrs. Krishnan groaned tragically and get ready to shoot down zigzag.

2. What was the turn of events when Zigzag was taken to the clinic.

The family refused to keep zigzag at home as it was not speaking but snoring loudly. So Dr. Krishnan had to take it to his clinic. On entering the clinic zigzag perched himself on the nurse's reception table. Dr. Krishnan sternly warned him not to sleep. Zigzag commandingly ordered the person in blue-T shirt not to jump on the sofa and the person in red dress not to swings on the curtain. There was absolute silence. Dr. Krishnan was amazed. Zigzag's bored and grumpy expression was gone. He looked happy and alert. He went about the job it had been trained for. He efficiently comforted the frightened patients, scolded the naughty ones and made the crying ones smile. The noisy clinic was calm and orderly. His yam-digging song and recitation of French poetry created laughter among the children. He never slept in the clinic.

3. Narrate the story Zigzag in a own words.

The family that shelter a new pet is totally taken up by the commotions it creates at home.

Dr. Krishnan's cousin somu, asked him to keep zigzag at home as he was going to Alaska. Zigzag was a most harmless unusual and lovable bird. But Mrs. Krishnan was not interested in inviting this new bird. She said that all the gifts given by somu had always created some inconveniences. She was also painting sunset at Marina for the exhibition. But uncle Somu had sent zigzag with visu, his old cook. Zigzag was brought home. He could talk and sing in about twenty one different languages and recite French poetry. But zigzag did noting. He was standing unmoved and cool with a grumpy face. When Aravind brought some fruit and nuts. Zigzag took them and deposited them on the enormous chandelier hanging from the ceiling. Then he began to sleep with a loud snore perching comfortably on curtain rod. The sound was deafening. The fruits kept on the fan blade flew when Lakshmi switched on the fan. The ripe papaya slice splattered orange pulp on Mrs. Krishnan's painting. She became ferocious. She told her husband to take zigzag away. Dr. Krishnan took to his clinic. There he began to talk to the patients and recited the French poetry. He announced the patients and kept the clinic orderly and silent. Dr. Krishnan was happy Mrs. Krishnan was also gland that her painting was brought a huge some because of the new style of painting. The family decided to keep zigzag with them in their house for another week.