Story 10 — A Mild Attack of Locusts

Text Book Exercise

Q.1 What are locusts? ٹڈیاں کیا ہیں؟

Ans: Locusts are a kind of insects which eat leaves and grass. In ancient times, they used to attack in swarms on crops. They can eat acres of crops and slumps of trees in no time. ٹڈیاں کیڑے مکوڑوں کی ایک قسم ہے جو پتے اور گھاس کھاتیں ہیں۔ پرانے زمانے میں وہ فصلوں میں موجود شہد کی مکھیوں کے جھنڈ پر حملہ کرتی تھیں۔ وہ فصلوں اور درختوں کے انبار کو فوراً چٹ کر جاتیں ہیں۔

Q.2 Why did the farmers throw wet leaves on fire? کسان گیلے پتوں کو آگ پر کیوں پھینکتے تھے؟ **(Bwp-G1)-16**

Ans: The farmers threw wet leaves on fire to make it acrid. Locusts ran from thick smoke so it was necessary to change fire into dark smoke by throwing water over it to make it acrid and black. کسان گیلے پتوں کو آگ پر اس میں دھوئیں کی تیزی پیدا کرنے کے لیے ڈالتے تھے۔ ٹڈیاں گہرے دھویں سے بھاگتی تھیں۔ اس لیے آگ کو گہرے دھویں میں بدلنے کے لیے اس پر پانی ڈال کر اس کو تیز اور کالا کرنا ضروری ہوتا تھا۔

(Dgk-G2)-16 **(Sgd-G2)-16** **(Dgk-G1)-15** **(Dgk-G2)-15**

Q.3 What was desire of every farmer? ہر کسان کی کیا خواہش ہوتی تھی؟ **(Lhr-G1)-16**

Ans: Every farmer desired to save his crops from locusts. Every one of them was trying to make enough smoke and noise to save his farm or fields from staying locusts. ہر کسان اپنی فصلوں کو ٹڈیوں سے بچانے کی خواہش رکھتا تھا۔ اُن میں سے ہر ایک اپنے کھیت اور فارموں کو ٹڈیوں کی نظر ہونے سے بچانے کے لیے بہت زیادہ دھواں اور شور پیدا کرتا تھا۔

(Rwp-G2)-15 **(Bwp-G2)-15**

Q.4 Did Margaret know what to do to keep locusts away?
کیا مارگریٹ جانتی تھی کہ ٹڈیوں کو دور رکھنے کے لیے کیا کیا جاتا ہے؟

Ans: No, Margaret didn't know how to keep locusts away from the fields. But soon, she came to know when she saw the countrymen burning fires and making noise. نہیں۔ مارگریٹ نہیں جانتی تھی کہ ٹڈیوں کو کھیتوں سے کیسے دور رکھا جائے۔ لیکن جلد ہی اُسے پتہ چل گیا جب اُس نے گاؤں والوں کو آگ لگاتے اور شور مچاتے دیکھا۔

Q.5 What was the condition of the trees? درختوں کی کیا حالت تھی؟

Ans: The trees seemed queer without leaves. Their boughs were clotted with insects. A branch snapped off to the ground due to their weight.
درخت پتوں کے بغیر عجیب دکھائی دیتے تھے اُن کی ٹہنیاں ٹڈیوں سے بھری پڑی تھیں۔ ایک ٹہنی زمین پر اُن کے بوجھ کی وجہ سے گر پڑی۔

Q.6 How did old Stephan treat the stray locust which he found on his shirt? سٹیفن نے کس طرح بھٹکی ہوئی ٹڈی کو ہٹایا جو کہ اُس کی قمیض پر موجود تھی؟ **(Fsd-G1)-16**

Ans: Old Stephen found a stray locust over his coat. He picked it up, and crushed it with his thumbnail. It was clotted with eggs inside. بوڑھے سٹیفن نے اپنے کوٹ پر بھٹکی ہوئی ٹڈی کو موجود پایا۔ اُس نے اُسے پکڑا اور اپنے انگوٹھے کے ناخن سے اُسے مار ڈالا۔ اِن ٹڈی کے اندر انڈے جمے ہوئے تھے۔

Q.7 Are hoppers different from the locusts? کیا زمینی ٹڈیاں، (فضائی) ٹڈیوں سے مختلف ہیں؟

Ans: Yes, hoppers are different from locusts. These are small, tiny locusts that stay in the beds of the fields and live there till they grow as locusts.

ہاں۔ زمینی ٹڈیاں، (فضائی) ٹڈیوں سے مختلف ہے۔ یہ چھوٹی چھوٹی سے ٹڈیاں ہیں جو کہ کھیتوں کی تہہ پر موجود رہتے ہیں جب تک وہ بڑے ہو کر ٹڈیاں نہ بن جائیں۔

Q.8 Did Margaret lose heart on the loss of crops? کیا مارگریٹ فصلوں کے نقصان پر مایوس ہوگئی؟

Ans: No, Margaret didn't lose heart on the loss of crops. She prepared meal for the men. She was ready to help in the replanting process. نہیں مارگریٹ فصلوں کے نقصان پر مایوس نہ ہوئی۔ اُس نے آدمیوں کے لیے کھانا تیار کیا۔ وہ دوبارہ فصل لگانے کے عمل میں مدد کرنے کے لیے تیار تھی۔

Q.9 Why are the locusts compared with bad weather? (Bwp-G2)-16 (Mtn-G1)-15 (Lhr-G2)-11

Ans: ٹڈیوں کا بُرے موسم سے موازنہ کیوں موازنہ کیا جاتا ہے؟

Locusts are compared with the bad weather because just like bad weather, locusts also destroy crops and deprive the farmers of their fruit of the whole season. ٹڈیوں کا بُرے موسم سے موازنہ اس لیے کیا جاتا ہے کیونکہ بُرے موسم کی طرح ٹڈیاں بھی فصل کو تباہ کر دیتی ہیں اور کسانوں کو اُن کے موسم کے پورے پھل سے محروم کر دیتی ہیں۔

Q.10 Why did the men eat their supper with good appetites? (Lhr-G2)-16 (Dgk-G1)-13

Ans: لوگوں نے رغبت کے ساتھ اپنا رات کا کھانا کیوں کھایا؟

The men ate their supper with good appetite because they wanted to refresh themselves to restart their work of farming and sowing. لوگوں نے بھرپور رغبت کے ساتھ رات کا کھانا کھایا کیونکہ وہ چاہتے تھے کہ خود کھیتی باڑی اور بیج بونے کے کام کو دوبارہ شروع کرنے کے لیے تازہ دم کر لیں۔

Additional Questions

1. What are Locusts? **(Text Q.No. 1)**

Ans. Locusts are a kind of insects which eat leaves and grass. They are the large insects that fly in large groups. They usually live in hot countries and destroy crops badly. They can eat acres of crops and clumps of trees in no time.

2. What does the swarm mean?

Ans. The swarm means an intense attack of locusts in a large group. In a swarm, the locusts move in groups, frontend group is called the guards and their following group is called the hoppers.

3. What did Margaret and her servants see over the rocky levels of mountain?

Ans. Over the rocky levels of mountain, Margaret and her servants saw a streak of rust-coloured air, i.e., a swarm of locusts approaching towards them.

4. How did Richard and Stephen summon the villagers at the crisis?

Ans. Richard shouted at the cook boy to beat the old ploughshare and Stephen yelled at the houseboy to collect tin cans or some metal scrap to summon all the labourers to resist the attack of swarm.

5. What was the effect of the clamour of the gong?

Ans. When the labourers heard the clamour of the gong, they came out, pointing at the hills and shouting excitedly. Soon they all had come up to the house.

6. Why did the farmers and labourers beat cans and other metal parts?

Ans. The farmers and the labourers beat cans and other metal parts to gather the labourers at the compound and to make the locusts run away from their fields.

7. How did the farmers try to prevent the main swarm of the locusts from landing on their farms? **OR** **(Sgd-G2)-15** **(Fsd-G2)-15**

What were the people doing to avoid the dangers of locusts?

Ans. In order to save their fields from the attack of locusts, the farmers beat tin cans and old ploughshares. They also burnt fires to make enough smoke to prevent them.

8. Why did the farmers throw wet leaves on fire? **(Text Q.No.2)** **(Bwp-G1)-16** **(Dgk-G2)-16** **(Sgd-G2)-16** **(Dgk-G1)-15** **(Dgk-G2)-15**

Ans. The farmers threw wet leaves on fire to make it acrid and black. Locusts ran away from thick smoke so it was necessary to do so.

9. What had happened to the crops of old Smith? **(Bwp-G2)-16** **(Mtn-G1)-15** **(Lhr-G2)-11**

Ans. Locusts had eaten up all the crops of old Smith.

10. What was the desire of every farmer? **(Text Q.No.3)** (Lhr-G1)-16 (Rwp-G2)-1 (Bwp-G2)-1

Ans. Every farmer desired that locust would overlook his farm and go on to the next. Every one of them was trying to make enough smoke and noise to save his farm.

11. How much area was affected by the smoke?

Ans. An area of fifty miles, over the countryside, was affected by the smoke.

12. What was overall effect of the fire?

Ans. The overall effect of the fire was a strange darkness in the sky. Though the sun was blazing yet it was like the darkness of a veldt fire, when the air gets thick with smoke.

13. Why was the sky darkened?

Ans. The locusts were coming fast to attack the crops. That is why half of the sky was darkened.

14. Where could the swarm be seen?

Ans. The main swarm could be seen like dense black cloud reaching almost to the sun itself.

15. Did Margaret know what to do to keep the locusts away?

(Text Q.No.4)

Ans. No, Margaret did not know how to keep locusts away from the fields. But soon, she came to know when she saw the countrymen burning fires and making a noise.

16. What did old Stephen tell Margaret about the attack of the locusts? (Grw-G1)-

OR

What did old Stephen tell Margaret?

Ans. Stephen told that they were finished as the locusts ate every leaf and blade off the farm in half an hour. And they need enough noise and smoke to run away them or to make them settle somewhere else.

17. What was the condition of trees? **(Text Q.No.5)**

Ans. The trees seemed queer without leaves. Their boughs were clotted with insects. A branch snapped off to the ground due to its weight.

18. Where were Locusts crawling?

Ans. The locusts were crawling everywhere on the land.

19. Why Margaret could not see the lands? (Lhr-G1)

OR (Dgk-G1)

Why was Margaret worried?

Ans. Margaret was worried because the swarm was so thick and she could not see the land.

20. How did the attacking locusts look? **(Dgk-G1)-16**

Ans. The attacking locusts looked like a driving rain. It was rust-coloured and bulging onward and outward. Even the sun was blotted out with a fresh onrush of them. It was a half-night, a perverted blackness.

21. Why did the main swarm looking for a place?

Ans. The main swarm was heavy with eggs. They were looking for some place to settle and lay eggs.

22. Why were the Men beating gongs even after the crops were destroyed?

Ans. The farmers continued fighting with swarms even after their crops were destroyed because they did not want locusts to stay and lay eggs there. In this way, the farmers would have to face hoppers for next three to four years.

23. How did the old Stephen treat the stray Locusts which he found on his shirt? **(Text Q.No. 6)** **(Fsd-G1)-16**

Ans. Old Stephen found a stray locust over his coat. He picked it up and crushed it with his thumbnail. It was clotted with eggs inside.

24. Why was the old man still worried?

Ans. The old man was still worried because, if the locusts had laid their eggs, they would transform into millions of hoppers. In this way, they would remain there for next two to three years to ruin their crops.

25. Did Margaret lose heart on the loss of crops? **(Text Q.No.8)**

Ans. No, Margaret did not lose heart on the loss of crops. She prepared a meal for the men. She was also ready to help the farmers and the labourers in replanting the crops.

26. Where did the men go off after the mid day meal and why?

Ans. After the mid day meal, the men went off to the lands as everything was to be replanted.

27. Why did the men hope for rain?

Ans. The men hope for rain to spring some new grass, otherwise the cattle would die.

28. What was the condition of the lands when the locusts moved away?

Ans. When the Locusts had moved away, the lands looked shattered and crushed. There was not a blade of grass left on the farms.

29. Why were locusts compared with bad weather? **(Text Q. No.9)** **(Bwp-G2)-16**

Ans. Locusts were compared with the bad weather because just like the bad weather, locusts also destroyed the crops and deprived the farmers of their fruit of the whole season. **(Mtn-G1)-15** **(Lhr-G2)-11**

30. What did Margaret feel of herself after the attack of the locusts?

Ans. Margaret felt like the survivors of the war. The devastation caused by locusts was not less than the devastation caused by a war for her.

31. Why did the men eat their supper with good appetite?(Text Q.No.10) (Lhr-G2)-16
(OR) How did the men show contentment? (Dgk-G1)-13
(OR) What did the farmers do after the swarm was over?

Ans. The men did their best the whole day to avoid the swarms. Now they were badly tired. So, they ate their supper with good appetite to refresh themselves and to restart their work of farming and sowing. It shows their contentment.

General Questions

32. What are the measures, the farmers should have taken to save their crops?

Ans. The farmer should have covered crops with the clouds of smoke. They must have managed enough tin cans and iron bits to run the locusts away well before their attack.

33. Write a note on the character of Margaret?

Ans. Margaret is a household lady in old Stephan's house. During the attack of the swarms, she attends telephone calls, prepares meals for men and collects information about locust's swarms.

34. Why were the farmers optimistic?

Ans. The farmers were optimistic because they hoped for getting new crops from the affected fields. They were determined to replant everything. They were optimistic for the good days.

35. Are hoppers different from the locusts? (Text Q.No.7)

Ans. Yes, hoppers are different from locusts. These are small, tiny locusts that stay in the beds of the fields and live there till they grow as locusts.

36. Why did the farmers want to kill the locusts? (Lhr-G1)-15

Ans. The farmers wanted to kill the locusts because if they did not kill locusts, the locusts would devastate their crops which mean their financial killing and the death of their cattle as well. (Dgk-G1)-13