

**2018 PT3 ENGLISH**  
**SECTION D - Q7 NOVEL (10 marks)**

1. Write about how the events in the story teach you to appreciate your friends or family members better. Provide evidence from the text to support your response.

**We Didn't Mean To Go To Sea**

In the novel 'We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea' by Arthur Ransome, some of the events teach us how to appreciate our family members better.

One of the events that shows this is when the children realised the boat they were in had drifted off the harbour and wandered into the sea. They were in the danger of having the boat hit the shoals and buoys. That was when John suggested that it would be best that they tried to steer the boat to the sea. Although the others were worried and panicked at first, they managed to pull themselves together and started following John's order. This event reflects how the siblings work together to overcome the challenges.

Another event that teaches us to appreciate our family members is when the siblings arrived at Flushing after braving the sea by themselves. They needed to stop to send telegram to their mother and get someone to help send them back to England. However, Jim told them that there were people who would ask a lot of money in return for such help. Worried that they might be the next victims, the siblings worked together and decided that the best way to show that there were no children on board was to make a lot of 'adult' noises. I admire and appreciate them for doing this because it shows that as family, we should work together to overcome challenges.

In conclusion, the events in this novel teach us to appreciate our family members better.

**Moby Dick**

In the novel 'Moby Dick' by Herman Melville, some of the events teach us how to appreciate our friends and family members better.

The crew members working for Captain Ahab are strong and skilled whalers. Their job is dangerous and they are away from their families for a long time. They spend most time at the sea. Despite that, they do their job willingly because it helps support their family. In the story, we could see how Starbuck argued with Captain Ahab when he did not want to stop the ship as there were problems with the oil barrels. He cared about the crew and their livelihood while Captain Ahab seemed to care only about the white whale. This event teaches us to appreciate our family members who work hard and sacrifice for us.

When Queequeg worked too hard on the barrels, he fell sick. He was very sick that he even ordered the men to build him a coffin. However, one morning he sat up and said he could not die yet as there were something he had to do first. Queequeg was a good friend to Ishmael and towards the end of the story, we could see how the coffin that Queequeg asked the others to build was actually to help Ishmael survive the wreck. This incident helps us to appreciate our friends better, just like Queequeg and Ishmael.

In conclusion, all of these events in the novel teach us to appreciate our friends and family members better.

**2. Write your opinion about the ending of the story. Support your answer with close reference to the text.**

### **We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

In my opinion, the ending of the novel, *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea*, written by Arthur Ransome is really good. I loved the ending of the story as John and his siblings together with their father reach Harwich safely after all the struggles they had to endure. The Walker children succeeded in overcoming all the obstacles on their unplanned journey to the sea while they were sailing on the *Goblin*.

I liked the ending because the children's father coincidentally saw them from his ship while they were entering a port in Holland and was able to get off the ship before it left for Harwich and was able to meet up with his children. They too were relieved that their father is now with them. Captain Walker's protective nature was clearly displayed when he decided to sail back with his children.

Furthermore, I have learnt the importance of family togetherness from the ending part. Mrs. Walker became upset when she saw her children at the harbour without their father as they promised her that they will be back in time to meet their father in Harwich. Finally, all the explanation was left to the father and it was neatly tied up with good values at the end.

### **Moby Dick**

I think the ending of the novel, *Moby Dick* by David A. Hill was most appropriate. I believe that Captain Ahab got what he deserves for being so consumed by the revenge he needed to get from Moby Dick, the white whale. It was only right that Moby Dick caused him to join it in the sea as there was no way Captain Ahab would have been satisfied otherwise. He achieved peace from the madness of revenge that had overtaken his mind only in death.

Queequeg is a strange but an interesting character. I would have preferred him to have survived in this story. I would also have preferred Starbuck and the other crew members to still have the *Pequod* to survive and make money for all the sacrifice they had to make on account of the crazy Captain Ahab.

The ending is so tragic with deaths of so many men. It made me sad and angry at the same time, that Captain Ahab selfishly brought others along with him, to their deaths except for Ishmael, to get his revenge on Moby Dick.

**3. Based on the novel, write about two moral lessons you have learnt from the novel. Support your answer with close reference to the text.**

**We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

The story, We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea tells of the sailing trip of the Walker children across the North Sea. There are a few moral lessons to be learnt and the lesson I have learnt is we must be prepared to take control or provide leadership when situation warrants it.

The Walker children face the unexpected situation of being out at sea in a yacht that belongs to Jim and they have no experience of sailing or managing a yacht. John is taught the ropes of handling the mainsail just before they get caught in that unlikely situation. He faces the heavy responsibility of looking after the ship and also the safety of his siblings. But, John with his natural leadership and as the eldest sibling takes control of the situation. He rises to the occasion very well and makes all the necessary decisions. He takes the risk of falling into the sea when adjusting the sails and the anchor. He gets the Goblin out to sea safely and then through the North Sea to the coast of Holland.

Susan does her part and shows leadership by taking care of the needs like a head of a family, preparing meals for them and taking over the steering whenever necessary. She worries about hurting their mother as they have broken their promise of not going out to sea.

She does not like the idea of breaking the promise they have made to their mother. However, she puts aside her worries and allows her sense of leadership take over - she prepares the meals and mothers over them making sure they eat well. She takes care of the two younger siblings well. When John almost falls into the sea while fixing the mast, Susan worries about him. Even when she is seasick, she puts that feeling aside and does what John instructs her to do, showing her leadership qualities.

I have learnt that we should be prepared to take responsibility and provide leadership when a situation demands it.

**Moby Dick**

The novel, Moby Dick tells of the whaling ship, the Pequod trip in the Pacific Ocean to hunt for whales but specifically for Moby Dick, the white whale. Captain Ahab is determined to take his revenge on Moby Dick for the loss of one of his legs and destroy it. The story teaches a few moral lessons and one of the lessons I have learnt is that team spirit and mutual support are essentials for the success of group work. Another lesson I have learnt is that leadership must lead by example and put the interest of the group first before his own.

The crew of the whaling ship, Pequod under Captain Ahab understands that whaling is their livelihood and the captain is duty bound to set his priorities right. They catch whales, extract the oil and then put for home. Under such circumstances the crew expect to work as a team with good team spirit and mutual support. Whaling is not an easy job and it is important for the whalers to have a common and mutual spirit for the benefit and safety of all. However, while the rest of the crew of Pequod have the same mutual spirit, Captain Ahab does not share the crew's feelings and spirit as a team.

Captain Ahab as captain of the Pequod should provide strong leadership and set good examples. First and foremost, he should give priority to the safety of his crew. Unfortunately, Captain Ahab falls short of good leadership from the aspect of the crew's safety. He is bent on taking revenge on Moby Dick and his whaling trips are clouded by his personal feelings so much so that he ignores the welfare of the crew members and forgets the reasons why

they are whalers. In the ensuing battle between the captain and Moby Dick, the whole crew including the captain except the narrator are destroyed.

The crew and the captain approach the situation with different frames of mind. There is no mutual team spirit and support in addition to a selfish leadership. So, the lessons I have learnt is that team spirit, mutual support and strong leadership are essential ingredients for situations that involve groups of people or teams.

**4. Based on the novels above, which character do you think is enriched with great values? Provide evidence from the text to support your response.**

### **We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

Of all the characters in the novel, We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea, written by Arthur Ransome, I regard John Walker, the eldest of the Walker siblings as a character who is rich with great values. He portrays admirable values such as courage, quick thinking and decisiveness.

When the Goblin breaks free from its moorings and starts to drift away, John decides to go to the open sea. He recalls Jim telling him that the safest place to go to is the sea to prevent running around the shoals. This proves that he is very decisive. He has the ability to make quick and effective decisions. His courage can be seen in the way he encounters the storm in order to save his siblings.

Without a doubt, he is also smart and quick thinking. He plots a plan to trick the Dutch pilot into thinking that there are adults on board with them on the Goblin. John may be a small boy but his character is enriched with all these great values which are the main factors for his success.

### **Moby Dick**

In the novel, Moby Dick written by David A. Hill, I admire Ishmael as he showed the value of friendship and loyalty. The friendship between Ishmael and Queequeg is something that I really admire. Despite the loneliness in the whaling world, warm friendship is shown between them. They get along very well and take care of each other.

Queequeg is a native of the Pacific Island whereas Ishmael is a sailor who decided to become a whaler. Both of them met under awkward circumstances. They became good friends after exchanging their life stories. When Queequeg was sick after the hard work of repairing the barrels, Ishmael was always by his side. Ishmael respected his friend's wish of having a coffin.

Towards the end of the story, Ishmael was helpless when he watched his friend sink together with their ship, the Pequod. He kept himself alive by climbing onto Queequeg's coffin and stayed afloat until he was rescued. I find that Ishmael's character admirable and rich in great values as he treasures his friendship with Queequeg and was loyal to him till the very end.

- 5. Based on the novel, write about one part of the story that you enjoyed the most. Provide evidence from the text to support your response.**

### **We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

The part that I enjoyed the most in the novel 'We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea' is when John Walker sees first, fishing boats and then, land. This is after spending the night alone with his siblings on the *Goblin* as he captains it across the open sea on a stormy night. Thankfully, this is not the only good news in store for the Walker children. As the *Goblin* sails closer to land, John spots his father on a Dutch ferry. Their father is able to get off the Dutch ferry and join his children on the *Goblin*. They sail into the harbour with the pilot's help. Susan is relieved that they aren't by themselves anymore and that everything will be alright now that their father is there to help them. With their father joining them, I also know that they will be safe and importantly, they don't have to return to Harwich harbour by themselves.

### **Moby Dick**

The part that I enjoyed the most in the novel 'Moby Dick' is when the sailors on *Pequod* spot their very first whale. It is an exciting time for them. It is during this time too that the crew see Captain Ahab's men. No one has seen these men before. They appear from below the deck. It is even more interesting as no one except the captain knows who they are. We only know one of the men's names when the captain calls him Fedallah. After this unexpected surprise, the other crew members join these men to catch the whale. It is interesting to read about how these men hunt for whales. They are huge but the men go after them in their small boats and harpoons. However, the crew of the *Pequod* is unsuccessful this time. It begins to rain and water fills their boats. The whale swims away.

- 6. Based on the novel, write about one of the themes? Provide evidence from the text to support your response.**

### **Moby Dick**

One of the themes in the novel 'Moby Dick' is revenge. This theme is clear through the actions of the main character, Captain Ahab. He is obsessed with killing Moby Dick, a great white sperm whale. His need for revenge intensifies as the story progresses. Moby Dick bit off his leg and Captain Ahab wants to kill it for revenge. He shows no concern for the lives of his crew members. He takes them on a whaling expedition which ends with them fighting for their lives against Moby Dick. The captain shows no sympathy for others. He does not want to help Captain Gardiner look for his missing son because he wants to keep on the trail of Moby Dick. His desire for revenge makes him act unreasonably. He throws his maps into the ocean and even threatens to throw a harpoon at any of his men who tries to turn the *Pequod* around so they can go home.

### **We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

One of the themes in the novel 'We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea' is bravery. John Walker and his siblings show how brave they are in different ways. Titty and Roger are most certainly frightened but they do not show it. They put all their trust in their brother and support him. Susan worries more and keeps asking John to turn back the *Goblin* when they go out to the open sea. However, she listens to his instructions and helps him when he needs

it. John shows courage in every decision he makes. Even though he makes mistakes in the beginning, he reacts quickly. He bravely deals with every situation and makes difficult decisions. He goes past the Beach End buoy, sails through the fog and then goes out to the open sea. He captains the *Goblin* across the open sea during a stormy night. It takes a lot of courage especially when you are sailing a big ship for the first time.

**7. Write the synopsis of the story that you have read. Provide evidence from the text to support your response.**

### **We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

The story centres around four children namely John, Susan, Titty and Roger adrift in the North Sea in a small yacht sailing to Holland. The boat, *Goblin*, belongs to Jim Brading who invites the Walker children to go sailing after getting help from them. Jim promises to their mother that they will not pass the Beach End buoy or go to sea.

However, the petrol runs out. Jim rows ashore in the yacht's dinghy but does not return. Sometime later, fog drifts into the harbour and the anchor starts dragging. The *Goblin* drifts past the Beach End into the North Sea. As night falls, the wind rises and it becomes impossible for them to turn around. They continue to sail before the wind throughout the night. The following morning, they find themselves approaching a coast which they realise is Holland. They bump into their father and return home on board the *Goblin*.

On returning to the Harwich estuary, they meet Jim Brading. Jim had been unconscious in hospital after being involved in an accident. They safely arrive in England and meet their mother and little sister, Bridget.

### **Moby Dick**

The story is about the voyage of the whaling ship, the *Pequod* and its captain, Ahab, who relentlessly pursues 'the white devil', Moby Dick during their journey around the world. Ishmael believes he has signed up for a routine commission aboard a normal whaling vessel, but he soon learns that Captain Ahab is not guiding the *Pequod* in a simple pursuit of commerce but is seeking one specific whale, Moby Dick, a great white whale; infamous for his giant size and ability to destroy the whalers that seek him.

Captain Ahab's wooden leg is the result of his first encounter with the whale, when he lost one of his legs and ship.

From time to time, the ship encounters other whaling vessels. Captain Ahab always demands information about Moby Dick from other captains. The *Pequod* encounters a whaling ship, the *Rachel*. The *Rachel*'s captain asks Ahab to help him search for his son but when Captain Ahab learns that the crew disappeared while tangling with Moby Dick, he refuses to help and rushes his crew to hunt Moby Dick instead.

Then, Captain Ahab is the first to spot Moby Dick. For three days, the crew pursues the great whale, which repeatedly turns on the *Pequod*'s boats, wrecking destruction, killing Fedallah, sinking the *Pequod* and dragging Captain Ahab and his crew into the sea. The encounter with Moby Dick brings a tragic end to the affair. Only Ishmael survives, clinging to Queequeg's coffin. He floats for a day and a night before the *Rachel* rescues him.

## 8. Based on the novel, which part of the novel do you find interesting?

### **We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea**

The most interesting part of the novel, *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea*, written by Arthur Ransome, is when the Goblin breaks free from its moorings and starts to drift away. This is when action and suspense begin to take place. The big waves, dark night and heavy rains coupled with the children's desperate actions to survive being out at sea made the danger seem so real.

John's quick thinking and courage was indeed admirable. He is not an adult but he rises to the occasion by taking charge and overcoming all obstacles during the dangerous journey. To me, the part where the children were on their own in the open sea, facing harsh conditions of the environment is definitely the most interesting part of this novel.

### **Moby Dick**

The most interesting part of the novel, *Moby Dick* written by David A. Hill, is the encounter between Captain Ahab and the great white whale, Moby Dick. The captain of the whaling ship, the *Pequod* is obsessive and vengeful as he only cares about hunting Moby Dick as he blames the whale for losing his leg.

I felt excited reading towards the end of the novel as it was-the final confrontation between the man and, the animal. When Captain Ahab decides to pursue Moby Dick after spotting it, the story became even more interesting. For three days, the crew pursues Moby Dick. The great white whale repeatedly turns on the *Pequod's* boats, causing destruction, killing Fedallah, sinking the *Pequod* and dragging the captain and his crew into the sea. The encounter with the incredibly strong animal finally brings the affair to a tragic end.