

1. Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage. Then present your interpretation of its connotation in the context of the whole story it belongs to in a passage of about 4–6 sentences in length:

“Chidam, all this time, had been unable to think what to do. Various impossible stories occurred to him. All he had decided was that later that night he would move the body somewhere. He had never expected Ramlochan to come. He could think of no swift reply. ‘Yes,’ he stumbled, ‘today they were quarrelling terribly.’

‘But why is Dukhi crying so?’ asked Ramlochan, stepping towards the verandah.

Seeing no way out now, Chidam blurted, ‘In their quarrel, Chotobau struck at Barobau’s head with a farm-knife.’

When immediate danger threatens, it is hard to think of other dangers. Chidam’s only thought was to escape from the terrible truth—he forgot that a lie can be even more terrible. A reply to Ramlochan’s question had come instantly to mind, and he had blurted it out.”

— From “Punishment” by Rabindranath Tagore, in the given textbook, p. 868.

2. Writing

Write an essay of about 1,400–1,800 words to argue for the following topic:

Manslaughter in “Punishment” by Rabindranath Tagore.

1. Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage. Then present your interpretation of its connotation in the context of the whole story it belongs to in a passage of about 4–6 sentences in length:

“Who, on that auspicious night when, at a very young age, a dusky, diminutive, round-faced girl had left her childhood dolls in her father’s house and come to her in-laws’ house, could have imagined these events? Her father, on his deathbed, had happily reflected that at least he had made proper arrangements for his daughter’s future.

In gaol, just before the hanging, a kindly Civil Surgeon asked Chandara, ‘Do you want to see anyone?’

‘I’d like to see my mother,’ she replied.

‘Your husband wants to see you,’ said the doctor. ‘Shall I call him?’

‘To hell with him,’ said Chandara.”

— From “Punishment” by Rabindranath Tagore, in the given textbook, pp. 872–873.

2. Writing

Write an essay of about 1,400–1,800 words to argue for the following topic:

Dating in “The Lady with the Dog” by Anton Chekhov.