

CLASS – VIII
CHAPTER – 1st
ANSWER

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The Best Christmas Present in the World

COMPREHENSION CHECK – (I)

Q. 1. What did the author find in a junk shop?

Ans. The author found a roll-top desk in a junk shop.

Q. 2. What did he find in a secret drawer? Who do you think had put it in there?

Ans. He found a small black tin box in a secret drawer. Mrs Connie Macpherson had put it in there.

COMPREHENSION CHECK – (II)

Q. 1. Who had written the letter, to whom, and when ?

Ans. Mr Jim Macpherson had written the letter to his wife, Mrs Connie Macpherson, when he was fighting a war against the Germans.

Q. 2. Why was the letter written - what was the wonderful thing that had happened ?

Ans. On the Christmas morning, Fritz invited Tommies for the Christmas party on the no-man's-land. That day they forgot their enmity and ate sausages, drank rum and played football together. At night they exchanged Christmas carols. Jim wrote the letter to tell this incident to his wife.

Q. 3. What jobs did Hans Wolf and Jim Macpherson have when they were not soldiers ?

Ans. Hans Wolf used to play cello in an orchestra whereas Jim was a school teacher.

Q. 4. Had Hans Wolf ever been to Dorset ? Why did he say he knew it?

Ans. Hans Wolf had never been to Dorset. He said so because he had read a lot about it and England in his school and in English books.

Q. 5. Do you think Jim Macpherson came back from the war? How do you know this ?

Ans. No, Jim Macpherson never came back from the war because Mrs Connie said in the end that she waited for him as he had told her that he would come back on Christmas.

COMPREHENSION CHECK – (III)

Q. 1. Why did the author go to Bridport?

Ans. The author went to Bridport in search of Mrs Connie Macpherson. He wanted to handover the letter to her.

Q. 2. How old was Mrs Macpherson now? Where was she?

Ans. Mrs Macpherson was 101 years old now. She was in Burlington House nursing home.

COMPREHENSION CHECK – (IV)

Q. 1. Who did Connie Macpherson think her visitor was?

Ans. Connie Macpherson thought her visitor was her husband, Mr Jim Macpherson.

Q. 2. Which sentence in the text shows that the visitor did not try to hide his identity ?

Ans. In the sentence, "I said I was a friend came to visit Mrs Macpherson to bring her a Christmas present", the visitor did not try to hide his identity.

WORKING WITH THE TEXT

Q. 1. How long do you think Connie had kept Jim's letter? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Connie as think , had kept jim's letter for many years.

Q. 2. Why do you think the desk had been sold sausa They and when?

Ans. The desk must have been sold when the house got fire and the desk got badly burnt. It must have been war sold by Mrs Macpherson when she left the place to live in Burlington House nursing home.

Q. 3. Why do Jim and Hans think that games and sports are good ways of resolving conflicts ? Do you agree?

Ans. Jim and Hans agreed to the concept that games and sports are good ways of resolving conflicts as sports do not kill any soldier, do not make children orphan and do not make wives widow. Yes , we also agree to this concept as it will enhance friendship and will resolve conflicts without any bloodshed.

Q.4. Do you think the soldiers of the two armies are like each other, or different from each other? Find evidence from the story to support your answer.

Ans. Soldiers from the two armies were like each other and they were not at all different. Both of them wanted peace, longed for the war to be over and wanted to go home to meet their families.

On the Christmas morning both the armies wished Merry Christmas to each other, shared their Sausages, schnapps and Christmas cake with each other. They played football and at night shared Christmas Carols. Besides this Hans Wolf also said that he was sure that each soldier from both the armies wished the fight to end soon and wanted to go home. They also wanted to resolve War by sports.

Q.5. Mention the various ways in which the British and the German soldiers become friends and find things in common at Christmas.

Ans. The German's first wished Happy Christmas to the British soldiers. Then they asked to have a party at the no-man-land with their schnapps and sausage. This was responded very nicely and positively by the Britishers. In this way the soldiers of both the armies became friends. They shared schnapps, sausages, rum and Christmas cake in common. Besides this, they played a football match which was won by the Germans by two goals.

Q.6. What is Coonie's Christmas present? Why is it 'the best Christmas present in the world'?

Ans. Coonie's Christmas present was the letter of her husband written from the war field. It was brought to her by the narrator. It was the best Christmas present in the world' because she took the narrator to be Jim Macpherson. She thought that Jim had come back from the war field on the Christmas eve to keep his promises which he had made in the letter. She held the narrator's hand in her own and kissed his cheek.

Q.7. Do you think the title of the story is suitable for it? Can you think of any other title(s)?

Ans. The title of the story is the most suitable for it because the Christmas present that the narrator brings to Mrs. Macpherson changes her mental condition. She becomes highly elated. She appears to have recovered fully. There may be some other titles suited to its theme - 'The Mystery of the Roll-top desk', 'Letter from Trenches', 'War and Peace, at Last', etc.