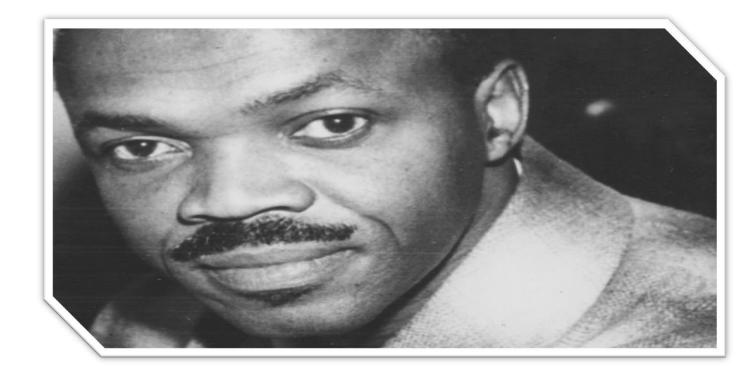
### 4.2 To Sir, with Love

Eustace Edward Ricardo Braithwaite (1912 to 2016),



#### Note:

- Q.5 (B) will be based on lesson 4.2. for 4 Marks
- 1] It will be based on elements such as plot/ structure/ theme/ setting/ language/ character.
- 2] Two questions of 2 marks each will be asked as follows:
- Q. (1) Describe/ Explain/ Compare/ Contrast/ Name/ Discuss.
- Q. (2) Illustrate/ Interpret/ Narrate/ Justify/ Find/ Identify. The answer to each question should be in about 50 words.

- (A1) (i) Which one among the following is a teacher in the extract? Select the correct one. Also cite a couple of lines from the extract in support of your answer.
- (a) Denham
- (b) Miss Joseph
- (c) Sapiano
- (d) Dale-Evans

Ans: Mrs. Dale-Evans is a teacher in the extract.

The following lines proves it.

- 1] The line, "Denham called two children at random from the audience and asked them to write the name of each teacher, including the Head on a slip of paper." Shows that all the names on the slips were of the teachers.
- 2] The line, "The names were called: Mr. Weston, Mrs. Dale-Evans, Miss Phillips." All the names were of the teachers
- 3] The line, ". Denham and Miss Joseph led the others off the stage and the teachers took their seats," Denham and Miss Joseph came down from the stage means they are students.
- 4] The line, "Sapiano spoke of the study the class had made of pests" shows that Sapiano presenting her report means she is a student.
- (ii) Complete the table highlighting the various traits (qualities / विशेषता) of the major characters in the extract

#### Ans:

	Traits
Denham	Bold, clever, Respectful, Confident
<b>Miss Phillips</b>	Calm, helpful, well- informed, clever, skillful
Ferman	Funny, dramatic, Confident, persuasive
Potter	Wise, intelligent, Knowledgeable, clear

(iii) The narrator played a crucial (very important) role in bringing a significant change in the students. Explain the statement by citing some references from the extract.

Ans: When Braithwaite gets a job of a teacher for the senior

class of Greenslade School, he encounters disrespectful, arrogant and ill-mannered students. But finally he changes the students by changing his approach in teaching. He starts to give respect to the students and they become good students. The half-yearly report presentation proves the perfect chance in the students.

- 1] The line. "It was entirely their day, arranged, presented and controlled by them" is an example of their will to take responsibility.
- 2] The line "The children arrived smartly dressed and polished." This indicates that the students were aware of the importance of the event and took their roles seriously.
- 3] The line "Miss Joseph and Denham moved about among their colleagues ensuring that each one was ready to play his (her) part" thus showing their ability to be good leaders.
- 4] The line "Denham used the term 'Miss' in addressing each of the senior girls'. It shows that Denham changed from an aggressive, rude student to a respectful young man.
- 5] The line, "The Head went on to the stage and closed the proceedings, expressing his pride in all the children and his deep appreciation of their efforts." is a clear example of the positive influence Braithwaite has had on the students.
- (iv) Fernman brought a comic relief in the Students' Council programme. Explain.

Ans: A comic relief (humorous content/ मनोरंजन) is an element that creates humour in a serious situation. On the day of half-yearly report presentation, some students present serious and heavy topics so all become serious. But Fernman presents his report on Physiology, he signaled Welsh and Alison to carry a skeleton to the stage. The hanging skeleton was gently revolving which immediately made the audience laugh. Through his dramatic presentation, Fernman was able to relieve the tension of the audience by providing a comical element. Thus, he brought comic relief in the Students' Council programme.

### (v) Give a brief character-sketch of – Denham

Ans: Denham is one of the rude and disrespectful boys in Braithwaite's class. But Braithwaite's politeness and patience changed Denham into a responsible, respectful, mature, young man. This can be seen from his ability to host the Students' Council and giving respect to the senior girls as 'Miss'. He is a trained boxer. When he criticized the P.T and games, he receives the support from the other boys who cheer him from the audience. He confidently and respectfully question on the need for the P.T. class. to Miss Phillips.

#### Give a brief character-sketch of – Miss Joseph

Ans: Miss Joseph is one of the senior girls in Braithwaite's class. A natural leader. Miss Joseph, along with Denham. is in charge of hosting the half-yearly report of the Students' Council. Besides helping in the organization of the event, Miss Joseph assigned the other students. She also delivers a short address outlining the purpose of the Students' Council activities. Miss Joseph also introduces her class' theme of the brotherhood and delivers her report on Domestic Science. with the utmost ease.

#### Give a brief character-sketch of – The Narrator

Ans: The narrator of the novel is the author, E.R. Braithwaite, himself. The novel is based on his real-life experiences, which particularly focuses on his life in England and his job as a teacher at Greenslade School after the Second World War. Before becoming a teacher, he worked as an engineer and even served in the Royal British Air Force during the war. Though he is British, he is a victim of racial discrimination because he is a black man. Because of his race, he has trouble finding employment as a teacher at Greenslade School, London. The school is famous for its badly behaved students, but he changes them by taking extra effort to improve his teaching skills and makes successful students. He is the perfect example of a good teacher.

#### Give a brief character-sketch of – Miss Dare

Ans: Miss Pamela Dare is one of the senior girls in Braithwaite's class. She presents a report on the subject of Physiology on the day of the half-yearly report with Fernman. Her report has no any such dramatic elements like Fernman, She outlines the problems of humanity of sickness and disease and states the benefits of exchanging knowledge. advice, and assistance among countries.

#### Give a brief character-sketch of – Miss Phillips

Ans: Miss Phillips is a teacher at Greenslade School and is one of three teachers to be chosen on the panel. The narrator describes her as an unintelligent woman. However, as the questioning begins, Miss Phillips proves that she is the best informed of the three. Despite being unprepared, she handles the questions with honesty She even helps the other teachers when she finds them struggling with the questions very skillfully. She answers carefully Denham and Fernman's blunt criticisms with her clever arguments and sweet tone. Her debate with Denham impressed students and the narrator who finally admires Miss Phillips.

## Compare the following characters 1] Miss Joseph and Denham

Miss Joseph	Denham
1. In-charge of the Students'	1. In-charge of the Students'
Council programme and through	Council programme and
a short speech highlights the	assigned the task of calling out
Council's purpose and its	the names of the student
activities	representatives of the senior
	class and using Miss to the
	senior girls displays courtesy.
2. Representative of the subject of	2. Representative of the
'Domestic Science'	subject of 'P.T. and games'
3. Speaks about the theme of the	3. Criticises the pattern of P.T.

	and games, citing the limitations of obtaining space,
lessons 4. Qualities: leadership skill, calm,	4. Qualities: leadership skill, Blunt, courteous

### 2] Fernman and Miss Dare

Fernman	Miss Dare
1. Representative of the subject of	1.Representative of the subject
'Physiology who brings comic	of 'Physiology who presents
relief by displaying a revolving	after Fernman and whose
skeleton, on the stage, hanging	report is plain, straightforward,
from a hook and who reports with	but not having dramatic
a dramatic style	elements, thus making it
	anticlimactic
2. Speaks in a clear and	2. Speaks about the problems
precise(exact) manner and	of sickness and disease faced
concludes, with the help of the	by humanity and the benefits
skeleton, that all people are the	of exchanging knowledge.
same	advice, and assistance
3. Qualities: persuasive,	3.Qualities:,smart.
confident. innovative,. clever	unenergetic, passive

### 3] Miss Phillips and Denham

Miss Phillips	Denham
1. Tactfully answers all the	1. Without fear criticizes the
questions asked by the students,	P.T. and games, saying the
specially Denham and even helps	limitations of obtaining space
other teachers	
2. Tackles the students' questions	2. Exhibits straightforwardness
with honesty, authority, skill and	in his debate with Miss
a calm and finally overcomes	Phillips but feels sorry when
Denham with logic and presence	he has lost the argument

of mind, impressing the students and the narrator

- 3. Demonstrates that teachers must respect the views of all students and clear their doubts with patience and logic
- 4. Qualities: calm, skillful, persuasive, well-informed, tough, logical, witty
- 3. Represents a student's voice and demonstrates that students should fearlessly question to the teachers
- 4. Qualities: aggressive, blunt, assertive, logical, determined, smart
- 4] Narrator and the Head of the school

#### **Narrator** Head of the school 1. Not actively participated and 1. Actively participated and Seated in the audience. seated on the stage (at the beginning) and addressed the students 2.Expressed the aims 2. Silently observes as the event and from the audience. policies of the school, 3.He identifies himself with 3. Finally built a place for himself in school and in the minds of the the school and everyone in it students 4. Feels proud of all the 4. Feels proud to see the and expresses his students transformation that his students appreciation of the efforts put have undergone in by them 5. Qualities: observant, insightful, 5. Qualities: genuine. (sharp) pleased and surprised appreciative, understanding



### (ii) Describe in brief the purpose of organising the halfyearly report programme of Students' Council.

Ans: The half-yearly report programme was an important event for the Students' Council. In this report, the students would present what they studied, to the teachers and other students. The main purpose of the event was to discuss the academic progress of the students through which the teachers get a clear picture of the students' understanding. Another significant aspect of the report was the panel discussion in which students can clear their doubts by asking the questions directly about the reports to a panel of teachers. This type of programme provides a platform to develop the organization skills and confidence among the students. Denham's blunt criticism of the P.T. class is a perfect example of how such programmes can help the students to raise their voice.

# (iii) Write in your words the entire half-yearly report programme of Students' Council.

Ans: The half-yearly report programme was an important event for the Students' Council which was held every year on November 15th. The representative of the each class report here what they or how much they have learnt.

Miss Joseph and Denham were important official of the students council. Both were representative of the narrator's class, conducted over the meeting. The Head of the school, Florian addressed the meeting. After that one by one each class gave brief report of their progress. Mr. Weston, Mrs. Dale Evans and Miss Phillips were in a panel of teachers who were chosen to answer any questions out by the students.

The council began with the lowest class. The oldest class was the last. Miss Joseph presented the common theme of the term of the interdependency of mankind. Potter spoke about the Math. Miss. Pegg and Jackson spoke Geography. Miss Dare and Fernman presented the knowledge of Physiology. Fernman brought the human skeleton and proved that basically all people are the same. Miss. Dodd reported History and Miss Joseph,

Domestic Science. Denham criticized the P.T. subject and Games.

Miss Phillips explained the importance of P.T. with coolly and honestly. Finally Denham accepted defeat and agreed with Miss Phillips. The narrator was very happy and satisfied to see the progress and the confidence of his students. The Head of the school, Florian ended the Programme.

#### (iv)Describe the question-answer session that took place at the end of the extract.

Ans: There was question answer session at the end of the report presentation of the students. Teachers had to answer the questions of the students. One of the most discussed question about P.T. subject raised. Miss Euphemia Phillips answered coolly and honestly rather than the two teachers. Fernman was skillful in asking questions. Denham was blunt, clever in his criticism. He criticized the P.T. and games in the school. He pointed that practicing P.T. and game twice weekly is wastage of time. Miss Phillips replied coolly that subject including P.T. and games had been considered carefully and fitted in the time table so that students got maximum benefit from it. Denham replied only for the kids it is useful and others who wanted to play football or any other game, it was useless. But Miss Phillips replied that the whole time table in the school helped them in the world after they left the school. The answer defeated Denham and he accepted also.

# (v) Describe the discussion that took place between Miss Joseph and Denham.

Ans: There is no discussion that took place between Miss Joseph and Denham in the passage.



#### **SETTING**

- (A3) (i) Which event took place in the extract? Choose the correct one. Give reason/s to support your answer.
- (a) Annual Sports Day on November 15th
- (d) Annual Social and Cultural Gathering on November 15th
- (c) Half-yearly report of Students' Council on November 15th
- (d) Farewell Programme on November 15th

Ans: c) Half-yearly report of Students' Council on November 15th

The lines to support this: "The half-yearly report of the students council was on November 15th and was one of the important days in the calendar of Greenslade School."

- (ii) The event in the extract was held at the \_\_\_\_\_. Choose the correct alternative. Give reason/s to support your answer.
- (a) Author's house
- (b) Auditorium of the school
- (c) Market
- (d) Garden

Ans: (b) auditorium of the school.

The lines from extract to support: "A bell was rung at 10 am and every one trooped into the auditorium to sit together in classes."

# (iii) The incidents in the extract occurred at a particular place. Explain the significance of that place in your own words.

Ans: The incidents in the extract took place in the auditorium of Greenslade School. Since the major theme of the extract is student-teacher relationship, the school serves as the perfect setting. The students present their half-yearly reports and question the panel of teachers. Another aspect of the setting is the stage where they are taking active participation in their school. Finally, the stage also represents the perfect platform for the students to showcase their skills.

### (iv) Explain how the setting of the extract contributes to the theme of the novel.

Ans: The teacher- students relationship is one of the most important theme of the novel. Racism is another theme. He describes here the school where the narrator felt difficult time with students. The students harassed him mentally. They were disrespectful and mischievous. The narrator tried to handle them peacefully with his novel techniques. He tolerated them and forgive. He used respectful words 'Miss' and 'sir'. There was shocking change in the behaviour of the students. It was observed on the day of Students Council. They performed confidently and cleverly. Thus the setting rightly contributes to the theme of the novel.



#### THEME

## (A4) (i) 'When the turn of my class came I sat up anxiously'.

# Why was the narrator anxious? Explain the statement by citing suitable references from the extract.

Ans: The students of his class were so disrespectful, ill mannered, and mischievous. The narrator felt so much difficulty to handle them. With his creative ideas and innovative techniques, he understood the mind set of the students. His efforts to improve the students became successful. There was development in the behaviour of the students. The students started giving him respect.

On the day of half yearly report of students council representative of all classes were participated. They were going to perform their subject knowledge. The narrator was now so anxious to know how his class students would perform. He wanted to know his teachings has been effective or not. How they would express themselves and how much they had

understood during the period, he wanted to know. The most important the program was held open on the stage in presence of the Head and other teachers of the school. So the narrator's anxiety grew more and sat up anxiously when the turn of his class came.

### (ii) Select two statements that describe the theme of the extract:

- (a) Half-yearly report of the Students' Council was not an important event for the students and teachers of school.
- (b) The writer was immensely pleased to notice the progress of his students.
- (c) The students showed a remarkable change in their behaviour and were progressing in all the subjects.
- (d) The head of the institution was against conducting such activities in the school.

#### **Answer:**

- (b) The writer was immensely pleased to notice the progress of his students.
- (c) The students showed a remarkable change in their behavior and were progressing in all the subjects.

### (iii) The relationship between the teacher and the students is highlighted in the extract. Illustrate with suitable examples from the extract.

Ans: When E.R. Braithwaite joined Greenslade School, in the beginning the relationship between teachers and the students is so critical. The students of the narrator's class were disrespectful towards the teachers, narrator, E.R. Braithwaite. The narrator as a teacher was peaceful towards them. He tried to improve their behavior with using his novel techniques. He tolerated and forgave them on their every ill-mannered conduct. He talked them with respect using Mr. and Miss.

Denham and Miss Joseph conducted the whole programme on the day of the half yearly report of the Students' Council. The representative of each class presented their reports confidently. At the end of the students' presentation .The students asked questions clearly, confidently and critically because they were given full freedom of expression. They were fearless. The teachers were also frank with them. For example Miss. Phillips intervened skillfully and pleasantly. They satisfied their queries coolly and honestly. In short there was a fearlessness relationship between the teachers and the students.

#### (iv) Explain in brief the theme of the extract.

Ans: The central theme of the novel is the students - teachers relationship and the importance of the half-yearly report of the Students' Council. The improvement in the conduct of the students, the increase in their level of confidence and courtesy is the theme of the extract. The free and frank relationship between teachers and students also central theme of the extract. Another important theme - Racial discrimination too plays a vital role in this novel.

(v) Describe the atmosphere of the school described in the extract.

Ans: The half-yearly report programme was an important event for the Students' Council which was held every year on November 15th. Which decides the atmosphere of the school. We noticed here students freedom and fearlessness noticed. The programme was serious, frank and formal. The students honestly presented their report and asked questions fearlessly. The selected teachers also replied with frankly and confidently to satisfy the students. There was democratic set up. There was freedom of expression and honesty. The free and frank relationship between teachers and students show the positive and sporty atmosphere of the school.



#### **LANGUAGE**

- (A4) (i) Explain the following statements that enrich the language and create a powerful impact.
- a] Miss Phillips is transformed into a very convincing personality.
- b] There are many features of language that contribute the smooth sailing of the plot.
- (a) Miss Phillips is transformed into a very convincing personality.

Ans: Initially Miss. Phillips was considered as frilly and brainless. She was one of the three selected teachers in the panel to answer the questions of the students. When Denham asked about the P.T. and games subject are unnecessary for the students in the school. Other teachers were unable to answer only Miss. Philips replied coolly, honestly, cleverly and with responsibility. She told Denham about the important of the P.T. and games in the school. She told that the whole time table in the school was meant to help the students in the world after they left the school. It is part of training. Denham accepted and agreed with her answer. Thus the statement proves that who was considered brainless is transformed in to a very convincing personality at the end.

(b) There are many features of language that contribute the smooth sailing of the plot.

Ans: The words used by the narrator are very suitable for the plot. He used figurative language that create interest among the readers to read the whole novel. The language, expressions and sentences very useful to contribute the smooth sailing of the plot. For instance- frilly and brainless- Miss Phillips, sugary remarks, her baby blue eyes twinkling in delight at this crossing of staves. etc are the many words used by the narrator to give the reader complete idea of the situations.

(ii)Following are some dialogues of the major characters in the extract. Find out who the speaker is, his/her tone, the style, significance etc. of the dialogues.

"Then why do we have to do P.T.? Why don't they take only the kids who need it?"

"Let's say it is as much an exercise of the mind as it is of the body,

i) "Then why do we have to do P.T? Why don't they take only the kids who need it?"

Ans: The given statement is spoken by the student - Denham. Denham was a boxer. While discussing with the teacher, his tone was clear, critical and argumentative initially. He felt P.T. is unnecessary for him and wastage of time. After discussion with Miss. Phillips, he accepted his defeat coolly.

ii) "Let's say it is as much an exercise of the mind as it is of the body, Denham".

Ans: Miss. Philips is the speaker of the given statement.

Her tone was cool. She honestly answers the questions coolly. She explained Denham and others, the important of the timetable with P.T. She was sure that Denham would agree with her explanation. This piece of advice was not meant only for Denham but also for the whole school and the reader as well.

Potter — Arithmetic (Math)

Sapiano — Nature Study
Miss Pegg and Jackson — Geography
Miss Dare and Fernman — Physiology
Miss Dodd — History

Denham — P.T. and Games

Miss Joseph — Domestic Science