

Memories of Childhood Previous Year Questions (with model answers)

Q1. Bama and Zit-Ka-la-Sa have proven that education is the antidote to all social evils.

Analyse their characters in terms of their struggles and their will to win.

OR

Compare the characters of Zit-ka-la-sa and Bama in terms of their struggle, pain, determination, and success. [CBSE 2025]

Ans. Zitkala is a victim of racial discrimination while Bama is a victim of social discrimination. Both the writers face shame, victimization and subjugation. They understand that education is the only weapon that can help them overcome these evils. Both of them fought against oppression through their writings. Bama was guided by her elder brother Annan that if she wanted respect and dignity which they were stripped of, she must study and progress. Their stories inspire individuals to improve themselves and shine to gain dignity.

Q2. “Then I lost my spirit.” What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way? [CBSE 2024]

Ans. Zitkala-Sa felt she lost her spirit due to the traumatic experiences she faced at the boarding school. She was forced to conform to the white man's ways, including cutting her hair and adopting unfamiliar customs, which led to a deep sense of alienation and loss of her cultural identity.

Q3. What does Zitkala-Sa mean by “eating by formula”? [CBSE 2023]

Ans. By ‘eating by formula,’ Zitkala-Sa refers to the rigid and mechanical way in which she was forced to eat at the boarding school. The prescribed rules and lack of freedom in their daily routines made the act of eating feel unnatural and devoid of any personal choice or cultural significance.

Q4. What objects/activities in the marketplace attracted Bama on her way back from school? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. On the way back, she would see the performing monkey, snake, the cyclist, the huge bell at the Mariyata temple, the pongal offerings being cooked outside the temple, the dried fish stall by Gandhiji's statue, the sweet stall, the stall of fried snacks, etc.

Q5. What frantic efforts did Zitkala-Sa make to save her hair from being cut? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. She had been taught by her mother that cowards and unskilled warriors caught by the enemy got their hair cut. Thus, cut hair was a symbol of cowardice and thus, she rebelled. She hid in a dark corner under the bed. When dragged out, she

resisted by kicking and scratching. She cried and shook her head while her hair was being cut.

Q6. Why did Bama stroll in the market place instead of hurrying back home? Describe the sights she enjoyed seeing there. [CBSE 2019]

Ans. Bama stopped at the market place because she was surprised and excited to watch all the fun and games that were going on, different exhibitions, entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar. She took thirty minutes walking home from her school when she could have covered the distance in just ten minutes. The performance by the monkey and the snake charmer; the cyclist who had not got off his bike for three days, and who kept pedaling as hard as he could from break day; the rupee notes that were pinned on to his shirt to spur him on; the spinning wheels; the Maariyaata temple, the huge bell hanging there; the Pongal offerings being cooked in front of the temple; the dried fish stall by the statue of Gandhi; the sweet stall, the stall selling fried snacks, and all the other shops next to each other; the changing colour of street lights from blue to violet, clay beads, instruments for cleaning ears-all these things attracted her and kept her standing still for long.

For the complete set of previous year questions of Memories of Childhood, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood (Part 1) Summary, Word meanings, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood (Part 2) Summary, Word meanings, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood (Part 1) Important Questions, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood (Part 2) Important Questions, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood MCQs, [Click Here](#)

Vistas Book Word meanings of all lessons, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood (Part 1) Character Sketches, [Click Here](#)

Memories of Childhood (Part 2) Character Sketches, [Click Here](#)