

Q2. Here is an excerpt from the autobiography of a short story writer. Read it carefully and answer the questions that follow.

My father loved all instruments that would instruct and fascinate. His place to keep things was the drawer in the 'library table' where lying on top of his folder map was a telescope with brass extensions, to find the moon and the Big Dipper after supper in our front yard, and to keep appointments with eclipses. In the back of the drawer you could find a magnifying glass, a kaleidoscope and a gyroscope kept in black buckram box, which he would set dancing for us on a string pulled tight. He had also supplied himself with an assortment of puzzles composed of metal rings and intersecting links and keys chained together, impossible for the rest of us, however, patiently shown, to take apart, he had an almost childlike love of the ingenious. In time, a barometer was added to our dining room wall, but we didn't really need it. My father had the country boy's accurate knowledge of the weather and its skies. He went out and stood on our front steps first thing in the morning and took a good look at it and a sniff. He was a pretty good weather prophet. He told us children what to do if we were lost in a strange country. 'Look for where the sky is brightest along the horizon,' he said. 'That reflects the nearest river. Strike out for a river and you will find habitation'. Eventualities were much on his mind. In his care for us children he cautioned us to take measures against such things as being struck by lightning. He drew us all away from the windows during the severe electrical storms that are common where we live. My mother stood apart, scoffing at caution as a character failing. So I developed a strong meteorological sensibility. In years ahead when I wrote stories, atmosphere took its influential role from the start. Commotion in the weather and the inner feelings aroused by such a hovering disturbance emerged connected in dramatic form.

Questions

- a. why did the writer's father spend time studying the skies ? (3)
- b. why the writer thinks that there was no need of a barometer? (3)
- c. what does the bright horizon meant for the writer's father ? (3)
- d. How did her father influence the writer in her later years ? (3)

2005 Comprehension

a) Why did the writer's father spend time studying the skies?

Ans) The writer's father spend time studying the skies because he had a childlike love for the skies. He kept all the necessary instruments for this purpose, which were dear to him, and also helped him in exploring the heavenly bodies.

b) Why the writer thinks that there was no need of a barometer?

Ans) The writer ^{thought} that there was no need of a barometer because her father had a sound knowledge of the weather. He would just sniff ^{outside} and easily predict the weather. Furthermore there was no need for a barometer in a dining room.

c) What does the bright horizon meant for the writer's father?

Ans) For the writer's father, the ^{bright} horizon reflected the nearest river which could help the children locate the nearest habitat if they were lost in a strange country.

d) How did her father influence the writer in her later years?

Ans) The writer was greatly influenced by her father which reflected in her writings in later years. She developed a strong meteorological sensibility and also weather influenced the inner feelings of her characters; which she used to skillfully connect in a dramatic form.