

2016 Precis Solved (Handwritten)

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage in about 120 words and suggest a suitable title: (20)

During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately.

We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18th century and the outdoor historical pageant *Unto These Hills* playing six times weekly in the summer nights, Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists.

Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colorful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, cone-shaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop.

"Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ..." Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment fetch them great returns.

Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed.

Back at home, I really missed the place and I would of course look forward to the next trip to another exotic place.

Date _____

PRECIS ATTEMPT 2016

TRAVEL DIARIES

The author is sharing the problems he faced while deciding on the vacation plan last may. He wanted to explore and enjoy a place that doesn't come under mainstream tourists spot. He was full of joy when his friend John highlighted a country named Cherokee and he started preparing for vacations. They visited a place named Qualla boundary in Cherokee which was located between the huge mountains. He also mentioned about Oconaluftee Indian village, its people designed tribal crafts and displayed living of the 18th century presenting it 6 times weekly in summer. There was the language barrier but the natives guided them towards the souvenir shop. That shop was abundant with cultural heritage. There they encountered an average age man, George, who greeted them and was speaking fine English. It was surprising for them, so they started long talks, and he offered them lunch. George shared his past with them that he used to cut ~~firewood~~ firewood to earn and now, ~~occasionally~~ occasionally on tour season, he must work the whole day which is better than his previous job for him. He told them that despite trade, Cherokees have different means of income. During peak tour seasons, to attract the tourist crowd, they open large Bingo halls on Bingo weekends. They also

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offer different games with which earn them a great amount. Their last stop was a ~~restaurant~~ museum which was full of Chiroku's special handmade art. After reaching home, he remembered the place and decided to visit such a place on his next vacation.