

PARAGON CONVENT SCHOOL, SECTOR-24B, CHANDIGARH

ENGLISH

CLASS-VI (LITERATURE)

UNIT-6 (SECTION-II) HOUDINI

***NOTEBOOK WORK**

***DIFFICULT WORDS**

1. Blacksmith
2. Concentrated
3. Carette
4. assistants
5. broadcast

***WORD MEANINGS**

1. **To hang upside down:** to be in a head down, legs up position
2. **Sheriff:** an elected officer responsible for keeping law and order in a place.
3. **Crept away-** walked away slowly
4. **Cell-** prison
5. **Apparatus:** equipment
6. **Confess:** tell the truth

***MAKE SENTENCES**

1. **To hang upside down-** The painting was hung upside down.
2. **Sheriff-** He was appointed Sheriff of New York.
3. **Crept away-** They cautiously crept forward.
4. **Cell-** Guards found a prisoner who had hanged himself in his jail cell.
5. **Apparatus-** Astronauts have special breathing apparatus.
6. **Confess-** He willingly confessed his crime.

***LEARN TO READ**

Q1. *The man, whose story we are about to tell, was so amazing that you probably will not believe what we say.* The authors think that the readers will not believe what they say because

- a) The tricks that Houdini performed were really unbelievable

**b) People generally do not believe in magic tricks
(Tick the correct answer.)**

A1. a

Q2. What was Houdini's first job? Why was it unusual?

A2. Houdini's first job was in a circus. It was unusual because he has to hang upside down and pick up needles with his eyelids.

Q3. Houdini learnt how to open locks from a blacksmith. Give an example to show how he used this skill to perform escaping tricks.

A3. Houdini used the skills that he learned from the blacksmith to perform escaping tricks as one day when all the members of the circus were arrested and locked up in the cells he unlocked all the doors with a piece of wire and the whole company quietly walk away.

Q4. Houdini was able to escape from the currence because he had probably hidden the tools to open the lock in his hair, or had them stuck to the sole of his foot. True or False?

A4. True

Q5. *Probably his most difficult escape was from a jail in Scotland.*

a) Why do you think Houdini could not open the lock of the door?

Houdini could not open the lock of the door because the jailer had not locked the door.

b) Was it really a difficult escape?

No, it was not a difficult escape.

Q6. Describe one instance when Houdini had to escape from water. What made it dangerous?

A6. One instance when Houdini had to escape from water was: Houdini allowed himself to be chained and hung upside down in a huge can of water. His feet were sticking out through holes in the lid of the can then the whole can with Houdini in it was placed inside a wooden box with a lid nailed down. It took Houdini two minutes to escape from this.

It was dangerous because Houdini was chained and was hung upside down.

Q7. He set up a remarkable record only a few months before his death, at the age of fifty two

a) What was the record?

Houdini was sealed in a lead coffin, which was then thrown into a swimming pool. It was believed that the air in the coffin would last for about 10 minutes, when Houdini would have to come out. Half an hour past still how Houdini did not appear. His assistants had fixed up an apparatus to broadcast his heartbeat, so they knew he was still alive, but when an hour had gone by people got worried. Finally he came out of the coffin after one hour and 31 minutes

b) Why was it remarkable?

It was remarkable because Houdini managed to stay inside the coffin for one hour and 31 minutes which had air for only 10 minutes.

Q8. Houdini did not share his magic secrets because he thought if he did so people would not pay to see him perform if they knew how the tricks were done. Also, the dishonest men could become a master criminal able to open any safe and escape from any prison.