**SAINIK SCHOOL GOPALGANJ**

**Summer-Vacation Homework**

**Subject: English Class-VIII**

Chapter-1(Prose):The Best Christmas Present in the World (Book: Honeydew)

**1. Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow in a line or two:**

(A) I removed the roll-top completely and pulled out the drawers. The veneer had lifted almost everywhere it looked like water damage to me. Both fire and water had clearly taken their toll on this desk. The last drawer was stuck fast. I tried all I could to ease it out gently. In the end I used brute force. I struck it sharply with the side of my fist and the drawer flew open to reveal a shallow space underneath, a secret drawer.

(a) Who is ‘I’ in the above passage?  
(b) What does ‘It’ denote in the above lines?  
(c) What was the condition of the desk?  
(d) Where did he find a secret drawer?

(e) Find out the word/ phrase that means the same for the given word.

(i) freedom from pain

(ii) of little depth

(B) Then they were calling out to us from across no man’s land, “Happy Christmas, Tommy ! Happy Christmas!” When we had got over the surprise, some of us shouted back, ‘ Same to you, Fritz! Same to you’ thought that would be that. We all dis. But then suddenly one of them was up there in his grey greatcoat and waving a white flag.

“Don’t shoot lads!” someone shouted. And no one did. Then there was another Fritz up on the parapet, and another. “Keep your heads down,” I told the me, “it’s a trick.” But it wasn’t.

(a) **Who is the speaker of these  lines**?  
(b) **What is the ‘trick’ that the speaker is talking about**?  
(c) **What was the speaker’s reaction when he realises that it wasn’t a trick**?  
(d) **Why was everyone in a state of surprise**?

(e) **Discuss the uniqueness of this Christmas morning.**

**(f) Jim and Hans think of an alternate to war. What was it?**

**2. Answer these questions in not more than 30 words:**

(A) What had happened to Mrs. Macpherson? Describe her condition.

(B) **Why do you think the desk had been sold, and when?**

(C) Briefly note down the initial reaction of Mrs. Macpherson  
after seeing the tin box?

(D)Why did Jim Macpherson say that he would prefer a cricket match?

(E) What do the breaths mingling signify?

**3. Answer the question in 100-120 words:**

(A) ‘War is no solution to disputes. Discuss in context with the chapter.

(B) Imagine that you are Jim. You have returned to your town after the war. In your diary record how you feel about the changes you see and the events that occur in your town. You could begin like this:

25 December,  
1919 It’s Christmas today, but the town looks…..

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