

CBSE Class –VIII English
NCERT Solutions
Chapter - 9
The Great Stone Face - I

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1: Write 'True' or 'False' against each of the following statements.

1. The Great Stone Face stood near where Ernest and his mother lived.

Ans: False

2. One would clearly distinguish the features of the Stone Face only from a distance.

Ans: True

3. Ernest loved his mother and helped her in her work.

Ans: True

4. Though not very rich, Gathergold was a skilful merchant.

Ans: False

5. Gathergold died in poverty and neglect.

Ans: True

6. The Great Stone Face seemed to suggest that Ernest should not fear the general.

Ans: False

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Working with Text

1: (i) What was the Great Stone Face?

(ii) What did young Ernest wish when he gazed at it?

Ans: (i) The Great Stone Face was a work of nature. It was formed naturally on the side of a mountain by some huge rocks. They had been thrown together in such a position so that, when viewed from some distance, they resembled the face of a human face. If the spectator approached too near, the outline of the face would disappear into a heap of gigantic rocks. It was the belief of many people that the valley owed much of its fertility to the kind face of the Great Stone that was continually looking over it.

(ii) Young Ernest gazed at the Great Stone Face. It smiled to him. Ernest wished that it could speak because it looked very kind. He thought its voice must be pleasant. He would love the man dearly whoever bore such face.

2. What was the story attributed to the Stone Face?

Ans The story that was attributed to the Stone Face was that at some future day, a child would be born near there, and he would be destined to become the greatest and noblest person of his time. His face, in manhood, would bear an exact resemblance to the Great Stone Face.

3: What gave the people of the valley the idea that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time?

Ans: There was a rumour in the valley that the great man, who would look like the Great Stone Face, had appeared at last. A young man, named Gathergold had left the valley. He had grown a rich merchant by the time he became old. He had decided to return to his native valley. He had the living likeness of the Great Stone Face. It made the people of the valley think that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time.

4: (i) Did Ernest see in Gathergold the likeness of the Stone Face?

(ii) Who did he confide in and how was he proved right?

Ans: (i) No, Ernest did not see the likeness of the Great Stone Face in Gathergold. The truthfulness, kindness and the softness were missing on the face of Gathergold which were clearly visible on the face

(ii) Ernest confided in his own heart that the Gathergold was not the right person he was

waiting for. He was proved right because Gathergold died after sometime. He was then a poor man. All the people, then, said that he had no likeness with the stone face.

5: (i) What made people believe General Blood-and-Thunder was their man?

(ii) Ernest compared the man's face with the Stone Face. What did he conclude?

Ans: (i) General Blood-and-Thunder rose to his present position in defence from a soldier. He desired to return to his native valley. The residents of the valley said that he bore the likeness of the Great Stone Face. His childhood friends also said that the General had always looked like the Great Stone Face. It made people believe 'General Blood-and-Thunder' was their man.

(ii) Ernest compared the face of Blood-and-thunder with the Great Stone Face. He could not recognize any similarity between them. His heart assured him that the General was not the right person he was waiting for. So Ernest concluded that the greatest and the noblest man of his time bearing the resemblance to the Great Stone Face had yet to come.

Working with Language

1: Write the noun forms of the following words by adding -ness or -ity to them appropriately. Check the spelling of the new words.

(i) lofty _____

(ii) able _____

(iii) happy _____

(iv) near _____

(v) noble _____

(vi) enormous _____

(vii) pleasant _____

(viii) dense _____

(ix) great _____

(x) stable _____

Ans: (i) loftiness

(ii) ability

- (iii) happiness
- (iv) nearness
- (v) nobility
- (vi) enormity
- (vii) pleasantly
- (viii) density
- (ix) greatness
- (x) stability

2: Add -ly to each of the following adjectives, then use them to fill in the blanks.

- (i) Why didn't you turn up at the meeting? We all were _____ waiting for you.
- (ii) _____ write your name and address in capital letters.
- (iii) I was _____ surprised to see him at the railway station. I thought he was not coming.
- (iv) It is _____ believable that I am not responsible for this mess.
- (v) He fell over the step and _____ broke his arm.

Ans: (i) Why didn't you turn up at the meeting? We all were eagerly waiting for you.

(ii) Kindly write your name and address in capital letters.

(iii) I was pleasantly surprised to see him at the railway station. I thought he was not coming.

(iv) It is perfectly believable that I am not responsible for this mess.

(v) He fell over the step and nearly broke his arm.

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3: Complete each sentence below using the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets.

- (i) I _____ (phone) you when I _____ (get) home from school.

(ii) Hurry up! Madam _____ (be) annoyed if we _____ (be) late.

(iii) If it _____ (rain) today, we _____ (not) go to the play.

(iv) When you _____ (see) Mandal again, you _____ (not/recognise) him. He is growing a beard.

(v) We are off today. We _____ (write) to you after we _____ (be) back.

Ans: (i) I **will phone** you when I **will** get home from school.

(ii) Hurry up! Madam **will be** annoyed if we **are** late.

(iii) If it **rains** today, we **will not** go to the play.

(iv) When you **see** Mandal again, you **will not** recognize him. He is growing a beard.

(v) We are off today. We **will** write to you after we **are** back.

Speaking and Writing

1: Imagine you are Ernest. Narrate the story that his mother told him. Begin like this: My mother and I were sitting at the door of our cottage. We were looking at the Great Stone Face. I asked her if she had ever seen anyone who looked like the Stone Face. Then she told me this story.

Ans: My mother and I were sitting at the door of our cottage. We were looking at the Great Stone Face. I asked her if she had ever seen anyone who looked like the Stone Face. . After hearing this mom told me the story related to prophecy of that Great Stone Face. She said that there is a belief that one day a child bearing exact resemblance to the Great Stone Face, in manhood, would take birth nearby and would be destined to be the noblest and the greatest person of his time. Some people believe in the old prophecy and others take it as an idle tale. It was really an exciting story for a child like me. I became very serious about it. I asked mother, if in her lifetime, she had seen anyone resembling to the stone face. She refused and said the whole village has the faith that one day such a man will definitely arrive,