

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2025-2026 - Notes

Class:X

Subject: English.

Topic: The Dear Departed

Answer the following questions:

Q1. Ben appreciates grandfather saying 'it's a good thing he did. Later he calls him a 'drunken old beggar'. Why does he change his opinion about grandfather?

Ans. The two ladies and their spouses were in the process of taking an inventory of old grandpa's assets, and also discussing the events of the day that preceded his death. The conversation zeroed in on the insurance and its value. Assuming that it was being credited systematically by grandpa, Ben says, "it is a good thing he did". But a while later with the same tongue that praised, he calls him an old drunkard, because they realised that the premium was not paid and it was overdue.

Q2. Who is Victoria? What is her role in the play.

Ans. Victoria or Vicky is a sweet, precocious ten-year-old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Slater. She is the only person in the family who has affection for her grandfather and is upset that he is no more. Victoria is both shocked and delighted when she notices that her grandfather is alive. She does not appreciate the haste and cunningness with which her mother plans to get hold of the clock and the bureau that belongs to grandpa. Her innocence and sense of fairness is in stark contrast to the cold and calculative attitude of her relatives.

Q3. What does Mrs Slater want to take away from grandfather's room? What were her plans after his death?

Ans. Mrs Slater always nursed a desire to own the bureau that grandfather had in his room. Therefore as soon as he breathed his last", she connived with her husband Henry to bring it down to place it in her room. She worried that her clever and observant sister would take it away using her cheap bargaining skills. So she decides to lay claims to it, before the division of grandpa's property.

Q4. Why does Abel Merryweather say, "It's a bit late to say it (sorry) now"?

Ans. Abel Merryweather comes to know the real nature of his two daughters. Neither of them had any love and affection for him. They regarded him as a burden. They simply



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pretended to have love for him. When Mrs Slater came to know that Abel was dead, she started stealing his possessions, The two sisters even started quarrelling over their share in the property of Mr Abel Merryweather.

Q5. Bring out the irony in the title of the play.

Ans. The irony in "Dear Departed", makes its presence right from its title. We are introduced to the family of the daughter of the departed soul, for whom her father's possessions are more dear than her father himself. So under the pretext of mourning her father's death, she tries to keep for herself the things that were dear to him, only because she did not want to lose them to her sister. The second daughter and the respective spouses of the two girls, were also worried about the dear belongings of the father. They did not have the courtesy to make sure if he had actually died, before beginning to fight over his property. For the children, departed was ironically not as dear to them as the things he left behind. Eventually, it turns out that the father is alive, and is exposed to the true characters of his dear family. Ironically, what transpired was that neither of the children will stand to gain as the old man plans to bequeath his wealth to one who is really dear to him. All the efforts of the two children were in vain.

Q6. Imagine you are the grandpa. You are upset at the way things have happened in your family and your decision taken thereafter. Write a letter to your friend sharing with him your pain in this regard.

Ans. 456, Venice City

Rome, England

30 August 2025

127, Morroco Town

London, England

Dear Peter

Hello! Its been over a year since I have written to you. Have you come back from your Asian tour? Hope you enjoyed the trip. Do convey my regards to everyone at home. Peter, I am in a state of absolute mental decay. You used to envy me for having two lovely children, while regretting the fact that you couldn't have a child of your own. You are blessed my friend. I feel it is better to have no children, than having those like mine. I am so disheartened by their attitude.



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You will be surprised to know that they have no concern for me, my wants or my growing age. If there is anything they worry about, it is what I will bequeath to them after my death. Initially, I thought I was being very harsh in my perceptions about their nature. But yesterday, I slept in, and they believed that I'd succumbed. Preparations for my burial, the epitaph, distribution of property, went on in all its seriousness. They were absolutely disgruntled when I woke up, alive and healthy. Amelia tried to get hold of some of my belongings before Elizabeth could arrive.

Their behaviour saddened me greatly. I announced my decision of leaving them and getting married to Mrs. John, and have decided to keep them out of my will too.

I do feel sad. But I have to teach them a lesson. However, I have added a clause which no one knows of, that all my property would be equally divided among my grandchildren after Mrs. John's demise. Hope Victoria continues to be the lovely kid she is today.

I am settling down with Mrs. John for the rest of my life. Do pray for me.

Love and regards

Abel

Q7. The moral values are degraded in respect and care within the members of the family itself." Explain this statement with reference to Mrs Slater and Mrs Jordan.

Ans. In the drama "The Dear Departed" the playwright has tried to portray a very dismal reality of life, the gradual but steady declining unit called 'family' along with all its innate of living in joint families Children are left alone, no one to care for them, to lead their values. Growth of nuclear families has led to a breakdown in the wonderful experiences own lives of "I, me and myself".

The story revolves around a father, his two daughters, their spouses and children. It begins with an announcement of Mr. Abel, the grandfather's demise. This incident is followed up by the deceit and selfishness of the sister towards each other and their father. Mrs. Salter and Mrs. Jordan, who are shown to be at constant war with each other, embarrass their daughter Victoria, with their devious behaviour. These elders along with their spouses systematically destroy the moral values such as love and respect towards elders, sorrow and concern for the dead, and propagate selfish traits like materialism, cheating, fraud, disrespect of elders and thieving. In this story, it is the child of the next generation who seems to be possessing good moral values, and is seen to be extremely affected and pained to see the apathy of her elders.



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