THE GIRL WHO CAN

Multiple Choice Questions

1) Where is the story set?

(a) Nairobi, Kenya (b) Hasodzi, Ghana

(c) Johannesburg, South Africa (d) Lagos, Nigeria

2) Nana believe that a woman's legs should be _____.

(a) long and thin (b) muscular and capable of running

(c) have meat on them to support solid hips (d) flexible for dancing

3) The phrase, different problems at different stages of it suggests Adjoa's _____.

(a) mature understanding of life (b) attempt to justify her insecurities

(c) struggle with adulthood (d) lack of connection with Nana

4) What is one serious problem Adjoa has to face?

(a) She cannot laugh when her grandmother laughs (b) She cannot express herself

(c) She cannot understand the language of elders. (d) None of the above

5) What does Adjoa's victory in the sports competition symbolise?

(a) Rebellion against tradition (b) Validation of her abilities despite physical criticism

(c) A shift in her family's financial status (d) Acceptance of societal norms

6) Which of the following statements is not true of Adjoa in 'The Girl Who Can'?

(a) She has thin and long legs (b) She is declared the best all-around junior athlete

(c) She is seven years old girl from Ghana (d) She is proud of her abilities

7) Assess the impact of education on Adjoa's life as depicted in the story 'The Girl Who Can'

(a) It has no significant influence.

(b) It is detrimental to her growth.

(c) It empowers her and provides her with a sense of identity.

(d) It creates a rift between her and her family.

8) What does Adjoa mean by the land of sweet soft silence?

(a) Her girlish dreams (b) Her native village

(c) Her mother's womb (d) Her entire world

9) Adjoa's grandmother is a representative of

(i) authority (ii) determination (iii) unconventional approach (iv) patriarchal outlook

(a) (i) and (ii) (b) (ii) and (iii) (c) (ii) and (iv) (d) (i) and (iv)

10) How does the narrative explore the theme of Individuality?

(a) By highlighting Adjoa's defiance of her family's expectations.

(b) Through Nana's insistence on conformity.

(c) By showcasing the uniformity of the village community.

(d) Through Maami's passive support of Adjoa.

11) Evaluate what the story suggests about the relationship between tradition and progress.

(a) Progress is only possible try rejecting tradition.

(b) Tradition can adapt to accommodate progress.

(c) Tradition and progress cannot coexist.

(d) Progress often undermines traditional values.

12) What does Maami's defence of Adjoa's legs indicate?

(a) Her frustration with Nana

(b) Her protective instincts

(c) Her belief in individuality

(d) Her silent rebellion against tradition

13) The sports competition impact Adjoa's self-esteem as _____.

(a) it makes her realise her potential

(b) it allenates her from her peers

(c) it reinforces her insecurities

(d) it strengthens her bond with Nana

14) What was Nana's view initially about school?

(a) An idle pursuit

(b) A waste of time

(c) A platform to showcase her talent

(d) None of the above

15) What kind of clothes did Nana wear every afternoon while visiting the town for sports meet?

(a) Fresh new clothes

(b) Borrowed clothes

(c) Old properly ironed clothes

(d) Fresh old clothes

16) What were Nana's feelings while carrying the cup?

(a) Proud of her granddaughter

(b) Recognised the worth of her thin legs

(c) It was like a ritual to her

(d) Frantic

17) Which of the following is not the central conflict in Adjoa's life?

(a) Balancing her ambitions with societal expectations

(b) Convincing Nana of her worth

(c) Coping with her father's absence

(d) Empowering herself

18) The gleaming cup symbolises _____.

(a) achievement (b) wealth (c) pride (d) complex

19) Maami is silent at the end of the story. How does Maami's silence affect the narrative?

(a) It highlights her submissive role in the family.

(b) It strengthens Adjoa's independence.

(c) It represents her quiet defiance against Nana.

(d) It creates ambiguity about her true feelings.

20) In what way does Adjoa's success serve as a critique of traditional gender roles?

(a) It shows the irrelevance of physical traits in modern success.

(b) It mocks the elders' lack of understanding.

(c) It portrays women as inherently superior.

(d) It diminishes the importance of cultural values.

21) The story highlights the importance of

(a) change of heart (b) female sports

(c) women empowerment (d) All of these

22) Arrange the following events in the correct order

(i) Nana complains about Adjoa's thin legs.

(ii) Adjoa wins the district sports competition.

(iii) Nana washes and irons Adjoa's school uniform repeatedly.

(iv) Adjoa is selected as one of her school's runners.

(a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) (b) (i), (iv), (ii), (iii) (c) (iv). (i), (ii), (ii) (d) (i), (iii), (iv), (ii)

Extract Based Questions

Extract 1

"They say I was born in Hasodzi; and it is a very big village in the central region of our country, Ghana. They also say that when all of Africa is not choking under a drought, Hasodzi lies in a very fertile lowland in a district known for its good soil. Maybe that is Why any time I don't finish eating my food, Nana says, "You Adjoa, you don't know what life is about... you don't know What problems there are in this life ..."

(i) Where is Hasodzi located? Why is it significant in the context of the story?

Ans. Hasodzi is a small village in Central Ghana. It is significant in the story because it represents a traditional society with fixed beliefs about gender roles. In Hasodzi, women are expected to become mothers and take care of families. Adjoa's success as an athlete challenges these beliefs, showing that girls can achieve more than just being wives and mothers.

(ii) Nana's statement "You Adjoa, you don't know what life is about . . . you don't know What problems there are in this this life . . . What does it reveal about her attitude towards Adjoa and the generation gap between them?

Ans. Nana's Statement reflects a dismissive and somewhat condescending attitude toward Adjoa's, implying that she lacks the experience or understanding of the real problems in life. This highlights the generation g between them, where Nana views the challenges of life as more significant and grounded in hardship, while Adjoa's struggles with issues related to self-expression and identity.

Nana's perspective suggests a traditional worldview which contrasts with Adjoa's growing awareness of her own challenges.

(iii) How might Adjoa's struggle with expressing her thoughts relate to Nana's attitude?

Ans. Adjoa's struggle to express herself is directly linked to Nana's critical attitude. Nana's constant scolding and dismissiveness discourage Adjoa from speaking her mind, making her feel uncertain and insecure Nana's harsh remarks, particularly about Adjoa's appearance create an environment where Adjoa fears judgement and ridicule, leading her to suppress her thoughts. This dynamic highlights how Nana's attitude reinforces Adjoa's silence and lack of confidence.

(iv) In what ways does the discussion of Adjoa's legs symbolise broader issues of identity and gender roles?

Ans. The discussion of Adjoa's legs symbolises societal expectations and traditional gender roles. Nana's criticism reflects the belief that a woman's worth is tied to her physical appearance and ability to fulfil roles like motherhood.

Adjoa's success as a runner challenges these norms redefining her legs as a symbol of strength and individuality. Her journey critiques restrictive gender expectations and celebrates breaking free from them

(v) Discuss the general themes brought out by the story.

Ans. The story explores the themes of identity, gender roles, resilience, generational conflict, and acceptance. Adjoa's struggles to define her worth amidst her grandmother's criticism, which reflects traditional gender expectations linking a woman's value to her appearance, Her success as a runner challenges these norms, showcasing her individuality and strength.

Adjoa's resilience highlights the power of determination, while the generational conflict between Nana's traditional views and Adjoa's perspective underscores evolving values.

Nana's eventual acceptance symbolises the importance of valuing people tot who they are. The story celebrates individuality, challenges stereotypes and emphasises on self-belief and perseverance.

<u>Extract 2</u>

"As I keep saying, if any woman decides to come into this world with her two legs, then she should select legs that have meat on them: with good calves. Because you are sure such legs would support solid hips. And a woman must have solid hips to be able to have children."

(i) Who is 'I' in this extract? Describe her character in brief.

Ans. 'I' refers to Nana, Adjoa's grandmother.

Nana is a traditional and strict woman with strong opinions, especially regarding appearances and gender roles. She frequently criticizes Adjoa's legs, believing they are too thin and long for a woman, and this often frustrates Adjoa. Despite her critical nature, Nana cares deeply for her granddaughter. She is proud of Adjoa when she wins the sports competition. Nana's character reflects a blend of love, concern, and conventional thinking

(ii) Briefly analyse Adjoa and Nana's relationship.

OR

Describe the relationship between Adjoa and her grandmother.

Why was she made to feel inadequate?

Ans. Adjoa and Nana's relationship is complex but evolves over time. Nana often criticises Adjoa's thin legs, believing they make her unattractive, which hurts Adjoa, who seeks her grandmother's approval. She is made to feel inadequate due to her thin spindly legs which are not up to the expected beauty standards.

Despite the criticism, there is care in their bond, and Adjoa respects Nana. Their relationship changes when Adjoa proves her worth by winning a running competition, leading Nana to appreciate her for her abilities rather than her appearance.

This shift reflects growth and mutual respect, showing the importance of accepting individuality over prejudice.

(iii) What does this story suggest about the pressures women face in society regarding their physical appearances?

Ans. This story suggests that women face significant pressure to conform to societal standards of beauty, which often define their worth based on physical appearance rather than their abilities or character. These pressures can affect self-esteem and limit how women view themselves and their potential.

The story highlights how such expectations are often perpetuated by family and tradition, showing the need to challenge these norms and value women for their achievements and individuality.

(iv) The story draws a contrast between tradition and modernity. Analyse and comment.

Ans. The story contrasts tradition and modernity through Adjoa and her grandmother. The grandmother represents tradition, valuing physical appearance and old gender expectations. Adjoa, however, challenges this by winning the sports competition, showing that her worth comes from her abilities, not her locks. This highlights the shift from traditional views to modern ideas about self-worth and gender equality.

(v) Do you think Adjoa is pragmatic in nature? Why? Justify.

Ans. Yes. Adjoa is pragmatic because she focuses on proving her worth through actions rather than dwelling on the criticism about her legs.

Instead of becoming discouraged by her grandmother's remarks, she channels her energy into excelling in sports, showing her ability to rise above negativity. Adjoa's decision to let her achievements speak for her reflects her practical and solution-oriented mindset, highlighting her maturity and resilience.

Extract 3

"You know what she did? She carried the gleaming cup on her back. Like they do with babies. And this time, not taking the trouble to walk by herself. When we arrived in our village, she entered our compound to show the cup to my mother before going to give it back to the headmaster"

(i) What does Nana do with the trophy? How does the author describe Nana's action with the trophy?

Ans. At the end of the story, Nana takes the trophy that Adjoa won for being the best all-round athlete and carries it on her back.

The author uses the simile 'Like they do with babies' to describe Nana's action. This simile makes a comparison between the gleaming cup on Nana's back to a baby

(ii) Nana's action symbolises something particularly valuable. What do they imply?

Ans. Carrying the cup on her back symbolises Nana's newfound pride and recognition of Adjoa's achievements. It shows that Nana now values Adjoa's abilities and no longer focuses solely on her physical appearance.

The act of carrying the cup reflects Nana's acceptance and admiration, signifying a shift from criticism to support and respect for Adjoa's success.

(iii) Why does Adjoa feel that it was better to prove herself through actions rather than words?

Ans. Adjoa feels it was better to prove herself through actions rather than words because she understands that actions speak louder and are more convincing than mere talk. Given the constant criticism about her legs, she knows that her achievements will be the most effective way to change people's perceptions. She wanted to break the stereotype.

(iv) How does Adjoa's character grow throughout the story?

Ans. Adjoa's character grows in confidence and self-awareness throughout the story. At the start, she is insecure about her legs, which are constantly criticised by Nana. She feels misunderstood and

struggles to express herself. However, as she excels in running and wins the sports competition, Adjoa gains a sense of accomplishment. This success challenges Nana's critical views, and Adjoa begins to embrace her physical abilities. By the end of the story, she becomes more confident in herself, and her relationship with Nana transforms as Nana shows pride in her achievements.

(v) 'Thin legs can also be useful', what does this statement suggest about Nana's realisation?

Ans. The statement 'thin legs can also be useful' reflects Nana's realisation and change in perspective about Adjoa. Initially, Nana criticised Adjoa's legs for being too thin and not fitting the ideal standards for a woman. However, after Adjoa wins the race and proves her abilities, Nana acknowledges that even thin legs can be strong and capable. This marks a shift in Nana's views, as she now sees the value in Adjoa's physical traits, realising that they can be useful in different ways, and not just for traditional expectations of supporting hips for childbearing.

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