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Question Bank

WBBSE Class 9 English (Bliss), Second Language

Lesson 5: All Summer in a Day

by Ray Bradbury

Seen Questions, Grammar Exercises and Writing Practice

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26 sourced questions plus 6 additional questions: 32 questions in all, including the writing task

Lesson Summary

On the planet Venus it rains all the time. The sun comes out only once in seven years, and then only for about an hour. A group of nine year old school children has lived on Venus all their lives. They were only two years old when the sun last came out, so they have forgotten its colour and its heat. All day they have read about the sun in class and written small stories, essays and poems about it. They are eager for the sun to appear.

Margot is different from the other children. She came from Earth only five years ago, when she was four years old in Ohio, so she still remembers the sun clearly. She is frail and quiet, and she stands apart from the rest. The other children do not believe her when she describes the sun, and they are jealous of her memory. Led by William, they lock her in a closet just before the sun comes out.

Then the rain stops. An immense silence falls, and the sun comes out, large and the colour of flaming bronze, under a blazing blue sky. The children rush out, shouting with joy. They run, play in the jungle, turn their faces to the sky and take off their jackets to feel the warmth on their arms. It is better than anything they had imagined. Then a girl holds out a single large raindrop in her open palm. The rain has begun again. The sun is gone for another seven years. At once the children remember Margot, still locked in the closet. They walk back slowly, unlock the door and stand before her, ashamed and unable to meet her eyes.

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Key Points

Author	Ray Bradbury (1920-2012), American fiction writer. This text is an excerpt from a science fiction story about life on Venus.
Theme	Jealousy and cruelty among children; the pain of being different; how precious ordinary things like sunshine become when they are rare; guilt and the wish to make amends
Main characters	Margot, a frail and quiet girl who came from Earth five years ago and remembers the sun; William, the boy who leads the others against her
Other characters	

	The school children of Venus, all nine years old; the teacher who waits with them for the sun
Setting	A schoolroom in an underground city on Venus, a planet of endless rain; the jungle outside, which burns with sunlight for one hour
Central moment	The sun comes out after seven years for about an hour, while Margot, the only child who remembers it, is locked in a closet by her classmates
Grammar topics	Simple, complex and compound sentences, and conversion from one kind to another
Writing topic	Letter of enquiry: a letter to the postmaster about a lost letter

Seen Questions

Questions from the textbook comprehension exercises and from a school paper. Every question carries an honest source tag, and every question has a short answer written in our own words.

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A. From School Papers (Seen)

Howrah Zilla School 2025 [school paper 2025]

Passage: "The children were eager to see the sun. They had been on Venus all their lives. They had been only two years old when the sun last came out..." (the rain stops, an immense silence falls, and the sun comes out).

A. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives (1 x 4 = 4)

(i) The children had been on Venus: (a) for a brief spell (b) for seven years (c) all their lives (d) for one year. **[school paper 2025]**
Answer: (c) all their lives. The children were born on Venus and had never lived anywhere else.

(ii) As soon as the rain stopped, there was: (a) neither motion nor tremor (b) all noise (c) all uproar (d) all flood. **[school paper 2025]**
Answer: (a) neither motion nor tremor. When the endless rain stopped, an immense silence fell over everything.

(iii) When the sun last came out, the children were only: (a) three (b) two (c) five (d) six years old. **[school paper 2025]**

Answer: (b) two years old. They were too young then to remember the sun.

(iv) The children put their hands to their ears, not being able to tolerate: (a) the huge silence (b) the great noise (c) neither noise nor silence (d) the tremor. **[school paper 2025]**

Answer: (a) the huge silence. After seven years of unbroken rain, the sudden silence was strange and hard to bear.

B. State True or False and give a Supporting Sentence [(1 + 1) x 2 = 4]

(i) The children were unwilling to see the sun. **[school paper 2025]**

Answer: False. Supporting Sentence: "The children were eager to see the sun."

(ii) An immense silence followed as the rain stopped. **[school paper 2025]**

Answer: True. Supporting Sentence: "As soon as the rain stopped, an immense silence followed."

C. Answer the following question

Why did the children forget the colour and the heat of the sun? **[school paper 2025]**

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Answer: They forgot because they were only two years old when the sun last came out seven years ago. Since then it had rained without a break, so they had no chance to see or feel the sun again.

B. From the Textbook (Bliss IX)

Exercise 1: Tick the correct answer [textbook exercise]

(1) Men and women came from the Earth to Venus by (a) aeroplanes (b) helicopters (c) rockets (d) satellites. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (c) rockets. They were the children of the rocket men and women who had come to settle on Venus.

(2) The children learned that the sun was like a/an (a) lemon (b) apple (c) orange (d) guava. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (a) lemon. In class they had read that the sun was like a lemon, and how hot it was.

(3) The children had long forgotten the colour of the (a) Earth (b) Sun (c) Venus (d) Moon. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (b) Sun. Seven years of rain had wiped out their memory of how the sun looked and felt.

(4) When the children felt warm in the sun they took off their (a) jackets (b) sweaters (c) blazers (d) coats. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (a) jackets. They took off their jackets and let the sun burn their arms.

(5) The children came to know that the sun would come out after (a) two years (b) six years (c) seven years (d) nine years. **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: (c) seven years. The scientists had said the sun would appear after seven years of rain, for about an hour.

Exercise 2: Answer within fifteen words **[textbook exercise]**

(a) How did the heavy storms affect the islands of Venus? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: The heavy storms sent tidal waves over the islands and crushed the forests again and again.

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(b) What did the children write about the sun? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: They wrote small stories, essays and poems about the sun.

(c) Where did the children play? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: They played in the echoing tunnels of the underground city.

(d) How did the jungle in Venus look? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: When the sun came out, the jungle burned with sunlight.

Exercise 3: Answer within twenty-five words **[textbook exercise]**

(a) Why were the children eager to see the sun? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: They were eager because the sun was to come out after seven years of rain, for only about an hour, and they had forgotten its colour and heat.

(b) What did the children do immediately after the rain stopped? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: They rushed out yelling into the summertime, ran about, turned their faces to the sky and took off their jackets to feel the warm sun.

(c) Why do you think that the children were feeling unhappy when it started raining again? **[textbook exercise]**

Answer: Their one hour of sunshine was over, the sun would not return for seven more years, and they suddenly remembered that they had locked Margot in the closet, so they felt ashamed.

C. Additional Questions [Additional]

Fresh questions to cover the characters, the theme and the ending, which the sourced questions do not ask about. No source is claimed for these.

(1) Who was Margot, and how was she different from the other children? **[Additional]**

Answer: Margot was a frail, quiet girl who had come from Earth only five years ago. She remembered the sun from when she was four years old in Ohio, while the other children, who had lived on Venus all their lives, had forgotten it.

(2) Why did the children lock Margot in the closet? **[Additional]**

Answer: They were jealous because she remembered the sun and they did not, and they did not believe her descriptions of it. Led by William, they locked her in the closet just before the sun came out, so that she would miss it.

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(3) How did the sun look when it came out? **[Additional]**

Answer: The sun was very large and the colour of flaming bronze, the sky around it was blazing blue, and the jungle burned with sunlight.

(4) What happened when the rain started again? **[Additional]**

Answer: A girl held a single large raindrop in her open palm, and the children knew the sunshine was over. They remembered Margot at once, walked back slowly, unlocked the closet and stood before her in shame.

(5) What is the main theme of the story? **[Additional]**

Answer: The story shows how jealousy can turn children cruel, how it feels to be different and shut out, and how guilt follows a cruel act. It also shows how precious an ordinary thing like sunshine becomes when it is rare.

(6) Why is the title "All Summer in a Day" suitable for the story? **[Additional]**

Answer: The title is suitable because the children get a whole summer of sunshine, warmth and play packed into a single hour on a single day, after seven years of rain.

Grammar Exercises

Simple, complex and compound sentences. A simple sentence has one main clause. A complex sentence has one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. A compound sentence has two or more main clauses joined by a conjunction such as and, but or or.

> **Note:** In the source record of Exercise 5, the opening words of item (c) were garbled and read "[know a man who is very wise". The sentence has been corrected here to "I know a man who is very wise", following the parallel construction of the other items. No other change has been made to the questions.

Exercise 5: Do as directed [textbook exercise]

(a) I have a blue pen. (Change into a complex sentence) [textbook exercise]
Answer: I have a pen which is blue.

(b) Seeing a snake, the boy shouted. (Change into a compound sentence) [textbook exercise]
Answer: The boy saw a snake and shouted.

(c) I know a man who is very wise. (Change into a simple sentence) [textbook exercise]
Answer: I know a very wise man.

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(d) The girl who is dancing on the stage is my sister. (Change into a compound sentence) [textbook exercise]
Answer: The girl is dancing on the stage and she is my sister.

(e) I met my friend and told her about an incident. (Change into a simple sentence) [textbook exercise]
Answer: On meeting my friend, I told her about an incident.

(f) The sky was overcast but it did not rain. (Change into a complex sentence) [textbook exercise]
Answer: Though the sky was overcast, it did not rain.

Note: Textbook Exercise 4 explains simple, complex and compound sentences. It sets no questions, so no question block is given for it.

Writing Practice

Exercise 6: Letter of enquiry, within 100 words [textbook exercise]

The lesson gives a model letter of enquiry about a computer course. Now write a letter within 100 words to the postmaster of your locality informing him about the loss of an important letter addressed to you, and requesting him to help you get it.

Model answer (within 100 words):

[Your Address]
[Date]

To
The Postmaster
[Your Local Post Office]

Respected Sir,

I am writing to inform you that an important letter addressed to me has not reached me. It was posted last week by my uncle, and it contained my admission documents. I have waited for a week and have also enquired at the local delivery office, but I have not received it. I request you to kindly look into the matter and help me trace the letter at the earliest. I shall be grateful for your help.

Yours faithfully,
[Your Name]

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The body of the letter above is under 100 words. Fill in your own address, date and name before using it.