

Skimbleshanks : The Railway Cat
Poem - 2

WORK BOOK QUESTIONS

PASSAGE 1.

- (i) One of the passengers on the train is the speaker. He observes that the train is about to start but Skimble, the cat, its incharge, is missing. It is not normal.
- (ii) The night mail is ready to depart on its usual time. However, its incharge Skimble who has to give the signal is missing. All are in suspense about the whereabouts of Skimble.
- (iii) Skimble is extremely observant, duty conscious and punctual. He is never late. He comes to give signal to the train in time.
- (iv) Skimble who has to give signal to the 'Night Mail' to depart is nowhere to be seen. The time of its departure from the station is fast approaching. This causes commotion among all the passengers.
- (v) Skimble being the incharge of the train ensures that everything goes well on the train. He looks after the comforts of all the passengers. He ensures that there is no hilarity and riot and any kind of lawlessness anywhere in the train.

PASSAGE 2.

- (i) Skimbleshanks is in-charge of the train and ensures the smooth operation of the train. The Night Mail was ready to depart but its incharge was missing. Without his approval (signal) the train cannot leave the station. So there was restlessness and anxiety among the passengers.

CLASS: IX

POEM- 2

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

- (ii) The Cat is not an ordinary animal. He is called Skimble and is the official incharge of the Night Mail. It is he who supervises everything on the train.
- (iii) The train is heading for the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere. No particular city of its destination is mentioned because the Cat's whole railway network seems to be crazy.
- (iv) The Cat is watching the passengers 'without winking', drinking a cup of tea with a drop of scotch, and his parting remark 'I'll see you again' by waving his long tail are some of his amusing actions.
- (v) At times we feel that the Cat does represent some dictator who keeps a constant eye on everybody and every action of theirs. This is confirmed when we come to know how the cat watches the face of each passenger and
- PASSAGE 3:** tries to know what they are thinking.

(i)

Skimble, the cat, is the most important on the Northern Mail. He is the incharge of the train. The train cannot depart without his signal. Then it is he who supervises everything on the train.

(ii) Skimble, the cat, watches all the passengers carefully. He has full control over everything going on in the train. His discreet presence everywhere reminds us of a dictator.

(iii) Skimble, the cat, watches all the passengers carefully. He has full control over all the activities going on in the train and does not tolerate any chaos.

Part 4 of extract 3 will be sent next week