

Lesson 10**A Mild Attack of Locusts (Doris Lessing)****Q.1: What are locusts?**

Ans: Locusts are winged insects just like grass hoppers. They fly in swarms. They eat up the entire vegetation.

Q.2: Why did the farmers throw wet leaves on the fire?

Ans: The farmers threw wet leaves on fire to make it acrid and black.

Q.3: What was the desire of every farmer?

Ans: Every farmer desired that the locusts would overlook his farm and go on to the next.

Q.4: Did Margaret know what to do to keep the locusts away?

Ans: No, Margaret did not know what to do to keep the locusts away. She was wondering what she could do to help.

Q.5: What was the condition of the trees?

Ans: The trees were queer and still, clogged with insects, their bough weighed to the ground.

Q.6: How did the old Stephen treat the stray locust which he found on his shirt?

Ans: Old Stephen picked a stray locust off his shirt and split down with his thumbnail.

Q.7: Are the hoppers different from locusts?

Ans: Hoppers are the young locusts. They differ from them in size and age. They cannot fly but jump from point to point.

Q.8: Did Margaret lose heart on the loss of crops?

Ans: Margaret preferred not even to think of the locusts. She was getting used to the idea of three or four years of them. She felt like a survivor after war.

Q.9: Why are the locusts compared with bad weather?

Ans: Locusts are compared with bad weather because they are always imminent.

Q.10: Why did the men eat their supper with good appetites?

Ans: The men ate their supper with good appetites because it was a thirsty work, and they had been working hard throughout the day to keep the locusts off their farm. They thanked God for they said that the situation could have been worse.

Q.11: Why did the farmers want to kill the locusts?

Ans: The farmers wanted to kill the locusts to save their crops from being eaten and prevent them from laying eggs.

Q.12: What efforts did the farmers make to prevent the swarm from landing on their crops?

Ans. The farmers made noise, threw wet leaves on fire to make it acrid and black, and light big fires to prevent the swarm from landing on their crops.

