Lesson 2

Clearing In the Sky (Jesse Hilton Stuart)

Q.1: Why didn't the old man follow the advice of the doctors?

Ans: The old man did not follow the advice of the doctors because he had to bring up a family of five children. He was a strong and determined person.

Q.2: What had the doctors told the old man?

Ans: The doctors had told the old man to sit still and take life easy. They told him not to do any work and to enjoy the remaining days of his life. One of the doctors even told him not to walk the length of a city block.

Q.3: Where did the old man take his son?

Ans: The old man took his son to the top of the mountain to show him a piece of land which he had cleared and farmed.

Q.4: Had the son ever been there before?

Ans: The son had been there many times except the last three years.

Q.5: What were the names of vegetables the old man grew on his farm?

Ans: The old man grew pumpkins, yams, potatoes, and tomatoes on his farm.

Q.6: Why did the old man take the steep path?

Ans: The old man took the steep path because that was one way of knowing that he was getting better all the time.

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Q.7: Why did the son at the age of six cry?

Ans: The son cried at the age of six, because he had lost the little wooden plough in a furrow.

Q.8: What were the feelings of the old man at the age of seventy?

Ans: The old man felt that his time was borrowed, because he had reached the years the Good Book allows the man in his lifetime upon this earth. He wanted to go back to the places he knew and loved.

Q.10: Why had the old man planted his secret garden?

Ans: The old man had planted his secret garden because this was the only part of the mountain left where he had not worked in the past. It was similar to the mountain slope he and his wife cleared when they were young. So, he went back to his youth. He also said that anything grown in a new ground like that has a better flavor.

Q. 11: Why did the writer's father want him to visit the fertile clearing?

Ans: The writer's father wants him to visit the fertile clearing because he wanted to show him achievement through hard work and determination. He also wanted to show him the fertile piece of clearing where he had grown yams, potatoes, and tomatoes.

Q. 12: How did the old man prove his doctors wrong in 'Clearing in the Sky'?

Ans: The old man proved his doctors wrong by hard work and determination. He worked against the instruction of the doctor who told him not to work even the length of a city block. The doctor also told him not to work, sit still, and enjoy the remaining days of his life, but he lived to raise a family of five children.

