1.The Portrait Of a Lady

Q1. Mention the three phases of the author’s relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad.

1. The three phases of the author’s relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad are:
2. Childhood—His parents left him with his grandmother in the village as they had moved to the city. His grandmother helped him to get ready to go to the school. She sang her morning prayers during that time to create his interest in it. After feeding him breakfast of bread, butter and sugar; she accompanied him to the school. The school was attached to a temple. While the author learnt his lessons in the school; she read scriptures in the gurudwara. After the school; both of them would come back home together.
3. Boyhood---- The author’s parents were settled in the city. They called both of them (author and his grandmother) to the city. He was admitted in an English school. He went to school by bus. In this way she could not accompany him to the school. But she continued getting him ready for school. Both of them shared the same room. She asked him about his studies. She was not happy with the type of teaching being taught in the school. She did not like the teaching of music. According to her; it was not meant for gentle folk. She wanted teaching of religious books in the school but it was not there. She could not help him in his studies. Slowly the friendship between them weakened.
4. Early youth--------The author moved to the University. The author was given a separate room. In this way, the common link of their friendship snapped. His grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation.

Q2. Mention three reasons why the author’s grandmother was disturbed when he started going to the city school.

A.1. She could not go with him to leave him to school. He went to the school in the school bus. This broke her connection with the author and disturbed her.

2.She could not help him in his studies. She did not have any knowledge of the subjects being taught there. She did not have faith in the subjects being taught there. So, she was disturbed.

3.She was unhappy because there was no teaching about God and the scriptures in the school. Instead, music was being taught there. According to her, it was meant for decent people. So, she was disturbed most.

Q3. Mention the odd way in which the author’s grandmother behaved just before she died.

A.1.She collected the women of her neighbourhood, took an old drum and started singing.

2. It was the only day in the author’s life that he did not find her praying.

3. Next morning, she fell ill. The doctor said that it was mild fever and she would get well.

4.But she knew that her end was near. She took her rosary in her hands without wasting any time. She started praying.

5.Before anybody could suspect, her lips stopped moving. She passed away peacefully.

Q4. Mention the way in which the sparrows expressed their sorrow when the author’s grandmother died.

1. Thousands of sparrows gathered on the floor near grandmother’s dead body. They were silent. There was no chirruping. The author’s mother offered them some crumbs of bread. But they did not eat them. After the grandmother’s body was taken away, the sparrows flew away quietly. In this way these sparrows their sorrow when the author’s grandmother died.