

- 4 Re-narrate the following story in your words with creativity : 14

An epidemic broke out in the jungle. Animals were dying in hundreds. The lion, king of the forest, called a meeting.

"The epidemic is due to the wrath of gods. One of us had committed a wrong. If the wrong-doer confesses and takes punishment the gods will spare us." he told the assembly of animals.

"Personally I have done no wrong ever," he added, "I have killed scores of animals, but for my food." "There is nothing wrong in it." said the panther, tiger, wolf, bear, and other fierce animals in unison. All of them had killed and eaten up their innocent neighbors.

At last the donkey confessed, "I have stolen a mouthful of grass from a peasant's field. But only once."

"He is the culprit," cried the fierce animals. "A thief ! You are the cause of our misery." They passed judgment and killed the donkey to appease the gods. They had found somebody to lay the blame on.

- 5 Read the following passage and answer the questions given below : 16

Once a poor widow who had lost her only son, came to Buddha and lamenting bitterly, requested him to bring her dear child back to life. The holy man, touched by great sorrow of the poor woman and said, "There is only one medicine that can restore your son to life. Bring me a handful of rice from a house where death has never taken place."

The grief-stricken mother went from house to house begging for rice. But every door, she got sad replies. One said, "I lost my youngest child last month." Another said, "only last year my husband died." The poor widow returned with a sorrowful heart to the sage and told him that she could not get the required rice.

Buddha then spoke tenderly, "O poor woman! console yourself. There is not a single house in the country where death has not entered at one time or another. Sorrow and death are the common lot of all." The poor woman then went home quietly.

Questions :

- (1) Why did the poor widow cry very much?
- (2) What did Buddha ask the widow to bring?
- (3) What was not possible for the widow to bring? Why?
- (4) How did Buddha console the grief-stricken mother?
- (5) Complete the following by selecting appropriate statements from those given below each. Write full sentences.
 - (a) The poor widow came to the holy man, because...
 - (i) she had lost her son.
 - (ii) she wanted medicine for her only son.
 - (iii) she wanted him to give her son a new life.
 - (b) The synonymous words for 'lamenting bitterly' mean...
 - (i) shouting loudly.
 - (ii) mourning severely.
 - (iii) weeping badly.
