

Mount litera Zee School Haridwar

Class :- VII

(Topic - Unseen passage)

Date _____

Read the given passage carefully :-

1. The communities of ants are sometimes very large, numbering even upto 500 individuals; and it is a lesson to us that no one has ever yet seen a quarrel between any two ants belonging to the same community. On the other hand it must be admitted that they are in hostility not only with most other insects including ants of different species, but even with those of the same species if belonging to different communities. I have over and over again introduced ants from one nest to another of the same species; and they were invariably attacked, seized by a leg or an antenna, and dragged out.
2. It is evident therefore; that the ants of each community all recognized one another and were perfectly friendly, while they at once attacked ants from a different nest, although of the same species.
3. It has been suggested that the ants of each nest have some sign or password by which they recognize one another. To test this, I made some of them insensible, first, I tried chloroform; but this was fatal to them, and I did not consider the test satisfactory. I decided therefore to intoxicate them. This was less than easy than I had expected. None of my ants would voluntarily degrade themselves by getting drunk. However, I got over the difficulty by putting them into whisky for a few moments. I took fifty specimens – twenty five percent from one nest and twenty five percent from another, made them dead drunk, marked each with a spot of paint, and put them on a table close to where other ants from one of the nests were feeding. The table was surrounded as usual with a moat of water to prevent them from straying. The ants, which were feeding, soon noticed those, which I had made drunk. They seemed quite astonished to find their comrades in such a disgraceful condition and were as much at a loss to know what to do with them as we were. After a while, however, they carried them all away; they took the strangers to the edge of the moat and dropped them into the water, while they bore their friends home into the nest, whereby degrees they slept off the effects of the spirits. Thus, it is evident that they know their friends even when it is incapable of giving any sign or password.

(C.B.S.E. Sample Paper)

A1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, complete the following statements as briefly as possible. Write your answers in the answer sheet against the correct blank number.

- (a) The lesson the writer wants us to learn from the ants is _____
- (b) The writer discovered that ants of one community do not welcome ants of another community when _____
- (c) The writer decided to intoxicate the ants because _____
- (d) The writer makes a humorous comment when he says that _____
- (e) The writer conducted the experiment with drunk ants because _____
- (f) Write down the ways in which the ants dealt with the following :
 - (i) drunk ants from their nest _____
 - (ii) drunk ants from other nests _____

A1.2 Choose the most appropriate title from the ones given below. Write your answer in the answer sheet against the correct blank number :

How to Conduct Tests
with Drunken Ants

How to Communicate
with Ants

Human Qualities
In the Insect World

Insects and
Drinking Habits