

GRAMMAR

ANSWER KEY

Flamingos **is** known for standing on one leg and their lovely pink colour.

But did you **knew** that flamingos are not born with those lovely hues?

A flamingo's pink feathers actually **came** from what they eat. A flamingo's

diet consists of small fish, shrimp and different types **for** algae. It is the

carotenoids found in algae and shrimp that **makes** flamingos pink. The

highest concentration is found in algae, but because shrimp **ate** algae,

the colour-producing carotenoids are found **on** them as well. Once the

flamingos eat the algae or shrimp, their bodies **beginning** to process the

food. The magic **happened** in the liver when enzymes present in that

organ begin to break down the carotenoids into brightly coloured pig-

ments. **This** pigments then give beautiful colour to the flamingos. The

next time you see **the** flamingo, you will know whether or not it **consume**

a ton of carotenoids.

- 1 **are** _____
- 2 **know** _____
- 3 **come** _____
- 4 **of** _____
- 5 **make** _____
- 6 **eat** _____
- 7 **in** _____
- 8 **begin** _____
- 9 **happens** _____
- 10 **these** _____
- 11 **a** _____
- 12 **has consumed** _____

COMPREHENSION

ANSWER KEY

1. In paragraph 1, what **price** did the writer have to pay for **bringing down** the **yellow kite**?

From the passage	Answer
I sliced a bright yellow kite with a coiled white tail. It cost me another gash on the index finger and blood trickled down into my palm.	The price the writer had to pay was a gash on his index finger.

Notes to Students:

You should identify key words in the question. For instance, you can locate the noun "yellow kite", which is in the question in paragraph 1, to extract the relevant portion where you can find the answer. Other key words in the question include "price" and "bring down". Be aware that you may not be able to find the exact words from the question in the passage. In this case, you will need to look for the synonyms of the words such as "bring down", which is "sliced", and "price", which is "cost", in the passage.

2. (a) In paragraph 2, identify **two** expressions of **not more than seven words each** which suggest that it could be getting colder. [Vocabulary-Inferential]

From the passage	Answer
... tufts of clouds had drifted in and the sun had slipped behind them . Shadows started to lengthen. The spectators on the roofs bundled up in scarves and thick coats .	The two expressions are "the sun had slipped behind them" and "bundled up in scarves and thick coats".

Notes to Students:

The expression "the sun had slipped behind them" tells us that with the clouds concealing the sun, the weather got colder.

The expression "bundled up in scarves and thick coats" tells us that the people were cold and had to cover themselves.

- (b) What do the words "ached" and "stiff" suggest about the writer's physical state? [Vocabulary-Inferential]

From the passage	Answer
My legs ached and my neck was stiff .	The writer was exhausted/tired.

Notes to Students:

You will need to make your inference based on some background knowledge about kite-fighting or clues from the passage. It is a physically demanding activity as it requires the participant to stand for a long period of time and constantly looking up at the kites in the sky, causing the neck to be stiff. The expression "bundled up in scarves and thick coats" tells us that the people were cold and had to cover themselves.

3. The writer describes that hope grew like "snow collecting on a wall, one flake at a time" (lines 10-11). What does this description suggest about how hope appears to the writer? [Figurative-Vocabulary]

Description	How hope appears to the writer
"snow collecting on a wall"	Hope is increasing/growing/rising/getting greater .
"one flake at a time"	Hope is gathering gradually/slowly .

4. In paragraph 3, which word suggests the writer was thrilled to be **in control** of the situation he was in? [Vocabulary]

From the passage	Answer
It seemed I could hardly make a wrong move, as if every gust of wind blew in my favour. I'd never felt so in command , so lucky. It felt intoxicating .	The word is "intoxicating".

Notes to Students:

You will need to know that the word "control" in the question is the same as "in command" in the passage. The writer describes this as intoxicating which means exciting/thrilling/exhilarating.

5. (a) In paragraph 4, which two activities were the people engaged in? [Content]

From the passage	Answer
People were stomping their feet, clapping, whistling, chanting , "Boboresh! Boboresh!" Cut him! Cut him!	The people were stomping their feet/clapping/whistling/chanting. Any two of the above.

- (b) What do these actions suggest about the people? [Inferential]

From the passage	Answer
People were stomping their feet, clapping, whistling, chanting , "Boboresh! Boboresh!" Cut him! Cut him!	The people were wild/noisy/boisterous/excited/thrilled.

6. What does the phrase “willed myself to hear” (line 24) tell us about the writer’s state of mind?
[Vocabulary-Inferential]

From the passage	Answer
But all I heard – all I willed myself to hear – was the thudding of blood in my head.	He was determined to shut out the noises around him so he could focus on winning. Or He was very tense as he focused on the blood thudding in his head.

Notes to Students:

The word “willed” suggests determination and it also suggests the writer summoning all the power of his thoughts to make him focus on the sound of blood rushing in his head – emphasising his determination to win. The idea of him using all his will to focus of the thudding of blood in him and victory also suggest he was extremely tense. Hence, both answers are plausible.

7. Give **two** reasons why the writer wanted to win the kite-fighting tournament (lines 28-29). **Answer in your own words.** [Vocabulary]

From the passage	Answer
I didn’t know what the other guy was playing for, maybe just bragging rights. But this was my one chance to become someone who was looked at, not seen, listened to, not heard.	Winning the tournament was the writer’s opportunity to be someone valued/significant/esteemed [1] and someone who is given attention. [1]

Notes to Students:

You have to identify the two reasons in the given lines:

- (i) Someone who was looked at, not seen
- (ii) Someone who was listened to, not heard.

You will need to paraphrase and not lift these words.

8. In paragraph 5, the writer says “hope became knowledge”. What does he mean by this expression?
[Vocabulary]

From the passage	Answer
And suddenly, just like that, hope became knowledge. I was going to win. It was just a matter of when.	He meant that the hope of winning turned into a fact/reality.

Notes to Students:

You have to relate the phrase to what was happening in the paragraph and the passage as a whole. Winning was initially termed as a “laughable dream”.

9. In paragraph 6, **explain fully** how the writer views the kite-fighting tournament. [Content-Inferential]

From the passage	Answer
The crowd sensed the end was at hand. The chorus of "Cut him! Cut him!" grew louder, like Romans chanting for the gladiators to kill, kill!	The writer views the kite-fighting tournament as violent/ferocious/brutal [inference-1] as he sees the spectators as Romans chanting for the gladiators who are the participants of the tournament to kill. [extract-1]

Notes to Students:

You will need to extract the relevant information which reflects how the writer views the kite-fighting tournament. It will be useful if you are aware that gladiators were armed combatants during the Roman Empire who entertained people with violent confrontations with other gladiators, criminals and wild animals. Since this analogy is used, it can be inferred that the writer views the kite-fighting tournament as violent.

10. The structure of the text reflects the different stages of the kite-fighting tournament. Complete the flow chart by choosing one phrase from the box to summarise the stage of the kite-fighting described in each part of the text. There are some extra phrases in the box you do not need to use.

a peaceful start

winning seems possible

a rowdy interval

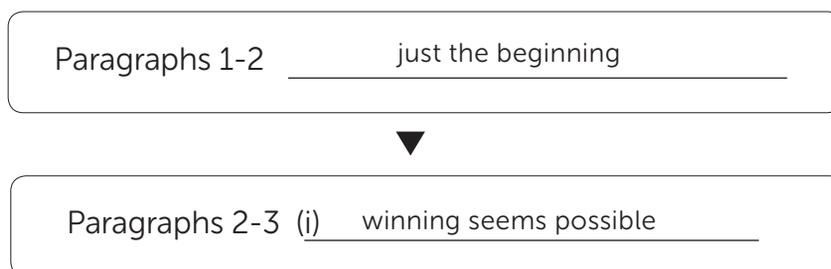
a decisive attack

motivated by a deep desire

victory is certain

facing the challenges

FLOW CHART



Clues from Paragraph 2:

We were down to a half dozen and I was still flying. My legs ached and my neck was stiff. **But with each defeated kite, hope grew in my heart,** like snow collecting on a wall, one flake at a time.

Clues from Paragraph 3:

And **I was still flying. It seemed I could hardly make a wrong move,** as if **every gust of wind blew in my favour. I'd never felt so in command, so lucky...** Another fifteen minutes and **what had seemed like a laughable dream that morning had suddenly become a reality: It was just me and the other guy.** The blue kite.

Paragraph 4 _____ a tense atmosphere _____

Paragraph 5 (ii) _____ motivated by a deep desire _____

Clues from Paragraph 5:

But all I heard – **all I willed myself to hear** – was the thudding of blood in my head. **All I saw was the blue kite. All I smelled was victory. Salvation. Redemption.** If Baba was wrong and there was a God like they said in school, then **He'd let me win... But this was my one chance to become someone who was looked at, not seen, listened to, not heard.** If there was a God, He'd guide the winds, let them blow for me so that, with a tug of my string, **I'd cut loose my pain, my longing. I'd endured too much, come too far.** And suddenly, just like that, hope became knowledge. I was going to win. It was just a matter of when.

Paragraph 6 (iii) _____ a decisive attack _____

Clues from Paragraph 6:

It turned out to be sooner than later. A gust of wind lifted my kite and I took advantage. **Fed the string, pulled up. Looped my kite on top of the blue one. I held position.** The blue kite knew it was in trouble. It was trying desperately to maneuver out of the jam, **but I didn't let go. I held position.** The crowd sensed the end was at hand. The chorus of "Cut him! Cut him!" grew louder, like Romans chanting for the gladiators to kill, kill!

Paragraph 7 (iv) _____ victory is certain _____

Clues from Paragraph 7:

Then the moment came. I closed my eyes and loosened my grip on the string. It sliced my fingers again as the wind dragged it. And then... **I didn't need to hear the crowd's roar to know. I didn't need to see either. Hassan was screaming and his arm was wrapped around my neck.**
"Bravo! Bravo, Amir agha!"