KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN - JAMMU REGION

PRE-BOARD – I (2025-26) - SET - 2

CLASS-XII **Maximum Marks: 80**

SUBJECT: ENGLISH CORE **Time allowed: 3 Hrs**

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and follow them:
i. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
ii. This question paper contains three sections:
Section A: Reading Skills,
Section B: Creative Writing Skills
Section C: Literature.
iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A

READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. **Read the following passages. (12 MARKS)**

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions. But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from using gasoline for driving a car or coal for heating a building, for example. Clearing land and cutting down forests can also release carbon dioxide. Agriculture, oil and gas operations are major sources of methane

emissions. Energy, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main sectors causing greenhouse gases.

Climate scientists have showed that humans are responsible for virtually all global heating over the last 200 years. Human activities like the ones mentioned above are causing greenhouse gases that are warming the world faster than at any time in at least the last two thousand years. The average temperature of the Earth's surface is now about 1.2°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s (before the industrial revolution) and warmer than at any time in the last 100,000 years. The last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record, and each of the last four decades has been warmer than any previous decade since 1850.

Many people think climate change mainly means warmer temperatures. But temperature rise is only the beginning of the story. Because the Earth is a system, where everything is connected, changes in one area can influence changes in all others. The consequences of climate change now include, among others, intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity.

Climate change can affect our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work. Some of us are already more vulnerable to climate impacts, such as people living in small island nations and other developing countries. Conditions like sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion have advanced to the point where whole communities have had to relocate, and protracted droughts are putting people at risk of famine. In the future, the number of people displaced by weather-related events is expected to rise.

The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others. The six biggest emitters (China, the United States of America, India, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and Brazil) together accounted for more than half of all global greenhouse gas emissions in 2023. By contrast, the 45 least developed countries accounted for only 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. Which textual evidence shows that the Earth is warmer now than in the past 100,000 years? (1 Mark)

II. Complete the following: The comparison of greenhouse gases to a "blanket wrapped around the Earth" suggests that _____. (1 Mark)

III. The writer emphasises the seriousness of climate change in all of the following ways EXCEPT – (1 Mark)

A. by mentioning rising global temperatures
B. by describing extreme weather events
C. by showing human activities causing emissions
D. by narrating personal experiences of scientists

IV. What type of statement is made in the line: *"Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first"*? (1 Mark)

A. Warning
B. Moral obligation
C. Threat
D. Prediction

V. Based on the passage, mention one major human activity that leads to the release of methane emissions (1 Mark)

VI. Which one of the following best explains the phrase *"virtually all global heating over the last 200 years"*? (1 Mark)

A. Nature is solely responsible for global warming
B. Humans are the main drivers of recent global warming
C. The Earth has always been warm naturally
D. None of the above

VII. What does the line *"warmer than at any time in the last 100,000 years"* suggest about the uniqueness of current climate change? (1 Mark)

VIII. What do the examples of *small island nations* and *developing countries* reveal about the impact of climate change? (Answer in about 40 words) (2 Mark)

IX. How does the mention of the *six biggest emitters* versus the *45 least developed countries* highlight inequality in climate responsibility? (Answer in about 40 words) (2 Mark)

X. Complete the following with the most suitable option: (1 Mark)
The main idea of the text is _____.

A. The natural causes of climate change in the past
B. The human-driven causes and consequences of climate change
C. The role of scientists in studying climate change
D. The debate about whether climate change is real

2. Read the following carefully. (10 Marks)

A survey of 1,600 undergraduate students and young professionals was carried out in 2024 to study preferences in modes of higher education. Respondents were asked whether they preferred *traditional classroom learning*, *online courses*, or *blended learning (a mix of both)*. The aim was to understand changing learning behaviours, influencing factors, and the challenges faced by learners in different environments.

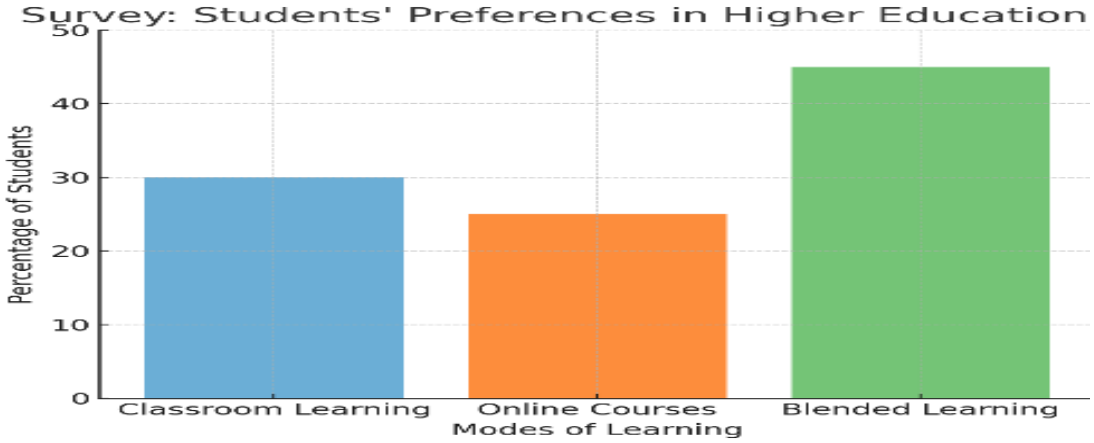
The survey covered students from metropolitan as well as semi-urban regions, ensuring diversity in gender, socioeconomic background, and fields of study. Data was collected through online questionnaires and in-person group discussions. This made the survey findings reflective of a broad spectrum of learners' voices.

Traditional classroom learning was valued for peer interaction, structured teaching, and the presence of mentors. Online courses were appreciated for flexibility, affordability, and access to global resources. Blended learning, however, emerged as the most attractive option among many respondents as it combined the best of both approaches.

Geographic variations were clear: students in metropolitan areas preferred online and blended formats due to better internet connectivity and exposure to international platforms. Semi-urban respondents leaned toward classroom learning, citing limited digital infrastructure and the need for personal guidance. Across both groups, the biggest concern was lack of motivation and mentorship in purely online courses.

The survey results highlight the urgent need for policymakers and universities to rethink education delivery models. Suggestions included strengthening digital infrastructure, providing teacher training for blended formats, and offering scholarships for online courses. Researchers concluded that blended learning could

become the dominant model in future, but only if issues of accessibility, quality assurance, and sustained mentorship are addressed.



Answer the following questions, based on the passage and bar graph above:

I. What was the main purpose of the survey conducted among 1,600 students and professionals? (1 Mark)

A. To measure the success rate of universities

B. To compare the costs of private and government colleges

C. To study learning preferences and influencing factors

D. To track dropout rates in higher education

II. Fill in the blank with the correct option:

The survey ensured representation across gender, background, and study fields to make the findings _____. (accurate / representative / rigid) (1 Mark)

III. Which mode of education was preferred the most according to the bar graph? (1 Mark)

IV. Based on the passage, semi-urban students leaned more toward classroom learning because _____. (1 Mark)

V. Why was blended learning considered the most attractive option among respondents? (Answer in about 40 words) (2 Mark)

VI. What does the phrase *"lack of motivation and mentorship in purely online courses"* suggest about challenges in digital learning? (Answer in about 40 words) (2 Mark)

VII. Which of the following aspects was NOT addressed in the survey? (1 Mark)

A. The reasons behind choosing different modes of learning

B. The impact of digital infrastructure on preferences

C. Government expenditure on education infrastructure

D. Suggestions for improving blended learning

VIII. The main idea of the passage is _____. (1 Mark)

A. The benefits of classroom learning only

B. The rising popularity of blended education and related challenges

C. The global dominance of online universities

D. The financial struggles of students in higher education

SECTION B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3. Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words (4 Marks)

A. You are Aditya Verma, President of the Music Society, Indore. The society is launching free guitar and keyboard lessons every Saturday evening at the Community Centre to nurture musical talent. Draft a notice inviting young residents to register. Include all necessary details.

OR

B. You are Megha Sinha, Secretary of the Social Service Club, Springdale School, Lucknow. Your school is organising a Charity Book Fair to raise funds for underprivileged children. Draft a notice in about 50 words inviting students and parents to contribute and participate.

4. Attempt any one of the following in about 50 words: (4 Marks)

A. As the Cultural Secretary of Zenith Public School, Hyderabad, you have planned an Annual Drama Festival at your school. Draft a formal invitation in about 50 words inviting a well-known theatre artist, Ms. Avantika Rao, to be the Chief Guest and judge the performances. Include details of the event (date, time, venue) and the significance of her presence.

OR

B. You are Dr. Rohan Shah. You have received an invitation to preside over the inauguration of a new Wellness Center at Lotus College, Pune, on 10th December. Unfortunately, due to a prior commitment, you cannot attend. Write a formal reply

in about 50 words to the Principal of the college, **declining** the invitation. Express gratitude for the invite and convey regrets for your inability to be present.

5. Attempt any one of the following in 120-150 words: (5 Marks)

A. You are Meera/Mihir, a student of Sunrise Senior Secondary School, Kanpur. You are concerned about the mental health of students, noticing increasing stress and anxiety among your peers. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Daily Times* newspaper, highlighting the need for greater awareness and support for student mental health in schools. Emphasize issues like academic pressure, stigma around seeking help, and the importance of counselling services in educational institutions. Use your own ideas along with the hints given below to draft the letter.
Draft the letter using your own ideas as well as the cues given:

- Rising academic pressure leading to anxiety, depression
- Lack of open conversations about mental health; stigma among students
- Need for trained counsellors and mental health workshops in schools
- Role of parents and teachers in creating a supportive environment
- Encourage inclusion of stress management and mindfulness in curriculum

OR

B. You are Rakesh/Rakhi, living at 32, Park Street, Chennai. You have come across the following advertisement in a national newspaper for the post of Junior Editorial Assistant at Bright Minds Publishing, New Delhi. Write a letter to the HR Manager, applying for the position, and include your bio-data.

BRIGHT MINDS PUBLISHING, NEW DELHI
WANTED – JUNIOR EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Bright Minds Publishing, New Delhi, seeks a creative and diligent candidate for the post of JUNIOR EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.
Eligibility: Graduate (preferably in English/Communications), Excellent writing and proofreading skills, Familiarity with publishing software & social media marketing desirable, 1–2 years' experience / internships in publishing preferred
Apply with complete bio-data within two weeks to:
HR Manager
Bright Minds Publishing
45 Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110016

6. Attempt *<u>any one</u>* of the following in 120-150 words: (5 Marks)

A. You are Arjun/Aruna, a student editor of your school magazine. You decide to write an article for the magazine on the influence of social media on the interpersonal skills of youth. Discuss both positive and negative impacts of social media on how young people communicate and form relationships. Include suggestions on using social media responsibly.

Write the article using your own ideas as well as the cues given:

- Instant connectivity and global awareness through social media
- Risk of superficial friendships and reduced face-to-face interaction
- Effect on communication skills: quick messaging vs. deep conversations
- Impact on mental health and self-esteem (pressure to project perfection)
- Need for balance: encourage real-life social activities, digital well-being

OR

B. You are Sneha/Sohan, a student reporter for your school newsletter. Recently, your school (Sunrise Public School) hosted an Inter-School Debate Competition. Write a report for the school newsletter detailing this event. Mention the purpose of the event, participating schools, topics debated, highlights of the best performances, and the results. Also include quotes from judges or participants and the overall response.

Write the report using your own ideas as well as the cues given:

- Event details: date, venue, occasion (Annual Literary Week)
- Number of participating schools and debate topics (e.g. technology in education, climate action)
- Notable performances and enthusiastic audience/supporters
- Judge's remarks on the quality of arguments and public speaking
- Winners and prize distribution; principal's commendation

SECTION C

LITERATURE (40 marks)

7. Read the following extracts and answer **ANY ONE** of the two, **(A) or (B)**:

(**1x6=6 Marks)**

A) ***Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still.***
For once on the face of the Earth
let's not speak in any language,
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.

I. What does the poet mean by "not speak in any language"? (1 Mark)

II. Complete the following statement with the correct option:

The act of keeping still is meant to promote _____.

a) Global silence and fear

b) Peace, reflection, and unity

c) Rejection of communication

d) Celebration of diversity

III. How does the instruction "count to twelve" contribute to the tone of the poem? (1 Mark)

IV. Fill in the blank:

The primary theme highlighted in the extract is the need for _____ amidst chaos. (1 Mark)

V. What emotion is most likely expressed by the poet in these lines? (1 Mark)

a) Urgency for global cooperation

b) Joy in human achievements

c) Anxiety about future conflicts

d) Anger against linguistic divisions

VI. All of the following are true for the extract EXCEPT – (1 Mark)

a) The poet suggests pausing all activity as a means of reflection.

b) The focus is on stillness as a symbolic action.

c) The call for silence is temporary, not permanent.

d) The poet advocates abandoning all human progress.

OR

B) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

I. What does the phrase "bright topaz denizens" suggest about the tigers? (1 Mark)

II. Complete the sentence with the correct option: (1 Mark)
The tigers' fearless nature is symbolic of _____.
a) Aunt Jennifer's own repressed courage
b) The dangers of wild animals
c) Men's authority in society
d) The fading beauty of nature

III. How does the poet contrast Aunt Jennifer's inner life with the imagery of the tigers in the stanza? (1 Mark)

IV. Fill in the blank with a suitable response: (1 Mark)
The imagery of the "chivalric certainty" represents the theme of _____.

V. What is the most likely emotional state of Aunt Jennifer as inferred from this stanza? (1 Mark)
a) Empowered by her artwork
b) Trapped in domestic constraints
c) Fearful of male dominance
d) Longing for freedom through her creation

VI. All of the following are true for the extract EXCEPT – (1 Mark)
a) The tigers reflect fearlessness and energy.
b) The imagery of nature contrasts with Aunt Jennifer's struggles.
c) The poet only focuses on Aunt Jennifer's personal suffering in these lines.
d) The symbolism of the tigers extends to broader ideas of freedom and power.

8. Read the following extracts and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). **(4x1=4 Marks)**

A) Nine time zones, six checkpoints, three bodies of water and many ecospheres later, I was still wondering about the beauty of balance in play on our planet. How would it be if Antarctica were to become the warm place that it once used to be? Will we be around to see it, or would we have gone the way of the dinosaurs, mammoths and woolly rhinos? Who's to say? But after spending two weeks with a

bunch of teenagers who still have the idealism to save the world, all I can say is that a lot can happen in a million years, but what a difference a day makes!

I. What might the narrator be hinting at by comparing humans to “dinosaurs, mammoths and woolly rhinos”? Select the most appropriate option. (1 Mark)
a) Humans are also mighty creatures of nature.
b) Humans could face extinction like these species.
c) Humans will outlive every other species.
d) Humans are less significant than ancient animals.

II. Fill in the blank with a suitable word based on the context of the extract.

(1 Mark)

By mentioning teenagers’ “idealism,” the narrator conveys a sense of

_____ about the planet’s future.

III. Which rhetorical device is used in the comparison with dinosaurs, mammoths, and woolly rhinos? (1 Mark)
a) Simile
b) Irony
c) Allusion
d) Personification

IV. Why does the narrator bring in “teenagers” at the end of the extract? What do they symbolise? (1 Mark)

OR

B) I stood there thinking to myself, if he holds it like that, won’t the package come undone, and the vadais fall out? The elder went straight up to the landlord, bowed low and extended the packet towards him, cupping the hand that held the string with his other hand. The landlord opened the parcel and began to eat the vadais. After I had watched all this, at last I went home. My elder brother was there. I told him the story in all its comic detail. I fell about with laughter at the memory of a big man, and an elder at that, making such a game out of carrying the parcel. But Annan was not amused. Annan told me the man wasn’t being funny when he carried the package like that. He said everybody believed that they were upper caste and therefore must not touch us. If they did, they would be polluted. That’s why he had to carry the package by its string.

I. What amused the narrator about the elder carrying the vadais? (1 Mark)

A. The packet seemed too heavy for him

B. He carried the packet by a string as if it were a game

C. The landlord was laughing at him

D. The vadais fell on the ground

II. Why was the man holding the packet by a string instead of directly? (1 Mark)

A. He thought the food was too hot

B. To protect the food from dust

C. Because of caste rules forbidding direct touch of food meant for upper castes

D. To keep the vadais fresh longer

III. Fill in the blank: (1 Mark)

According to Annan, if a lower-caste person touched the food of an upper-caste person, they would be considered _____.

IV. How did the narrator's feelings change after hearing Annan's explanation? (1 Mark)

9. Read the following extracts and answer **ANY ONE** of the two, **(A) or (B)**: (1x6=6 Marks)

A. "You may be sure, Captain, that you will be allowed to leave us just as freely as you came. Only please stay with us over Christmas Eve.'' She said this in such a friendly manner that the rattrap peddler must have felt confidence in her. ''It would never have occurred to me that you would bother with me yourself, miss,'' he said. ''I will come at once.'' He accepted the fur coat, which the valet handed him with a deep bow, threw it over his rags, and followed the young lady out to the carriage, without granting the astonished blacksmiths so much as a glance. But while he was riding up to the manor house, he had evil forebodings. ''Why the devil did I take that fellow's money?'' he thought. ''Now I am sitting in the trap and will never get out of it.''

I. Which of the following actions from the extract best illustrates Edla's **"**friendly manner**"** towards the peddler? (1 Mark)

1. She speaks to him politely and introduces herself.
2. She offers him her father's old coat to keep warm.
3. She personally invites him to her family's home for Christmas.
4. She scolds the blacksmiths for staring at the peddler.
5. She promises to give him money for his rattraps.

Select the most appropriate option:

A. Only 1 and 3
B. 1, 2 and 3
C. 2, 4 and 5
D. Only 4 and 5

II. Fill in the blank with a suitable word: (1 Mark)

The peddler threw the fur coat over his rags and followed Edla out to the carriage **_____**, impressing the blacksmiths with the sudden change in his appearance. *(Hint: Use an adverb such as "happily," "silently," "awkwardly" to describe his action.)*

III. What do the peddler's words "Why the devil did I take that fellow's money?" reveal about his internal state as he rides to the manor? (1 Mark)

A. He regrets having stolen money, fearing it has led him into a trap.
B. He is angry that the money wasn't enough to buy proper clothes.
C. He wishes he had spent the money before getting caught.
D. He blames the old man for giving him the money in the first place.

IV. Why were the blacksmiths **"**astonished**"** when the peddler left with Edla? (1 Mark)

A. They had never seen someone refuse Edla's requests before.
B. They found it surprising that Edla addressed the peddler so rudely.
C. They couldn't believe a poor stranger was being treated with such kindness by Edla.
D. They were amazed by how quickly the peddler finished his work at the forge.

V. The peddler refers to being “in the trap.” What “trap” is he imagining himself caught in? (1 Mark)

A. The trap of having to work at the ironworks for food and shelter.

B. The trap of polite society, where he must behave properly.

C. The trap set by the owner of the money he stole, leading to his arrest.

D. The actual rattrap he carries, symbolizing how greed has caught him.

VI. Complete the sentence: (1 Mark)

In this extract, Edla’s compassionate behaviour begins to change the peddler’s attitude because _____. (Answer in one point.)

OR

B) At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and of course very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like ‘freedom’ and ‘democracy’. Then the poet spoke. He couldn’t have addressed a more dazed and silent audience — no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement — what are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?

I. Fill in the blank with the correct option: (1 Mark)

The Boss’s speech was peppered with words like “freedom” and “democracy” mainly to _____.

A. impress the audience with big words

B. show his deep knowledge of politics

C. make fun of the visiting poet

D. explain the theme of a new film

II. What does the reaction of the audience to the poet’s speech suggest? (1 Mark)

A. They admired his accent and clarity

B. They were dazed and silent, unable to follow him

C. They agreed strongly with his ideas

D. They were amused and laughed at his remarks

III. Which theme is highlighted through the question: "What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?" (1 Mark)

A. Cultural disconnect between high literature and mass cinema
B. The growing popularity of English literature in India
C. The humour of seeing foreigners in Indian studios
D. The respect Indian audiences had for poets

IV. How is satire reflected in this extract? (1 Mark)

V. What might the Boss's ignorance about the poet indicate about Gemini Studios? (1 Mark)

VI. In one line, describe the mood of the employees after the event. (1 Mark)

10. Answer *<u>any five</u>* of the following six questions in 40 50 words each (5x2=10)

I. Do you think Franz's sudden appreciation for French shows genuine patriotism, or is it merely regret born out of compulsion? (2 Marks)

II. How did Douglas's aversion to water in his early childhood (after the YMCA pool incident) eventually transform into a determination to conquer his fear? (2 Marks)

III. According to Keats, how does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort from life's sorrows and suffering? Give an example from the poem to support your answer. (2 Marks)

IV. In Neruda's poem, the lines "fishermen in the cold sea would not harm whales" and "the man gathering salt… looking at his hurt hands" convey a deep message. What do these images symbolize in the context of the poem's call for stillness and reflection? (2 Marks)

V. What opinion of interviews does the narrator present through the example of Rudyard Kipling? How does Kipling's refusal to be interviewed illustrate the narrator's point about the nature of interviews? (2 Marks)

VI. Why does author Anees Jung choose to narrate the stories of Saheb and Mukesh through her own eyes as a narrator, rather than simply presenting facts? How does this narrative choice affect the reader's understanding of their plight? (2 Marks)

11. Answer *any two* of the following three questions in 40 -50 words each:
(2x2=4 Marks)

I. If Charley's third level is an escape from modern stress, why does his wife Louisa eventually begin "looking" for it too? What does this suggest about her character?

II. What does the presence of school children in Antarctica imply about how climate awareness should begin?

III. Was the act of cutting Zitkala-Sa's hair simply a cultural difference, or a deliberate attempt at erasing identity? Comment.

12. **Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.**
(5 Marks)

A) Gandhi insisted on involving teachers, doctors, and ordinary citizens in the Champaran project. How does this reflect his belief that freedom is not only political but also social and educational?

OR

B) If Sophie's family had encouraged her aspirations instead of mocking them, would her story have ended differently? Argue critically.

13. **Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.**
(5 Marks)

A) Both Dr. Sadao and Mr. Lamb encounter individuals who society rejects (an enemy soldier, a scarred boy). Compare how their responses highlight the complexity of *compassion versus prejudice*.

OR

B) Both the Tiger King and Charley attempt to escape fear—one fears death from a prophecy, the other fears modern anxieties. Compare how their attempts at escape highlight the *human inability to confront reality directly*.

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