

Registration Number:

Date & session:

**ST JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU-27**

**B.A COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH – III SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 2023**

**(Examination conducted in November /December 2023)**

**CE 322: COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH- III**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time- 2 hrs Max Marks-60**

This question paper contains **TWO printed pages and FOUR parts**

**PART A**

1. **Read this excerpt from a story by James Thurber and answer the questions below.**

**The Night the Ghost Got In**

The ghost that got into our house on the night of November 17, 1915, raised such a hullabaloo of misunderstandings that I am sorry I didn't just let it keep on walking, and go to bed. Its advent caused my mother to throw a shoe through a window of the house next door and ended up with my grandfather shooting a patrolman. I am sorry, therefore, as I have said, that I ever paid any attention to the footsteps.

They began about a quarter past one o'clock in the morning, a rhythmic, quick-cadenced walking around the dining-room table. My mother was asleep in one room upstairs, my brother Herman in another; grandfather was in the attic, in the old walnut bed which, as you will remember, once fell on my father. I had just stepped out of the bathtub and was busily rubbing myself with a towel when I heard the steps. They were the steps of a man walking rapidly around the dining-room table downstairs. The light from the bathroom shone down the back steps, which dropped directly into the dining-room; I could see the faint shine of plates on the plate-rail; I couldn't see the table. The steps kept going round and round the table; at regular intervals a board creaked, when it was trod upon. I supposed at first that it was my father or my brother Roy, who had gone to Indianapolis but were expected home at any time. I suspected next that it was a burglar. It did not enter my mind until later that it was a ghost.

After the walking had gone on for perhaps three minutes, I tiptoed to Herman's room. "Psst!" I hissed, in the dark, shaking him. "Awp," he said, in the low, hopeless tone of a despondent beagle--he always half suspected that something would "get him" in the night. I told him who I was. "There's something downstairs!" I said. He got up and followed me to the head of the back staircase. We listened together. There was no sound. The steps had ceased. Herman looked at me in some alarm: I had only the bath towel around my waist. He wanted to go back to bed, but I gripped his arm. "There's something down there!" I said. Instantly the steps began again, circled the dining-room table like a man running, and started up the stairs toward us, heavily, two at a time. The light still shone palely down the stairs; we saw nothing coming; we only heard the steps. Herman rushed to his room and slammed the door. I slammed shut the door at the stairs top and held my knee against it. After a long minute, I slowly opened it again. There was nothing there. There was no sound. None of us ever heard the ghost again.

The slamming of the doors had aroused mother: she peered out of her room. "What on earth are you boys doing?" she demanded. Herman ventured out of his room. "Nothing," he said, gruffly, but he was, in color, a light green. "What was all that running around downstairs?" said mother. So she had heard the steps, too! We just looked at her. "Burglars!" she shouted, intuitively. I tried to quiet her by starting lightly downstairs.

"Come on, Herman," I said.

"I'll stay with mother," he said. "She's all excited."

I stepped back onto the landing.

1. **Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in FIVE to SIX sentences. (3x5=15)**
2. Is the reader inclined to continue reading the story even if it begins by revealing the consequences of the event (“caused my mother to throw a shoe through a window of the house next door and ended up with my grandfather shooting a patrolman”)? Give reasons.
3. ‘…in the old walnut bed which, as you will remember, once fell on my father...’ – what does establishing this familiarity offer to a reader who is neither familiar with the walnut bed nor the narrator’s father?
4. What does the expression ‘starting lightly downstairs’ mean in the last paragraph? Why does the narrator choose to do this instead of gesturing towards his mother to be quiet?
5. Connect the last sentence of the story to its title. Where is it leading the reader?

**PART B**

1. “The act of two people (reader and writer) huddled over a story is a show of confidence in our ability to parse out incredible nuance and our ability to really be open to the Other.” Use your experience of reading short stories from around the world this semester to explain how you understand this quote by writer George Saunders.

**Your answer should not exceed 150-200 words. (15 marks)**

**PART C**

1. **Answer the following questions in 100-150 words each. (20 marks)**
2. Explain how inflection and derivation differ from each other using the words blocked and unblock as examples.
3. What is clipping? Which of these is an example of clipping and why? Net, phone, mobile, fly, plane, gym.

**PART D**

1. **Respond to ANY ONE the following prompts in 150 words. (10 marks)**
2. Kitchen smells
3. 7 pm in your home

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