

# A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE

## SUMMARY

---

The name of the lesson is 'A visit to Cambridge' and its writer name is Firdaus Kanga . In this lesson the writer could move only a wheelchair. He accepted his disability as a warrior. He made a journey all over the world. And he proved his ability is the greatest among normal people.

He went to Cambridge and met Mr. Stephen Hawking who is totally paralyzed although he wrote a great book. He thought that disable people should not be worried about their condition and always thinking positive. If those people get attention towards their ability then they can get easily their goal.

This lesson motivates the disable people also the normal people.

## NEW WORDS

---

*Astrophysicist-One who knows about the branch of physics dealing with stars planets etc.*

Ambushed- had a surprise meeting

Fed up with- become unhappy or sick

Frustrated- disappointed

Anguish- mental pain

Eternal- immortal

Claustrophobic- very small and suffocating

Embodiment- symbol

## A Visit to Cambridge

### SHORT QUESTIONS

---

**1. Who is the author of this lesson?**

Ans. The author's name of this lesson is Firdaus Kanga.

**2. What is wrong with his physique?**

Ans. He is perhaps a wheelchair bound polio victim.

**3. What was his plan behind his visit to Britain?**

Ans. His plan behind his visit to England was to write a book about his travels.

**4. Who did he contact at Cambridge?**

Ans. Firdaus contacted the brilliant but paralytic astrophysicist Stephen Hawking.

**5. What makes a disabled person feel stronger?**

Ans. Meeting another handicapped person who has achieved something big, makes the disabled person feel stronger and more inspired to do better.

**6. Rewrite removing 'too' - You are too lazy to draw a cheque.**

Ans. You are so lazy that you do not draw even a cheque.

**7. Who is Firdaus Kanga interviewing?**

Ans. Firdaus Kanga is interviewing Stephen Hawking, a renowned scientist.

**8. What is common between the speaker and the person he is talking to?**

Ans. Both are differently abled persons. Both have decided to live creatively.

**9. What message did Stephen give to disabled people world over?**

Ans. He called upon all the disabled people to give wholehearted attention only to what they were capable of doing. Olympic games organized for the disabled were a waste of time.

**10. Use the word 'waste' as a noun and as a verb.**

Verb- (a) Don't waste your precious time?

Noun- (b) Watching TV is not all waste of time.

### Text Book Questions

**1. (i) Did the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking make the writer nervous? If so, why?**

Answer: Yes, the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking made the writer nervous. He was to meet a great personality and that too one who had achieved greatness despite his disabilities. Clearly, it was a big moment, a great honour for the writer. So it is not surprising that he was nervous at the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking.

**(ii) Did he at the same time feel very excited? If so, why?**

Answer: Stephen Hawking is a celebrity because of his startling discoveries in astrophysics. Anybody can become excited at the prospect of meeting such a celebrity.

**2. Guess the first question put to the scientist by the writer.**

Answer: The likely first question put by the author can be as follows, "You must have been brave to overcome your physical disability".

Professor Hawking's statement that he was not brave rather it was compulsion for him to live with his disability indicates towards this.

**3. Stephen Hawking said, "I've had no choice." Does the writer think there was a choice? What was it?**

Answer: The author thinks disable people do get a choice. And that choice is to live creatively in spite of the obstacle of your disability. Once a disable person accepts defeat he will always be a burden for himself and for others. But if in spite of the disability he tries to excel in his chosen field then he becomes an asset for himself as well as for society. He should always be positive that he can also contribute towards his society.

**4. "I could feel his anguish." What could be the anguish?**

Answer: Stephen Hawking's body is unable to keep pace with his vibrant mind. His mind is faster at thinking new ideas, while his body allows him to express his thoughts at a much slower pace. It must be like dreaming to fly only to find that somebody has clipped your wings. Anybody will feel the anguish and frustration in such situations.

**5. What endeared the scientist to the writer so that he said he was looking at one of the most beautiful men in the world?**

Answer: The way the author empathized with the scientist made him feel happy from inside. The fact that author was a little bit like Stephen Hawking also helped in matching their wavelengths. As a result there was a smile on Hawking's face.

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, is a very old saying. The definition of beauty varies as per situation and subject. The weak, pale and disabled scientist may not look beautiful at all through conventional angle. But the radiance of intelligence and self-satisfaction of attaining so much in terms of discovery make Stephen Hawking one of the most beautiful men in the world.

**6. Read aloud the description of 'the beautiful' man. Which is the most beautiful sentence in the description?**

Answer: The sentence describing the inner glow of Hawking's personality which makes his physical looks irrelevant is probably one of the most beautiful descriptions of beauty.

**7. (i) If 'the lantern' is the man, what would its 'walls' be?**

Answer: The physical body is the 'wall' of the 'lantern'

**(ii) What is housed within the thin walls?**

Answer: Within the thin walls of the 'lantern' is nothing but light which has the power to enlighten you.

**(iii) What general conclusion does the writer draw from this comparison?**

Answer: Everyone is a distinct soul and the soul is our true identity. The physical body is just like an accessory playing the supporting role.

**8. What is the scientist's message for the disabled?**

Answer: Professor Hawking's message for the disabled was that they should do things at which they are good and working beyond limits one should not try.

**9. Why does the writer refer to the guitar incident? Which idea does it support?**

Answer: The writer was trying a thing he was not naturally inclined to do. It led to unnecessary embarrassment and waste of time for him. The incidence supports the advice given by Hawking.

.