

Memories of Childhood || Important Questions || Class 12 English Vistas || Chapter 8

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Qes1. What were the indignities that the new girls were subjected to at Carlisle Indian School?

Ans. The girls were scrutinized thoroughly and supervised by a grey-haired woman. They were made to wear tight fitting immodest clothes and stiff shoes. During breakfast a systematic and regimental discipline was observed. The girls with long hair had to get them shingled and they had to submit to the authorities who were strong, unfeeling and cruel.

Qes2. How had Zitkala – Sa been subjected to extreme indignities?

Ans. Since the day she was taken from her mother Zitkala had suffered many indignities. She was stared at and tossed like a wooden puppet. Her long hair was shingled like a coward's. In her pain when she cried for her mother no one came forward to comfort her. She was just like one of the animals driven by a herder.

Qes3. What did Judewin tell the narrator? What was the effect?

Ans. Judewin who could understand a little English informed the narrator that the strange woman intended to cut her long hair. But the narrator had learnt from her mother that the enemy cut the hair of the unskilled warrior when they are captured and among their people mourners wear short hair and cowards have shingled hair. So, she decided to resist. She hid herself under a bed in a dark room.

Qes4. Why was Zitkala-Sa so averse to having her hair cut?

Ans. It was an age old tradition among the people of her tribe, to which Zitkala-Sa belonged, to maintain their long shining and beautiful hair. It was believed that only the warriors or the mourners get their hair shingled. Short hair were worn by cowards as per their tradition. So, obviously Zitkala-Sa never wanted her hair to be cut short.