

10. Read the passage carefully.

- I was born on 30th November 1835 in the almost *invisible*¹ village of Florida, Missouri. My parents moved to Missouri in the early 'thirties'; I do not remember just when, for I was not born then and cared nothing for such things. The village contained a hundred people and I increased the population by one per cent. It is more than the best men in history doing as much, not even Shakespeare. But I did it for Florida.
- Recently some one in Missouri has sent me a picture of the house I was born in. Heretofore I have always stated that it was a palace but I shall be more careful now.
- The village and two streets, each a couple of hundred yards long, covered with stiff black mud in wet times, deep dust in dry. Most of the houses were of logs. There were none of bricks and none of stones. There was a Church, which was a school house on week days. There were two stores in the village. My uncle owned one of them. It was very small with a few rolls of cloth; a few barrels of salt fish, coffee and sugar, brooms, axes and other tools here and there; a lot of cheap hats and tin pans strung from the walls. At the other end of the room, there was a barrel or so of whisky. If a boy bought five or ten cents; worth of anything he was *entitled*² to a handful of sugar from the barrel; if a woman bought a few yards of cloth, she was entitled to some thread; if a man bought something, he was at liberty to swallow as big a drink of whisky as he wanted.
- My uncle was also a farmer and his place was in the country four miles from Florida. I have not *come across*³ a better man than he was. I was his guest for two or three months every year, from the fourth year after we moved to Hannibal until I was eleven or twelve years old.

(a) Write the most appropriate option out of the ones given below :

- How was the church utilized on week days ?
 - as a theatre for conducting cinema
 - as a vegetable market
 - as a school
 - kept idle on week days
- The houses in Florida were made of _____.
 - bricks
 - stones
 - marble
 - logs
- When did the author decide not to describe his house as a palace ?
 - the day he was born in the invisible village
 - when someone in Missouri had sent him a picture of the house

VALUE POINTS

About the passage

The writer's old village. It describes the village and a store in detail.

Para 1

- the writer's birth in a small village

Para 2

- the writer got a picture of his old house

Para 3

- dirty/muddy village streets, houses of logs, a church, two stores
- uncle's store

Para 4

- uncle, a farmer
- a good man, a good host

GLOSSARY

- invisible* : (here) very small, insignificant
- entitled* : had the right to
- come across* : meet by chance

- (c) when he saw a dream of his house
- (d) when someone told him not to boast of his house

4. The author was born

- (a) in a village of Florida in Missouri
- (c) in a village located near a river

- (b) in a busy village
- (d) in a village in Mississippi

5. The writer's uncle was a

- (a) businessman
- (c) liberal businessman

- (b) shrewd businessman
- (d) stupid businessman

- (b) (i) Find out a word in the passage which has the same meaning as 'before this time'. (para 1)
- (ii) Find out a word in the passage which has the opposite meaning of 'sold'. (para 3)

Space for Answers

(i) Here to fore see

(ii) Bought