

Roll No.

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Code No. **103**

Candidates must write the Code on the title - page of the answer-book.

ENGLISH CORE

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them.

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

Note:

- (i) *Please check that this question paper contains 15 printed pages.*
- (ii) *Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title-page of the answer-book by the candidate.*
- (iii) *Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.*
- (iv) *Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.*
- (v) *15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m., From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.*
- (vi) *This question paper comprises three sections - Section - A, Section - B and Section - C. All questions are compulsory.*

Section A - Reading Skills - 22 marks

Section B - Creative Writing Skills - 18 marks

Section C - Literature - 40 marks

- (vii) *There is no overall choice in the question paper. However, internal choice has been provided in **Section - B** and **Section - C**. You have to attempt only one of the choices in such questions.*
- (viii) *In addition to this, separate instructions are given with each section and question wherever necessary.*
- (ix) *Answers should be in brief and to the point. The prescribed word limit should be adhered to, as far as possible, while answering the questions.*

SECTION - A (READING SKILLS)

1. Read the passage given below :

12

1. We know we're losing the battle against air pollution, yet we persist with the same corrective measures, hoping for different results. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) serves as a good example. GRAP protocols are triggered when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches 'poor' category. However, most measures within GRAP involve actions that should be standard practice year-round, regardless of air quality.
2. Effective waste management, prohibiting open burning, enforcing pollution laws, managing traffic and suppressing dust on roads and construction sites should all be routine. Unfortunately, we only start implementing these measures when pollution reaches toxic levels. So, what are we missing? What big actions could genuinely reduce pollution levels? There are also several high-impact strategies that must be implemented to improve air quality within the next five years.
3. Our study shows that Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has been the most impactful air pollution treatment in the last decade. Expanding access to clean cooking fuel across Delhi-NCR could reduce Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 levels by 25%. Achieving this will require a new Ujjwala Yojana to transition households to LPG or electricity for cooking.
4. Across India, over 90% of households rely on biomass and solid fuels to heat their homes during winter, contributing to pollution spikes in December and January. One of China's pivotal air quality initiatives was a national clean heating fuel policy. While developing a similar long-term plan is essential, meanwhile, Delhi government could ensure that only electricity is used for winter heating and enforce a strict ban on open burning. This will yield swift improvement in Delhi's air quality.
5. Curbing stubble burning would reduce the occurrence of severe and hazardous air pollution days in winter months. For this, both short-term and long-term strategies are needed. In the long term, agriculture in Punjab, Haryana and parts of UP must shift from intensive rice-wheat farming to a diversified crop system. In the short term, the simplest tech solution is to modify or mandate combine harvesters that cut closer to the ground like manual harvesting, leaving minimal stubble.
6. Industry and power plants account for roughly one-third of annual PM 2.5 emissions in Delhi-NCR. Reducing these will require tech upgradation and stricter enforcement. A scheme encouraging MSMEs to adopt cleaner fuel sources, especially electric boilers and furnaces, could significantly curb emissions.

7. Aiming for 100% electrification of new two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales by 2030 and converting all new buses to electric by 2025 in Delhi-NCR, would significantly lower emissions. Additionally, setting a 30-50% electrification target for cars and other vehicles will help accelerate the transition to cleaner transport.
8. Municipalities must be held accountable for addressing the issues of dust from roads and construction, open burning, traffic congestion and inadequate waste management year-round. Intensifying five years to support municipal efforts will be the key to achieving sustainable air quality improvements.
9. We can reduce air pollution by as much as 50-60% in the next five years if we implement these measures. However, this will not be easy. We need to work with millions of households, farmers and vehicle owners and hundreds of thousands of industries to make it happen.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions :

- (i) According to the passage, when are GRAP protocols typically triggered ? 1
 - (a) When the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches a 'moderate' category.
 - (b) When the pollution mellows down.
 - (c) When the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches a 'poor' category.
 - (d) At the beginning of each year.
- (ii) What impact could the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana across Delhi-NCR have on air quality ? 1
 - (a) Decreases air pollution by 50%.
 - (b) Reduces P.M. 2.5 levels by 25%.
 - (c) Eliminates the need for GRAP protocols absolutely.
 - (d) Ends reliance on LPG as a fuel.
- (iii) Complete the sentence. 1
 One high impact strategy to reduce winter pollution in Delhi is _____.
- (iv) Which of the following statements is **NOT** correct ? 1
 - (a) Majority of the households in India rely on biomass and solid fuel in winters.
 - (b) Transitioning to electric buses in Delhi-NCR by 2025 would lower emissions.
 - (c) Current GRAP protocols are triggered in response to severe air pollution levels only.
 - (d) Implementing tech upgradation in industries will have no significant impact on emissions.

- (v) How would electrification of two-wheeler and three-wheeler help in reducing pollution? **2**
- (vi) Describe the short term and long term measures that should be taken to curb stubble burning for reducing pollution levels in winters. **2**
- (vii) Which of the following statements best summarises the challenge in transitioning India's air quality? **1**
- (a) Most pollution comes from neighbouring countries.
- (b) The responsibility for improvement of air quality lies solely with municipalities.
- (c) Collaboration with various stakeholders is essential for effective change.
- (d) Industrial pollution is the key factor that needs addressing.
- (viii) List any two areas in which municipalities are encouraged to improve in order to sustain air quality improvements year-round. **2**
- (ix) Match the following strategy with its intended impact as mentioned in the passage : **1**
- Delhi-NCR's bold move to electrify its bus fleet by 2025 will be a game changer. (Strategy)
- (a) lowers emissions significantly in the transport sector. (Impact)
- (b) increases industrial pollution. (Impact)
- (c) reduces P.M. 2.5 levels by 25%. (Impact)
- (d) has no impact on emission. (Impact)

2. Read the passage given below : **10**

1. 21st century skills comprise competencies, abilities and learning dispositions identified as requirements for success in 21st century society and workplaces by educators, business leaders and government agencies. This is part of an international movement focusing on the skills required for students to prepare for workplace success in a rapidly changing digital society. Many of these skills are associated with deeper learning, which is based on mastering skills such as analytical reasoning, complex problem solving and teamwork, which differ from traditional academic skills as these are not content knowledge-based.

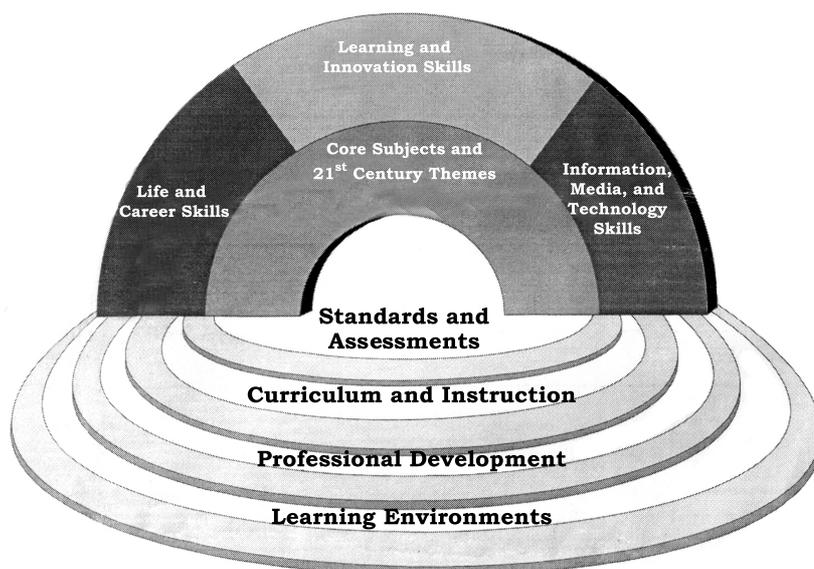


Figure 1 - P21 Framework for 21st Century Learning

- During the last few decades of the 20th century and the beginning of 21st century, society evolved through technological advancements at an accelerated pace, impacting economy and the workplace culture, which impacted the educational system preparing students for the future. Beginning in the 1980s, government, educators and major employers issued a series of reports identifying key skills and implementation strategies to steer students and workers towards meeting these changing societal and workplace demands.

Learning and Innovation "The 4 Cs"	Digital Literacy	Career and Life
Critical thinking & problem solving	Information literacy	Flexibility & adaptability
Creativity and innovation	Media Literacy	Initiative & self-direction
Communication	ICT Literacy	Social & cross-cultural interaction
Collaboration		Productivity & Accountability
		Leadership & responsibility

Table 1 - P21 Skills

3. Western economies transformed from industrial-based to service-based, with trades and vocations having smaller roles. However, specific hard skills and mastery of particular skill sets, with a focus on digital literacy, are in increasingly high demand. Skills that involve interaction, collaboration and managing others are becoming increasingly important. Skills that enable flexibility and adaptability in different roles and fields, those that involve processing information and managing people more than manipulating equipment - in an office or a factory - are in greater demand. These are also referred to as “applied skills” or “soft skills”, including personal, interpersonal or learning-based skills, such as life skills (problem-solving behaviours), people skills and social skills.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- (i) Which of the following statements is **true** according to the passage? **1**
- (a) 21st century skills are only about content knowledge.
 - (b) 21st century skills focus on skills necessary for a rapidly changing digital society.
 - (c) 21st century skills are same as traditional academic skills.
 - (d) 21st century skills are required only for higher education.
- (ii) Define 21st century skills and explain their significance in today’s society and workplace. **2**
- (iii) Complete the following analogy. **1**
- Traditional academic skills : Content Knowledge :: 21st century skills : _____
- (iv) What was the primary economic transformation in Western economies from the 20th to 21st century? **1**
- (v) What is meant by ‘applied skills’ or ‘soft skills’ in the context of 21st century skills? **2**
- (vi) Choose the correct option that describes a major demand in the 21st century job market. **1**
- (a) Traditional academic knowledge
 - (b) Skills to manage equipment
 - (c) Digital literacy and flexible skillset
 - (d) Industrial based job skills
- (vii) Which skill area in P21 framework focuses on technology related abilities? **1**
- (a) Core subjects and 21st century themes
 - (b) Life and career skills
 - (c) Learning and innovation skills
 - (d) Information, media and technology skills

- (viii) Which of the following is **not** one of the '4Cs' in the Learning and Innovation category ? 1
- (a) Critical thinking and problem solving
 - (b) Collaboration
 - (c) Competitive skills
 - (d) Creativity and innovation

SECTION - B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

- 3. Attempt ANY ONE of the given two in about 50 words.** 4

A. You are Arun/ Arunima Bharadwaj, the Head Boy / Girl of ABC Public School. Your school is going to organise a summer camp for training students in different sports. The duration of the camp is one month. Draft a notice to inform the students of Classes VI - XII about the same. Invent necessary details.

OR

B. You are Rohan / Ritika Sharma, the President of ABC School Literary Club. As part of the school's Annual Literary Week, a poetry recital event showcasing classical and contemporary poems will be organised. Draft a notice to be displayed on the school notice-board inviting students to attend and support the participants. Invent necessary details.

- 4. Attempt ANY ONE of the given two in about 50 words.** 4

A. You are Vimala/Vipul Saini, the Head Girl/Boy of the school, The Academic Stars. The Science and Society club of your school is going to organise an exhibition cum fest in the school premises. Draft an invitation for the parents on behalf of the Principal of the school. Invent necessary details.

OR

B. You are Leela / Lalit Tejwani, an eminent Science Researcher. You have been invited to deliver a speech at the Annual Science Fair organised by 'Future Minds' Association. Write a reply to the Secretary of 'Future Minds' informing him / her about your inability to attend the event.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the given two in 120-150 words. 5

A. Digital Literacy has changed the face of the world and transformed the earth into a global village making critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration essential for global citizenship. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your views about the importance of the given skill set. You are Reva/Ravish Mukerjee, Head Girl/Boy of Zennith International School, Dwarka, Delhi.

OR

B. Write an application along with your curriculum vitae for the job advertised below.

You are Ravi/Ritu, a resident of House No.23, Green Park, Kolkata.

BRIGHT FUTURE SOLUTION PVT. LTD., Mumbai
Requires a content writer (Male/Female). Must have a degree in English or Mass Communication. Excellent writing and editing skills required. Preference will be given to candidates with prior experience. Send your CV to Ms. Renu Sharma (HR Head) at hr@bfspl.com

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the given two in 120-150 words. 5

A. You are Raghavan Sundaram, the Cultural Secretary of your school, The Genius Academy. Your school held a three-days Spic Macay Programme, an amalgamation of vocal, instrumental and dance presentations wherein renowned artists from these areas mesmerised the audience with their remarkable performances. Write a detailed report of the event.

OR

B. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Tell me and I forget; teach me and I learn; involve me and I remember". In the light of this statement, write an article for your School magazine on the importance of experiential learning. You are Faiz / Fauzia, the Literary Club President of your school.

SECTION - C (LITERATURE)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two. 1x6=6

A. To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

(A Roadside Stand, Flamingo)

- (i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ?
 (a) Social inequality (b) The loss of innocence
 (c) The power of nature (d) The corruption in cities
- (ii) The speaker sympathises with the villagers who want to move to the cities. (True/False).
- (iii) In what way is the use of the word 'sleep' in the extract an example of metaphor ?
- (iv) What does the phrase "soothe them out of their wits" most likely mean in the context of the extract ?
 (a) To make them feel extremely relaxed and peaceful.
 (b) To reduce their capacity for independent thinking.
 (c) To help them develop a calm state of mind.
 (d) To put them into deep, restful sleep.
- (v) The passage implies that the role of 'greedy good doer' is:
 (a) Entirely positive and beneficial to the society.
 (b) Unwanted but necessary for community development.
 (c) Harmful, as it diminishes people's independence.
 (d) Temporary, as people eventually regain independence.
- (vi) Select the option that is NOT true about the poet's perspective in the extract.
 (a) He criticises villagers' lack of self-reliance.
 (b) He admires the village's proximity to the theatre and store.
 (c) He believes the villagers are controlled by others.
 (d) He mentions the destruction of their traditional way of sleeping at night.

B. Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
 Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
 From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
 Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
 For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
 With the green world they live in; and clear rills.

(A Thing of Beauty, Flamingo)

- (i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ?
 (a) The power of nature to inspire and heal.
 (b) The contrast between beauty and ugliness.
 (c) The transience of life and permanence of art.
 (d) The role of imagination and creativity in human life.

- (ii) The poet uses a rhyme scheme abab cdcd in the extract. (True / False)
- (iii) Complete the following analogy correctly :
 trees old, and young: Antithesis: : _____: Metaphor
- (iv) What might 'gloomy day' signify ?
 (a) The dark and cold seasons of winter and autumn.
 (b) The difficult and depressing times of human life.
 (c) The dull and boring routine of daily life.
 (d) The mysterious and hidden aspects of nature.
- (v) Choose the correct option with respect to the two statements given below :
Statement 1 : The speaker believes that the beauty can be found in both old and young things in nature.
Statement 2 : The speaker suggests that beauty can heal the sadness in our life.
 (a) **Statement 1** can be inferred but **Statement 2** cannot be inferred.
 (b) **Statement 1** cannot be inferred but **Statement 2** can be inferred.
 (c) **Statement 1** and **Statement 2** can be inferred.
 (d) **Statement 1** and **Statement 2** cannot be inferred.
- (vi) What examples of beauty are given in the extract that help in removing the gloom ?

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two. 1x4=4

A. Antarctica, because of her simple ecosystem and lack of biodiversity, is the perfect place to study how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions. Take the microscopic phytoplankton --- those grasses of the sea that nourish and sustain the entire Southern Ocean's food chain. These single-celled plants use the sun's energy to assimilate carbon and synthesise organic compounds in that wondrous and most important of processes called photosynthesis. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of phytoplankton, which in turn will affect the lives of all the marine animals and birds of the region, and the global carbon cycle. In the parable of the phytoplankton, there is a great metaphor for existence : take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place.

(Journey to the End of the Earth, Vistas.)

- (i) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the passage ?
 (a) 'The Fragile Balance of Antarctic Ecosystem and Ozone Depletion'.
 (b) 'Phytoplankton : The Foundation of Southern Ocean Food Chain'.
 (c) 'The Effects of Ozone Depletion on Marine Life in Antarctica'.
 (d) 'The Importance of Small Organisms in Maintaining Ecological Balance'.

- (ii) What is the function of microscopic phytoplankton ?
- (iii) Complete the sentence : Scientists are particularly concerned about Ozone layer depletion because it may negatively impact _____.
- (iv) Cite evidence from the passage to support the idea that minor environmental changes can have substantial effects on ecosystems.

B. The Presidents of the New York Central and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes. I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking-dream wish fulfilment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't ? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

(The Third Level, Vistas)

- (i) What does the psychiatrist suggest about the narrator's mental state ? Pick evidence from the extract to support your answer.
- (ii) Complete the sentence : The narrator's wife was upset because _____.
- (iii) Cite evidence from the passage that suggests the narrator's desire to escape from reality.
- (iv) Which of the following titles best reflects the central theme of the passage ?
 - (a) A Journey to the Hidden Levels of Grand Central Station
 - (b) Escaping Reality : The Third Level
 - (c) The Hidden Challenges and the Need for Therapy
 - (d) Exploring the Mysteries of New York's Railroads.

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two. **1x6=6**

A. His success in films overshadowed and dwarfed his literary achievements - or so his critics felt. He composed several truly original 'story poems' in folk refrain and diction and also wrote a sprawling novel Thillana Mohanambal with dozens of very deftly etched characters. He quite successfully recreated the mood and manner of the Devadasis of the early 20th century. He was an amazing actor - he never aspired to the lead roles - but whatever subsidiary role he played in any of the films, he performed better than the supposed main players. He had a genuine love for anyone he came across and his house was a permanent residence for dozens of near and far relations and acquaintances. (Poets and Pancakes, Flamingo)

- (i) Which of these statements is **NOT True** about Subbu ?
- (a) His literary accomplishments stole the limelight from his success in films.
- (b) He was a gifted poet and writer and his literary works were noteworthy.
- (c) He was selfless in nature and was empathetic towards others.
- (d) He never hankered after lead roles and performed minor roles in films.
- (ii) Find out the word from the given extract which means the same as 'vast'.
- (iii) Why do you think Subbu's success in films might have overshadowed his achievements in literature despite his originality as a writer ?
- (iv) The novel Thillana Mohanambal features a limited number of characters with simple background. (True / False).
- (v) **Assertion (A)** : Subbu was regarded as an exceptional actor even though he played only subsidiary roles.

Reasoning (R) : He consistently performed his supporting roles better than the main actors in films.

- (a) Both **(A)** and **(R)** are true, and **(R)** is the correct explanation of **(A)**.
- (b) Both **(A)** and **(R)** are true, but **(R)** is not the correct explanation of **(A)**.
- (c) **(A)** is true, but **(R)** is false.
- (d) **(A)** is false, but **(R)** is true.
- (vi) Pick the option that best describes Subbu according to the extract:

1. Benevolent	2. Powerful	3. Accomplished
4. Witty	5. Generous	6. Temperamental

- (a) 4, 5 and 6
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 5
- (d) 3, 4 and 6
- B.** M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world - the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar book and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy !

(The Last Lesson, Flamingo)

- (i) Which of the following can be attributed to M. Hamel's declaration about the French language ?
- (a) Subject expertise
- (b) Nostalgic pride
- (c) Factual accuracy
- (d) Grammatical Mastery

- (ii) M. Hamel's perception about the French language being the most beautiful language of all shows _____.
- (iii) Franz was able to understand the grammar lesson easily because he was _____.
- (iv) Find the exact sentence in the extract which proves that Franz paid attention to the French lesson for the first time.
- (v) What is the underlying meaning of the line, " - - - because when people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison".
- (vi) Explain the manner and tone in which the extract is written.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in 40 - 50 words each. 5x2=10

- (i) How does Kamla Das try to put away the thoughts of her aging mother ?
- (ii) Sophie's dreams and disappointments are all in her mind. Discuss.
- (iii) Describe the theory of interstices given by Umberto Eco in your own words.
- (iv) "The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is about the power of art". Elaborate.
- (v) How does the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' expresses the idea that beauty transcends time and space ?
- (vi) Both the political and economic factors played a role in the disappearance of indigo sharecropping in Champaran. Evaluate.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 40 - 50 words each. 2x2= 4

- (i) "From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram". How ? Describe in your own words.
- (ii) What all pleasures of life Bama enjoyed when she dwelled along on her way back from school ?
- (iii) What are Geoff Green's reasons for including high school students in the 'Students on Ice' expedition ?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120 - 150 words. 1x5= 5

A. It is said, "Fear is just a temporary obstacle. Break through its barriers and watch as your life unfolds with new possibilities". Both 'Deep water' and 'Indigo' investigate and highlight the importance of overcoming fears. Critically analyse the chapters in the light of the given quote.

OR

B. How does empathy, as demonstrated by Edla Willmansson in 'The Rattrap' and the narrator in 'Lost Spring', challenge societal judgements and inspire a deeper understanding of human dignity ? Justify your answer by presenting relevant examples from the given texts.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 120 - 150 words.

1x5= 5

- A. Imagine you are Dr. Sadao. You have managed the return of the POW safely. The entire episode of bringing him home and reluctantly serving him had been an ordeal for you. Write a diary entry expressing your internal conflict between the loyalty to your country and your duty as a doctor for all this while. You may begin like this : "Today after many burdensome days" .

OR

- B. Meeting with Mr. Lamb had a profound impact on Derry, transforming his outlook and approach towards life. Inspired and motivated, he went on to lead a fulfilling and successful life, always attributing this change to Mr. Lamb's influence. Derry decides to express his gratitude and emotions in a diary entry. Write this diary for him. You may begin like this :

"A single person can bring about miraculous transformation - - -".

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