SECTION 1 The Story of Amber’s Beads

1. Give reasons to show that Nature like a Mother is

i. active: We know that Mother Nature is active like a mother because she takes care of all the different life forms on earth, all at the same time. From taking care of a sick tree or a flower to guiding the steps of new born of all species, she is everywhere at once.

ii. strong: We know Mother Nature is strong because she never stops caring for all the species on earth, even while constantly sweeping, dusting, building and rearranging her ‘house’ which is the planet earth.

iii. interesting: We know that Mother Nature is interesting because even in the middle of all her work, she is able to tell the most marvellous stories about the distant past and all the many treasures hidden all over the earth.

2. What is that one treasure Jeanie possesses? How did she come to own it?

The one treasure that Jeanie possessed was a string of amber beads. Her grandfather had carved the beads himself when he was young, and gifted the necklace to his bride, Jeanie’s grandmother. She had left the necklace to Jeanie when she died.

3.Whats so special about the necklace?

The special about the beads of the necklace was that each bead had inside it a tiny fossilized insect or piece of ancient moss.

4. How did old Kenneth manage to fashion the necklace?

Old Kenneth had fashioned the necklace out of a lump of amber that he found on the beach. He had worked carefully to save the prettiest insects and pieces of moss inside the beads.

5. What brought amber to the shore?

The amber in Jeanie’s beads had been formed a long time ago when Nature was young, in the forests of Northern Scotland. These mountains had been submerged under the sea, perhaps several times over. Lying at the bottom of the ocean, the amber had hardened like stone, and was eventually churned up from the sandy floor of the ocean by a storm. It was one of those storms that brought amber to the seashore, where it was found by Jeanie’s grandfather.

6. The story is set in Scotland. State at least three instance to prove this.

We know that the story is set in Scotland because we are told that the protagonist Jeanie is a little Scottish girl who lives in the Highlands, and that we must remember to spell her name in the Scottish way with an ‘ea’. Later in the text we are told that the amber in Jeannie’s beads was found by her grandfather Kenneth, who was in love with a Scottish girl from the Highlands. Finally, we are told the story, of how amber came to be found by Kenneth, by Mother Nature herself, who says that the lump of amber came from the sticky gum of pine trees in the Scotch Highlands.