

**Read the story below then answer the questions that follow.**

### **The Paradise of Children by Nathaniel Hawthorne**

Long, long ago, when this old world was in its tender infancy, there was a child named Epimetheus who never had either father or mother; and that he might not be lonely, another child, fatherless and motherless like himself, was sent by the gods to be his playfellow and helpmate. Her name was Pandora. The first thing that Pandora saw when she entered the cottage where Epimetheus lived was a great box. And almost the first question that she put to him was this, "Epimetheus, what have you in that box?" "My dear little Pandora," answered Epimetheus, "that is a secret, and you must be kind enough not to ask any questions about it. The box was left here to be kept safely, and I do not myself know what it contains."

It is thousands of years since the myths tell us that Epimetheus and Pandora lived; and the world now-a-days is a very different sort of place from what it was then. There were no fathers or mothers to take care of the children, because there was no danger or trouble of any kind, and no clothes to be mended, and there was plenty to eat and drink. Whenever a child wanted his dinner, he found it growing on a tree. It was a very pleasant life indeed. No labour had to be done, no tasks studied, all was sport and dancing and the sweet voices of children talking, or carolling like birds, or laughing merrily all day long.

But Pandora was not altogether happy on account of Epimetheus' explanation about the box. "Where can it have come from?" she continually asked herself, "and what on earth can be inside it?" At last she spoke to Epimetheus. "You might open the box," Pandora said, "and then we could see its contents for ourselves." "Pandora, what are you thinking of?" Epimetheus exclaimed. And his face expressed so much horror at the idea of looking into a box, which had been given him on condition that he never open it, that Pandora thought it best not to suggest it any more. Still she could not help thinking and talking about it. "At least," she said, "you can tell me how it came here." "It was left at the door," Epimetheus replied, "just before you came and by a person who looked very smiling and intelligent, and who could hardly keep from smiling as he set it down. He was dressed in an odd kind of a cloak, and had on a cap that seemed to be made partly of feathers so that it looked as if it had wings." "What sort of a staff had he?" asked Pandora. "Oh, the most curious staff that you ever saw!" cried Epimetheus. "It was like two serpents twisting around a stick, and was carved so naturally that I, at first, thought the serpents were alive."

"I know him," said Pandora thoughtfully. "Nobody else has such a staff. It was Mercury, and he brought me here as well as the box. No doubt he intended it for me, and most probably it contains pretty dresses for me to wear, or toys for us both, or something nice for us to eat." "Perhaps so," answered Epimetheus, turning away, "but until Mercury comes back and gives his permission, we have neither of us any right to lift the lid."

One day not long after that Epimetheus went to gather figs and grapes by himself without asking Pandora. Ever since she had come he had heard about that box, nothing but the box, and he was tired of it. And as soon as he was gone, Pandora kneeled down on the floor and looked intently at it. It was made of a beautiful kind of wood, and was so highly polished that Pandora could see her face in it. The edges and corners were carved with the most wonderful skill. Around the edge there were figures of graceful men and women and the

prettiest children ever seen, reclining or playing in gardens and forests. The most beautiful face of all was done in high relief in the centre of the box. There was nothing else save the dark, rich smoothness of the wood and this one faced with a garland of flowers about its brow. The features had a kind of mischievous expression with all their loveliness and if the mouth had spoken it would probably have said,

"Do not be afraid, Pandora! What harm can here be in opening a box? Never mind that poor, simple Epimetheus. You are wiser than he and have ten times as much courage. Open the box and see if you do not find something very pretty." And on this particular day, when Pandora was alone, her curiosity grew so great that at last she touched the box. She was more than half determined to open it if she could.

She was not quite sure whether she heard it or not, but her curiosity grew stronger than ever. Suddenly her eyes fell on a curious knot of gold that tied it. She took it in her fingers and, almost without intending it, she was soon busily engaged in trying to undo it. It was a very intricate knot indeed, but at last, by the merest accident, Pandora gave the cord a kind of twist and it unwound itself, as if by magic. The box was without a fastening. "This is the strangest thing I ever knew," Pandora said. "What will Epimetheus say? And how can I possibly tie it again?" And then the thought came into her naughty little heart that, since she would be suspected of looking into the box, she might as well do so at once. As Pandora raised the lid of the box the cottage suddenly darkened, for a black cloud had swept quite over the sun and seemed to have buried it alive. There had, for a little while past, been a low growling and gurgling which all at once broke into a heavy peal of thunder. But Pandora heeded nothing of all this. She lifted the lid nearly upright and looked inside. It seemed as if a sudden swarm of winged creatures brushed past her, taking flight out of the box while, at the same time, she heard the voice of Epimetheus in the doorway exclaiming as if he was in pain,

"Oh, I am stung! I am stung! Naughty Pandora, why have you opened this wicked box?" Pandora let fall the lid and looked up to see what had befallen Epimetheus. The thundercloud had so darkened the room that she could not clearly see what was in it. But she heard a disagreeable buzzing, as if a great many huge flies or giant bees were darting about. And as her eyes grew accustomed to the dimness she saw a crowd of ugly little shapes, looking very spiteful, and having bats' wings and terribly long stings in their tails. It was one of these that had stung Epimetheus. Nor was it a great while after Pandora herself began to cry. An odious little monster had settled on her forehead, and would have stung her very deeply if Epimetheus had not run and brushed it away.

Now, if you wish to know what these ugly things were that made their escape out of the box, I must tell you that they were the whole family of earthly Troubles. There were evil Passions. There were a great many species of Cares. There were more than a hundred and fifty Sorrows. There were Diseases in a vast number of strange and painful shapes. There were more kinds of Naughtiness than it would be of any kind of use to talk about. In short, everything that has since afflicted the souls and bodies of mankind had been shut up in the mysterious box given to Epimetheus and Pandora to be kept safely in order that the happy children of the world might never be molested by them. Had they been faithful to their trust all would have gone well with them. No grown person would ever have been sad, nor any child have had cause to shed a single tear, from that hour until this moment.

But it was impossible that the two children should keep the ugly swarm in their own little cottage. Pandora flung open the windows and doors to try and get rid of them and, sure enough, away flew the winged Troubles and so pestered and tormented the people everywhere about that none of them so much as smiled for many days afterward. And the children of the earth, who before had seemed ageless, now grew older, day by day, and came soon to be youths and maidens, and men and women, and then old folks, before they dreamed of such a thing. Meanwhile, the naughty Pandora and Epimetheus remained in their cottage. Both of them had been painfully stung. Epimetheus sat down sullenly in a corner with his back to Pandora. As for poor little Pandora, she flung herself upon the floor and rested her head on the fatal box. She was crying as if her heart would break. Suddenly there was a gentle little tap on the inside of the lid. "What can that be?" cried Pandora, lifting her head. But Epimetheus was too much out of humour to answer her. Again the tap! It sounded like the tiny knuckles of a fairy's hand. "Who are you?" asked Pandora, "who are you inside of this dreadful box?" A sweet little voice came from within saying, "Only lift the lid and you shall see." "No, no," answered Pandora, "I have had enough of lifting the lid. You need never think that I shall be so foolish as to let you out." "Ah," said the sweet little voice again, "you had much better let me out. I am not like those naughty creatures that have stings in their tails. They have no relation to me as you would soon find out if you would only lift the lid."

Indeed, there was a kind of cheerful witchery in the tone that made it almost impossible to refuse anything which this little voice asked. Pandora's heart had grown lighter at every word that came from the box. Epimetheus, too, had left his corner and seemed to be in better spirits. "Epimetheus!" exclaimed Pandora, "come what may, I am resolved to lift the lid." "And as the lid seems very heavy," said Epimetheus, running across the room, "I will help you."

So, with one consent, the two children lifted the lid. Out flew a sunny and smiling little personage and hovered about the room, throwing light wherever she went. Have you ever made the sunshine dance into dark corners by reflecting it from a bit of looking glass? Well, so appeared the winged cheerfulness of this fairylike stranger amid the gloom of the cottage. She flew to Epimetheus and laid the least touch of her finger on the inflamed spot where the Trouble had stung him and immediately the pain of it was gone. Then she kissed Pandora on the forehead and her hurt was cured likewise. "Who are you, beautiful creature?" asked Pandora. "I am to be called Hope," explained the sunshiny figure, "and because I am such a cheerful person, I was packed by the gods into the box to make amends for the swarm of ugly Troubles. Never fear! We shall do pretty well in spite of them." "Your wings are colored like the rainbow," exclaimed Pandora, "How beautiful!" "And will you stay with us," asked Epimetheus, "forever and ever?" "As long as you need me," said Hope, "and that will be as long as you live in the world. I promise never to desert you."

So Pandora and Epimetheus found Hope, and so has everybody else who has trusted her since that day. The Troubles are still flying around the world, but we have that lovely and lightsome fairy, Hope, to cure their stings and make the world new for us.

**Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.**

**1 Who is Pandora?**

- A. Epimetheus' roommate
- B. Epimetheus' playmate
- C. Epimetheus' classmate
- D. Epimetheus' sister

**2 How would you describe the world in Pandora and Epimetheus' time?**

- A. The world was pleasant and there were no troubles and no parents.
- B. The world was filled with so many plagues.
- C. The world was filled with so many orphaned children.
- D. The world was pleasant where there were many parties everywhere.

**3 What was Pandora's assumption?**

- A. The box was filled with nasty things.
- B. The box was harmless.
- C. The box was intended for her.
- D. The box was meant to be opened.

**4 What prompted Pandora to open the box?**

- I. Her curiosity
- II. Epimetheus
- III. The Troubles
- IV. Mercury

- A. I & II
- B. I & III
- C. III & II
- D. IV & II

**5 What emerged from the box when Pandora managed to open it?**

- A. A thick smoke
- B. A gust of wind
- C. A sandstorm
- D. A dark cloud

**6 What was the purpose of the box?**

- A. To protect the world from troubles
- B. To seal the troubles from infesting the world
- C. To protect children and other humans
- D. To seal hope

**Read the poem below then answer the questions that follow.**

**Success is counted sweetest by Emily Dickinson**

Success is counted sweetest  
By those who ne'er succeed.  
To comprehend a nectar  
Requires sorest need.

Not one of all the purple Host                      5  
Who took the Flag today  
Can tell the definition  
So clear of victory

As he defeated – dying –  
On whose forbidden ear                                      10  
The distant strains of triumph  
Burst agonised and clear!

**Answer the following questions by choosing the letter of the best answer.**

**7        According to the speaker, to whom is success counted as sweetest?**

- A. by those who have actually succeeded
- B. by those who tasted it
- C. by those who tried achieving it
- D. by those who never achieved it

**8        Basing from the poem, which of these lines are a metaphor?**

- A. To comprehend a nectar  
Requires sorest need.
- B. As he defeated – dying –  
On whose forbidden ear
- C. Can tell the definition  
So clear of victory
- D. The distant strains of triumph  
Burst agonised and clear!

**9        To whom did the author make her comparison about success?**

- A. Random men
- B. Soldier
- C. Businessmen
- D. Police

**10 Which of these lines give you an idea to whom the speaker is making her comparison with?**

- A. The distant strains of triumph  
Burst agonised and clear!
- B. Not one of all the purple Host  
Who took the Flag today
- C. To comprehend a nectar  
Requires sorest need.
- D. Success is counted sweetest  
By those who ne'er succeed.

**11 According to the last stanza, what is the price for succeeding?**

- A. When one experiences failure
- B. When one experiences a battle
- C. When one experiences death
- D. When one is lying on the ground

**Read the article below then answer the questions that follow.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has changed education forever. This is how...**

**A** While some believe that the unplanned and rapid move to online learning – with no training, insufficient bandwidth, and little preparation – will result in a poor user experience that is un conducive to sustained growth, others believe that a new hybrid model of education will emerge, with significant benefits. “I believe that the integration of information technology in education will be further accelerated and that online education will eventually become an integral component of school education,” says Wang Tao, Vice President of Tencent Cloud and Vice President of Tencent Education.

**B** There have already been successful transitions amongst many universities. For example, Zhejiang University managed to get more than 5,000 courses online just two weeks into the transition using “DingTalk ZJU”. The Imperial College London started offering a course on the science of coronavirus, which is now the most enrolled class launched in 2020 on Coursera.

**C** Many are already touting the benefits: Dr Amjad, a Professor at The University of Jordan who has been using Lark to teach his students says, “It has changed the way of teaching. It enables me to reach out to my students more efficiently and effectively through chat groups, video meetings, voting and also document sharing, especially during this pandemic. My students also find it is easier to communicate on Lark. I will stick to Lark even after coronavirus, I believe traditional offline learning and e-learning can go hand by hand.”

**D** There are, however, challenges to overcome. Some students without reliable internet access and/or technology struggle to participate in digital learning. For example, whilst 95%

of students in Switzerland, Norway, and Austria have a computer to use for their schoolwork, only 34% in Indonesia do, according to OECD data.

**E** In the US, there is a significant gap between those from privileged and disadvantaged backgrounds: whilst virtually all 15-year-olds from a privileged background said they had a computer to work on, nearly 25% of those from disadvantaged backgrounds did not. While some schools and governments have been providing digital equipment to students in need, such as in New South Wales, Australia, many are still concerned that the pandemic will widen the digital divide.

**F** For those who do have access to the right technology, there is evidence that learning online can be more effective in a number of ways. Some research shows that on average, students retain 25-60% more material when learning online compared to only 8-10% in a classroom. This is mostly due to the students being able to learn faster online; e-learning requires 40%-60% less time to learn than in a traditional classroom setting because students can learn at their own pace, going back and re-reading, skipping, or accelerating through concepts as they choose.

**G** Nevertheless, the effectiveness of online learning varies amongst age groups. The general consensus on children, especially younger ones, is that a structural environment is required, because kids are more easily distracted. To get the full benefit of online learning, there needs to be a concerted effort to provide this structure and go beyond replicating a physical class/lecture through video capabilities, instead, using a range of collaboration tools and engagement methods that promote “inclusion, personalization and intelligence”, according to Dowson Tong, Senior Executive Vice President of Tencent and President of its Cloud and Smart Industries Group.

**Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description.**

**Which paragraph...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **12** shows a divide between students who have and don't have the means to sustain their online classes?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **13** presents an assumption that online classes are unsuccessful and not conducive for learning?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **14** states that online learning can be functional if students acquired the right technologies?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **15** highlights a professor's opinion on the benefits of having online classes?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **16** states that online learning depends on the age and environment of the children?
- \_\_\_\_\_ **17** enumerates different universities that have successfully changed and adjusted to online classes?

**Read the extracts below then answer the questions that follow.**

Topic: Social Media

<b>A.</b>	<p>Types of social media are used to associate with individuals (and brands) on the web. They help your business via branding, social awareness, relationship building, customer service, lead generation, and conversion. You can channelize different types of Social Media campaigns on these networks that will help you widen your reach. Some of the benefits of these Social Marketing Networks are - They encourage individuals and businesses to interact online and share data and thoughts for ensuring mutually productive relationships and in case you are searching for the best ways to optimise current marketing campaigns then you will discover a variety of organic and paid ways to do this on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn sorts of social networks.</p>	<b>C.</b>	<p>With over 80% of consumers reporting that social media—especially influencer content—significantly impacts buying decisions, marketers across industries are driving the evolution of social media marketing (SMM) from a stand-alone tool to a multipronged source of marketing intelligence on an increasingly important—and growing—audience. Within 18 years, from 2004 (when MySpace became the first social media site to reach one million users) to 2022, the dramatic growth of interactive digital channels took social media to levels that challenge even the reach of television and radio. By Q1 of 2022, there were 4.6 billion social media users globally—over 58% of the world’s population—an increase of over 10% in one year alone. As the use of social media trends upward, marketers are perfecting strategies to capture the significant competitive advantage that engagement with this key audience can deliver even more rapidly and more effectively than traditional marketing.</p>
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<p><b>B.</b></p>	<p>Adolescence is a time of significant developmental changes, during which adolescents exhibit a limited capacity for self-regulation and an increased risk of susceptibility to peer pressure and experimentation. Social media can be harmful, and obstetricians–gynaecologists may screen their adolescent and young adult patients for illicit activities or other risk-taking behaviours. Victims of cyberbullying and those who engage in different illicit activities may result in transmitted infections and pregnancy. The effect of social media may be considered in the differential diagnosis of myriad health problems during adolescence. Referrals to mental health care providers or providing outside resources may be indicated. A multidisciplinary approach to address these issues can include the obstetrician–gynaecologist, guardians, and school officials and personnel. Knowledge of resources, including those within the schools and community, allows the obstetrician–gynaecologist to provide support to adolescents facing these issues.</p>	<p><b>D.</b></p>	<p>Just a dozen years ago, everyone was talking about a different set of social networking services, “and I don’t think anyone quite expected Facebook to become so huge and so dominant,” says Kevin Werbach, Wharton professor of legal studies and business ethics. “At that point, this was an interesting discussion about tech start-ups. “Today, Facebook is one of the most valuable companies on earth and front and centre in a whole range of public policy debates, so the scope of issues we’re thinking about with social media are broader than then,” Werbach adds. Cambridge Analytica the impact of social media on the last presidential election and other issues may have eroded public trust, Werbach said, but “social media has become really fundamental to the way that billions of people get information about the world and connect with each other, which raises the stakes enormously.”</p>
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**Answer the following questions by choosing the correct letter that matches the description. Take note that the letters can be repeated accordingly.**

**Which extract...**

<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>states that social media has an impact on consumers and <b>their</b> buying decisions?</p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>mentions different health problems in different fields of medicine brought by social media?</p>
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>states that social media can aid your businesses through marketing?</p>
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p>states an opinion about how a certain social media platform was not expected to become widely utilised by all?</p>

<b>22</b>	mentions a platform that has possibly destroyed the trust of many people because of the information it holds?
<b>23</b>	states that social media can widen your connections and reach in campaigns?
<b>24</b>	mentions a platform that first reached many users?
<b>25</b>	mentions harmful reproductive diseases for young people based on what they perceived online?