**BA English Short Story'Breakfast' by John Steinbeck Questions and answers**

**Breakfast**  
  
Breakfast" is a simple short story by John Steinbeck in which purity of living is  described. The story is about a poor family willing to work happily for a little better living. The family has no complaints against anyone else on account of poverty. They are contented with whatever they earn.  
  
They had twelve days of work and even with that little  income they have got new clothes. The old man 'chewed and swallowed' the breakfast and thanked God Almighty. They are enjoying each morsel of food. The Young man told the writer, "We have been eating good for the twelve days."The beauty and simplicity of the poor God -fearing people living upon cotton picking, a seasonal labour, has made this story interesting.

The writer once happened to go to a valley. It was a cold morning and he walked along a country road. He saw a tent. The writer went nearer and saw a young woman sitting beside a stove with a child in her lap..She was busy in making breakfast.  
  
 The writer could feel the smell of frying bacon and baking bread. Soon two men came out of the tent. One of them was young and other was old. They faces were wet. They came near the stove and started warming their hands in the fire emitting from the stove..The water was slowly drying from their faces.   
  
They welcomed the writer. They sat around a packing case. The girl served the breakfast on the packing case. The old man invited the writer to have breakfast.

 The writer their offer readily and sat beside the packing case.Then they started talking and telling the writer that they were cotton picker and they were working there for the last twelve days. They also told the writer that even with their little wages , they had bought new clothes.  
  
 They were passing a very satisfied life a and enjoying good food for the last twelve days. Soon they stood up and were ready to go to their work. They offered the writer to accompany them. The writer begged their pardon. They went together to their work and the writer walked towards the country road.  
  
The writer could never forget the meeting. The reader is also passionately involved in the story. The writer  has portrayed their acute poverty, making the reader fully conscious of the human s' feelings.  
  
 He has a dream of self-sufficiency of the individual man which he very successfully illustrates in the story. The ending remarks of the story are very impressive, " That s' all, I know, of course, some of the e reasons why it was pleasant. But there was some elements of great beauty that makes a rush of warmth when i think of it."  
  
  
**Breakfast ' is a story pin- pointing the problems of seasonal laborers. Do you agree?**

Breakfast' is a simple story by john Steinbeck in which he has definitely pointed out the problems of the poor seasonal labor who do not have a regular job and they are very happy and thankful to God when they have a job and when they are earning something. The story is about a poor family willing to work happily for a little better living.  
  
 The family has no complaints against any one on account of their poverty. They are contented with whatever they earn. They had twelve days of work and they were very happy because they even got new clothes and they had been eating good for many days. The beauty and simplicity of the poor God fearing people living upon cotton picking, seasonal lab our, has made this story interesting. Non-availability of the means of living is a very serious problem of the poor workers particularly in the rural areas.  
  
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The last remarks in the story are very impressive, "That s, all. I know, of course, some of the reasons, why it was pleasant. But there was some elements of great beauty, that makes a rush of warmth when i think of it,"  
  
**Describe the writer s' meeting with the poor family of laborers?**  
  
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**The short story "Breakfast" is a criticism on urban/city/materialistic life,how?**  
  
The short story "Breakfast" by John Steinbeck is a beautiful story which tells us about the simplicity and contented life of cotton pickers.When the story begins ,the writer very beautifully projects the simplicity of nature.Nature in itself is very simple and teaches us the great and profound lesson of simplicity.The people who are close to nature or are living in the lap of nature, they remain always happy in the life.  
  
Same is the case with the seasonal laborers-the cotton pickers who are living a life in extreme poverty. Their income is low,they have no fine clothes to wear on even the small baby in his mother lap all the time sucking his mother milk symbolizes the insufficiency of milk but the milk sucking tiny does not weep or cry,it seems as if he had also learnt how to be contented with life.

The family of the for persons is happy in life.They have no complain against anyone.They enjoy the little food even each and every morsel and pay thanks to God Almighty.They have little but  are generous at heart,so generous that they offer not only breakfast but a job to the writer.  
  
Contrary to that,city life is based on materialism.In the city rushed life no one cares for other.They are running after the material pursuits. They are having everything but lack contentedness of hearts.The residents of the urban areas have forgotten the lesson of simplicity. They are away from nature.The life has become a problem for them.  
  
***Points to remember:***  
1. It is a story that tells us about the simplicity and contentness of a poor family who works as a cotton picker  
2.The story pinpoints of the poor labourers who work hard for a little better living  
3. The poor family is living in the lap of the nature and they are highly satisfied with their simple life style  
4. Nature in itself is simple and teaches us the lesson of simplicity.A life of simplicity leads to a life of contentness  
5.The writer happens to pass near a family living in a tent in a valley.He saw a woman who was making breakfast on an old rusty stove  
6. The writer got close to take warmth,an old and a young man came out of a tent,they said good morning to the writer and offered him breakfast  
7. The woman set the breakfast,they started eating it with great relish.They took the breakfast and thanked Almighty God.The writer really enjoyed the breakfast  
8. During the breakfast,they told the writer about their work and also told that they had even bought new clothes with their twelve days wages  
9. When the writer was about to heave,they also offered a job to the writer but the writer thanked them and went away  
10. The story is a criticism on urban materialistic life.The family is passing a peaceful life away from the rushed city life.