3. A MASON-DIXON MEMORY

- Clifton Davis

SUMMARY

The given anecdotes are real life stories depicting “Apartheid” – a term given to racial discrimination. This discrimination prevailed in many of the Northern states of U.S.A., inspite of the fact that it was under the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. In this story we see how Dondre Green, a negro, narrates an incident where he was marginalised on the basis of his colour. As he narrates this incident the writer Clifton Davis is at once transported to the past when he too was refused entry into an amusement park in Maryland. But the writer’s friends stood by him and did not enter the park. Through these two stories, the writer brings out the fact that if people show love and support, the evils like racial discrimination can be totally eradicated.

PASSAGE I (Lines 1 - 27)

Dondre Green glanced............................................................................................................the putting green.

GLOSSARY

- glanced - brief look
- tuxedo - a dinner jacket
- predominantly - mainly
- emcee - compere
- busboys - people who clear tables in restaurants
- parish - a local church

[I] SIMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS (SFQ). (1 Mark)

1. What was the serious problem faced by Dondre and his teammates?
   Ans. The problem faced by Dondre and his teammates was that the club in which they were playing allowed only whites to play and if they wanted Dondre was to play then they all would have to leave the game.

2. On what occasion was Dondre speaking?
   Ans. He was speaking at a fund raiser programme for the National Minority College Golf Scholarship foundation.
3. **Name the Club that allowed only whites to play.**  
**Ans.** The Caldwell Parish Country Club in Columbia allowed only whites to play.

**[II] COMPLEX FACTUAL QUESTIONS (CFQ).**

1. **What was the incident that made nationwide news.**  
**Ans.** On 17th April, 1991, Dondre Green’s black skin provoked an incident that made nationwide news. Dondre was a golfer who played for the St. Frederick High School Golf team. Once when they went to the Caldwell Parish Country Club in Columbia, they were informed that the Club allowed only whites to play.

**[III] INTERPRETATIVE QUESTIONS (IQ).**

1. **Why was Dondre Green nervous?**  
**Ans.** Dondre Green was nervous because probably for the first time he was addressing a huge crowd.

2. **Why did the audience lean forward?**  
**Ans.** The audience leaned forward to listen keenly to an incident that had happened with Dondre and had made nationwide news.

3. **What, do you think, is this story about?**  
**Ans.** This story is obviously about an incident of racial discrimination in the USA.

**[IV] PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS (PRQ).**

1. **Name any one black leader whom you respect? Why?**  
**Ans.** I hold Dr. Nelson Mandela in high regard as he fought for the welfare of the blacks. He lived in jail for twenty seven years but when he came out he showed no hatred for the people who kept him there and he only gave love to those who hated him which only shows he is a noble soul.

2. **What do you know about racial discrimination? Has it been abolished?**  
**Ans.** Racial discrimination is a term which is used to differentiate between people on the basis of the colour of skin. The Asians, Negros and the Jews are some of the communities which have been subjected to such absurd differentiation. This has not yet been abolished as on and off certain cases of racial discrimination have been reported.

**PASSAGE II (Lines 28 - 55)**

Dondre ..........................................................................................................................
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**GLOSSARY**

- strained - made effort
- forfeit - to forgo
- ghetto - slum, a part of a city occupied by a minority group
- mimeographed - reprint