

## A SHADY PLOT

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### I. Read the following extracts and answer the questions.

1. *"I sat staring at it and presently noticed something just taking shape. It was exactly like watching one of these moving picture cartoons being put together."* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

- (a) What was the narrator staring at?
- (b) How was the figure taking shape?
- (c) Who was gradually taking a definite shape part by part?

2. *"We're been called out of beds a little too often in recent years and now we're through."*

- (a) Who have been called constantly?
- (b) What is unnatural about their being called?
- (c) What is the person's complaint?

3. *"It's .... so cheap! I got it at a bargain sale."*

- (a) What has been bought cheap?
- (b) Do you think the narrator would be happy with this news? Why/ Why not?
- (c) Who had asked the narrator to avoid its use?

### II. Answer the given questions in 30-40 words:-

- a) Why had Helen, the ghost been helping the narrator write ghost stories? Why was she going on strike? What condition she places for providing continued help? [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]
- b) Why is John's wife angry? What does she decide to do? [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]
- c) What surprising revelation is made by the ghost? Why did the writer not believe her?
- d) Why did Helen pay a visit to the narrator again?
- e) Why was the writer getting over confident about his ability of writing ghost stories?

### III. Answer the given question in about 100 words:-

- a) John Hallock reflects upon his experience with Helen's ghost and in retrospect he finds it quite amusing. At the same time he is relieved that he is no longer plagued by it. Ironically, the self-same ghost inspires his creativity and he writes a diary entry reflecting upon the comical aspect of his experience. Write his diary entry.