

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-3 Iswaran the Storyteller
Test Paper-03

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follows:

1. “After eating, he would read for a while before dozing off. The book was usually some popular Tamil thriller running to hundreds of pages. Its imaginative descriptions and narrative flourishes would hold Iswaran in thrall”.
 - a. Who is ‘he’ in the extract given?
 - b. How ‘he’ starts his day?
 - c. What is the meaning of ‘in thrall’?
 - d. Name the story and the author.
2. “I was studying in the junior class at that time and was watching the whole drama from the rooftop. I don’t know what came over me suddenly”.
 - a. Who say this to whom?
 - b. Why does Iswaran say this?
 - c. What came over the speaker suddenly?
 - d. What was the drama going on that time?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. Mahendra calls ghosts a figment of imagination. What happens to him on a full-moon night?
4. Why does Mahendra resolve to leave the place?
5. Why was Mahendra angry on Iswaran for his description of ghost?
6. “Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra’s living quarters”. Why does the author say this?
7. Why was Mahendra impressed with Iswaran?
8. How and who was the asset for Mahendra?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Write the character sketch of Iswaran.
10. Do you think Mahendra is a good listener? Give reasons.

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Answers

1.
 - a. 'He' refers to Iswaran.
 - b. Iswaran would tidy up the shed, wash the clothes, and have a leisurely bath, pouring several buckets of water over his head, muttering a prayer all the time.
 - c. 'In thrall' means the state of being in someone's power.
 - d. The extract is taken from the lesson- 'Iswaran the Storyteller', the author is R.K. Laxman.
2.
 - a. Iswaran said this to Mahendra.
 - b. He was saying a story to his master.
 - c. Iswaran had read somewhere that whacking the elephant's third toenail would temporarily paralyses the nervous system.
 - d. The tusker was destroying everything in the playground.
3. Mahendra hears a low moan coming from his window. He resisted the curiosity to look out lest he should behold a sight which would stop his heart. Lowering himself to the level of the windowsill he looked out there, not too far away, was a dark cloudy form clutching a bundle. Mahendra fell back on the pillow.
4. Iswaran said about a female ghost which was appearing off and on at the full moon days. He describes her that made Mahendra shiver and one night he hears a low moan coming from his window. When he looked out he saw a dark cloudy form clutching a bundle. He doubted that it must be the ghost so he resolves to leave the place.
5. Mahendra shivered at the description and said Iswaran is crazy. There are no such things as ghosts or spirits. It is all a figment of his imagination. This shows that Mahendra is angry but he was scared.
6. Because, not a day passed without Iswaran saying some story filled with adventure, horror and suspense. Whether the story was credible or not, Mahendra enjoyed listening to it because of the inimitable way in which it was told, Iswaran used suitable gestures and arched his eyebrows. So, Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters.

7. Iswaran cooked food for Mahendra, washed his clothes and chatted away with his master at night. Iswaran also had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables and cooking ingredients, even in the middle of a deserted place with no shops visible for miles.
8. Iswaran was an asset to Mahendra as he could cook, wash his clothes and chat with his master at night. He was quite attached to his master that he followed his master uncomplainingly wherever he was posted. He would miraculously make the most delicious dishes within an hour on arriving the new workplace.
9. Iswaran, the cook was quite attached to his master, Mahendra and followed him without any question wherever he was posted. He cooked, washed his clothes and chatted away with his master at night. He could weave out endless stories and anecdotes on varied subjects. Iswaran also had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables and cooking ingredients, in the middle of a desolate landscape with no shops visible for miles around. He would tidy up the shed, wash the clothes, and have a leisurely bath, pouring several buckets of water over his head, muttering a prayer all the while. After eating lunch, he would read for a while before dozing off. The book he read were usually some popular Tamil thriller. His own descriptions were greatly influenced by the Tamil authors that he read. When he narrated even the smallest of incidents, he would try to work in suspense and surprise. He would say with eyebrows suitably arched and hands held out in a dramatic gesture. So, Iswaran was not only a good storyteller but also an expert of culinary skills.
10. Yes, as Iswaran was a fascinating storyteller, likewise Mahendra was also a good listener. He would listen to the description of Iswaran very patiently and would imagine all the scenes narrated to him. When Iswaran was saying the story of tusker, he paused for a while and went to warm the dinner. Mahendra could not stop his curiosity and asks the remaining story. Once Mahendra shivered on the description of the female ghost, he was so frightened that from that day onwards he ignored to look out of the window. He went to sleep with unease. One day he woke up in the midnight and saw a dark cloudy form clutching a bundle - this shows his sheer involvement in the description of female ghost.