

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-3 Iswaran the Storyteller
Test Paper-02

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

“You are crazy, Iswaran. There are no such things as ghosts or spirits. It is all a figment of your imagination. Get your digestive system examined — and maybe your head as well. You are talking nonsense.”

- a. Who said this to whom?
 - b. Why does the speaker say this?
 - c. Do you think that the speaker really doesn't believe in ghosts?
 - d. Find out a word from the extract which means creation or invention.
2. “Iswaran also had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables and cooking ingredients, seemingly out of nowhere, in the middle of a desolate landscape with no shops visible for miles around.”
- a. Who is Iswaran?
 - b. Why does the author say this?
 - c. Find out a synonym for ‘desolate’.
 - d. Comment on one of the traits of Iswaran.

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. In what way is Iswaran an asset to Mahendra?
4. Who is Iswaran in the story?
5. How does Iswaran describes the uprooted tree on the highway?
6. Why does Mahendra wakes up from the sleep one night?
7. Why Mahendra avoid looking out of his window?
8. Whether the story was credible or not, Mahendra used to enjoy it. Why?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Describe how Iswaran narrates the story of elephant.
10. Do you think Iswaran is a fascinating storyteller? Give reasons.

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ANSWERS

1.
 - a. Mahendra said this to Iswaran.
 - b. Mahendra shivered and was angry at Iswaran for imagining things like, lie ghosts.
 - c. No, the speaker quiet believes in ghost because from that day onwards Mahendra went to bed with a certain unease.
 - d. Figment.
2.
 - a. Iswaran was Mahendra's cook.
 - b. Because Iswaran would miraculously make the most delicious dishes with fresh vegetables within an hour of arriving at the new workplace.
 - c. Uninhabited.
 - d. Iswaran had culinary skills of doing his work.
3. Iswaran not only cooked for Mahendra, washed his clothes and chatted away with his master at night. He could say endless stories and anecdotes on varied subjects. Iswaran also had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables and cooking ingredients, seemingly out of nowhere, in the middle of a desolate landscape with no shops visible for miles around
4. Iswaran is Mahendra's cook he not only cook food but he washes clothes, weave out endless stories for his master. He was quite attached to Mahendra and followed him uncomplainingly wherever he was posted.
5. He would say, with eyebrows arched and hands held out in a dramatic gesture, "The road was deserted and I was all alone. Suddenly I spotted something that looked like an enormous bushy beast lying sprawled across the road. I was half inclined to turn and go back. But as I came closer I saw that it was a fallen tree, with its dry branches spread out." Mahendra would stretch himself back in his canvas chair and listen to Iswaran's tales uncritically.
6. One night, Mahendra was woken up from his sleep by a low moan close to his window. At first, he thought it was a cat prowling around for mice. But the sound was too guttural for a cat. He stops the curiosity to look out lest he should behold a sight which would stop his

heart.

7. Iswaran describes one horrible ghost of a woman who appears off and on at midnight during the full moon. It is an ugly creature with matted hair and a shrivelled face, like a skeleton holding a foetus in its arms. That shivered Mahendra and from then on, he avoided looking out of his window even if he liked to admire the milk-white landscape on full-moon nights.
8. Not a day passed without Iswaran recounting some story packed 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 seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters.
9. One day a tusker escaped from the timber yard and began to roam about, stamping on bushes, tearing up wild creepers and breaking branches at will. Iswaran would get so involved in the excitement of his own story that he would get up from the floor and jump about, stamping his feet in emulation of the mad elephant. He describes that the elephant reached the outskirts of our town; breaking the fences down like matchstick. It came into the main road and smashed all the stalls selling fruits, mud pots and clothes. The elephant then entered a school ground where children were playing, breaking through the brick wall. There was not a soul below on the ground. The elephant looked at Iswaran with red-eyed. At that moment when it was rushing towards him, Iswaran moved forward and mustering all his force, whacked its third toenail on the quick. The beast then collapsed. He would leave the suspense for Mahendra and leaves him for warming the dinner. After coming Mahendra has to remember him about the story where he has stopped and then he would say that he had used something like Karate or ju-jitsu which temporarily paralyzed the nervous system.
10. Yes, Iswaran is a fascinating storyteller. He has capacity to turn a simple story into suspense and surprise. 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. His own descriptions were greatly influenced by the Tamil authors that he read. For example, while saying the story of tusker he would get so caught up in the excitement of his own story that he would get up from the floor and jump about, stamping his feet in emulation of the mad elephant. He would make his eyebrows suitably arched and hands held out in a dramatic gesture while saying a story. All this makes Iswaran a fascinating storyteller.