

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-10 The Beggar
Test Paper-04

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

1. Next he saw the pseudo-teacher seat himself on a log and become lost in thought with his red cheeks resting on his fists. The woman flung down an axe at his feet, spat angrily, and, judging from the expression of her lips, began to scold him. The beggar irresolutely pulled a billet of wood towards him, set it up between his feet, and tapped it feebly with the axe. The billet wavered and fell down. The beggar again pulled it to him, blew on his freezing hands, and tapped it with his axe cautiously, as if afraid of hitting his overshoe or of cutting off his finger; the stick of wood again fell to the ground.
 - a. Why was the pseudo-teacher lost in his thoughts?
 - b. Who is the woman referred to in the above lines?
 - c. Why did the woman scold the beggar?
 - d. What does the word 'pseudo-teacher' mean here?
2. "Thank you for your kind words and deeds. I am very grateful to you and to your cook. God bless that good and noble woman! You spoke finely then, and I shall be indebted to you to my dying day; but, strictly speaking, it was your cook, Olga, who saved me."
 - a. Who is speaking in the above lines and to whom?
 - b. Put the above lines in their context.
 - c. How did Olga 'save' the speaker?
 - d. Which word in the extract means the same as 'gratefully obliged'?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. In their initial encounters, how did Sergei realise that Lushkoff was a liar?
4. "It was obvious from his gait that he had not consented to go and chop wood because he was hungry and wanted work..." – What then made Lushkoff work for Sergei?
5. "Sergei's anger had vanished and he now began to feel a little sorry and ashamed of himself..." Why was Sergei angry with Lushkoff? What made him feel sorry?
6. What was the vibe like during the first meet of Sergei and Lushkoff after two years?
7. List the human characteristics of Lushkoff and Sergei.

8. Who was Olga? How did she help Lushkoff?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Pen down the character of Sergei in about 100-150 words.

10. Did Lushkoff become a beggar by havoc of circumstances or by choice? Explain. What would you have done if you were in his place?

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Answers

1.
 - a. Because he didn't know how to chop wood.
 - b. Olga (Sergei's cook)
 - c. Because the beggar was not working but wasting time by sitting idle.
 - d. It means 'false teacher'. The beggar had lied about himself being a teacher.
2.
 - a. Lushkoff is speaking to Sergei.
 - b. Lushkoff, in the given lines, thanks Sergei for all that he and his cook did to turn him from a beggar to a working person.
 - c. Through her harsh and emotional words and noble deeds (chopping woods for him).
 - d. Indebted
3. Sergei's eyes fell on Lushkoff's overshoes, one of which was high and the other low, and he suddenly remembered that he had met him earlier in Sadovya Street where he had told him that he was a student who had been expelled.
4. It was obvious that Lushkoff had not consented to go and chop wood because he was hungry and wanted work, but simply because of his pride and shame and the fact that he had been trapped by his own words.
5. Sergei was initially angry because Lushkoff had told him several lies to get money. However, eventually, his anger vanished and he began to feel a little sorry and ashamed of himself for having set a spoiled, drunken, perhaps sick man to work at menial labour in the cold.
6. The vibe was of nostalgia, gratitude and excitement. Sergei was happy that Lushkoff had kept his words and guidance intact, and Lushkoff thanked him and his cook Olga for their words and deeds.
7. Lushkoff was initially a willing beggar but later turned into a respected and earning person. Sergei was a nice man who helped a beggar.
8. Olga was Sergei's cook. She helped Lushkoff by touching his conscience through her harsh and emotional words and noble deeds (chopping woods), which ultimately compelled him to change his ways. She brought a positive change in his heart and set him

right.

9. Sergei, as per the text, was a lawyer by profession. He was a well-to-do man with a good nature. He had awareness about his surroundings. This is evident from the incident where he identified Lushkoff and threatened to call police for having lied to him for begging. He also seemed to have good contacts. This is asserted when he sends Lushkoff to his friend for the work of copying where he later worked as a notary. Sergei's words and deeds also reveal the human aspect of him that he had emotions and feelings for other, and a sensible and intelligent mind and a good heart.
10. Lushkoff was a willing beggar. Nobody forced him to beg. He could have chosen to earn and become a respected individual in the society. Instead, he chose an easy way out to survive by telling lies to people and begging money. Supposedly, he worked as a village schoolteacher for eight years but then lost his place through intrigues. He then had an offer of a position in the province of Kaluga. He also said that he was a student who had been expelled. Unfortunately, all these were lies to convince and persuade people to show mercy on him and give him money. Hence, Lushkoff became a beggar by choice and not by havoc of circumstances. If I were in his place, I would have chosen to work and earn myself a living and not beg.