

NCERT Solutions for Class 12

English Kaleidoscope

SHORT STORIES - One Centimetre

Stop and Think (Page no.75)

1. What made Tao Ying decide whether to buy a ticket or not when she rode a bus alone?

Ans: When Tao Ying rides the bus alone, she usually does not pay for the ticket because she believes that her paying or not paying does not affect the bus's routine; however, she acts in accordance with the situation, paying for the ticket when the conductor appears responsible but not when he appears casual and careless.

2. Why did she insist on buying tickets both for herself and her son that day?

Ans: Xiao Ye insisted on buying a ticket for himself that day, but Tao Ying bought one for him as a symbol of sustaining his esteem, even though he didn't need one.

Stop and Think (Page no.81)

1. Did Tao Ying really intend to cheat at the temple?

Ans: Tao Ying had no intention of cheating at the temple because she knew Xiao Ye was under a metre tall and hence did not need to purchase a ticket. He did, however, weigh more in the temple, which shocked her.

2. Why did Tao Ying change her intention to buy another ticket?

Ans: As the gathering grew larger and the ticket seller became agitated, Tao Ying realised she couldn't argue with a scale. She saw her son thinking negatively about her and decided to get a ticket.

Stop and Think (Page no.82)

1. Were the old lady's scales a reliable measure of height and weight? What convoluted logic were her measurements based on?

Ans: The scales on which the old lady measured her height and weight were unreliable. Because they were outdated and imprecise, they misrepresented the weight, and the lady had changed them to reflect more height. People want to picture themselves as thinner and taller, thus they were flattering to them, according to her thinking.

2. What was the conflict between the mother and son?

Ans: Xiao Ye believed Tao Ying only pretended he was short so she could avoid paying for his ticket, while in fact he was tall and distrusted his mother. As a result, the mother and son had a falling out.

Understanding the Text

1. How did Tao Ying's son influence the way she led her life?

Ans: Tao Ying, like her significant other, came from a low-income family and worked as a blue-collar worker. There was no surplus of money, but still, she led her life as an example for her son to follow. Her approach was gentle, and she changed how she leads her life so that her son Xiao Ye would respect her.

2. Pick out instances from the story to show that official rules are often arbitrary.

Ans: This story enlightens us that the scales used at the entrance of temples are not correct; still, Tio Ying is humiliated in front of the crowd and refused entry.

While on the bus, she is asked not to pay even when she wants to pay for two tickets. She is even asked if she would want to cash her tickets even when she is clearly on an informal trip.

3. Tao Ying was very careful about spending money. What were her reasons for refusing the compensation offered by the temple officials?

Ans: Tao Ying didn't come from a rich family, but this does not imply that it was the only important thing in her life. After the unfortunate incident at the temple entrance, all she wanted was to gain her respect in her son's eyes. She wanted to prove to him that his mother would never do something unethical, and for that, he had to hear the truth about the misunderstanding.

4. Why was her final vindication important to Tao Ying?

Ans: Tao Ying bought a ticket on the bus even when she didn't have to because she wanted to set an example for her son. But the incident at the temple had left an image that she was trying to take her son without the ticket. Therefore, she wanted to give her son the reason to believe in her. She wanted her son to know that her mother was not lying.

Talking about the Text

Discuss the following in pairs or small groups

1. The way a child looks at the world is very different from that of an adult.

Ans: Children learn from the examples set in front of them. They don't have the habit of looking for a beneficial angle in every situation. They look at people from a moral point of view, and the way people react towards certain situations affects them. They do not think about the circumstances of their actions but only what is right.

2. There is always a gap between what we really are and what we wish to appear to be to others.

Ans:

We are often expected to show the best version of ourselves in order to be a good example to others. Whether or not we are such people, we are often tied to the ways we're supposed to be seen by the society. Thus, there's always some distinction between how we show ourselves to be and who we really are.

Appreciation

1. Comment on the significance of the first sentence of the story to its theme.

Ans: The first sentence shows how Tao Ying is not a believer of the world's ways as she knows that more often than not, they pretend to be someone they

are not. Like what she does, she puts on a show for her son to make him abide by the rules and respect her for doing the same.

2. Would you describe the author's portrayal of Tao Ying's character in the story as sympathetic, critical, or realistic?

Ans: The narrator portrays Tao Ying as a realist, as she does not abide by the norms set by society. Instead, she chooses what's best for her and her family. Also, she makes sure to set an example for a son to grow up to be a man of values.

3. Identify the episodes that bring out the ambivalent attitude to ethics commonly seen in human life?

Ans: Tao Ying pays for her child's ticket when she doesn't need to to set an example. She does this to comply with her son's demands. She wouldn't have done this if she were alone. The older woman adjusts her scales with the goal that individuals will accept themselves as taller and more slender. She gives them a flawed perusing intentionally to compliment them.

4. How effectively does the narrative technique adopted in this story illustrate 'unity of thought'?

Ans: The narrator depicts the unity of thought by showing that the characters are using the opportunities presented to them for their benefit. Their actions may or may not be morally correct, but they are sure of their actions and analyze the situation to find a way to benefit them.

Language Work

A . Figures of Speech

a. Simile

Notice the underlined phrases in the following sentences

(i) As the doors shut her jacket is caught, ballooning up like a tent behind her.

The comparison here is between the ballooning of the jacket and a tent made explicit by the use of the conjunction, 'like'.

(ii) The white of the wall looks like a virgin canvas and Xiao Ye a painting

filling up the space.

The comparison in (ii) is between the whiteness of the wall and a virgin canvas made explicit by the use of 'like'. In the second 'like' is understood. Xiao Ye is like a painting...

Such explicit comparisons are called similes.

b. Metaphor

Sometimes comparisons are made by the application of words or phrases to a concept that they do not literally denote.

An example of this is

"But in order to melt the ice in her son's eyes, she must do something."

Here the ice stands for the coldness and distance in her son's eyes and how she wishes to make him come closer to her.

The comparison of a mental attitude to ice is not explicitly emphasised but is understood. Similes and metaphors add to the richness of language and help to make the reader visualise more vividly the thoughts of the author.

TASK

Pick out examples of simile and metaphor from the story and state the two elements or concepts that are compared and the manner of comparison.

Ans: Some examples of simile are:

(i) When the bus conductor looked like the responsible type,

Here, his behaviour towards duty is compared with the behaviour of responsible people.

(ii) ballooning up like a tent

Jacket that was filled with looked similar to a tent

(iii) as a bundle of straw

Rough hair is compared with a bundle of straw

Some example of metaphor are:

(i) an open fire

Here it mean the oven

(ii) door to life

the infant's soft part of skull is compared with door to life

(iii) centre of the universe

Mother is considered centre of the universe because she is everything for her

B. Pronunciation

Look at the word 'object'

We can see that

(i) It is a two-syllable word: ob - ject

(ii) It can be used as both a noun and a verb.

Examples:

(i) Place the 'object on the table. (noun)

[Pronounce ob as in bob]

(ii) I ob' ject, your honour. (verb)

[Pronounce ob as in hub]

- **The stress and the way the word is pronounced change accordingly.**
- **You will notice that, when used as a noun, the word carries the stress on the first syllable; when used as a verb, the stress is received on the second syllable.**
- **Also, the way you pronounce the initial syllable would change.**

TASK

The following words can be used as both a noun and a verb

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| conduct | protest | permit |
| progress | desert | |

(a) Where would the stress fall? Mark the stress when the word is used

(i) as a noun

Ans: Conduct: His /c/on/d/uct is good.

Protest: There is a /p/ro/t/est march tomorrow.

Permit: You must have a proper /p/er/m/it to go inside.

Progress: You must show your /p/rog/r/ess report to your parents.

Desert: Sahara /d/e/s/ert is the largest desert in the world.

(ii) as a verb

Conduct: He has /c/on/d/uc/t/ed a blood donated camp.

Protest: You should /p/ro/t/est against wrong things.

Permit: You are not /p/er/m/itted to go inside.

Progress: He /p/rog/r/essed in his life.

Desert: He /d/e/s/ert/ed us.

(b) Is there a change in the pronunciation of the first syllable? Form words that rhyme with the pronunciation of the first syllable, as in the example of 'object' given above.

Ans: No change happened in the pronunciation of the first syllable. The words that rhyme with the pronunciation of the first syllable are: Subject, Reject and Convict.