

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-10 The Beggar
Test Paper-02

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

1. “Sir!” he said, laying his hand on his heart, “the fact is I was lying! I am neither a student nor a schoolteacher. All that was fiction. Formerly I sang in a Russian choir and was sent away for drunkenness. But what else can I do? I can’t get along without lying. No one will give me anything when I tell the truth, what can I do?”
 - a. Who is the speaker in the above lines?
 - b. Name the text from which the above extract has been taken from.
 - c. Place the above lines in their context.
 - d. What advice does Sergei give him in response to his argument?
2. Two years went by. Then one evening, as Sergei was standing at the ticket window of a theatre paying for his seat, he noticed a little man beside him with a coat collar of curly fur and a worn sealskin cap. This little individual timidly asked the ticket seller for a seat in the gallery and paid for it in copper coins.

“Lushkoff, is that you?” cried Sergei, recognising in the little man his former wood-chopper. “How are you? What are you doing? How is everything with you?”

 - a. What does Lushkoff’s description in the above lines tell about him?
 - b. What job did Lushkoff have after two years?
 - c. Why was Sergei so excited to see Lushkoff?
 - d. What did Sergei had to do with Lushkoff’s growth from a beggar?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. While begging to Sergei, Lushkoff says, “I am obliged to by circumstances”. What are the circumstances referred to here?
4. Describe the scene Sergei witnessed from his room on Lushkoff’s first day at work.
5. Mention the lies that Lushkoff told about himself during his begging period.
6. What job does Sergei offer to Lushkoff?
7. How does Lushkoff gets trapped in his own words to work for Sergei?
8. “Well, I am happy that my words have taken effect,” – Why does Sergei say this?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Generally speaking, choice is a symbol of empowerment. How apt is this in case of the beggar Lushkoff?
10. What induced Lushkoff, the beggar to change his ways? Explain.

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Answers

1.
 - a. Lushkoff
 - b. The Beggar
 - c. Lushkoff, in the given lines, is trying to justify the lies he told to Sergei for begging money.
 - d. Sergei advises Lushkoff to work instead of begging.
2.
 - a. That he was no longer a beggar. He was earning well now.
 - b. He worked as notary now and earned thirty-five roubles a month.
 - c. Because Lushkoff was a beggar who used to work for Sergei in the past.
 - d. Sergei assigned Lushkoff several jobs/tasks so that he could earn himself a living.
3. Lushkoff lied that for eight years he was a village schoolteacher and then he lost his place through intrigues. He fell a victim to calumny. It had been a year then since he had anything to do.
4. Sergei saw Olga and Lushkoff come out into the yard by the back door across the dirty snow to the shed. Olga glared wrathfully at her companion, shoved him aside with her elbow, unlocked the shed, and angrily banged the door. He witnessed Olga's attempt to make Lushkoff work and Lushkoff's attempt to work.
5. Supposedly, Lushkoff 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.
6. Sergei advises Lushkoff to work instead of begging. He offers him the job to chop wood at his house. And in return, he pays him half a rouble.
7. When Sergei advises Lushkoff to work, the latter argues about how and where. Sergei offers him to chop wood at his house and consequently, he gets compelled to abide by his words and work for him.
8. Sergei says these words to Lushkoff while moving to another house. He says these words because Lushkoff is no longer a beggar now and Sergei thinks that he was working and earning because of his roasting.
9. Generally speaking, choice is a symbol of empowerment. An individual is said to be

empowered if he gets the right to exercise his will. Lushkoff was a willing beggar. Nobody forced him to beg. However, this cannot be termed as 'empowerment' because he was not doing anything 'progressive' by exercising his will. He chose 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. Hence, the exercise to will doesn't lead to empowerment (and is not apt) in case of the beggar Lushkoff.

10. Lushkoff's conscience compelled him to change his ways due to the roasting given to him by Olga, Sergei's cook. Olga was a woman full of sympathy, empathy and emotions for others. She turned Lushkoff from a beggar to a respected and earning individual. She did so through her harsh words and noble deeds. She would sit down opposite him and grow sad, look into his face and weep and tell him that there was no pleasure for him in the world and that he would burn in hell. She shed tears and suffered misery while chopping woods for him. Even Lushkoff couldn't figure out why he stopped drinking at the sight of her and changed. She brought a positive change in his heart and set him right.