

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-5 The Happy Prince
Test Paper-02

Read the following passages and answer the questions:

1. “When I was alive and had a human heart,” answered the statue.
 - a. Who is the statue talking to?
 - b. What was the statue answering to?
 - c. What had the statue informed the swallow?
 - d. Why was the statue crying?
2. “No, I will stay with you always,” said the swallow, and he slept at the Prince’s feet.
 - a. What did the Prince ask the swallow to do?
 - b. What did the swallow decide to do?
 - c. Why did the swallow decide to do so?
 - d. What nature of the swallow is being reflected from the above extract?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. Why did the swallow wish to go to Egypt?
4. Why did the swallow pluck the Prince’s eye?
5. How did the poor, little bird die ?
6. How did the swallow and the Prince help the little matchgirl?
7. What did the little swallow do when the Happy Prince turn blind?
8. Why did the Prince ask the swallow to remove golden leaves on his body?

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. ‘The real happiness lies in seeing others happy’. How did the statue of the Happy Prince and the bird justify this statement.
10. How did the statue of the Happy Prince meet his tragic end?

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Answers

1.
 - a. The statue is talking to the swallow which had come to take shelter at the feet of the statue.
 - b. The statue was weeping and the swallow asked him the reason for it.
 - c. The statue had informed the swallow that when he was alive, he had been very happy.
 - d. As the statue was standing on the tall pedestal, it could see all the poverty and grief around.
2.
 - a. With the reference to the extract, the Prince asked the swallow to go to Egypt.
 - b. The swallow decided to stay with the statue.
 - c. The swallow decided to do so because he did not wish to leave the blind statue alone.
 - d. The swallow appears to be kind and helpful.
3. The birds generally migrate to the other regions with the changing season. The swallow wanted to fly to Egypt to protect himself from the severe cold approaching. His other friends had already migrated there.
4. The swallow did not wish to pluck the statue's eye. It was only the insistence of the statue of the Happy Prince who made him to do so. The statue had seen the poor ,young playwright who was suffering from hunger and cold. So the Happy Prince asked the bird to pluck his one of the eyes studded with sapphire to help that poor fellow.
5. The winter grew so severe that the swallow could not tolerate it. He tried to survive on the crumbs outside the baker's door. He did not wish to leave the Prince alone. The bird tried to flap his wings to keep himself warm. At last he came to know that he was going to die. He flew and kissed the Happy Prince and died at his feet.
6. The statue of the Happy Prince had seen the little matchgirl standing in the square. Her matches had fallen in the gutter and had been spoilt. She was crying for her father would beat her for not bringing home any money .She was out in the cold winter bare feet and bare headed. The statue asked the swallow to pluck his another eye of sapphire and give it to the little girl.

7. After the statue had completely turned blind, the kind swallow did not leave him alone .He decided to stay with the Prince. Next day onwards, the swallow used to sit on the statue's shoulder and narrate him the problems around them. In this way, they continued their kind acts.
8. The statue of the Happy Prince could not see anything after losing his both the eyes. The swallow started reporting him about the unfortunate people around. The Prince did not have anything left with him to help those needy people. He asked the bird to remove his golden leaves on the body, one by one to help the needy.
9. The story 'The Happy Prince' gives a great message of realising the fact that 'the real happiness lies in seeing others happy'. A prince who lived princely life free of sorrows, goes on helping the poor in the city with the help of a little swallow. Both of them did not think of their own selfish ends at all. The statue of the Happy Prince was very beautiful and could have remained in the same way, had he not helped the poor. When he saw his subjects suffering he did not think of his own rich and valuable resources. He gave away all the precious stones and golden leaves that covered his body as they were of no use to him as he was dead. He became blind in these efforts. The poor little swallow who was bound to Egypt to protect himself from the cold helped him in this generosity and executed the tasks given to him by the Happy Prince. The little bird remained with the statue of the Happy Prince through out, even after knowing that he would die there in the cold. Both of them invited their end but kept doing for the cause of humanity. They never thought of their own happiness.

In this way, the statue of the Happy Prince and swallow rightly justify the statement that our happiness lies in others' happiness.

10. The story "The Happy Prince" by Oscar Wilde is all about a statue which has a sensitive heart. It yearns for everyone's happiness.

With the opening of the story, the statue of the Happy Prince is shown standing high above the city on a tall column. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold, two bright sapphires as his eyes. He had a large red ruby glowing on his sword hilt. The statue looked very beautiful. The Happy Prince never hesitated to give away or part with all his gold and precious stones. He, with the help of the swallow, sacrificed all his precious stones and golden leaves on his body for the sake of helping poor and unfortunate people of his city. He gave away his red ruby to help the poor seamstress. He then asked to take away his sapphire eyes one by one to help the young playwright and the little match girl.

This was how the statue became blind, still went on helping others by asking the swallow to remove the golden leaves from his body as required.

The statue was so satisfied in helping every poor and needy person around.

Unfortunately, the swallow died off severe cold, at the feet of the statue. The statue which had already lost its beauty, had a loud crash and its leaden heart broke down. In this way, the beautiful statue of the Happy Prince met its tragic end.