

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-3 Iswaran the Storyteller
Test Paper-04

Read the extract given below and answer the question that follows:

1. “At first he put it down to a cat prowling around for mice. But the sound was too guttural for a cat”.
 - a. Who is ‘he’ in the extract given?
 - b. Where was the sound coming from?
 - c. What is the meaning of ‘guttural’?
 - d. Do you think that the cat was emitting the sound or not?
2. “Iswaran 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”.
 - a. To whom was Iswaran narrating his story?
 - b. About which story was Iswaran saying?
 - c. What type of books he used to read?
 - d. Do you think Iswaran is an amazing storyteller? If yes, why?

Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

3. How can we say that Mahendra was so adjustable to odd conditions?
4. Explain the daily routine of Mahendra.
5. What does the elephant did in Iswaran’s story?
6. How does Iswaran made the elephant collapse?
7. When does Iswaran launched a garish account of supernatural?
8. Do you think that Mahendra was a brave man? Give reasons to support your answer.

Answer the following questions in about 100 words:

9. Explain, in brief, who is Mahendra and Iswaran.
10. Write a brief character sketch of Mahendra.

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Answers

1.
 - a. 'He' refers to Mahendra.
 - b. A low moan sound was coming from his window.
 - c. 'Guttural' means sound produced in the throat; harsh-sounding.
 - d. No, because the sound was too guttural for a cat.
2.
 - a. Iswaran was narrating his story to Mahendra.
 - b. Iswaran was narrating the story of tusker.
 - c. He used to read books like popular Tamil thriller running to hundreds of pages.
 - d. Yes, Iswaran was an amazing storyteller, he uses suitable gestures and his descriptions are influenced by Tamil authors.
3. Mahendra was a bachelor. His needs were simple and he was able to adjust to all kinds of odd conditions, whether it was an ill-equipped circuit house or a makeshift canvas tent in the middle of a stone quarry.
4. Mahendra wakes up early in the morning and leave for work after breakfast, carrying some prepared food with him. His cook Iswaran chatted away with him at night. He could weave out endless stories and anecdotes on varied subjects. Every night he peered into the darkness outside through the window next to his bed, trying to make sure that there was no movement of dark shapes in the vicinity. But he could only see a sea of darkness with the twinkling lights of the factory miles away.
5. An elephant escaped from the timber yard and began to roam stamping on bushes, tearing up wild creepers and as it reached the outskirts of the town it broke the fences down like matchsticks. 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.
6. Iswaran took a cane from the hands of teacher and ran down the stair. The elephant looked at him red-eyed. It lifted its truck. At this moment Iswaran whacked its third toenail, which temporarily paralyzed the nervous system.
7. On an auspicious day - according to tradition people prepare various delicacies to feed

the spirits of their ancestors. That night Mahendra enjoyed the most delicious dinner and complimented Iswaran on his culinary skills. He seemed very pleased but, unexpectedly, launched into a most garish account involving the supernatural.

8. No, Mahendra was not a brave man. On hearing the description of female ghost, he shivers and from that day he goes to bed with certain unease. Every night he looked outside through the window next to his bed, trying to make sure that there was no movement. He had always liked to admire the milk-white landscape on full-moon nights. But after hearing Iswaran's story of the female ghost he avoided looking out of his window.
9. Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a firm which offered on-hire supervisors at various types of construction sites: factories, bridges, dams, and so on. Mahendra's job was to keep an eye on the activities at the work site. He had to keep moving from place to place every now and then as ordered by his head office. He was a bachelor. His needs were simple and he was able to adjust himself to all kinds of odd conditions. But one asset he had was his cook, Iswaran. The cook was quite attached to Mahendra and followed him wherever he was posted. He cooked for Mahendra, washed his clothes and chatted away with his master at night. He could weave out endless stories and anecdotes on varied subjects. Iswaran also had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables and cooking ingredients, even in the middle of a desolate landscape with no shops visible for miles around.
10. Mahendra was a young supervisor in a firm which hire supervisors at various types of construction sites: factories, bridges, dams, and so on. Mahendra's job was to keep an eye on the activities at the work site. He had to keep moving from place to place every now and then as ordered by his head office. He was a bachelor. His needs were simple and he was able to adjust himself to all kinds of odd conditions. But one asset he had was his cook, Iswaran.
He was a good listener and has an imaginative skill. He can view the scenes described by Iswaran in reality. He was quite scared of ghosts. He got angry on Iswaran for describing a female ghost, which he thought to be a figment of Iswaran's imagination. One day he saw a dark cloud form from his window. This scared him so much that he resigned the job and left the place the very next day.