

The Scarecrow-Satyajit Roy

Section One

Very short Answer Questions:1

Q. no 1. Who has authored the story 'The Scarecrow'?

Ans: Satyajit Ray has authored the story 'The Scarecrow'.

Q. no 2. What is the name of Satyajit Ray's first film?

Ans: Pather Panchali is the name of Satyajit Ray's first film.

Q. no 3. Who was Mriganko Babu?

Ans: Mriganko Babu was a famous and popular writer.

Q. no 4. What was the name of Mriganko Babu's driver?

Ans: Sudheer was the name of Mriganko Babu's driver.

Q. no 5. What was the full name of Mriganko Babu ?

Ans: Mriganko shekhar was the full name of Mriganko Babu.

Q. no 6. What was the occupation of Mriganko Babu?

Ans: Mriganko Babu was a writer.

Q. no 7. Was Mriganko Babu superstitious?

Ans: No, Mriganko Babu was not superstitious.

Q. no 8. Which magazine had asked him for a story?

Ans: The Bharat Magazine" had asked him for a story.

Q. no 9. Was Mriganko Babu really alone in that place?

Ans: Yes, Mriganko Babu was alone in that place.

Q. no 10. Whose presence did he perceive in that place?

Ans: In that place he perceived the presence of a scarecrow.

Q. no 11. Where was the scarecrow standing?

Ans: The scarecrow was standing right in the middle of a small patch of land.

Q. no 12. In the call of the scarecrow, whose voice did he recognize ?

Ans: The scarecrow was standing right in the middle of a small patch of land.

Q. no 13. Whom did Mriganko Babu's father call in to find the lost watch?

Ans: Mriganko Babu's father called a local with doctro to find the lost watch.

Q. no 14. Give the meaning of the following terms: amiable, almanac, Barren, desolate, weird, tremor, mustered.

Ans: amiable : friendly, good natured

Almanac : an annual publication containing a calendar with information about the events.

Barren : not fertile

Desolate : deserted, isolated

Weird : strange, unusual

Tremor : tremble, shake

Mustered : assembled/ gathered

Short Answer type Questions -1/2

Q. no 1. What is Satyajit Ray, The author of ' The scarecrow' known for?

Ans: Satyajit Ray the author of 'The Scarecrow' known for film making. He was one of the greatest film makers of the industry.

Q. no 2. What were the honors bestowed upon him?

Ans: Satyajit Ray received 32 National Film awards, along with a few international awards and in 1991, an Honorary Academy Award (Oscar Award). He was also bestowed with Bharat Ratna.

Q. no 3. Where was Mriganku Babu headed to and why?

Ans: Mriganku Babu was returning back to Kolkata. Mriganku Babu was invited by a club in Durgapur to a cultural function in order to felicitate him. So he left for Durgapur early in the morning and he was returning back to Kolkata after the programme.

Q. no 4. What happened to Mriganku Babu's car on the way to Durgapur?

Ans: On the way to Durgapur Mriganku Babu's car ran out of petrol. The petrol gauge had not been functioning properly, so petrol in the tank was less than the gauge had shown.

Q. no 5. What did the driver decide to do when they were stranded on the way?

Ans: When they were stranded on the way. They decided to walk to panagarh and return back with petrol.

Q. no 6. How far was panagarh from the place they were stranded?

Ans: Panagarh was there miles away from the place they were stranded.

Q. no 7. How long did Mriganko Babu fear he would have to wait for his driver's return?

Ans: Mriganko Babu feared that he would have to wait for atleast two and a half hours for his driver's return.

Q. no 8. Why was Mriganko Babu so irritated?

Ans: Mriganko Babu was so irritated because he had to sit alone his car for more than two hours in the middle of a place which is unknown to him.

Q. no 9. Why was sudheer admonished by Mriganko Babu?

Ans: Sudheer was admonished by Mriganko Babu because on their way back to Kolkata their car ran out of petrol. In fact the petrol gauge had not been functioning properly so Mriganko Babu had pointed this to his driver sudheer but he paid no heed to Mriganko Babu and their car ran out of petrol. So Mriganko Babu felt irritated and scolded sudheer.

Q. no 10. Why was Mriganko Babu going to Durgapur?

Ans: Mriganko Babu was going to Durgapur because he had been invited by a club in Durgapur to a cultural function, to felicitate him.

Q. no 11. Why was Mriganko Babu traveling by car no that day?

Ans: On that day Mriganko Babu was traveling by car because he could not get a reserved seat on the train.

Q. no 12. What did the scarecrow call out?

Ans: The Scarecrow called out the Mriganko Babu as Babu and asked him if he could recognise him .

Q. no 13. What was the name of the station before panagarh?

Ans: Mankar was the name of the station before panagarh.

Q. no 14 . Whose village was the station before panagarh?

Ans: Abriham, an old servant who had worked for Mriganko Babu' family for twenty years, his village was the station before panagarh.

Q. no 15. When had the incident with Abhiram happened?

Ans: The incident with Abhiram happened when he left Mriganko Babu service.

Q. no 16. For how long had Abhiram working in Mriganko Babu's household?

Ans: Abhiram had worked for twenty years in Mriganko Babu's household.

Q. no 17. Why was Abhiram relieved?

Ans: Abhiram was relieved when he told the truth to Mriganko Babu after many years that he had not stolen the watch, rather it was lying under his wardrobe.

Q. no 18. What work Mriganko Babu up?

Ans: The sound of sudheer's voice woke Mriganko Babu up.

Q. no 19. What did Mriganko Babu decide he would never do again if something ever got stolen from his house?

Ans: Mriganko Babu decide that he would never seek a witch doctor's help if something ever got stolen from his house.

Short answer Questions type-1/3

Q. no 1. What was the scene on the eastern side of the road where Mriganko Babu stood waiting for sudheer, his driver?

Ans: On the eastern side of the Road, the empty barren fields stretched of miles. A small hut was standing in the far distance, next to a tamarind tree. There was no other sign of habitation. A ton of palm trees were also standing, beyond which there was a dense, dark forest. The landscape was totally desolate on the eastern side and it greeted him .

Q. no 2. What were Mriganko Babu's thought on his fellow Bengalis? What made him think so ?

Ans: As per Mriganko Babu, all Bengalis are selfish as they would never bother about the welfare or convenience of other if it meant any inconveniences to them. Even being Bengali, he too have the same fault inherent in him.

He said so because when he was in an awful condition, standing lonely on a deserted roads, many cars passed in the direction of Calcutta but none of the drivers stopped to ask him if he needed any help.

Q. no 3. What did he do in the car ? What did he try to think of doing next?

Ans: In the car Mriganko Babu took out a detective novel from his bag and began to read it.

Being unable to concentrate on the book, Mriganko Babu tried to think of a new plot for a story as asked by "The Bharat Magazine"

Q. no 4. Describe the scarecrow.

Ans: On his way back to the city. Mriganko Babu's car ran out of the petrol so he was bound to stay for some time near a paddy field. On the western side of the road, Where he was standing he saw a scarecrow in the middle of the field. It was made up of a Bamboo pole with two arms and legs.

The scarecrow was wearing a shirt. The head of the scarecrow was made up of an earthen pot, placed upside down. The pot had been painted black and huge eyes had been drawn on it with white paint. It was a weird figure mistake as a real person by the birds. The shirt of the scarecrow was a torn , red and black printed shirt which reminded Mriganko Babu of someone though he failed to remember the person .

A reddish high from the sun was telling on the scarecrow. Mriganko Babu felt strangely drawn towards that scarecrow and looked at it. Something went on and his heart beat became faster. It was standing a little less stiffly and resembled a real man. It was having real legs rather than bamboo poles. Even the earthen black pot seemed much smaller. The scarecrow moved forward towards Mriganko Babu, in that remote area with no habitation.

The scarecrow was advancing towards him. Which scared Mriganko Babu. It was walking with a limp, it had a human head and was wearing the same shirt given by Mriganko Babu and a short, slightly dirty dhoti. The scarecrow became alive and then addressed Mriganko Babu as Babu which scared him.

Q. no 5. Why was he reminded of someone at the sight of the scarecrow?

Ans: The sight of the scarecrow reminded Mriganko Babu of someone because it was wearing red and black printed shirt. Mriganko Babu was sure enough that he had seen someone wearing such shirt a long time ago.

Q. no 6. What was it about the scarecrow that made his heart beat faster?

Ans : A few changes in the scarecrow made Mriganko Babu's heart - beat faster. It's appearance had changed. Its arms were lowered a little, bamboo poles appeared as legs and the black pot in the place of head also became smaller. It moved in the direction of Mriganko Babu and in place of earthen pot it had a head. All these changes made his heart beat faster.

Q. no 7. What did Abhiram say to Mriganko Babu?

Ans: Abhiram addressed Mriganko Babu as "Babu" and asked him if he could recognise him. Mriganko Babu affirmed that he could recognise him as his old servant Abhiram. Who was turned out on the ground for stealing

a gold watch. Abhiram then pleaded Mriganko Babu that he was perfectly innocent. He asked him why he had not believed him . He told him that he was not guilty. Further he asked Mriganko Babu to search the wardrobe at his house. Where he would find his lost watch. Abhiram, in the garb of scarecrow also told him the sad story of his death after being afflicted with dropsy. Even after his death his conscience haunted him. So he came him to prove his innocence. He told him that after revealing the truth after a long time, he had found peace and his soul was relieved.

Q. no 8. What had happened three years ago at Mriganko Babu's home?

Ans: Three years ago Abhiram, an old servant of Mriganko Babu lost his job on the charge of stealing a gold watch. He worked for Mriganko Babu's family for twenty years. Everyone trusted him . But one day he was charged of stealing a gold watch that Mriganko Babu received as a wedding gift. Abhiram pleaded innocence. He denied it. Then Mriganko Babu's father called a witch doctor who cast a spell and made an ordinary wicked tray spin and rotate until it stopped and pointed at Abhiram. Everybody thought that Abhiram was guilty, so he was dismissed from his job.

Q. no 9. What made everyone in the household convinced that Abhiram was the one who had stolen Mriganko Babu's gold watch?

Ans: When Abhiram denied the charge of stealing, Mriganko Babu's father called a local witch doctor who cast a spell and made an ordinary wicked tray spin and rotate until it stopped. It pointed at Abhiram. Though Abhiram pleaded innocence still everybody in the household were convinced that Abhiram had stolen Mriganko Babu's gold watch.

Q. no 10. What happened to Abhiram after he lost his job at Mriganko Babu's household?

Ans: Abhiram an old servant of Mriganko Babu was turned out on the charge of stealing a gold watch from Mriganko Babu's house. After losing his job, he never worked anywhere else because he fell ill. He suffered from dropsy and it became a serious disease. Abhiram had no money to visit a doctor. Even he could not buy medicines or eat properly due to lack of money. He had never recovered and died from dropsy.

Q. no 11. Why did Abhiram say's he became a scarecrow?

Ans: Abhiram told Mriganko Babu that he became a scarecrow because he knew that he would meet him again. He had a desire to meet him and tell him what he had learnt after death. He revealed him the truth that his watch was lying in his wardrobe from last three years since he left his job. In fact even after his death, Abhiram's conscience haunted him, so in the garb of scarecrow he came to Mriganko Babu to prove his innocence as his soul was in turmoil. Finally his soul

was relieved from the burden of sin which he had not committed.

Q. no 12. What did Abhiram learn after his death?

Ans: After his death Abhiram learnt where the gold watch of Mriganko Babu was lying. It was under his wardrobe, pushed to the back. It had been lying there for last three years. When Mriganko Babu would get it back, then only he would realise that Abhiram was not guilty.

Q. no 13. What had Mriganko Babu been actually doing?

Ans: Actually Mriganko Babu had been.. in the car, thinking of a suitable plot for a story. In his hand he was having his pen . He was engrossed in his thoughts.

Long Answer Questions type-1/4

Q. no 1. What did Mriganko Babu do on reaching home?

Ans: On reaching home, Mriganko Babu went straight to his room and searched under his wardrobe as guided by the ghost of Ahbiram who was charged of stealing. He found the watch and realised that Abhiram was innocent. He suffered for what he had not done. Mriganko Babu after getting that watch decided that he would never go for a witch doctors help if something ever get stolen from his house.

Q. no 2. What were the changes that came over the scarecrow even as Mriganko Babu kept looking at it?

Ans: While Mriganko Babu was looking at the scarecrow, he felt strangely drawn towards the figure of scarecrow. He looked steadily at it and noticed a few changes that made his heart beat faster. It was standing a little less stiffly and resembled a real man. It was having real legs rather than bamboo poles. Even the earthen black pot seemed much smaller. The figure of scarecrow was coming to life. It was walking with a limp and had a human head instead of earthen pot. The scarecrow was wearing the same shirt given by Mriganko Babu and a slightly dirty dhoti. In the remote area with no human habitation the scarecrow was advancing towards Mriganko Babu.

Q. no 3. Was the scene on the western side of the road different from the eastern side? Describe the western side of the road.

Ans: Yes, the scene on the Western side of the road was different from the eastern side. As per Mriganko Babu there was an empty barren field. About forty feet away from the road, a pond was there with a little water. Quite far there were few trees visible along with some thorny bushes. With no habitation, two huts were also there while in the middle of the field a scarecrow was standing.

Long Answer Questions type-1/5

Explain with reference to the context:

Q. no 1. He put his notebook away, climbed out and lit another cigarette. Then he walked a few paces and stood in the middle of the road. It seemed as if he was the only human being in the whole world. He had never felt so completely desolate.

Ans: These lines have been taken from Satyajit Ray's short story "The Scarecrow". It is a reverie that haunts as the conscience of another time with regret.

In the present context the author has dealt with the mental agony of Mriganku Babu while he was standing lonely in a remote area.

Mriganku Babu got stranded near a paddy field as his car ran out of petrol. His driver Sudheer went to Panagarh to bring petrol. Mriganku Babu came out of the car. He was feeling bored, so he lit a cigarette and looked around. There were only empty barren fields stretched for miles. Apart from a hut there was no sign of human habitation. He even tried to write something but could not. So he put his notebook away and lit another cigarette to overcome his boredom.

There was not human habitation not even a single being. He even walked there and stood in the middle of the road but no body was there. He was in an awful situation. He also could not concentrate on his book. Being lonely he felt irritated and desolate. It seemed to him as if he was the only human being in the world.

Except him, the world is devoid of human being. It reveals the stage of utter loneliness of Mriganko Babu.

Q. no 2. But no, there was someone else.
It was that scarecrow.

Ans: The above lines have been extracted from the short story "The scarecrow" by Satyajit Ray. Scarecrow is a reverie that haunts as the conscience of another time with regret. Mriganko Babu felt lonely which he was standing alone in a deserted land as his car ran out of petrol. There was no sign of human habitation. Mriganko Babu in his utter dismay thought that he was the only human being in the world.

He felt completely desolate as he found himself standing all alone in the middle of a deserted road with endless stretches of barren paddy field. With no sign of human habitation, then he noticed that someone was also standing there. It was a scarecrow wearing red and black printed shirt, which came to life and whose strange presence was felt by Mriganko Babu.

Q. no 3. Sunlight appeared through a crack in the clouds and fell on the scarecrow. Mriganko Babu saw that the scarecrow was wearing a printed shirt. He had seen that torn, red and black printed shirt before. Or, at least, it reminded him of someone.

Ans: The lines have been quoted from Satyajit Ray's short story "The Scarecrow."

In the present context the author has given an account of scarecrow while it was standing in the field.

Mriganko Babu was all alone on the middle of the deserted road when Sudheer, the driver left for Panagarh to fetch petrol for his car. Along with everything he saw a scarecrow.

The sun was going to set and a reddish light of the sun fell on the scarecrow. He saw that the scarecrow was wearing a printed shirt. Mriganko Babu remembered that he had seen that torn red and black printed shirt before. The shirt reminded him of someone. He tried hard to remember that person but he failed. Eventually the scarecrow reminded Mriganko Babu his presence as his servant Abhiram.

Q. no 4. That Scarecrow. For some unknown reason, Mriganko Babu continued to feel strangely drawn towards that figure. He looked steadily at it. In a few minutes, he notices a few things that made his heart beat faster.

Ans: These lines have been taken from the short story "The scarecrow" The author of the story is " Satyajit Ray."

In the present context the author has dealt with mental agony of Mriganko Babu when he saw the scarecrow coming to life. While standing on the road Mriganko Babu saw a scarecrow in the field. He felt strangely drawn towards the figure of scarecrow. He looked steadily at it and noticed a few changes that made his

heart beat faster. It was standing a little less stiffly and resembled a real man. It was walking with a limp and had a human head. The scarecrow was advancing towards Mriganko Babu in remote areas with no human habitation. So, Mriganko Babu was frightened and his heart beat become faster.