

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Moments Chapter-10 The Beggar
Test Paper-03

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

1. The advocate, Sergei, looked at the ragged, fawn-coloured overcoat of the suppliant, at his dull, drunken eyes, at the red spot on either cheek, and it seemed to him as if he had seen this man somewhere before.
“I have now had an offer of a position in the province of Kaluga,” the mendicant went on, “but I haven’t the money to get there. Help me kindly; I am ashamed to ask, but — I am obliged to by circumstances.”
 - a. Who got an offer of a position in the province of Kaluga?
 - b. What were the “circumstances” when the speaker said “obliged to by circumstances”?
 - c. Did Sergei help him? Why?
 - d. Pick out the word which means the same as ‘beggar’.
2. “Well, I am happy that my words have taken effect,” he said, handing him a rouble.
“Here’s for your pains. I see you are sober and have no objection to work. What is your name?”
 - a. Who is the speaker in the above lines and who is he speaking to?
 - b. What is the word “pains” a metaphor for in the above context?
 - c. How had the speaker’s “words taken into effect”?
 - d. What does the word “sober” mean?
3. What job, as per Lushkoff, did he do before he turned into a beggar?
4. Why did Lushkoff accept Sergei’s job offer?
5. Describe Olga’s first attempt to make Lushkoff work on the first day.
6. Lushkoff is earning thirty-five roubles a month. How is he obliged to Sergei for this?
7. How does Olga ‘save’ Lushkoff?
8. Describe Sergei’s and Lushkoff’s first meeting after a gap of two years.
9. Bring out the human aspects established in the chapter “The Beggar” through the relationships of Lushkoff with Sergei and his cook Olga. (100 words)
10. “Lushkoff was a beggar by choice and not circumstances.” Justify the statement in 100-150 words.

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Answers

1.
 - a. Lushkoff
 - b. Lushkoff had been thrown out of the school and had no money to avail his job at Kaluga or to even survive in general.
 - c. No, because Sergei realised that the speaker was lying to get money.
 - d. Mendicant
2.
 - a. Sergei is speaking to Lushkoff.
 - b. It is a metaphor for all the jobs that Sergei had assigned Lushkoff to do.
 - c. Lushkoff was now no longer a beggar. He had started working and earning.
 - d. Self-controlled / not drunk
3. Lushkoff admitted to have lied before. He was neither a student nor a schoolteacher. All that was fiction. Formerly, he sang in a Russian choir and was sent away for drunkenness.
4. Lushkoff accepted Sergei's job offer because of his pride, shame and the fact that he had been trapped by his own words. His strength had been undermined by vodka and he was unhealthy and did not feel the slightest inclination for toil.
5. Olga saw Lushkoff sitting on a log and lost in thought with his red cheeks resting on his fists. She flung down an axe at his feet, spat angrily, and, judging from the expression of her lips, began to scold him.
6. After moving to another house, Sergei sent for Lushkoff. He asked him to carry a letter to his friend's house for the work of copying. From that day onwards, Lushkoff never looked back and became a notary afterwards.
7. Olga 'saves' Lushkoff through her harsh and emotional words and noble deeds. While chopping woods for him, she yells at Lushkoff telling him how bad he and his fate were. This brought a positive change in Lushkoff.
8. When 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 who timidly asked the ticket seller for a seat in the gallery and paid for it in copper coins. It was Lushkoff.

9. Sergei was a nice man. After listening to Lushkoff about his condition, he offered him a job of chopping the woods. Later on he assigned several jobs to him and eventually Lushkoff became a notary, thanks to him. However, 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 brought a positive change in his heart and set him right. Hence, the chapter "The Beggar" highlights the human aspects through the relationships of Lushkoff with Sergei and his cook Olga.
10. Lushkoff was a willing beggar. Nobody forced him 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. Supposedly, he 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. Unfortunately, all these were lies to convince and persuade people to show mercy on him and give him money. Hence, Lushkoff was a beggar by choice and not circumstances. However, there was nothing progressive about that choice.