

1. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?

ANS. The two strange things that the guru and his disciple find in the kingdom of fools are:

- a) People used to work during nights and sleep during days.
- b) Cost of everything in the market was the same, one duddu, whether it was a measure of rice or a bunch of bananas.

2. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

ANS. The disciple decided to stay in the Kingdom of Fools because he was very happy with the fact that everything was quite cheap there. He had peculiarity of diet. He was tempted by the cheap food. So, he thought of enjoying an easy life by staying in that kingdom.

No, it was not a good idea to stay there for a long time. All the people of the kingdom were fools and they could be dangerous for them in future, as suggested the Guru.

3. Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

ANS. According to the king, the real culprit was the merchant. Actually, the merchant's father was the real murderer but he was dead. On consulting this with his ministers, the king came to the conclusion that the punishment would be carried out on the merchant. He escapes the punishment because he is too thin to be properly executed on the stake.

4. What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

ANS. The Guru's words of wisdom were that it was the city of fools and their unpredictable behaviour could create danger anytime. He advised the disciple to leave the city because he would not know, what they would do next. The disciple remembers these words, when he was going to be executed in place of the merchants.

5. Why did the king decide to postpone the execution of the Guru and his disciple?

ANS. The Guru cleverly tricked the king by claiming that those who died now would be reborn as the king and his minister. The gullible king believed the Guru's words and postponed the execution.

6. Who became the king and the Prime Minister of the kingdom?

ANS. As the kingdom was without a king, the people of the kingdom persuaded the Guru and the disciple to take over the throne. So, the holy man became the king and his disciple took the charge of minister.

7. On what conditions did the Guru and his disciple agree to rule that kingdom?

ANS. The Guru laid the condition that he would be free to change all the old and foolish laws. Hence, night was considered as night and day was regarded as a normal working day. Even persuading prices were changed according to the value of the material.

8. Why did the King and the minister decide to take the place of the Guru and the disciple?

ANS. The King was not keen to lose his kingdom to someone else, even in the next life. Thus, he decided to die instead of the Guru. He then made his minister agree to die along with him so he could continue to be his minister in the next life as well.

LONG question

1. Name all the people, who are tried in the king's court and give the reasons for their trial.

ANS. Following people were tried in the king's court:

. The merchant, whose house was burgled: He was pronounced guilty because his wall was weak that fell upon the burglar and killed him.

The bricklayer, who built the wall: He had built a wall which was weak and collapsed killing the burglar.

The dancing girl: She was tried for distracting the bricklayer with her jingling anklets by walking up and down the road, where bricklayer was laying the wall.

The goldsmith: He was tried as he didn't complete the dancing girl's order on time and so she had to walk up and down to his house a dozen times. The king then came to the conclusion that the goldsmith should be punished and summoned him. But when he was summoned to the court, he in turn shifted the whole blame on to the merchant's father, who pressurised him for completing his order first due to which, he (the goldsmith) could not complete the girl's order in time.

2."Guru was a wise man" how does the story 'The Kingdom of fools' reflect it?

ANS. The Kingdom of Fools clearly reflects that the Guru was a wise man as he advised his disciple not to stay in that kingdom. As the disciple thought that the future is uncertain, he did not pay any heed to his Guru and stayed on. When he was imprisoned by the King's men, he realised the significance of his Guru's words and repented on his decision of not following his Guru's advice. So, it is proved that Guru was really very wise. And it was because of his wisdom, the disciple was saved and they were made king and prime minister of the kingdom respectively.

L_3 Ishwar -The story teller

1. In what way is Iswaran an asset to Mahendra?

ANS. Iswaran was Mahendra's cook; who follows his master uncomplainingly, wherever he was posted. Apart from cooking, he used to wash Mahendra's clothes, tidy up his place and chats with him at night. He was a great entertainer. He could weave out endless stories. He was amazing at managing resources, as he could find vegetables out of nowhere. Also, he never had complain while accompanying his master. Thus, Iswaran was truly an asset to Mahendra

2. Why does the author say that Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters?

ANS. The author says so because Iswaran was a great entertainer for Mahendra. He would chat with him at night and tell him countless stories packed with adventure, horror and suspense. Mahendra enjoyed listening to all his stories. Thus, Mahendra never felt bored and never felt the need of having a TV for entertainment

3. What destruction did the elephant cause in the town?

ANS. The elephant caused a lot of destruction in the town. He broke branches, fences and smashed stalls. He entered a school playground and broke a brick wall, pulled out a football goal post, tore down a volleyball net and flattened a water drum.

4. How did Iswaran tackle the elephant?

ANS. The elephant had caused a great deal of fear. Children and teachers ran here and there to save their lives. Iswaran dared it and hit it on the third toe with a rod. At this the beast collapsed. Thus, the mad elephant was controlled.

5. What did Mahendra witness out of the window one night?

ANS. One night, Mahendra heard a low moaning very close to his window. He peeped through his window and there stood the ghost of the woman whose wailing became louder and louder. He saw a dark cloudy form, clutching a bundle. He flung himself down and found that he was often dreaming of that woman ghost.

6. What impact did Iswaran's story of a female ghost have on Mahendra?

ANS. Mahendra avoided gazing out of the window during a full moon. He went to bed with a certain unease and peered into the darkness to make sure that there was no movement of dark shapes outside.

7. Do you think the ghost, Mahendra saw on the night of the full moon was a real ghost?

ANS. I believe the ghost Mahendra saw was simply a figment of a weak imagination. Iswaran had made Mahendra's mind a little weak by telling him ghost stories. When Mahendra rebuked him for believing in ghosts, he felt offended. To prove that he was right, he himself posed as a ghost. That is why, Mahendra thought that he had seen a ghost at that full moon night.

LONG Question -Answer

1. How does Iswaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway? What effect does he want to create in his

ANS. Iswaran's descriptions were greatly influenced by incidents, he tried to introduce suspense and a surprise to the Tamil authors. Even while describing the smallest ending to the story. He describes the uprooted tree on the highway with eyebrows suitably arched and hands held out in a dramatic way. He would begin by saying that the road was deserted and he was all alone. Suddenly he spotted something that looked like an enormous bushy beast lying sprawled across the road. He was half inclined to turn and go back. But as he came closer he saw that it was a fallen tree, with its dry branches spread out.

He wanted to create attention in his listeners by adding the elements of suspense and surprise in his description.

I

2. What are the qualities of a good listener? Express your views with reference to Mahendra who would listen to Iswaran's tales uncritically.

Listening is an essential part of any story telling.

Being a good and a patient listener helps you achieve not only the meaning of the story but also expressions and the intentions of the story teller. Iswaran was an only amazing story teller but Mahendra was an equally good Q listener. Iswaran used to create such a magnificent aura around the story that Mahendra used to listen to him with apt attention. He used to make eye contacts with him to depict either awe or horror depending upon the story. Mahendra would let his own mind and imaginations see the story in reality. For example, during the narration of the tusker story, Mahendra could actually feel the tension and fear in his mind. Mahendra never spoke during the entire story telling session; he would never interfere in Iswaran's story, he would occasionally nod his head that also only towards the end of the story to show his expressions. Mahendra listened to Iswaran without any criticism or doubt.

3. Write a brief character sketch of Iswaran.

ANS. Iswaran, Mahendra's servant, was devoted to him. He was not only a well trained and wonderful cook, but also a good story teller. He was an honest man and used to do his work with utmost devotion and skill. He was fond of reading thrillers and his narrations were influenced by those styles. Life was not possible for Mahendra without him, as he was his asset, and he started living totally isolated.

Extract based question:

Iswaran paused dramatically, his eyes wide with excitement. 'And then, sir, a massive tusker emerged from the jungle, trumpeting loudly. The ground shook beneath our feet!' Mahendra leaned forward, half-amused, half-uneasy, as Iswaran continued, 'With a single swipe of his trunk, the beast uprooted the tree like a twig! He clapped his hands, imitating the sound of crashing timber. Mahendra chuckled nervously, glancing around the dimly lit room'.

(i) What tone is Iswaran UNLIKELY to have used while narrating the tusker story?

(A) Dramatic.

(B) Monotonous.

(C) Animated.

(D) Suspenseful.

(ii) How does the author's use of Iswaran's exaggerated storytelling build the narrative?

ANS. It creates suspense and vivid imagery, engaging Mahendra (and the reader), while blurring the line between reality and fiction.

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The word "dramatically" in the line "Iswaran paused dramatically" suggests his narration was (energetically/robotically) delivered.

ANS. energetically

(iv) How does Iswaran's enthusiastic storytelling contrast with Mahendra's reaction?

ANS. Iswaran's animated tone and gestures heighten the drama, while Mahendra's nervous laughter and unease reveal his internal conflict between amusement and fear.

Poem_ The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Summary

The poet dreams of escaping the busy streets of London. He remembers Innisfree, as a perfect little island that fulfilled all his needs.

The poet declares that he will arise and go to Innisfree, where he will build a small cabin out of 'clay and wattles'. He will have nine bean-rows and a beehive there, and live alone in the glade with the loud sound of bees ('the bee-loud glade').

He says that he will have peace there, for peace drops from 'the veils of morning cricket sings'. At midnight there is a glimmer is a purple glow, and evening is full of linnets wings. He declares again that he will arise and go, for always night and day, he hears the lake water lapping 'with low sounds by the shore'. While he stands in the city, 'on the roadway or on the pavements grey, he hears the sound within himself, 'in the deep heart's core'.

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

1. I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles
made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honeybee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

(i) Why does the poet wish to go to Innisfree?

ANS. The poet wishes to go to Innisfree to escape the chaos of city life and find peace and solitude in the natural surroundings of the island.

(ii) Complete the following suitably.

The poet plans to build a small cabin made of clay
and.....

ANS. wattles

(iii) What does the poet plan to grow at Innisfree?

ANS. The poet plans to grow nine bean rows and keep a hive for honeybees.

(iv) Choose the most suitable option

iv) What does the phrase "bee-loud glade" suggest?

(A) A forest filled with bees.

(B) A peaceful place where bees hum softly.

(C) A noisy and chaotic area.

(D) A meadow with no insects. (i) 1. What kind of place is Innisfree? Think about:

(i) the three things the poet wants to do, when he goes back there (stanza I);

(ii) what he hears and sees there and its effect on him (stanza II);

(iii) what he hears in his "heart's core" even when, he is far away from Innisfree (stanza III).

ANS. Innisfree is a natural place, which is full of beauty and peace.

(i) Three things the poet wants to do, when he goes back there are:

He wants to build a small cabin of clay and wattles.

He wants to plant nine rows of beans.

He wants to have a hive of honey bees.

(ii) The poet hears the cricket's song. He sees midnight shine and a purple glow at noon. Evenings are full of linnet wings. All this makes him feel joyous and gives him peace of mind.

(iii) The poet hears the sound of the lake water washing the shore in his "heart's core".

2. By now you may have concluded that Innisfree is a simple, natural place, full of beauty and peace. How does the poet contrast it with, where he now stands? (Read stanza III).

ANS. The poet contrasts the natural beauty of Innisfree with the roads and the dull, grey pavements of the city.

3. Do you think Innisfree is only a place, or a state of mind? Does the poet actually miss the place of his boyhood days?

ANS. Innisfree is not just the creation of the poet's fancy but a real and natural place, which is full of beauty and peace. The poet wishes to live at such a beautiful and peaceful place.

Yes, the poet misses the place of his boyhood days the shore in his heart's core, even when he is away from a lot. He can hear the sound of the lake water washing Innisfree.

(ii) 1. Look at the words the poet uses to describe what he sees and hears at Innisfree

(i) bee-loud glade.

(ii) evenings full of the linnet's wings.

(iii) lake water lapping with low sounds.

What pictures do these words create in your mind?

ANS. (i) These words create an image of buzzing bees in the glade.

(ii) These words create an image of linnets flying across an evening sky.

(iii) These words not only create a blissful picture in our minds but also evoke the soft sound of a lake's water washing the shore.