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Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Lesson 5

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

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Value Points

- A bachelor Homeopathy doctor lived in a non-electrified rented room with his few belonging and visiting rats.
- On a hot summer night the doctor came back to his room after dinner and heard a noise, when he opened the door. Noise, being a familiar one, he did not pay any attention to it and lay down on his bed but could not sleep.
- Took out a book opened it on the table.
- He looked into the large mirror kept on the table and admired himself as a young, handsome, unmarried doctor.
- Heard the sound from above again but wasn't serious about it as rats also used to make such sounds.
- While looking into the mirror he analysed that growing thin moustache and a smile on his face would make him more attractive.
- A lovely thought of marrying a rich woman doctor with plenty of money and had good medical practice. His wife must be fat so that if he committed some silly mistake and needed to run away she might not be able to run after him and catch him.
- He sat on the chair opposite mirror. Suddenly he heard a thud and before he could see the object, a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on his shoulder their coiled itself around his left arm. The hood was spread out hardly four inches away from his face.
- Death lurked (hanged) four inches away from him but he could do nothing. He sat as a statue, motionless, but his mind was every active.
- Suddenly the snake turned its head and saw its own reflection in the mirror. It unwound itself from his arm and slowly creeping the table and moved towards the mirror.
- Taking advantage, he got up from the chair and quietly went out through the door and ran as fast as he could and reached a friend's house.
- Next morning, accompanied by his friends, he came to his room to take away his things from there. But there was hardly anything left for him to
- carry. Some thief had stolen most of his things, except the dirty vest.

ACTIVITY

1. Write the names of few types of snakes. If possible paste the pictures of different of snakes.

1. 2. 3.

4. 5. 6.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

1. The house was not electrified; it was a small rented room. I had just set up medical practice and my earnings were meagre.

Questions

a) Who is 'I' here?

b) What kind of house did the speaker live in ?

c) How did the speaker earn his living ?

d) Find a word from the passage that means the same as "very little"

2. Suppose it struck, what was the medicine I had to take ? There were no medicines in the room.

Questions

a) Name he lesson from where the above passage has been is taken?

b) What is 'it' here ?

c) What is the speaker worried about?

d) Give the first form of 'struck'

3. There was some pain my arm. It was as if a thick leaden rod - no, a rod made of molten fire was slowly but powerfully crushing my arm.

Questions

a) Why did the speaker feel pain in his arm ?

b) What is 'leaden rod' here ?

c) How did the leader rod affect his arm.

d) Find the antonym of 'thin' from the above passage?

Short Questions:

Q 1. What things were there in the Suitcase ?

Q 2. Why wasn't the doctor serious about the noise ?

Q 3. What happened to the doctor while he was sitting in his chair?

Q4. The snake has been compared to three objects in the story. What are they?

Q 5. Why did the narrator smile when death hung just four inches away?

Q 6. Which medical book did the doctor take out?

Q 7. What two important and Earth shaking decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror?

Long Questions:

Q 1 The humour in the story overshadows the frightening incident. Discuss with reference to "The Snake and the Mirror".

Q 2 It was the doctor's presence of mind that helped him escape safely from the dreaded snake. Comment/Justify.

Q 3 There always remains a gap between what we wish and what we achieve. Discuss with reference to the doctor in the story "The Snake and the Mirror".

Q 4 "I was but a poor, foolish and stupid doctor." Justify the statement in the light of the story, "The snake and the mirror."