



aglasem.com

Class 11 English (Hornbill) Notes

THE ADVENTURE



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

7. The Adventure

- *Jayant Narlikar*

This fictional narrative by Jayant Narlikar belongs to the genre of science fiction and deals with the much intriguing aspect of time. Time travel has been a much used theme with never ending possibilities. The protagonist of this story, Professor Gaitonde, a historian is preparing for his thousandth presidential address in which he would speak on the topic “What course history would have taken if the result of the

Battle of Panipat had gone the other way?”

While on an evening stroll he is hit by a truck. In his state of unconsciousness his mind travels back into time where he experiences a different perspective of history from the prevalent one. After he gains consciousness he is able to recall all these probabilities and possibilities very clearly. Rajendra Deshpande his scientist friend offers a scientific explanation of his strange experience. He says that professor Gaitonde was living in the present but was experiencing different worlds. This shift from present world to another was based on catastrophe theory. According to this theory small changes in circumstances lead to a sudden shift in behaviour.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why was professor Gaitonde going to Bombay?
2. What was the plan of action in professor Gaitonde's mind as his train approached Bombay?
3. What important discovery was made by Gangadharpant on reading history books?
4. Professor Gaitonde could not complete his thousandth address at Azad Maidan. why?
5. What explanation was given by Rajendra Deshpande for professor Gaitonde's transition from one world to another?

6. What is reality according to Rajendra Deshpande?
7. How did Gangadhar Pant behave at Azad Maidan? What was the reaction of the audience?
8. Why did professor Gaitonde consult history books? What did he discover in the 'Bhauasahebanchi Bakhar'? Why was he shocked?
9. How did Rajendra Deshpande try to rationalise Gangadhar Pant's experience at Azad Maidan scientifically?

Q.1. Who was Professor Gaitonde? What was his plan in Bombay?

Ans. Professor Gaitonde was a historian. He had written five volumes on History. He was on his way to Bombay. He planned to go to a library and consult the history books there to find out how present state of affairs was reached.

Q.2. What for did professor Gaitonde enter the Forbes building? What was his experience there?

Ans. The professor went to Forbes building to meet Vinaya Gaitonde his own son. The receptionist reach through the directory of employees. But there was no person bearing that name. It was a big blow. He felt that so far everything had been shocking so the below of non-existence of his son was not totally unexpected.

Q.3. What did the professor do in the Town Hall Library?

Ans. The professor consulted the history books that he himself had written. There was no change in the events upto death of Aurangzeb. The change had occurred in last volume. He read the description of the battle of Panipat. Aadali was defeated by Maratha army led by Sadashivrao Bhau and his nephew. Vishwasrao. It established the supremacy of the marathas. They set up their science research centres. They accepted the help of English experts.

Q.4. What did the professor wish to find out in history books?

Ans. He wished to find the answer to his question how Marathas won the Battle of Panipat. He found a clue in the book titled Bakhars. Vishwasrao had a narrow escape from being killed by the bullet that brushed past his ear. This boosted the morale of Maratha army and they won the battle.

Q.5. 'But why did I make the transition? What explanation did Rajendra give to the professor?

Ans. Rajendra guessed that the transition must have been caused by some interaction. Perhaps the professor had been thinking at the time of collision about Catastrophic theory and its role in wars. The professor admitted that he had been wondering at that time what course history would have taken if the Marathas have won the Battle of Panipat.

Long Answers Type Questions

Q.1. How did Rajendra Deshpande apply his theory of Catastrophic experience regarding the Battle of Panipat?

Ans. Gangadherpant narrated to Rajendra his experience at the Azad Maidan meeting. For two days he was in coma. He had met with an accident. He asked Rajendra Prasad to explain where he had spent those days.

He admitted that he had been thinking of the catastrophic theory before the collision and how it could change the history course. He produced a page from the Bakhar to prove that his mind was working normally. The page described that Vishwasrao had not escaped the bullet, rather he had been killed. It was just contrary to what his own history book said. And he wanted to know the facts.

Q.2. How did Rajendra explain the concept of reality with the example of movement of an electron?

Ans. Rajendra Deshpande tried to rationalise the professor's experience on the basis of two scientific theories. Gangadharpant had passed through a strange catastrophic experience. The juncture at which Vishwasrao was killed in the Battle proved to be turning point. The Marathas lost their morale and lost the battle.

Rajendra then moved to his second explanation. Reality is not exactly what we experience directly with our senses. It can have other manifestations also e.g., the electron does not follow the laws of science. It is called lack of determinism in quantum theory. It can be found in different places & each is real. It happens by transition. Professor also experienced two worlds one that was present, in other that might have been.