

Triumph of Surgery

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

MCQ (1 mark)

1. Mrs Pumphrey as a pet owner was :

- (i) indulgent.
- (ii) carefree.
- (iii) rich.
- (iv) foolish.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) (i) and (ii)
- (b) (ii) and (iii)
- (c) (ii) and (iv)
- (d) (i) and (iv) (Term I, 2021-22)

SAI (2 marks)

2. Why does Mrs. Pumphrey not deserve to keep a pet? (2021 C)

3. What was the major flaw in Tricki? (2020)

SA II (3 marks)

4. Why was Mr. Herriot shocked at Tricki's appearance? (2023)

5. How did Mrs. Pumphrey treat Tricki? (2023)

CBSE Sample Questions

MCQ (1 mark)

1. What does the exclamation, "This is a triumph of surgery!", by Mrs. Pumphrey, mean?

- (a) The surgery was successful.
- (b) The mistress could take back her pet.
- (c) The doctor was a great veterinarian.
- (d) The planned venture was fruitful. (Term I, 2021-22)

SAI (2 marks)

2. Why was it important for Mrs. Pumphrey to be a little cruel in order to be kind towards Tricki? (2020-21)

SA II (3 marks)

3. Dr. Herriot knew his patients as well as their owners really well. Discuss. (2022-23)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (d): (i) and (iv)

2. Mrs. Pumphrey is a good woman who overindulged her pet, Tricki. Because of her inability to control herself from feeding Tricki, the dog only got fatter. This makes him lose his appetite and thus, prone to diseases.

3. Tricki was Mrs. Pumphrey's pet dog. She loved him and pampered him a lot. But Tricki was a greedy dog who wanted to eat anything and everything which was served to him. He had never refused to eat food and used to have meals at any hour of the day or night. He had become sick because of his habits.

4. Mr. Herriot was shocked at Tricki's appearance because the dog had become over-weight. Mr. Herriot compared the dog to a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. The dog's eyes were bloodshot and rheumy, stared straight ahead and his tongue lolled from his jaws. It made Mr. Herriot worried about the Tricki.

5. Mrs. Pumphrey was a young, rich and well to do lady. She pampered her pet dog Tricki. She used to spend on the well-being and maintenance of her pet. Once she overfed her dog by giving him malt, cod-lover oil and

fruits and vegetables and what not. That dog also loved to eat sweets, ice-creams and chocolates. So, she couldn't be strict and deny him the sweet treats. She gave in to Tricki's greedy demands. She was worried when her dog became listless. She could not live without him.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. (d): The planned venture was fruitful. (1)

2. Tricki was a greedy dog. He could never refuse to eat whatever and whenever it was given him. He also hated exercise and these traits led him to serious health conditions. Mrs Pumphrey had to be cruel and deny Tricki his food and force him to move in order to save his life. That is the reason why Mrs Pumphrey needed to be cruel to Tricki for Tricki's sake. (2)

3. James Herriot treats Tricki just like an overweight dog should be treated. He cuts down his food intake and keeps him under strict observation for the initial days at hospital. He gradually increases Tricki's food and denies him the additional treats sent by Mrs. Pumphrey for him. Mr. Herriot sets Tricki free to run and play with the other dogs in the hospital for physical exercise to improve his health. This proves that Dr. Herriot knew his patient as well as their owners really well. (3)

The Theif's Story

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Hari Singh says - "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." (2024)

Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story.

Answer. Hari Singh returns after regretting stealing money from Anil.

- Anil knew Hari was a thief
- Next Morning, Hari offers tea
- Anil didn't refer to the incident/ doesn't show any signs of anger

MCQ (1 mark)

1. After cooking a bad meal and told to go away, Hari stayed on as he :

- (a) needed a job.
- (b) needed shelter.
- (c) wanted to steal something.
- (d) found Anil to be very simple. (Term I, 2021-22)

SAI (2 marks)

2. Hari Singh is both a thief and a human being. Comment. (2020 C)

3. Why does Anil not hand Hari Singh over to the police? (2020)
4. In which queer way did Anil make a living? (2020)
5. In which queer way did Anil make a living? (The Thief's Story) (2018)

SA II (3 marks)

6. How did Hari Singh justify to himself his stealing Anil's money? (2023)
7. On what condition did Anil employ Hari Singh? How did Hari Singh fail in his job? (2021 C)

LA II (6 marks)

8. Trust and compassion can reform a person. Justify this statement in the light of the lesson 'The Thief's Story' (2023)

CBSE Sample Questions

MCQ (1 mark)

1. Anil's carelessness made stealing from him _____ for Hari Singh.
(a) uninteresting
(b) difficult
(c) systematic
(d) predictable (Term I, 2021-22)

LAI (5 marks)

2. Read the given extract to attempt the questions that follow:

I followed casually.

"Hello again," he said.

I gave him my most appealing smile. "I want to work for you," I said.

"But I can't pay you."

I thought that over for a minute. Perhaps I had misjudged my man. I asked, "Can you feed me?"

"Can you cook?"

"I can cook," I lied again.

"If you can cook, then maybe I can feed you." He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the balcony.

But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing.

(i) Even though Hari Singh followed Anil casually, it was a/an

- (a) careless action.
- (c) unusual decision.
- (b) staged move.
- (d) bold step.

(ii) From the following options, identify Hari Singh's intention behind the appealing smile.

- (a) Deceit
- (b) Harm
- (c) Hatred
- (d) Jealousy

(iii) Select the option listing Anil's characteristics, as revealed in the extract.

- (1) unassuming
- (2) kind
- (3) determined
- (4) naive
- (5) humourous
- (a) (2) and (3)
- (b) Only (5)
- (c) (1), (2) and (4)
- (d) Only (2)

(iv) Select the most appropriate option based on (1) and (2).

- (1) Anil gave his meal to a stray dog.
- (2) Hari Singh did not know how to cook.
- (a) (2) is true and (1) is false.
- (b) (2) is the result for (1).
- (c) (2) is the cause for (1).
- (d) (2) is false and (1) is true.
- (v) The phrase hung around suggests that Hari Singh continued to
 - (a) smile (b) cook
 - (c) appeal (d) linger (Term I, 2021-22)

3. Hari Singh says- "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything."

Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story. (2020-21)

LA II (6 marks)

4. Fiction writers prefer creating grey characters rather than black and white. Analyse this in detail, with reference to both the characters of The Thief's Story. (2022-23)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (c) wanted to steal something.

2. Hari Singh is a thief who would do anything to ensure his survival. He lied about his name, his ability to Anil so that he can have a play to stay and earn. At the same time, he is also a human being when he decided to return with the stolen money. His reluctance to betray Anil shows his human side perfectly.

3. Anil does not hand Hari Singh over to the police because he saw a change in him. He understood that Hari has realised his mistake and wanted to mend his ways, otherwise he wouldn't have put the stolen money back in the place. Anil has a humble nature so he wants to give him a chance. Hence, he forgives him for stealing money and decided to encourage the spirit of goodness in him.

4. Anil was a writer who was living his life carelessly. He made money by fits and starts. He would borrow the money this week and lend it the following week. After spending all the money he would be tensed about his next pay cheque, but as soon as he gets the cheque, he goes out and celebrates. He writes for magazines which is a queer way of making money to run his life.

5. Anil made money in fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He would worry about his next cheque, but spend it all as soon as it arrived. It seemed a little strange that Anil made his living by writing for a magazine.

6. Hari Singh justified stealing from Anil by saying that if he did not steal, Anil would waste the money on his friends. Moreover, Anil had not been paying Hari Singh any salary, so it was another reason Hari thought of for robbing Anil.

7. When Hari Singh met Anil, he needed a place to live in and a source of food. Hari told Anil that he would like to work for him to which Anil said that he could not pay him. However, Anil told Hari that if he could cook, he could feed him and give him a place to stay. Hari Singh failed in his job by not only lying about his ability to cook, but also stealing money from Anil.

8. It is a fact that trust and compassion can reform a person. We can see in this story; Anil was the young man who hired Hari Singh as a domestic help. Anil was the most generous and trusting person. He gave Hari Singh a key of his room. Hari, who was really a thief had the liberty to come and go as he pleased. One day Hari Singh stole six-hundred rupees while Anil was sleeping. He went straight to the railway station to board the train that would take him away from Anil after the robbery. But could not because his conscience pricked him for robbing a man like Anil who had trusted him and always treated him with kindness. He knew that Anil would be sad when he would come to know that Hari had stolen his money. But that sadness would not be for the loss money but for the loss of trust and faith which he had in Hari Singh. He didn't want to lose the chance of getting an education and leading respectful life. So, he decided to come back. In this way the trust, love and compassion have reformed a thief at last.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. (a) uninteresting (1)

2. (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (c) (iv) (c) (v) (d) ($1 \times 5 = 5$)

3. HINTS:

- despite knowing that the money had been taken (dampness of notes) Anil chose to remain quite about the matter.
- pretended that all was normal-realised that Hari Singh's honesty had prevailed over his temptation.
- wanted to reward him/encourage him-discussing the theft would have been counter productive. (5)

4. Both the characters in 'The Thief's Story' are neither completely black or white. They have their own qualities out of which some need improvement. We may consider both the personas as grey.

The narrator of the story was a thief of 15 years. He had worked for different employees. He used to change his place after cheating his owner. Now he made Anil, who was an easy going person and writer by profession, his friend. He keeps faith in Hari Singh giving him shelter in his own house, although he does not have any clear information about him. On the other hand, Hari Singh was artful and smart for his age. He didn't have shame in lying and stealing. One day he stole Anil's money and went out of the room but came back. His conscience stopped him from doing so. Even he made no effort to confess that he had given in to the temptation of stealing the notes. His heart had been changed due to love, affection and faith Anil had shown. In this way, we may conclude that grey characters are unpredictable and present a moral challenge to the readers. (6)

The Midnight Visitor

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SAI (2 marks)

1. How is Ausable different from other secret agents? (2020)

SA II (3 marks)

2. Describe Max as a secret agent. (2023)

SA III (4 marks)

Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

3. Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily. "I'm going to raise the devil with the management this time, and you can bet on it," he said grimly. "This is the second time in a month that somebody has got into my room through that nuisance of a balcony!"

(a) Who is Ausable?
(i) A secret agent
(ii) A tourist in a hotel

- (iii) A reporter
- (iv) A businessman

(b) Why was Ausable angry with the management?

- (i) His room was unsafe.
- (ii) The food was not good.
- (iii) The balcony was a nuisance.
- (iv) The armchair was not soft.

(c) Was there a balcony with the room? Yes/No.

(d) Ausable was playing a _____ on his visitor. (2020)

4. Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated. "What will you do now, Max?" Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot."

- (a) Who is Max?
- (i) a spy
- (ii) a tourist
- (iii) a businessman
- (iv) a waiter

(b) Max became nervous because:

- (i) he got scared of Ausable.
- (ii) he thought the police had come.
- (iii) the door was unlocked.
- (iv) Ausable did not get up to open the door.

(c) Actually the door was knocked at by the _____

(d) Which word in the extract is opposite in meaning to the word 'confidently'? (2020)

5. Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago. "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder.

- (a) Who is 'you' here?
- (i) Fowler
- (ii) Ausable
- (iii) Waiter
- (iv) Max

(b) Ausable was a native of

- (i) Franc
- (ii) Germany
- (iii) the U.S.
- (iv) Sweden

(c) 'You' believed that Ausable was a

(d) He spoke French like an (2020)

6. Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated. "What will you do now, Max?" Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot." Max's face was black with anger as he backed swiftly towards the window.

- (a) Who was knocking at the door?
 - (i) A waiter
 - (ii) A policeman
 - (iii) A friend
 - (iv) A guest (2020 C)
- (b) Ausable, by profession, was a
 - (i) salesman
 - (ii) player
 - (iii) secret agent
 - (iv) policeman
- (c) Max bit his lip nervously because _____
- (d) Max went towards the window to _____

CBSE Sample Questions

SA II (3 marks)

1. State one likely reason the writer of The Midnight Visitor chose to characterise Ausable as short and fat. (2022-23)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Ausable was a secret agent or a spy. He was completely opposite to what a secret agent should look like, he was short and very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, but he had not lost his American accent which he brought with him to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.
2. Ausable recognised him instantly as Max, a rival secret agent. He was carrying an automatic pistol, which he was now pointing at Ausable and Fowler. Max was thin and medium height. He had a sly looking expression on his face.
3. (a) (i) A secret agent
(b) (iii) The balcony was a nuisance.
(c) No
(d) trick
4. (a) (i) a spy
(b) (iii) he thought the police had come
(c) waiter
(d) nervously
5. (a) (i) Fowler
(b) (iii) the U.S.
(c) mysterious looking secret agent
(d) American
6. (a) (i) A waiter
(b) (iii) secret agent
(c) someone was knocking at the door
(d) escape from the 'police' who were knocking at the door

CBSE Sample Questions

1. The waiter of the hotel where Ausable was staying knocked at the door. Ausable had ordered some drinks when he arrived at the hotel for Fowler and himself. The waiter came with a bottle and two glasses. He was simply doing his duty of serving his customer staying in the hotel. (3)

A Question of Trust

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Hari Singh says - "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything." (2024)

Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story.

Answer. Hari Singh returns after regretting stealing money from Anil.

- Anil knew Hari was a thief
- Next Morning, Hari offers tea
- Anil didn't refer to the incident/ doesn't show any signs of anger

SAI (2 marks)

1. How did Horace Danby feel sure of his success in that year's robbery? (2019C)

2. How can you say that Horace Danby was good and respectable but not completely honest? (Delhi 2019)

3. What was Horace Danby suffering from? How did it affect him? (AI 2019)

4. What was Horace Danby's hobby? How did he manage to fulfill it? (2018)

SA II (3 marks)

5. What does the phrase 'honour among thieves' mean? Why does Horace get angry at this phrase? (2023)

CBSE Sample Questions

LAI (6 marks)

1. 'Honour among thieves' is considered a popular code. Examine A Question of Trust as a story woven around this code. (2022-23)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Horace Danby was sure of his success in that year's robbery because he had gained enough information about the house he had planned to rob. He had been studying the house at Shotover Grange, looking at its rooms, its electric wiring, its paths and its gardens. He even knew about the schedules of the people in the house, which makes it easy for him to successfully rob the place.
2. Horace Danby was good and respectable but not completely honest because he was not a typical thief. He was fond of books, and to fulfill his desire to have books he used to steal once every year. He never stole more than his needs. However, no matter how trivial the crime is, it remains a crime. Therefore, he could not be called completely honest.
3. Horace Danby was suffering from hay fever. Horace Danby's ailment made him sneeze relentlessly anytime he was in the presence of flowers or the smell of flowers entered his nostrils. It was because of his sneezing that he caught the attention of the gorgeous lady, who asked him to break the safe for her, and eventually got him arrested.
4. Horace Danby was fond of collecting rare and expensive books. In order to fulfil his hobby, Horace would rob a safe every year. He would plan carefully just what to do, stole enough to last a year and secretly purchased the rare, expensive books from an agent.
5. The phrase 'honour among thieves' means that thieves would never cheat each other in their deeds. Horace gets angry at this phrase because he got cheated by another thief while he was in the midst of his planned robbery. He mistook the lady thief as the madam of the house and opened the safe for her so that she could have those jewels. Later when he was arrested, he found out that he was cheated.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. 'Honour among thieves' is a popular code among thieves to protect themselves from each other. Thieves follow his code and they are not supposed to cheat each other and double cross against themselves. According to this, the thieves help each other. In the story, 'The Question of Trust', the main protagonist is very careful regarding his theft conducted once a year. But the lady in red, who is thief herself, does not follow the code and breeds the code of honour that exists between them. Horace mistake the lady thief as the

owner of the house and opened the safe for her so that she could have those jewels. This resulted in him going to the prison for the first time. Horace felt betrayed and his trust broken. (6)

Footprints Without Feet

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Scientists contribute to make the world a better place. Griffin is an antithesis to this statement. Justify. (Footprints Without Feet) (2024)

Answer. • lawless person.

- committed many crimes.
- misused his discovery (any two points)

MCQ (1 mark)

1. "Further footprints followed one after another." How did the boys react?

- (a) Intrigued/fascinated
- (b) Surprised
- (c) Shocked
- (d) Amused (Term I, 2021-22)

SAI (2 marks)

2. How was Griffin received at the inn in Iping? (2021 C)

3. What made the boys follow Griffin? (2020)

LAI (5 marks)

4. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge, Griffin set fire to the house. To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes. Thus it was that he became a homeless wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible - until he happened to step in some mud, and left footprints as he walked!

(i) Griffin's landlord tried to eject him because.

- (a) he was a lawless person.
- (b) he had set his house on fire.

(c) he didn't like him

(d) he was a drug addict.

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word only.

Griffin deliberately removed his clothes because he wanted to become _____

(iii) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'fire' as used in this extract.

(a) Griffin said that he would fire the manager.

(b) The soldiers opened fire at the enemy

(c) His remarks provoked heavy fire from the political opponents

(d) The Amar Palace was completely destroyed by the fire.

(iv) Griffin's presence was felt when

(a) he jumped into the water with a splash

(b) he wore clothes

(c) he left muddy footprints.

(d) he stepped in mud.

(v) Which of the following is not true with reference to the given extract?

(a) Griffin had become penniless

(b) Griffin promised to behave himself

(i) Griffin's landlord tried to eject him because.

(a) he was a lawless person.

(b) he had set his house on fire.

(c) he didn't like him

(d) he was a drug addict.

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(iv) Griffin's presence was felt when

(a) he jumped into the water with a splash

(b) he wore clothes

- (c) he left muddy footprints.
- (d) he stepped in mud.
- (v) Which of the following is not true with reference to the given extract?

 - (a) Griffin had become penniless
 - (b) Griffin promised to behave himself
 - (c) Griffin revealed himself by his muddy footprints
 - (d) No one could see Griffin when he took off his clothes. (2023)

5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the statements that follow by choosing the most appropriate options from the given ones:

Without making any noise and with a poker grasped firmly in his hand, the clergyman flung open the door. "Surrender!"

Then to his amazement he realised that the room appeared to be empty. He and his wife looked under the desk, and behind the curtains and even up the chimney. There wasn't a sign of anybody. Yet the desk had been opened and the housekeeping money was missing.

"Extraordinary affair!" the clergyman kept saying for the rest of the day. (Term I, 2021-22)

(I) The clergyman felt amazed:

- (a) that there was no one visible in the room.
- (b) when he saw his wife peeping under the desk.
- (c) the arrangement of furniture had been disturbed.
- (d) there was nobody even behind the curtains.

(II) The clergyman was moving:

- (i) stealthily
- (ii) quickly
- (iii) boldly

Choose the correct option:

- (a) (i) is right and (ii) is wrong.
- (b) (ii) is right and (iii) is wrong.
- (c) (iii) is right and (i) is wrong.
- (d) (i) is right and (iii) is wrong.

(III) Study the following statements:

- (i) The clergyman and his wife were thorough in their search.
- (ii) The thief had failed to take anything. Choose the correct option.
- (a) (i) is the assertion and (ii) is the response.

(b) (ii) is the assertion and (i) is the response.

(c) (i) is true and (ii) is false.

(d) (i) is false and (ii) is true.

(IV) What is an 'extraordinary affair'?

(a) Something very brilliant

(b) Something very special

(c) Something unusual

(d) Something very careful

(V) At the loss of his money the clergyman must have felt :

(a) sorry.

(b) sad.

(c) angry.

(d) surprised.

LA III (8 marks)

6. A brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin misused his scientific discovery. Illustrate this point by giving any two examples from the story. (100-150 words) (2020)

CBSE Sample Questions

MCQ (1 mark)

1. Identify the option that aptly describes Griffin.

(a) greedy, yet kind

(b) proud and honourable

(c) considerate and selfless

(d) brilliant, but lawless (Term I, 2021-22)

SAI (2 marks)

2. Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits.

Comment. (2020-21)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. (a) intrigued/fascinated
2. Griffin's arrival at the inn was met with curiosity, especially from the landlord's wife. A stranger's presence is always an unusual event and Mrs. Hall was all the more eager to be friendly with their new guest.
3. The footprints were of a scientist named Griffin who became invisible after swallowing certain rare drugs, and was first noticed by the two boys as Griffin happened to step in some mud, and left footprints on the staircase of a house where they could just see his footprints and started following it. They followed it until the footprints became fainter and cannot be seen.
4. (i) (a) 174- he was a lawless person
(ii) invisible
(iii) (d) The Amar Palace was completely destroyed by the fire.
(iv) (c) he left muddy footprints
(v) (b) griffin promised to behave himself
5. (I) (d) there was nobody even behind the curtains.
(II) (a) (i) is right and (ii) is wrong.
(III) (c) (i) is true and (ii) is false.
(IV) (c) Something unusual.
(V) (d) Surprised.
6. Griffin was a brilliant scientist but he was not a law-abiding person, he carried out experiment after experiment to prove that human body could become invisible. Finally, one day he swallowed certain rare drugs and his body became transparent just like a thin sheet of glass. When Griffin became invisible he started taking advantage of his scientific discovery. First, he set fire to his landlord's house and ran away. Then he stole food and clothes without paying for it in a London store. When the store opened the next day and the shop assistants started arriving, he ran and escaped by removing his clothes and becoming invisible again. Besides, he also robbed the owner of a theatrical company and stole money from a clergyman's desk.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. (d) brilliant, but lawless (1)

2. Griffin was a brilliant scientist as he made a rare drug which can make human body transparent and he is daring too as he swallowed those drugs in order to test it and also for taking revenge. This shows that on the contrary, he was a lawless person as he set his landlord's house on fire. He had also done an act of theft at a theatre in London. He took all accessories like goggles, fake mustache, specs, etc. to cover him in order to become visible. He is rude, short-tempered and anxious because when Ms. Hall asked the reason how could he enter in locked room, he was not able to control and revealed his truth that he is a scientist. These all reasons show that Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. (2)

The Making of Scientist

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SAI (2 marks)

1. 'A parent should try to be companion to a child' Explain with reference to Richard's mother. (The Making of a Scientist) (Term II, 2021-22)
2. What are the essential qualities for becoming scientist, according to Ebright's teacher? (The Making of a Scientist) (Term II, 2021-22)
3. What role did Ebright's mother play in his success? (The Making of a Scientist) (Term II, 2021-22)
4. Why did Ebright lose interest in tagging butterflies? (2020)
5. How did Richard Ebright's mother help him? (2020)
6. What lessons did Ebright learn when he entered the country science fair in the seventh grade? (2020 C)
7. How did Richard Ebright's mother help him? (Delhi 2017)
8. Which book did Ebright's mother get for him? How did it change his life? (AI 2017)
9. What lesson did Ebright learn when in the seventh grade he entered a County Science Fair? (Foreign 2017)

10. According to Mr. Weiherer, what makes Richard Ebright a winner? (Delhi Com. 2017)

11. What lesson did Ebright learn when he could not win a prize at the science fair? (Foreign 2016)

12. How did Ebright's mother help him in becoming a scientist? (Foreign 2015)

13. How did Richard's mother help him to become scientist? (Delhi 2014)

SA II (3 marks)

14. How did Ebright's mother help him to become a scientist? (2023)

15. Why did Richard Ebright raise a flock of butterflies? (2023)

16. What were the factors which contributed in making Ebright a scientist? (Foreign 2014)

17. Ebright could not win a prize in the Science Fair in class VII. What lesson did he learn? (2021 C)

LA III (8 marks)

18. How did Ebright use determination and perseverance to achieve his aim of becoming a scientist? (Al 2019)

19. "Richard Ebright had all the ingredients required for the making of a scientist." Elaborate. (2019 C)

CBSE Sample Questions

SAI (2 marks)

1. Why do you think Mr. Weiherer was pleased that Richard Ebright not only put in the nightly research hours towards butterflies, but also his other interests? (2020-21)

SA II (3 marks)

2. Validate the importance of small, fun learning tasks towards successful careers, in the context of Richard Ebright in The Making of a Scientist. (2022-23)

SA III (4 marks)

3. Parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. Critically examine the parents of Bholi and Ebright, highlighting their impact on their children's lives. (Term II, 2021-22)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1.

v) Parents are the best companion, guide, friend and support system in a child's life. Richard's mother always encouraged her child's curiosity in scientific research. She brought him microscopes, cameras, and other scientific equipment. Her support played an essential role in Richard's journey as a scientist. Hence, a parent should try to be a companion to a child so that he/she succeeds in life.

[Topper's Answer, 2022]

2. According to Mr. Richard A. Weiherer, the essential qualities for becoming a scientist are to have a first rate mind, along with curiosity and the will to win for the right reason. A good scientist must not win for the sake of winning, but to be willing to do the best job he/she can.

3. Richard Ebright's mother played an important role in making him a successful scientist. She not only encouraged him but also bought him scientific equipments, camera etc. She also took him on trips and prepared various learning activities for him to do. This helped him learn a lot. It was the book "The Travels of Monarch X" that she bought for Richard which opened the world of science for him.

4. In the story 'The Making of a Scientist' we learned about the work of a famous scientist, Richard Ebright. He used to raise thousands of butterflies to study their habits. He tagged many butterflies and released them to record their migratory habits. Only two of his tagged butterflies returned to him and

they had travelled only seventy-five miles. When Ebright saw that there was no feedback from the tagged butterflies, he started losing interest in them.

5. As a child Ebright was always interested in learning new things. His mother encouraged him to learn more by introducing him to the world around him by taking him to trips, bought him telescopes, microscopes, cameras,

mounting materials and other equipment, and helped him in many other ways.

6. In the seventh grade, Richard participated in the County Science Fair. He displayed slides of frog tissue, which he showed under a microscope. Although he did not win, he understood that simply making a neat display is not enough to win such a competition. The winners had done real experiments. This experience gave Richard Ebright a hint of what real science is.

7. Richard's mother played an important role in making him a scientist. She was a great source of encouragement to him. She bought him scientific equipment, camera, etc. She took him on trips and prepared various learning activities for him to do. This helped him learn a lot. It was she who bought Richard the book 'The Travels of Monarch X', which opened the world of science for him.

8. The book 'The Travels of Monarch X' was given to Richard by his mother and it opened the world of science for him. In the book, the readers were asked to tag butterflies for research by Dr. Urquhart. Ebright had to attach light adhesive tags to the wings of monarchs. After reading it, he became interested in tracking the migration of monarch butterflies. This interest led to his other projects and experiments. Richard came in contact with Dr. Urquhart, a scientist who influenced him greatly. Dr. Urquhart provided him with valuable guidance for his projects and also helped him in his future researches. As a result, Richard started researching on butterflies with renewed interest.

9. In the seventh grade, Richard participated in the County Science Fair. He displayed slides of frog tissue, which he showed under a microscope. Although he did not win, he understood that simply making a neat display is not enough to win such a competition. The winners had done real experiments. This experience gave Richard Ebright a hint of what real science is.

10. According to Mr. Weiherer, Richard Ebright was a winner because he was always curious and hardworking. He always put an extra effort. He was

extremely competitive. However, Richard didn't want to win for the sake of winning. He wanted to do the best job he could.

11. In the seventh grade, Richard participated in the County Science Fair. He displayed slides of frog tissue, which he showed under a microscope. Although he did not win he understood that simply making a neat display is not enough to win such a competition. The winners had done real experiments. This experience gave Richard Ebright a hint of what real science is.

12. Richard's mother played an important role in making him a scientist. She was a great source of encouragement to him. She bought him scientific equipment, camera, etc. She took him on trips and prepared various learning activities for him to do. This helped him learn a lot. It was she who bought Richard the book 'The Travels of Monarch X', which opened the world of science for him.

13. Richard's mother played an important role in making him a scientist. She was a great source of encouragement to him. She bought him scientific equipment, camera, etc. She took him on trips and prepared various learning activities for him to do. This helped him learn a lot. It was she who bought Richard the book 'The Travels of Monarch X', which opened the world of science for him.

14. Richard's mother proved to be a great help. She took him on trips and bought scientific equipment for him. She spent all her time in setting up challenges for him. This helped him to learn a lot. She presented him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X. The book changes Richard's life forever.

15. The book 'The Travels of Monarch X' was about how monarch butterflies migrate to Central America. By reading the book, it opened the world of science to Richard Ebright. Readers of the book were invited to help study butterfly migration by tagging butterflies for research by Dr. Frederick A. Urquhart. Collecting butterflies one by one would have been a tedious and time-consuming task. Therefore, Richard Ebright raised a flock of butterflies.

16. According to Mr. Weiherer, Richard Ebright was a winner because he was always curious and hardworking. He always put an extra effort. He was extremely competitive. However, Richard didn't want to win for the sake of winning. He wanted to do the best job he could.

17. In the seventh grade, Richard participated in the County Science Fair. He displayed slides of frog tissue, which he showed under a microscope. Although he did not win he understood that simply making a neat display is not enough to win such a competition. The winners had done real experiments. This experience gave Richard Ebright a hint of what real science is.

18. Richard Ebright had always been a bright student. Even as a child he had a curious mind, the will to win for the right reasons and had the qualities of a genius in the making. All this made him a true scientist. When Richard was a young boy, he participated in the County Science Fair. He entered slides of frog tissues, which he displayed under the microscope. Although he did not win an award that year, he was determined to try again next year by entering a real science experiment. Throughout high school, Richard Ebright kept on doing one scientific experiment after another to prove various theories revolving around butterflies. His curiosity, determination and perseverance led him to his most notable scientific discovery of an unknown insect hormone. It also led to his new theory on the cell life. Ebright, along with his colleagues, continued to research and experiment on the monarch pupa, which revealed that the twelve gold spots on the pupa produced hormones for the full development of the butterfly. He later went on to identify the hormone's chemical structure, which further revealed that DNA controls heredity and determines the form and function of the cell. Needless to say Richard Ebright used determination and perseverance throughout his life to achieve his aim of becoming a scientist.

19. To become a scientist, one needs to have a keen eye, good thinker and also hardworking. To be good beyond measure in one's work, scientific curiosity is the most important ingredient, of which Richard Ebright was. Ebright was sharp minded and curious. He worked from an early age, from kindergarten, and had collected all 25 species of butterflies found around his hometown by the time he was in second grade. Aside from that, he also raised and tagged them to help study their migration with Dr. Frederick. Despite losing in the Science Fair when he was in class VII, he did not falter. Instead, he learned the lesson that actual science was about real experiments which give results. His competitive streak also led him to perform real experiments. In high school, he led to the discovery of a new theory of the life of cells, coming to the conclusion that DNA is the blueprint of all life. This discovery helped in his

becoming a renowned scientist all over the world. Thus, we can safely say that Richard Ebright had all the ingredients for the making of a scientist.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. Hints:

- Mr. Weigerer was pleased that Ebright balanced academics as well as recreational pursuits. (hobbies etc)
- As a teacher, he wanted Ebright's growth as a well- rounded personality. (2)

2. When Ebright was in second grade, he collected all the twenty-five species of butterflies as a fun activity. He got excited about the gold spots and started tagging the butterflies. When he was in the eighth grade, he tried to find the cause of the disease that used to kill nearly all the monarch butterflies. Later on, he proved that the cells of a monarch would develop into a normal butterfly wing only if they were fed the hormone from gold spots. As a result of it, he discovered how the cell could read the blueprint of its DNA. This led him to the path of a scientist. (3)

3. Richard's mother played a huge role in making Ebright, her son, a great scientist. She would take him on trips to encourage learning. He was a single child. After his father died, his mother made him the focus of her life. She would buy him all kinds of microscopes, telescopes and other equipment. Thus, his mother actually shaped him into an extraordinary scientist. Bholi, on the other hand was quite a neglected child at home. It was only by chance that she went to school. It was only her teacher at school who inspired her to become a teacher. While in Richard's case his parent (i.e.,) his mother solely inspires him to become an extraordinary scientist by her support and encouragement, in Bholi's case it is her own preserverance and daring that helps her save herself by becoming a teacher. Bholi would definitely have done better and used her fullest potential if her parents supported her. Parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. The parents of Bholi and Ebright, highlight their impact on their children's lives. (4)

The Necklace

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. What is the twist at the end of the story "The Necklace"? (The Necklace) (2024)

Answer. • The diamond necklace borrowed was fake • Lost her beauty / wasted her youth and money • suffered (any two points)

SAI (2 marks)

1. How did the necklace change the life of Loisel? (Term II, 2021-22)
2. Why was Mme. Loisel always unhappy? (2019 C)
3. Why did Matilda (Mme. Loisel) leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character? (2018)
4. Why was Matilda always unhappy after her marriage? (Delhi 2017)
5. How did M. Loisel try to make his wife happy? (AI 2017)
6. What was Mme. Loisel shocked to know at the end of the story? (Foreign 2017)
7. How did Loisel and Matilda arrange the money to buy the necklace? (Delhi 2017 C)
8. Why did Matilda not want to see her rich friends? (Delhi 2016)
9. Why was Mme. Loisel always unhappy? (AI 2016)
10. Do you think M. Loisel had an enjoyable evening at the ball? Give reasons for your answer. (Delhi 2015)
11. How did the Loisels react when they realised that the necklace had been lost? (Delhi 2015)
12. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? (Delhi 2015)
13. Why was Matilda in a hurry to go to her house after the ball? (AI 2015)
14. Why was Matilda always unhappy? (AI 2015)
15. How did the Loisels replace the necklace? (Foreign 2015)

16. Why did Matilda change her lifestyle after the ball? (Delhi 2014)

17. Why was Matilda sad after the ball? (AI 2014)

18. How had Mme. Loisel's sacrifice all been in vain? (Foreign 2014)

SA II (3 marks)

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

"I returned another to you exactly like it. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it. You can understand that it was not easy for us who have nothing."

(a) Who is 'I'?

(b) Why did it take them ten years to pay for 'it'?

(c) Write the antonym of 'nothing'. (Foreign 2016)

20. The day of the ball approached and Mme. Loisel seemed sad, disturbed, anxious. Nevertheless, her dress was nearly ready.

(a) Why was Mme. Loisel sad and disturbed?

(b) Why did she get a dress ready?

(c) What is a ball? (Delhi 2015)

SA III (4 marks)

21. Matilda realised that one little act of negligence can lead to total ruin. What do you learn from this and how would you move on in life? (The Necklace)

(Term II, 2021-22)

22. As a reader do you sympathise with Matilda? Give reasons from the text to support your answer. (The Necklace) (Term II, 2021-22)

23. 'The Necklace' reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If you were placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, what would you have done? Write your views. (Delhi 2014)

LA II (6 marks)

24. Mme Loisel's disposition invites her doom. Elucidate with reference to the text. (2023)

25. Contentment in one's life is very important to lead a peaceful life. We should be happy with what we have and should not crave for what we don't have. Matilda suffered in life because she was not content in her life. Her desires led to her disaster. What do you learn from her mistake in life? (2023)

LA III (8 marks)

26. Mme Forestier proved to be a true friend of the Loisels. Elaborate. (2020)

27. What changes occurred in Matilda's lifestyle after she had lost the necklace? (2020 C)

CBSE Sample Questions

SAI (2 marks)

1. Briefly state how Matilda invited 'a dreadful life of necessity' into her family. (Term II, 2021-22)

SA II (3 marks)

2. What made Mme Forestier exclaim in astonishment, when she saw Matilda, years after the Minister's ball? (2020-21)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1.

vi) Matilda Loisel was a charming young lady who always wanted a luxurious life. For attending a ball, she borrowed a necklace from her friend Mme Forestier but eventually lost it. In order to repay the debt for the replaced necklace, the Loisels had to live a life full of drudgery and pain for ~~for~~ ten years.

[Topper's Answer, 2022]

2. Matilda Loisel was a beautiful young woman who was born in a family of clerks. She believed that she deserved a life of luxuries and delicacies. Therefore, she was constantly unhappy and dissatisfied with the modest life she led. She was married to a clerk who could not provide her the luxurious life she desired and thought she deserved.

3. While the other women at the ball were wrapping themselves in rich fur, Matilda Loisel did not want any one to notice her shabby wrap. It was in stark contrast with her elegant and rich looking ball gown, this is why she left the ball in a hurry. This shows that Matilda had false pride, and she was suffering from inferiority complex.

4. Matilda Loisel was a beautiful young woman who was born in a family of clerks. She believed that she deserved a life of luxuries and delicacies.

Therefore, she was constantly unhappy and dissatisfied with the modest life she led. She was married to a clerk who could not provide her the luxurious life she desired and thought she deserved.

5. M. Loisel tried to make his wife, Matilda, happy by offering to give four hundred francs to buy a suitable gown for the ball. He had saved up the sum of money to buy a gun to join some hunting parties the next summer.

6. Mme. Loisel was shocked to know that the necklace she and her husband had replaced with an expensive necklace, for which they had borrowed a huge amount of money and took ten years to pay off the debt, for which they had worked so hard was actually a low priced imitation necklace.

7. The price they had to pay for the new necklace was thirty-six thousand. Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs left by his father, which he decided to use. To arrange for the rest of the money, M. Loisel borrowed 18,000 francs on higher rate of interest.

8. Matilda did not like to visit her friend Mme. Forestier because the former was jealous of the latter. Mme. Forestier was a rich lady. Watching her friend live a rich and luxurious life made Matilda unhappy. She could not bear to go to Mme. Forestier's because of her inferiority complex.

9. While the other women at the ball were wrapping themselves in rich fur, Matilda Loisel did not want any one to notice her shabby wrap. It was in stark contrast with her elegant and rich looking ball gown, this is why she left the ball in a hurry. This shows that Matilda had false pride, and she was suffering from inferiority complex.

10. No, M. Loisel did not have an enjoyable evening at the ball. In fact, he was quite bored at the ball. He had been half asleep in one of the little salons since

midnight with three other gentlemen whose wives were enjoying themselves, very much.

11. The Loisels were shocked to see the necklace gone from Mme. Loisel's neck. They searched everywhere but found nothing. Therefore, they were dismayed, disappointed, bewildered and out of their wits.

12. Matilda Loisel's cause of ruin was her false sense of pride and vanity. She had a craze for good life. So, when she lost the necklace, she did not confess her mistake to her friend. Instead, she replaced the lost necklace with an expensive one, which her husband had to pay a huge sum of money for.

13. While the other women at the ball were wrapping themselves in rich fur, Matilda Loisel did not want any one to notice her shabby wrap. It was in stark contrast with her elegant and rich looking ball gown, this is why she left the ball in a hurry. This shows that Matilda had false pride, and she was suffering from inferiority complex.

14. Matilda Loisel was a beautiful young woman who was born in a family of clerks. She believed that she deserved a life of luxuries and delicacies. Therefore, she was constantly unhappy and dissatisfied with the modest life she led. She was married to a clerk who could not provide her the luxurious life she desired and thought she deserved.

15. The price they had to pay for the new necklace was thirty-six thousand. Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs left by his father, which he decided to use. To arrange for the rest of the money, M. Loisel borrowed 18,000 francs on higher rate of interest.

16. Matilda had lost the precious diamond necklace she had borrowed from her friend. Since the necklace could not be retrieved, it had to be replaced with another equally expensive necklace. Her husband had to borrow a huge amount of money apart from using up his entire life's saving to buy the necklace. In order to pay off the debt money, Matilda had to change her lifestyle.

17. The Loisels were shocked to see the necklace gone from Mme. Loisel's neck. They searched everywhere but found nothing. Therefore, they were dismayed, disappointed and bewildered out of their wits.

18. Mme. Loisel was shocked to know that the necklace she and her husband had replaced with an expensive necklace, for which they had borrowed a huge amount of money and took ten years to pay off the debt, for which they had worked so hard was actually a low priced imitation necklace.

19. (a) 'I' referred to here is Matilda Loisel.

(b) It took the Loisels ten years because they had no money, had to work hard to collect money to pay off the debt.

(c) Everything

20. (a) Mme. Loisel was sad and disturbed because she didn't possess any suitable jewellery which could match the dress or the occasion ball.

(b) A ball was organised by M. Loisel's boss, the Minister of Education. M. and Mme. Loisel were also invited to the party. It was for this very occasion Matilda had got her dress readied.

(c) A formal social gathering for dancing.

21. Matilda always craved for a life of riches, exquisite food, sparkling jewellery, etc. However, she did not have such a life, and it upset her. Matilda envied her childhood friend, Mme. Forestier, because the latter had everything that Matilda desired. Matilda was finally able to fulfil her heart's deepest desire when she and her husband M. Loisel were invited to a fancy ball organised by M. Loisel's boss, the Minister of Education. Matilda Loisel bought an expensive dress. But that was not enough. So, she borrowed a staggeringly beautiful diamond necklace from her childhood friend to wear with the dress on the evening of the ball. That night, she was the fairest maiden of them all and she basked in the glory to the fullest. The profound joy of being the centre of attraction was short lived for Matilda. She had lost the precious necklace. Economically, the Loisels' situation worsened because M. Loisel had to borrow a huge amount of money to replace the lost diamond necklace. The Loisels' lifestyle changed as they became completely poor. Their misery continued for ten years. Eventually, when the debt was paid off, Matilda Loisel had lost everything. Everything about her had changed except for one thing. She was even sadder and more bitter than what she used to be. 'The Necklace' reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If I were in Matilda Loisel's place, I would cut my coat according to my cloth and be content with what I have. What Matilda failed to understand before she lost the diamond necklace is that modest life can be sufficient and

comfortable. Had I been the one to lose the necklace instead of Matilda I would have confessed to my friend and apologised for losing the necklace.

Matilda's experience shows that one must never try to live beyond what one is capable of. The lost necklace taught an important lesson of never trying to be someone we are not. The only way to solve such a mistake is to learn to accept reality and not be wishful. Moreover, if the owner of the necklace had been informed, things would not have turned as they had. Thus, this also taught us to always be truthful to one another.

22. Matilda Loisel was a beautiful young woman who was born in a family of clerks. She believed that she deserved a life of luxuries and delicacies.

Therefore, she was constantly unhappy and dissatisfied with the modest life she led. She had no choice but to marry a petty clerk, M. Loisel, who worked at the Board of Education and was completely opposite of her. She felt tortured by the lack of exquisite dinners, elegant dresses, jewels, etc. Jeanne Forestier, a rich friend of hers, who Matilda went to school with, further caused her discomfort because Matilda envied her friend. Matilda borrowed a necklace from Mme. Forestier to wear with her dress on the evening of the ball. The precious piece of jewellery was there to appease her vanity, pretensions and false ego; it gave her the joy. The necklace was lost by her, and thus, Matilda Loisel spiraled down to utter poverty. She had to do all sorts of menial jobs and suffered a needless sacrifice for ten years to pay off the debt. In these ten years, the adverse situation made her a strong, hard, crude woman of poor household. However, she remained bitter and unhappy throughout her life.

23. Matilda always craved for a life of riches, exquisite food, sparkling jewellery, etc. However, she did not have such a life, and it upset her. Matilda envied her childhood friend, Mme. Forestier, because the latter had everything that Matilda desired. Matilda was finally able to fulfil her heart's deepest desire when she and her husband M. Loisel were invited to a fancy ball organised by M. Loisel's boss, the Minister of Education. Matilda Loisel bought an expensive dress. But that was not enough. So, she borrowed a staggeringly beautiful diamond necklace from her childhood friend to wear with the dress on the evening of the ball. That night, she was the fairest maiden of them all and she basked in the glory to the fullest. The profound joy of being the centre of attraction was short lived for Matilda. She had lost the precious necklace. Economically, the Loisels' situation worsened because M. Loisel had to borrow

a huge amount of money to replace the lost diamond necklace. The Loisels' lifestyle changed as they became completely poor. Their misery continued for ten years. Eventually, when the debt was paid off, Matilda Loisel had lost everything. Everything about her had changed except for one thing. She was even sadder and more bitter than what she used to be. 'The Necklace' reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If I were in Matilda Loisel's place, I would cut my coat according to my cloth and be content with what I have. What Matilda failed to understand before she lost the diamond necklace is that modest life can be sufficient and comfortable. Had I been the one to lose the necklace instead of Matilda I would have confessed to my friend and apologised for losing the necklace.

24. Mme. Loisel always craved for a life of riches, exquisite food, sparkling jewellery, etc. However, she did not have such a life, and it upset her. She envied her childhood friend, Mme. Forestier, because the latter had everything that Matilda desired. She borrowed a necklace from her childhood friend to go to a ball, enjoyed being the center of attention at the ball, but somehow lost the necklace in the end. Mme. Loisel and her husband then had to cut down all their expenses, move to an attic and do menial jobs to pay the loan they took to replace the lost necklace. After ten years of struggle, they were able to pay the debt, but it had aged Mme. Loisel a lot. In the end she was even sadder and more bitter than before. Hence, we can easily conclude that her disposition invites her doom.

25. Life is a great mystery. For every individual this mystery of life comes wrapped in a unique package. For some, it is all riches, comfort, name and fame. For some it is nothing but sheer hunger, poverty, anguish and an everyday quest for bare survival. One, however, must learn to live within one's means and be content with what one has. Contentment in one's life is very important to lead a happy and peaceful life. In the light of the story 'The Necklace' we find that Matilda suffered a lot in her life as she was not content in her life. She is of a humble background but dreams of riches and comforts. She is proud of her beauty and wants to be admired. She lost the necklace, worn in the ball, that was borrowed from her old friend. She had to buy a new one exactly same, for that she and her husband had to take a loan. Then it took Loisels a decade to pay back money they borrowed to buy the

necklace. In this way, their life changed. Now Matilda was no longer pretty and beautiful. Her hollow desires led to her disaster.

26. Mrs. Loisel was quite a beautiful young lady. She always felt that she was born for family of luxuries than a family of clerks. She was highly ambitious. One day, when her husband shows her the invitation card to the official party, she started thinking about herself as how she can present herself to be the prettiest and most attractive, at the party. She was adamant on having some jewels to adorn herself for the ball. Her poor husband was helpless. However, an idea struck him and he suggested her that she could borrow jewels from her rich friend Madam

Forestier. Mme Forestier proved to be a true friend of Loisels by helping her in this hour of need. She easily agreed and placed her jewellery box before Mrs. Loisel to make her choice, she chose a superb diamond necklace, and Mme Forestier happily gave the necklace to her. On the day of the ball, Mrs. Loisel was a great success. She looked the prettiest of all, elegant, gracious, smiling and full of joy. Everybody noticed her, asked her name and wanted to be presented. She danced with enthusiasm intoxicated with pleasure, thinking of nothing but all this pleasure. All those was only because of Mme Forestier who lend her necklace without any hesitation.

27. Matilda's desire to be equally elegant led them to borrow a necklace from their friend. But the loss of the necklace and their inability to inform Mme. Forestier about the incident made them try to replace the lost necklace as much as they could. For that, they require a lot of money, even beyond what their modest living could afford. So, her husband not only gave up his whole life's savings, but also borrowed a huge amount of money. With that, they were able to afford to replace the lost necklace but it also affected their livelihood. They had to change the way they live, letting go of their maid and living in a rented room in an attic. Matilda also had to learn the odious work of a kitchen, washing the dishes, linen, clothes, etc. She did all the household work like a common woman. She even haggled with the shopkeepers for any chance of saving some money. Completely changing her lifestyle, she learned the hard way, the way of the world. She was unable to take care of herself like she did before, no time for any fancy parties or even meeting with friends. Such was her deplorable condition that when she encountered Mme. Forestier on the road, the other woman was unable to recognise her. While her friend was still

young, pretty and still attractive, Matilda had grown old, haggard, with badly dressed hair, skirts awry, and red hands from all the hard work.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. Matilda's pride and her materialistic aspirations coupled with her dishonesty paved the way for her ruin. She could have avoided it by learning to accept her current situation and being content. So, it can be said that Matilda invited a dreadful life of necessity into her family. (2)
2. After replacing the lost necklace with a new one, they had to repay all the money that they had borrowed to buy the new necklace. They sent away the maid and changed their lodgings. They rented some rooms in an attic. Matilda learnt the odd work of the kitchen. She washed the dishes, soiled linen, their clothes and dishes. Matilda had to work very hard to lead her life. She had become a strong, hard woman, the crude woman of the household. In fact she had started looking old. One Sunday evening, when she was taking a walk in the Champs Elysees, she met Mrs. Forestier who still looked young and pretty. As Matilda had started looking old and haggard, she could not be recognized by her. (3)

Bholi

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. Why did Bholi's teacher feel like an artist admiring her masterpiece? (Bholi) (2024)

Answer. • Bholi refused to marry the man demanding dowry

- proud to see Bholi take a stand for herself/transform into a confident person.

SAI (2 marks)

1. Bholi's heart was overflowing with a 'new hope and a new life. What does the phrase "a new hope and a new life" mean to Bholi? (2020 C)
2. Why did Bholi not marry Bishamber? (2020)
3. Why did Bholi dislike Bishambar? (2020)

4. Why did Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal? (2019 C)
5. How did Bholi react when Bishamber demanded five thousand rupees? (2019 C)
6. Why was Sulekha nicknamed Bholi? (AI 2016)
7. For what unusual reasons was Bholi sent to school? (Delhi 2015)
8. Why did Bishamber's marriage with Bholi not take place? (Delhi 2015)
9. What filled Bholi, a dumb cow, with a new hope? (AI 2015) (U)
10. Give examples from the text to show that Bholi was a neglected child? (Delhi 2014)
11. How did the teacher build up Bholi's confidence on her first day at school? (AI 2014)

SA II (3 marks)

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

12. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her.
 - (a) What did Sulekha later on come to be known as?
 - (b) Why did children make fun of her?
 - (c) What does the word, 'mimicked' mean? (Delhi 2015)
13. He said to Ramlal, "As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school."
 - (a) Who is 'he'?
 - (b) What example does he want Ramlal to set?
 - (c) What does the word 'revenue' mean? (AI 2015)
14. She was even bathed and oil was rubbed into her dry and matted hair. Only then did she begin to believe that she was being taken to a place better than her home.
 - (a) Who is 'she'?
 - (b) Where was she being taken to?
 - (c) What does the word 'matted' mean? (AI 2015)

15. Then she began to cry and tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood. She kept her head down as she sat in her corner, not daring to look up at the girls, who, she knew, were still laughing at her.

- (a) Who is 'she'?
- (b) Why were the girls laughing at her?
- (c) What does the word, 'daring' mean? (Foreign 2015)

SA III (4 marks)

16. Imagine you are Bholi and you have been invited to give a speech on the importance of girl education. Write the speech on 'Girl Education and Empowerment. (Term II, 2021-22)

17. Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. How did Bholi, an educated girl, face the challenge posed by Bishamber's greed? (Delhi 2017)

18. School education turned Bholi from a dumb cow into a bold girl. How did she save her father from a huge expense and become his support in his old age? (AI 2017)

19. The teacher plays an important role in changing the course of a person's life especially that of a young woman. What role did Bholi's teacher play in bringing about a change in her life? (Foreign 2017)

20. "Don't you worry, Pitaji! In your old age I will serve you and mother." Through this statement the narrator wants to highlight the moral values Bholi was imbued with. Based on the reading of the lesson, what made Bholi aware of her rights and how did she use them? (Delhi 2016)

21. Bholi was believed to be a 'dumb cow. What turned her into a fearless, bold and confident girl? (Foreign 2016)

22. "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like anyone else." These words of encouragement from the teacher highlight that change of social attitude and encouragement can help a child like Bholi to become confident and face the world bravely. Taking help from the lesson, 'Bholi' write how the social attitude towards Bholi made her an introvert. What should be done to help such children to face the world bravely? (Delhi 2015)

23. The story, 'Bholi' throws light on some social evils being practised in our society. Bholi took a stand and succeeded in overcoming social barriers. What

can you contribute to change the social attitudes illustrated in the story?
(Foreign 2014)

LA II (6 marks)

24. Bholi was believed to be a dumb 'cow. What turned her into a fearless, bold and confident girl? (2023)

25. Education is considered the most important tool for empowering women in society. It plays an important role in social and cultural development. Prove the above statement in the light of the story 'Bholi. (2023)

LA III (8 marks)

26. Bholi is a child different from others. This difference makes her an object of neglect and laughter. Elaborate. (Delhi 2019)

CBSE Sample Questions

SAI (2 marks)

1. List any one characteristic of Bholi's teacher with reference to her first day at school. Give a reason for your answer. (2020-21)

SA III (4 marks)

2. Parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. Critically examine the parents of Bholi and Ebright, highlighting their impact on their children's lives. (Term II, 2021-22)

LAI (5 marks)

Read the following quote by an American author, E. E. Hale.
"I am only one but, I am one. I cannot do everything but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I do." Bholi's evolution from a 'dumb cow' to a 'masterpiece' supports the given quote. Justify. (Term II, 2021-22)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. When a new primary school for girls opened in their village, Bholi's father sent her on the advice of the Tehsildar. At first, Bholi was reluctant to go and was unable to say her name in the class. But with the loving and comfortable support of her teacher, she realised how she could change herself with education. She now had a renewed interest in coming to school. The 'new hope and new life' is the chance to be equal with the others and not be the odd one as she is considered to be.
2. Bholi's marriage was fixed with Bishamber who was forty-five or fifty years old. He also limped and had two children from his first marriage. Although he was rich, had a big shop and a house of his own, he was mean, greedy and a worthless man. When he came to know of the pock- marks on Bholi's face, he demanded a dowry of 5000 rupees to marry her. When Bishamber refused to marry her if the dowry is not paid, Ramlal, Bholi's father put his turban in his feet, but that also couldn't melt Bishamber's heart. Seeing this Bholi threw away the garland and refused to marry him.
3. Bholi's marriage was fixed with Bishambar who was forty-five or fifty years old and he also limped. Even then he demanded 5000 rupees as dowry because Bholi had pock-marks on her face. Bholi stopped the marriage by throwing away the garland into the fire. She threw away the veil and said to her father that she would not marry a mean, greedy and coward like Bishambar.
4. Bholi's parents accepted Bishamber's marriage proposal because he was a rich man from another village who did not know about Bholi's drawbacks. Moreover, he had not demanded dowry which was a relief for her parents as they were worried about finding any husband for Bholi. If they did not take his proposal, then they had no chance of finding any husband for her.
5. Despite her own refusal, Bholi agreed to marry the old man Bishamber to make her parents happy. But when the old man realised that Bholi had pockmarks, he demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees, to which Bholi's father pleaded with him not to cancel the marriage. Bishamber remained indifferent to the father's pleadings. Bholi then realised that Bishamber was a mean, greedy and coward man. She then refused to marry him and instead threw the garland away.

6. When Sulekha was ten months old, she fell off from the cot. Her head and some part of her brain got damaged. She remained a backward child since then. She learned to speak at the age of five even then her speech wasn't clear; she stammered. Therefore, Sulekha came to be known as Bholi, a simpleton.

7. Tehsildar Sahib had asked Ramlal to send his daughters to school. Since he could not disobey Tehsildar sahib, Ramlal decided to send Bholi to school. The other reason for doing so was that Bholi had little to no chances of getting married because she was slow witted, had pock marks on her face and body, and she stammered.

8. At the time of the marriage ceremony, Bishamber Nath was shocked to see that Bholi's face and body were covered with ugly pock marks. Seeing an opportunity to acquire dowry from the bride's father, Bishamber Nath demanded five thousand rupees or else he would not marry Bholi. In order to save his family's honour, Ramlal agreed to pay the hefty amount. However, Bholi refused to marry the greedy man. Thus, Bishamber's marriage with Bholi did not take place.

9. Bholi considered to be a 'dumb cow' was filled with new hope on hearing her teacher's soft and soothing voice. No one had ever spoken to her so nicely. Also, Bholi's teacher encouraged, inspired and showered her with love. She gave Bholi a book to read and promised to give her more books that would help her learn new things.

10. Bholi was quite a neglected child at home. No new clothes were made for her and she was always passed on dresses of her elder sisters. She remained unbathed and her hair was unwashed. Bholi's parents were willing to get her married off to an old, lame widower because of her disadvantageous looks and handicaps.

11. Bholi's teacher asked her what her name was. But Bholi failed to say her full name because of her stammering. At the end of the class teacher called Bholi to herself and quite lovingly made Bholi say her full name. On being successful in doing so, teacher praised Bholi for her efforts, patted her affectionately and told her to get rid of her fear as it will enable her to speak the way others do. Then she gave Bholi books to read and encouraged her to keep reading more and more books. This way teacher built up Bholi's confidence on her first day at school.

12. (a) Bholi

(b) Bholi's speech was not clear, she stammered.

(c) to imitate

13. (a) 'He' is Tehsildar Sahib.

(b) He wants Ramlal to send his daughters to school and set an example for other villagers.

(c) Money/finance

14. (a) 'She' is Bholi.

(b) Bholi was being taken to school.

(c) Unclean/unwashed

15. (a) 'She' is Bholi.

(b) The girls had heard Bholi stammer while saying her name.

(c) Courageous/bold

16. Speech on 'Girl Education and Empowerment' Respected teachers, staffs and students, welcome. Today, I would like to talk about the importance of Girl education and empowerment. As we may all aware, girls are not given priority when it comes to learning especially in the academic field. Rather, it is society's presented conception that girls/ females belong in the house. Let me tell you, this is a gross misconception. There is no specific universal law that prohibits women to study or be out of the house. But on the contrary, I believe that education will not only elevate women/girls but also the whole society. I say this because I am the proof of this. I was only given education because my parents believed that I have no chance of getting any marriage proposals because of my looks. But it was this same education that taught me right from wrong, injustice and almost being made a slave to some older man. Through education and the knowledge of what I deserve, I was able to change my future in a better way. It also empowered me by giving me the courage to do what I want and not just be a 'tool' or 'property' to be given/taken. So, it is my ardent request that education is not denied to anyone irrespective of one's gender. Females can also become leaders and bring upon a change in the society. Thank You.

17. Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. In the end, it helped Bholi face the challenge posed by Bishamber's greed. Throughout her childhood, Bholi had to face many difficulties. She was considered a 'dumb

'cow' by everybody including her family members. Bholi had remained a backward child ever since she was just ten months old. She had fallen on her head and a part of her brain got damaged. An attack of small pox had left deep black pock marks on Bholi's entire body except eyes, when she was only two years old. The pock marks remained with her all her life. To add to the little girl's misery, Bholi learned to speak at the age of five. But her speech was not clear as she stammered. She became a laughing stock for other children. As a result she kept quiet most of the time. When the utterly neglected Bholi was sent to school, her teacher changed the course of Bholi's life, she changed the quality of Bholi's life by encouraging, inspiring and showering Bholi with much deserved love and compassion. Education gave Bholi the courage and confidence to stand against a mean, greedy, coward and heartless man, such as Bishamber Nath who was twice her age. She took a bold step and refused to marry him on the grounds of dowry demands. Bholi decided to be economically independent by becoming a teacher, and look after her aged parents.

18. Owing to Bholi's handicaps and pock-marked body, nobody was willing to marry Bholi. Finally when Bishamber Nath, a well-to-do grocer from another village agreed to marry Bholi, sans dowry, her parents' happiness knew no bounds. Bishamber Nath was about forty-five to fifty years of age, limped and had grown-up children from his first marriage. Being from another village, he was unaware of Bholi's condition. Therefore, when he saw Bholi's face for the first time near the sacred fire, Bishamber Nath staggered. He demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees from Bholi's father and threatened to leave without marrying her. Ramlal wept and requested Bishamber Nath to take two thousand rupees instead of five and marry Bholi as their family honour was at stake. In spite of many pleadings, Bishamber Nath did not agree. Hence, a helpless Ramlal had to pay the former the hefty sum of money as dowry. However, Bholi, whom education had made a smart, courageous and confident girl, asked her father to take back the money from Bishamber Nath as she no longer wished to have such a 'greedy and contemptible coward' as her husband. Hearing Bholi speak her mind, sent Bishamber Nath and his wedding party packing. School education turned Bholi from a 'dumb cow' into a bold girl. This transformation is evident from the way she saved her father from a huge expense.

19. Bholi's teacher treated her with love and compassion, and encouraged her to read and study. She inspired Bholi to become a teacher herself. Education helped Bholi gain her self-confidence. She became aware of self-respect and bravely enough, refused to marry the aged, mean, greedy and cowardly Bishamber Nath.

20. The story 'Bholi' throws light on some social evils being practised in our society. Bholi took a stand and succeeded in overcoming the social barriers. Bholi confidently asks her father not to worry about her as she would become a teacher and look after her parents when they get old. It is evident from such a statement that education is always a great asset for a woman. Education gave Bholi self-confidence, and she learned about self-respect. She became aware of her rights. Her teacher's encouragement, inspiration and love made her study more and emerge as a bold girl rather than a 'dumb cow'. She had said to an intimidated stammering Bholi, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like anyone else". Bholi refused to marry a greedy contemptible coward, stopped her father from paying the huge amount of dowry, and imbued with moral values, Bholi decided to take care of the same parents, who had neglected and treated her indifferently all her life.

21. The story 'Bholi' throws light on some social evils being practised in our society. Bholi took a stand and succeeded in overcoming the social barriers. Bholi confidently asks her father not to worry about her as she would become a teacher and look after her parents when they get old. It is evident from such a statement that education is always a great asset for a woman. Education gave Bholi self-confidence, and she learned about self-respect. She became aware of her rights. Her teacher's encouragement, inspiration and love made her study more and emerge as a bold girl rather than a 'dumb cow'. She had said to an intimidated stammering Bholi, "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like anyone else". Bholi refused to marry a greedy contemptible coward, stopped her father from paying the huge amount of dowry, and imbued with moral values, Bholi decided to take care of the same parents, who had neglected and treated her indifferently all her life.

22. "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak to anyone else." The words of encouragement from the teacher highlight that change of social attitude and encouragement can help a child like Bholi to become confident and face the world bravely. However, this was not always the case

with Bholi. Throughout her childhood Bholi had to face many difficulties. She was considered a 'dumb cow' by everybody including her family members. Bholi had remained a backward child ever since she was just ten months old. She had fallen on her head and a part of her brain got damaged. An attack of small pox had left deep black pock marks on Bholi's entire body except eyes, when she was only two years old. The pock marks remained with her all her life. To add to the little girl's misery, Bholi learned to speak at the age of five. But her speech was not clear as she stammered. She became the laughing stock for other children. As a result she kept quiet most of the time. When the utterly neglected Bholi was sent to school, her teacher changed the course of Bholi's life, she changed the quality of Bholi's life by encouraging, inspiring and showering Bholi with much deserved love and compassion. To help children who are mentally/physically challenged they should be treated with love, care and sympathy as doing so can really work wonders. Kind words, demonstration of love and affection, a sympathetic pat help them gain confidence, enable them to believe in themselves and compete with others, and ultimately help them become socially acceptable. Such children need social, parental attention and encouragement so that they come out of their complex.

23. Social discrimination against women has been highlighted in the narrative of 'Bholi' where women are considered a liability, a burden to be borne till they are eventually disposed off in marriage. The family in particular and the society at large have no faith in their capabilities and hence, do not consider it essential to educate girls. But Bholi's story proves that daughters are capable and responsible in supporting the family same as the men folk and can be the bread winners, if the family invests in their education. A significant change in the social attitudes can be brought about by creating awareness and counselling. Mass media, such as television is very influential and significant work is already being done to initiate a change in attitude towards the girls. Women in our Indian culture are the 'Ghar ki Lakshmi' and deserve to be honoured.

24. Bholi was a neglected child and was believed to be a 'dumb cow', but when she was sent to school, her teacher changed the quality of Bholi's life by encouraging, inspiring and showering her with much deserved love and affection, it changed her life. Education proved to be a great asset to her. It

gave Bholi the courage and confidence to stand against a mean, greedy, coward and heartless man, such as Bishamber Nath who was twice her age. She took a bold step and refused to marry him on the grounds of dowry

demands. Bholi decided to be economically independent by becoming a teacher, and look after her aged parents.

25. Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. In the end, it helped Bholi to face the challenge posed by Bishamber's greed. Throughout her childhood, Bholi had to face many difficulties. She was considered a 'dumb cow' by everybody including her family members. Bholi had remained a backward child ever since she was just ten months old. She had fallen on her head and a part of her brain got damaged. An attack of small pox had left deep black pock- marks on Bholi's entire body except eyes, when she was only two years old. The pock-marks remained with her all her life. To add to the little girl's misery, Bholi learned to speak at the age of five. But her speech was not clear. As she stammered, she became a laughing stock for other children. As a result she kept quiet most of the time. When the utterly neglected Bholi was sent to school, her teacher changed the quality of Bholi's life by encouraging, inspiring and showering Bholi with much deserved love and compassion. Education gave Bholi the courage and confidence to stand against a mean, greedy, coward and heartless man, such as Bishamber Nath who was twice her age. She took a bold step and refused to marry him on the grounds of dowry demands. Bholi decided to be economically independent by becoming a teacher, and look after her aged parents.

26. Bholi's real name was Sulekha. She was called Bholi, which literally means 'the simpleton', because she was a backward child. When she was only ten-months old, she fell on her head, which damaged some part of her brain. When she grew up a little, at the age of two, she had an attack of small-pox. Her entire body (except her eyes) was disfigured by deep black pock-marks. If that wasn't enough, when Sulekha first spoke at the age of five, her speech wasn't clear; she stammered. Since the other children mimicked and made fun of her, Bholi talked even less. Owing to her handicaps, Bholi was neglected and treated indifferently even by her family. Things started to look up for an introvert Bholi on the day she started going to school. Bholi hadn't uttered a word until her teacher asked her name. Bholi stammered and immediately became quiet as the children laughed at her. However, as the time passed, with

the help of desired encouragement, inspiration and love showered by her teacher, Bholi became a smart, confident and fearless girl. She refused to get married to an aged, mean, greedy, coward and heartless Bishamber Nath. In the end, Bholi decided that she would remain unmarried all her life if she had to. She decided that she would rather look after her aged parents and teach in the same school where she studied, and become a kind and compassionate teacher like the one she had. Therefore, Bholi's teacher played an important role in changing the course of Bholi's life.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. Hints:

- kind / encouraging/ empathetic/ assuring/ any other relevant trait from the text.
- Reason from text required. (2)

2. Richard's mother played a huge role in making Ebright, her son a great scientist. She would take him on trips to encourage learning. He was a single child. After his father died, his mother made him the focus of her life. She would buy him all kinds of microscopes, telescopes and other equipment. Thus, his mother actually shaped him into an extraordinary scientist. Bholi, on the other hand was quite a neglected child at home. It was only by chance that she went to school. It was only her teacher at school who inspired her to become a teacher. While in Richard's case his parent (i.e.,) his mother solely inspires him to become an extraordinary scientist by her support and encouragement, in Bholi's case it is her own perseverance and daring that helps her save herself by becoming a teacher. Bholi would definitely have done better and used her fullest potential if her parents supported her. Parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. The parents of Bholi and Ebright, highlight their impact on their children's lives. (4)

3. Bholi's real name was Sulekha but she was called Bholi, the simpleton as she was a backward child. She started speaking only when she turned five but she stammered when she spoke and as a result she was always mimicked or made fun of by the other children. Therefore, Bholi talked very little. Ironically, Bholi was sent to school as her mother believed she was a burden and let the teachers at the school worry for her. The teacher showed affection and encouraged her to shed her fear. She was assured by her teacher that she

would speak like others one day.

Years of hardwork transformed Bholi into a bold and confident young woman. Bishamber refused to marry Bholi due to her appearance and demanded five thousand rupees. Her education became her weapon and with the help of her teacher, Bholi turned into a confident girl. She no longer stammered and could speak properly. She even had the courage to refuse marrying the lame old man because he was greedy and asked money from her father to marry her. Bholi saw how her father was humiliated for no reason. She refused to marry a greedy, mean and contemptible coward. She assured her father that she would serve him and her mother in their old age. She had a mission in her life; she would spread the light of education in her village. Thus, Bholi's evolution from a 'dumb cow' to a 'masterpiece' is true in every sense of the word. (5)

The Book That Save the Earth

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SAI (2 marks)

1. What difficulty do the crew of the space probe face on the Earth? (Delhi 2019)
2. What is Think-Tank proud of? How do you know? (AI 2019)
3. What does Noodle tell Think-Tank about the books? (Delhi 2016)
4. What does Think-Tank infer on listening to the nursery rhyme, 'Hey, diddle, diddle.....?' (AI 2015)
5. How did the book change Think-Tank's opinion about the Earthlings? (AI 2014) SA III (4 marks)
6. Little knowledge may lead to a disaster. Describe it with reference to the lesson, 'The Book that Saved the Earth'. (Delhi 2017 C)
7. It is morally incorrect to invade another country/ planet for one's own benefit. The Martians did not understand the value of peaceful coexistence. How did the book of Nursery rhymes save the earth from the Martian invasion? (AI 2016)

8. The play, 'The Book that Saved the Earth' conveys the message that misunderstanding of cultural differences between various races can cause confusion and conflict. Based on your reading of the play, write how such confusion and conflicts can be checked so that peace and harmony is maintained. (Foreign 2015)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. The crew of the space probe landed in a public library. The crew was shocked because it was a strange place for them as they had no idea about books. They thought the library to be some kind of storage barn. They looked puzzled because they were not familiar with books.
2. Think-Tank was proud of his handsome Martian race. According to Think-Tank, Martians were more attractive than the 'ugly' earthlings with their tiny head. Think-Tank mockingly calls the Earth 'ridiculous little planet', 'an insignificant place', 'a primitive ball of mud. The fact that Think-Tank thinks so highly of himself is evident from his narcissistic behaviour, self-praise and boastful habits.
3. Noodle told Think-Tank that Earthlings did not eat books, but used them as some sort of device for communication. He also said that the humans opened them and watched them.
4. When he listened to the nursery rhyme, 'Hey, diddle, diddle', Think-Tank is quite alarmed. He believed that the Earthlings have reached a high level of civilisation. The humans have taught their pets musical culture and space techniques. Even their dogs have a sense of humour. Think-Tank thought that the humans were planning to launch an interplanetary attack of millions of cows.
5. What saved the Earth from the attack of the Martians was an old book of nursery rhymes, 'The Mother Goose. The Martians misinterpreted it to be the Earthlings record of inter-planetary attack on Mars. Terrified of the humans, they evacuated the entire planet of Mars.

6. The Martians, led by their megalomaniac leader Think-Tank, launched an inter-planetary attack on the earthlings. The Martian space probe reached Centerville Public Library. Unaware of what they were surrounded with, the Martians found themselves in a state of confusion. While Captain Omega went through the catalogue drawer, Lt. Iota counted the books and Sgt. Oop inspected one of the books from every possible angle. When Think-Tank and Noodle made contact with them and asked them to submit their report, none of them knew that the peculiar items, which filled the room, were actually books. Think-Tank, with his very limited and false knowledge about earth and earthlings jumped to the conclusion that those peculiar items were sandwiches. At first, he said that the books were meant to be eaten, then he said they were 'communication sandwiches' and were meant for listening. When they heard no sound coming from it, Noodle suggested that humans did not eat or listen to these 'peculiar items' but opened them and watched them. Think-Tank immediately ordered his soldiers to read from the 'big colourful sandwich', which looked quite important and tell him what they saw. It was a very large volume of 'Mother Goose', a book of Nursery rhymes. As the ignorant Martians read the poems one after the other, they misinterpreted their meaning and felt that humans were mightier than what the Martians had thought them to be. What really terrified the Martians was the poem Humpty Dumpty. Since Think-Tank looked exactly like Humpty, Think-Tank thought that the humans were after his life and would kill him. He decided to abort the mission of invading earth and called his Martian troops back. This proves that little knowledge may lead to utter confusion and major disaster.

7. Aristotle said "Man is a social animal". The Martians in the story 'The Book that Saved the Earth' seemed to be ignorant of the reality that peaceful co-existence is fundamental to the survival of human race. It is morally incorrect to invade another country/planet for one's own benefit. There are no winners or losers in a war. There is only destruction and devastation. The Martians, led by their megalomaniac leader Think- Tank, launched an inter-planetary attack on the earthlings. The Martian space probe reached Centerville Public Library. Unaware of what they were surrounded with, the Martians found themselves in a state of confusion. While Captain Omega went through the catalogue drawer, Lt. Iota counted the books and Sgt. Oop inspected one of the books from every possible angle. When Think-Tank and Noodle made contact with them and asked them to submit their report, none of them knew that the

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8. The play 'The Book that Saved the Earth' conveys the message that misunderstanding of cultural differences between various races can cause confusion and conflict. Confusion of the Martians arose because of their ignorance of the language, culture and tradition of the people on Earth. In this age of globalisation, it is all the more necessary to have healthy cross-cultural communication. These cultural differences nationality, religion, language, border culture and behaviour can be overcome with the help of effective cultural communication. The diversity of people in cities and countries means an element of cross-cultural communication will always be needed between various ethnic groups. This will help in reducing tension and misunderstanding between these communities and thus, everyone will live in peace and harmony. This type of communication can be established through learning each other's language, religion and traditions.