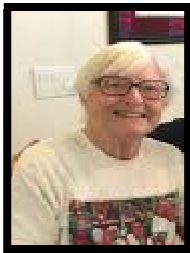


Lesson 14



The Book That Saved the Earth

About the Author:



Claire Boiko lives in Seattle, Boston, California. She had education in the university of Redlands. She has written and produced a soldier show in Korea. One of her plays was produced in Penang, Malaysia. She has published a number of children's books. *Children's play for Creative Actors, Dramatized Parodies of Familiar Stories, The City Baby Princess, Plays and Programs for Boys and Girls, My Hero* etc. are some of her works. *Doctor Din's Disaster!* is a shadow play written by Boiko.

Glossary:

1. **Easel:** a wooden frame to support an artist's work while it is being painted or drawn.
2. **Ancient:** belonging to very distant past.
3. **Bow:** bend body or head forward
4. **Curiosity:** eager desire to know about something
5. **Era:** period, age

6. **Anteater:** a mammal with long nose and tongue and no teeth, that eats ants or termites
7. **Zulu:** a South African ethnic community.
8. **Martian:** relating to the planet Mars or a fictional inhabitant of Mars.
9. **Tsk, tsk:** (exclamation) used to express disapproval or annoyance
10. **Invasion:** a military expedition to capture a county or region
11. **Tome:** a large, heavy book





12. **Historiscope:** a device which shows a series of pictures
13. **Robe:** a long loose outer garment
14. **Elaborate:** complex and detailed
15. **Peevishly:** irritably
16. **Go over:** (phrasal verb) examine carefully
17. **Probe:** investigation
18. **Rulership:** act of ruling, control
19. **Insignificant:** unimportant
20. **Smacking:** hitting
21. **Race:** a group or community
22. **Earthling:** a word used by aliens to refer to an inhabitant of the earth.
23. **Primitive:** crude and ancient
24. **Riffle:** turn over the pages of a book quickly
25. **Crew:** a group of people who work on and operate a ship, aircraft, etc.
26. **Puts on:** (phrasal verb) wears
27. **Enormous:** Very large
28. **Goggles:** spectacles
29. **Incident:** event or happening
30. **Figure out:** (phrasal verb) understand or solve something
31. **Peculiar:** strange, unusual
32. **Barn:** a large farm building used for storing grain, hay, or straw
33. **Galaxy:** one of the independent groups of stars in the universe, star system
34. **Haberdashery:** notions cloth, pins, thread, etc. used for sewing, or a shop or a department of a large store that sells these.
35. **Elementary:** simple and basic
36. **Crude:** simple and not skilfully done or made
37. **Staple:** basic or main, standard or regular (in a food item)
38. **Squint:** partly close one's eyes in order to see more clearly
39. **Gulp:** (here) to breathe in a large amount of air very quickly
40. **Dubiously:** doubtfully
41. **Pantomime:** to express or represent by exaggerated mime
42. **Trifling:** silly
43. **Haughtily:** in a proud and unfriendly way
44. **Intently:** with full attention
45. **Twirl:** move in a circle
46. **Squiggles:** illegible writing or markings
47. **Magnificent:** very good, beautiful, deserving to be admired
48. **Unfold:** open, become clear

49. **Stiffly**: not bending
50. **Decipher**: discover the meaning of something, try to understand
51. **Transcribe**: (here) read or translate what is written
52. **Cockle**: a small, rounded sea creature with a shell
53. **Levity**: humour or lack of seriousness
54. **Gravely**: seriously
55. **Cease**: stop
56. **Desist**: stop doing something
57. **Interplanetary**: between planets
58. **Fleet**: group of ship, navy force, army
59. **Capsule**: the part of a spacecraft in which the people on it live
60. **At once**: immediately
61. **Trace**: a sign that something has happened or existed
62. **Evacuate**: to move people from a place of danger to a safer place
63. **Chuckle**: laugh quietly

Questions and Answers based on textual passages

Read the passage from the one-act play ‘The Book that Saved the Earth’ and answer the questions given below: (from SCERT Question Pool)

MARS SPACE CONTROL

GREAT AND MIGHTY THINK-TANK, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF Bows low before entering).

NOODLE: (bowing) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe, what are your orders?

THINK-TANK: (peevishly) You left out part of my salutation, Apprentice Noodle. Go over the whole thing again.

NOODLE: It shall be done, sir. (in a singsong) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, Ruler of Mars and her two moons, most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe - (out of breath) what-are-your-orders?

THINK-TANK: That's better, Noodle. I wish to be placed in communication with our manned space probe to that ridiculous little planet we are going to put under our generous rulership. What do they call it, again?

Q 1-5

1. Where does the action take place?
2. Who is Think Tank?
3. What idea do you gather about the character of Think Tank from the above passage?
4. Do you think Noodle praises Think Tank sincerely? Why?
5. What is Think Tank's opinion about earth?

Read the passage from the one-act play ‘The Book that Saved the Earth’ and answer the questions given below:

THINK-TANK: Elementary, my dear Omega. Hold one of the items up so that I may view it closely. (Omega holds a book on the palm of her hand.) Yes, yes, I understand now. Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand. OMEGA: (to Iota and Oop) He says we're in a refreshment stand.

OOP: Well, the Earthlings certainly have a strange diet.

THINK-TANK: That item in your hand is called a sandwich.

OMEGA: (nodding) A sandwich.

IOTA: (nodding) A sandwich.

OOP: (taking book from his head) A sandwich?

THINK-TANK: Sandwiches are the main staple of Earth diet. Look at it closely. (Omega squints at book.) There are two slices of what is called bread, and between them is some sort of filling.

OMEGA: That is correct, sir.

THINK-TANK: To confirm my opinion, I order you to eat it.

OMEGA: (gulping) Eat it?

THINK-TANK: Do you doubt the Mighty Think-Tank?

Q 6-10:

6. What are they talking about?
7. What do they think the library is?
8. What do they think the books are like?
9. Find out the word from the passage that means 'very simple and easy'.
10. Do you think that Think Tank is mighty and intelligent? Why?

Read the passage from the one-act play 'The Book that Saved the Earth' and answer the questions given below:

THINK-TANK: Cease laughter. Desist. This is more and more alarming. The Earthlings have reached a high level of civilisation. Didn't you hear? They have taught their domesticated animals musical culture and space techniques. Even their dogs have a sense of humour. Why, at this very moment, they may be launching an inter-planetary attack of millions of cows! Notify the invasion fleet. No invasion today Oop, transcribe the next code.

OOP: Yes, sir. (reading) Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;
All the King's horses and all the King's men,
Cannot put Humpty Dumpty together again.

Oh, look, sir. Here's a picture of Humpty Dumpty. Why, sir, he looks like - he looks like - (turns large picture of Humpty Dumpty towards Think-Tank and the audience)

THINK-TANK: (screaming and holding his head) It's me! It's my Great and Mighty Balloon Brain. The Earthlings have seen me, and they're after me. 'Had a great fall!' - That means they plan to capture Mars Central Control and me! It's an invasion of Mars! Noodle, prepare a space capsule for me. I must escape without delay. Space people, you must leave Earth at once, but be sure to remove all traces of your visit. The Earthlings must not know that I know. (Omega, Iota, and Oop rush about, putting books back on shelves.)

Q 11-15:

11. Why was Earthlings civilised according to Think Tank?
12. What was Think Tank's reaction when he saw the picture?
13. What according to Think Tank, 'Had a great fall' mean?
14. Why did Think Tank order the space people to leave Earth?
15. What should the Martians do before they leave the Earth?

Answers

1. At Mars space control.
2. The commander-in-chief of Martians.
3. A proud and haughty person who considered himself more intelligent and powerful than anyone else.
4. No. The manner in which he says it in a sing song shows that he is just doing it out of practice and not

because he considers so.

5. Think-Tank considers Earth a ridiculous little planet which would soon be conquered by Mars.
6. They are talking about a book.
7. They think the library is a refreshment stand.
8. They think books are sandwiches.
9. 'Elementary' is the word that means 'very simple and easy'
10. No. Think-Tank interprets the library as refreshment stand and books as sandwiches.
11. The Earthlings have taught their domesticated animals musical culture and space techniques as they have reached a high level of civilization.
12. Think Tank believes that it is a picture of himself and the earthlings are after him to capture him.
13. According to Think-Tank, 'Had a great fall' meant that the earthlings plan to capture Mars Central Control and him.
14. He believes that the earthlings are going to attack Mars and capture all Martians.
15. Martians must leave the Earth at once. But before leaving they should remove all traces of their visit to the Earth.

Let's Revisit. (Textbook page 146)

Martians describe books in many ways. Pick out the descriptions from the play and make conclusions/ or comment on the in the box given.

Martians' description of books	Conclusions/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Martians have taken shelter in a square place.• IOTA thinks that the place must be some sort of a storage barn.• IOTA holds a book and says that he has counted two thousand of those peculiar things.• OOP thinks that the books may be hats and the library a haberdashery!• THINK-TANK brilliantly explains that the place where they have reached now is nothing but a crude refreshment stand and the peculiar things are sandwiches.• NOODLE says that he has seen the Earthlings using them as some sort of communication device.• THINK-TANK's brilliant interpretation comes soon and he says that they are communication sandwiches.• NOODLE says that the Earthlings do not listen to them but watch them.• THINK-TANK pretends as he knows everything, and he says they are not for ear communication. They are for eye communication.• THINK-TANK mistakes Humpty Dumpty's picture to be his, and orders the Martians to stop invasion and evacuate at once the entire planet of Mars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was actually a very big library with thousands of books, where the Martians have taken shelter.• OOP thinks that the place is a haberdashery and the books are hats.• The great and mighty commander-in-chief of the Martians, THINK-TANK thinks himself to be the most intelligent creature in the whole universe.• But all his interpretations and comments show that he is the most foolish and gullible of the all Martians.• When he expresses his intelligent opinions and gives orders, his subordinates seem to know that he is a real fool and can be easily pleased by flattery.• Think-Tanks appears to be most gullible and cowardice.• Mistaking Humpty Dumpty's picture to be his own, he gets frightened and immediately arranges to escape to Alpha Centauri, a hundred millions miles away!

Prepare a character sketch of Think-Tank.

In the play, “The Book that Saved the Earth, the most ridiculous and funniest character is Think- Tank. He has a domineering mentality over others. He thinks himself to be the most intelligent and powerful creature in the whole universe. He is the great and mighty commander-in-chief of the Martians. When the apprentice Noodle addresses him as “great and mighty Think-Tank, most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe”, he simply doesn’t become satisfied. He orders to address him again with the missing part of his salutation. Noodle salutes him again adding “Ruler of Mars and her two moons”. Think-tank asks the mirror who ‘the most fantastically intellectually gifted being in the land’ is. He gets angry and smacks the mirror, when the reply to this question is a little delayed. When he sees a book he intellectually interprets it as a sandwich and the bookshelves as crude refreshment stands. When Noodle says that the book may be a communication device, he immediately pretends that he knows it already and calls it a communication sandwich.

The Martians under their great and mighty commander-in-chief Think-Tank are on a mission to attack the Earthlings. But at the end of the play, Think-Tank is seen as afraid of the Earthlings. He himself seeks ways to escape and orders his crew to leave the earth at once. All these words and deeds of Think-Tank show that, although he thinks himself to be the most intelligent and the mightiest, he is really a gullible coward.

The English Club of your school decides to stage the play 'The Book that Saved the Earth'. You, being the Secretary of the club, was asked to prepare a notice of the programme. Prepare the likely notice.

“The Book that Saved the Earth”
Play, Staged
By
Kairali English School, Kozhikkode

Dear friends,

The English Club of our school has decided to stage the very famous and humorous play **The Book that Saved the Earth** as part of the club’s anniversary programmes.

All are welcome!

Date: Wednesday, 20 Dec 2017

Time: 2:00PM

Venue: School Auditorium.

Secretary,
The English Club.

Kozhikkode
13 Dec 2017