

REVISION PRACTICES ..

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

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Theme. A humorous incident. An account of a terrifying encounter with a snake.

Story in a nutshell. The narrator, a homeopath, lives in a congested room which he shares with rats. On a hot summer night he had a nightmarish experience. A full-blooded cobra landed on his shoulder and rested there for a couple of minutes and slithered onto his lap and then stopped in front of a mirror which was kept on the table right in front of him. The author humorously narrates that it was the first snake which was taken aback by its beauty and thereby sparing his valuable life. The author was a stone image with the snake resting on his shoulder. No sooner did the snake moved on to the table than the homeopath ran away with all he was worth. The story is a humorous account of the homeopath and his encounter with the snake.

Leading characters.

The homeopath, some of his friends, a snake

Passages for comprehension.

First paragraph.

Read the paragraph from the text and answer the questions given below.

What was the topic of discussion?

Guess the narrator's profession.

Specify the time and place of the action.

'The sound was a familiar one'. What was the doctor referring to?

Pick out a sentence that shows the humorous statement.

Find a word which means a story

We listened attentively. Replace the verb phrase .

Paragraphs Two and three.

What do you know about the financial status of the doctor?

The house was not electrified. How does minute details heighten up the tempo of the story ?

Describe the room.

My earnings were meagre. Rewrite sentence into a negative one without changing the meaning.

Para:4&5

Which line tells you about the doctor's aesthetic sense?

What important decision did the doctor take?

Why was the decision termed as earth shaking?

I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor too on top of it! What does this sentence tell about the doctor?

Find a word which means very serious or shocking.

Paragraph 6&7

What was the doctor's concept of his life partner?

Why do you think the doctor opted for a thin lady? What does this show about his nature?

No sooner had the doctor turned(complete the sentence)

Find a word which means moving along by twisting and turning the body.

How did the doctor react when he saw the snake?

Find an expression from the passage which means became stiff with fear.

I sat there holding my breath. Was the doctor's mind blank?

Para 8&9

Which line tells that the doctor believes in God?

Why did he try to write the word God?

A rod made of molten fire. What feeling did you get by this usage?

Explain, 'Death lurked only four inches away'

What were the thoughts that ran in the mind of the doctor while holding the snake on his shoulder?

Which lines tell that the doctor has not lost his sense of humour even when death lurked very near?

Find out the expressions that mean the doctor was afraid of the snake

Para 10&11

I was no mere image cut in granite. What does this mean?

Which expression tells that the doctor became too active?

Discourses.

Diary

The homeopath couldn't believe that he was alive. He writes his thoughts in his diary. Attempt his diary.

Conversation

The doctor shares his scary incident to his friend. What would be their likely conversation?

The doctor finds the owner of the rented house the next day. What would they probably talk about?

The doctor describes his nightmarish experience to his friends. Write conversation between the doctor and one of his friends.

You happened to meet the doctor. What would be the likely conversation between you and the doctor?

The next day a police officer comes for an enquiry about the theft. Draft a conversation between the police officer and the homeopath.

Letter

The homeopath writes a letter to his friend describing the terrible experience he had. Attempt a similar one.

The homeopath writes a complaint letter to the Supt. of Police about the theft of his belongings. Write the letter.

Write a newspaper report on the theft at the homeopath's house.

Prepare a narrative on the lesson The snake and the mirror.

The Literary club of your school has decided to conduct a book fest of Vaikom Muhammed Basheer and his noted works as a part of Basheer Remembrance Day. Draft a notice for the same.

Humour is one of Basheer's notable traits that makes his story memorable. Based on your reading of the story 'The snake and the mirror', prepare a write-up.

The homeopath is an interesting character. Attempt a character sketch.

Write a review of the story 'The snake and the mirror'.

Basheer has a unique style of story telling using the local dialects infused with humour. Prepare a speech to be delivered in your morning assembly about Basheer and his stories.

Given below are the hints .Based on them prepare a profile of Vaikom Muhammed Basheer.

Born: January, 19, 1908, Thalayolapparambu

Job: freedom fighter, humanist, novelist, short story writer,

Renowned as: Beypore Sultan

Spouse: Fabi Basheer

Major Works: Balyakalasakhi, shabdangal, Pathummayude aadu, Janmadinam, Mathilukal.

Awards: Kerala State Film Award, Lalithambika Antharjanam Award, Vallathol Award, Padmashri in 1982

Death: 5, July, 1994, Beypore.

Linguistic Elements.

Fill in the blanks using the suitable words given from the brackets.

I went back...the room and sat downthe chair. I opened ...box beneath the table and took ...a book. A small comb lay.....the mirror. (Out, the, a, beside, in, on, to,)

Replace the underlined words with the suitable phrasal verbs.

The doctor continued (a) with his tale and we listened to him attentively.

The doctor said that he removed (b) his black coat and white shirt.

He then started reading (c) the pages of Materia Medica.

The doctor, after some time postponed reading the book.

(Went on, put off, took off, going through).

Complete the following conversation.

Doctor: The next day when I reached home, I was really shocked

Friend:.....?

Doctor: There is nothing for us to clean.

Friend:.....?

Doctor: Some thief had removed most of my things.

Friend: You didn't complain to the Police?.....?

Doctor:.....

Friend: Did you see the snake the next day?

Doctor:.....

Report the following

The Homeopath: Has a snake ever coiled round any part of your body?

Friend: No, it never happened.

Friend: Is your wife really fat?

Doctor: No, she is a thin reedy person.

Friend: Doctor, when you ran did the snake follow you?

Doctor: I ran and ran till I reached a friend's house...

Construct a word pyramid based on the structures.

Nounphrase

Determiner+N.P

Determiner+Adjective Phrase+Noun Phrase.

Determiner+Adjective Phrase+ Noun Phrase+ Prepositional Phrase.