

Question 9.

Why does M. Eyries get out of the balloon? Is he regretful? Why?

Answer:

M. Eyries gets out of the balloon because the basket carrying the passengers has become too heavy for the balloon. He is regretful. He had planned for this flight and since he had to abandon it at the last minute he was unhappy. He would miss all the adventure and fun.

Question 10.

What does M. Joliet's deeds and words tell us about him?

Answer:

His words and deeds tell that M, Joliet is a chivalrous gentleman. He gallantly asks the ladies to stand aside a little because the rising balloon might throw sand on their hats. It shows how considerate he is to the ladies.

Question 11.

Comment on the use of the word 'liberty'.

Answer:

Maupassant has used this word 'liberty' in a most appropriate fashion. By cutting the rope that holds Le Horla to the ground, Le Horla is given the liberty to fly freely in the infinite skies like a bird.

Question 12.

Describe the aerial view of Paris.

Answer:

Paris is like a dark bluish patch, cut by its streets. Domes, towers and steeples of Paris are visible from the sky. Around it there is the plain, traversed by long roads amidst green fields and forests.

Question 13.

Have you ever had an aerial view of a place?

Answer:

Yes, I had. Once I flew from Cochin to Mumbai and I had an aerial view of Mumbai.

Question 14.

Can a view from an aeroplane be as picturesque as this balloon view? Why?

Answer:

No, it can't be. Because an aeroplane flies at a much greater height and at a greater speed and so your view can't be as picturesque as from a balloon which flies at a lower height and with less speed.

Question 15.

How do the travellers know whether they are rising or sinking?

Answer:

Travellers know whether they are rising or sinking by throwing a cigarette paper out of the basket. If the paper falls down like a stone, it means the balloon is rising. If it appears to shoot skyward, the balloon is sinking.

Question 16.

All the noises are easily recognisable. Mention the diverse sounds that reach the travellers' ears.

Answer:

The noises that reach the travellers' ears are: the sound of wheels rolling on the streets, the snap of a whip, the shouts of drivers, the rolling and whistling of trains and the laughter of the boys running after one another. When they pass over a village, the noise of children's voices is heard above the rest with much clarity.

The Trip Of Le Horla

Summary

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I got a telegram on the morning of July 8th. It read: "Fine day. Always my predictions, Belgian frontier. Baggage and servants leave at noon at the social session. Beginning of maneuvers at three. So I will wait for you at the works from five o'clock on, Jovis."

At five o'clock sharp, I entered the gas works of La Villette.

The balloon is lying in the courtyard and appears like a cake made of yellow cloth. It is lying flat on the ground under a rope.

Two or three hundred people are looking at it. Some are sitting and some are standing. Some are examining the basket. It is a nice little square basket for a human cargo. On its side in golden letters was written 'Le Horia' on a mahogany plate.

Suddenly the people begin to stand back as gas is entering into the balloon through a long tube of yellow cloth. The cloth is on the oil. It swells and moves about like a big worm. But another thought occurs to every mind. It is thus nature itself nourishes being until their birth. The creature that will rise soon begins to move. The attendants of Captain Jovis spread and put in place the net which covers it as Le Horia grows larger. The net will help the pressure to be regular and equally distributed at every point.

The crowd has begun to talk. Some men who look to be specialists ask us to come down. Many things have been criticised in this new type of balloon. We are about to experiment with it with so much pleasure and success. The balloon is growing slowly but surely.

Captain Jovis and his assistants are busy with the last details. The travellers go to dine in the canteen on the gas-works according to the established custom.

When we come out the balloon is swaying. It is big and transparent. It looked like a big fruit, a wonderful pear which is still ripening, covered by the last rays of the setting sun. The basket is now attached and the barometers are brought. The siren is also brought. There were also two trumpets, the eatables, the overcoats and raincoats – that the men can take in the flying basket. Captain Jovis is ready and he calls all the passengers.