

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer

Glossary

Encounter- to meet somebody unexpectedly

Meager- very small

Earnings – money received as wages

Resume- to start again

Wriggle- to move forward by twisting and turning

Feebly –in a weak manner

Take off- remove

Earth shaking- great

Slither- to move like a snake

Lurk- to wait someone secretly

SUMMARY

The snake and the mirror’ is a wonderful story written by the famous Malayalam writer Vaikom Mohammed Basheer. It is a story about the lonely life of a doctor.

He had just started medical practice and his earnings were meager. So he could not

live in a comfortably furnished house. The house was not electrified and it was full of rats. But his dream and ambitions were in contrast to this. He was a great admirer of beauty and he believed in making himself handsome. He married a woman who was a thin and slender. He thought of marrying a woman who should have a plenty of money and should have a good medical practice. She should be a fat so that she should not be able to catch him whenever he makes a mistake in his life.

He speaks about the contradiction between his dream about his wife and how she was in reality. His aesthetic sense is really appreciable. He considers himself to be handsome and to look more handsome and he takes earthshaking decisions such as keeping good smile on his face, shaving daily keeping a thin moustache etc.

While he was sitting on the chair after dinner, he heard a sound from roof. He felt that it was a normal sound. After some time he was shocked to see that a cobra slithered on his shoulder and coiled around his arm. He arm grew weak and lifeless. He met death face to face. It went to the mirror and crept in to the table. He ran out and went to his friend's house. He narrated the terrible incident to his friend. He felt that he was a poor, foolish stupid doctor. He smiled feebly at

himself. When he reached at his house from friend, most of his valuable belongings were stolen leaving back his only dirty vest.

PROFILE

Write the short profile of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer using the hints given below

Birth : January 19, 1908, Thalayolaparambu, Vaikom

Occupation : novelist, short story writer

Other activities : humanist, freedom fighter

Famous as :Beypore Sultan

Works :Balyakalasakhi, Shabdangal, Pathummayude Aadu, Mathilukal

Awards :PadmaShri (1982),Kerala State Film for best story(1989),Lalithambika Antharjanam Award (1992),vallathol Award(1993)and Muttathu Varkey Award(1993)

Death: July 5, 1994, Beypore, Kozhikode

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer

Vaikom Muhammad Basheer was born on January 19, 1908 at Thalayalparambu in Vaikom. He was a humanist, freedom fighter, novelist and short story writer. He was famous as Beypore Sultan. Some of his major works are Balykalasakhi, Shabdangal, Pathummayude aadu and Mathilukal. He was honored with Padmasri in 1982. Kerala state Film Award for the best story in 1989, Lalithambika Antharjanam Award in 1992, Vallathol Award in 1993 and Muttathu varkey Award in 1993. He passed away on July 5, 1994 at Beypore in Kozhikode.

NOTICE

The English Club of your school had decided to stage the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' in your school. As the Secretary of the English Club, prepare a notice informing the students about the programme

NOTICE
ABC HIGH SCHOOL
THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

Dear friends,

The English club of our school has decided to enact the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer . The show will be on 26.05.2020 at 10 am in our school audio visual room. It will be inaugurated by the famous screen play writer C. Nadirsha . All are cordially invited.

All are welcome

Malappuram

Secretary

20.5.2020

English Club

CHARACTER SKETCH

Character sketch is an analysis of a character in a text (story/play) on his/her physical and mental features. A character sketch also describes the role played by the character in the development of the plot of a story/a play.

The following points are important while writing a character sketch.

- Title: Title may be the character's name or the name along with a complementary expression.
- Character's personality: How the character is presented in the given story or play.
- Character's physique : Physical features of the character mentioned throughout the story/play must be written.
- Role: significance of the character in the story/play.
- Organization: Logical Sequencing of ideas.
- Expression: Use variety of words and expressions.

THE HOMEOPATH

The Homeopath is a chief character in the story 'The snake and the Mirror' written by Vaikom Mohammed Basheer. It deals with an encounter between a doctor and a snake. The doctor is a young, handsome and eligible bachelor. He was living in a rented building and it was an electrified house. The house was full of rats. As he was an admirer of beauty, he took earth shaking decisions. He should shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome. He would always keep an attractive smile on his face as he was a handsome bachelor doctor. He has a good humor sense too. He is also very humble and simple in nature. He would marry a young doctor who had a plenty of money and a good medical practice. He

felt pity for himself when he knew he didn't have necessary medicines if the snake had bitten him.

DIARY WRITING

Diary entry is an informal and personal kind of writing. It is meant to record certain significant events, personal experience, daily happenings and feelings of one's life.

Points to remember:

Begin the entry with general sentence describing the day or momentary feelings

In the body, you may discuss an event, your feelings towards it.

Conclude with final remark and future course of action.

Diary

The doctor in the story The Snake and the Mirror ran for all his worth after his encounter with the snake. The next day he jotted down his experiences in his diary. Prepare the diary entry

10th August Tuesday 2019

What a horrifying experience it was. I can't wipe our form my memory. It is a strange incident in my life. I can't imagine how I encountered with a snake. It was a terrible feeling to think about it. A full blooded cobra slithered in to my shoulder and coiled around my arm. After some time it unwounded itself from my arm. It crept on to the table and moved towards the mirror. I ran out in a great shock. Somehow I managed to reach my friend's house.

Features of powerful dialogue

- They allow readers to visualize the scene of incident
- They allow readers to connect with the incident at a deeper level
- They dispel mistrust from the minds of the readers
- They help create a climate of belief and good faith.
- They break through negative stereotype ,revealing participants common humanity
- They shift the focus from transaction to relationships, creating community
- They make participants more sympathetic to one another even when they disagree
- They help bridge difference in opinions and clarify value conflicts

CONVERSATION

Prepare a conversation between the doctor and his friend

Friend: What happened?

Doctor: I am scared. Let me sit here first

Friend: Ok. Drink a glass of water. Please take rest

Does any follow you?

Doctor: A snake fell on my shoulder.

Friend: Did it bite you?

Doctor: No, somehow I ran out of my room.

Friend: where is the snake?

Doctor: It went out of my room. It was my luck

Friend: Nothing to worry. Now you are safe

Doctor: Ok. Dear

INFORMAL LETTER

The doctor writes a letter to his friend describing his terrible experience

Rocky cottage

Main Road

Kannur

17th October 2019

My dear friend,

How are you? Hope you are fine. I want to tell you a strange incident that worried me enormously. I reached my room after dinner. Suddenly I heard the noise from the city when I looked up. To my surprise a full blooded cobra was wriggling over the back of my chair. I could not move as I was frightened. The snake slithered from shoulder to arm. It spread its hood and stared at me for some time. Somehow I managed to escape from there and ran to my friend's home. I met death face to face. I collected courage. I don't know how I spent the time there. It was a miraculous escape

Yours lovingly,

Name

sd

PREPARED BY

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HST ENGLISH

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