

VISTAS-SUPPLEMENTARY READER

SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY?

—John Updike

Introduction :

In 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' John Updike presents the world view of a little child. Jo warmly responds to her father's story telling. But she can't excuse Roger Skunk's mother for making poor little Roger smell bad again. Her hero must smell like roses and must not stink at any cost. So, she wants her father to make a little change in the story. She wants him to tell a different story in which the wizard takes a magic wand and hits Roger Skunk's mommy.

Summary :

Jack used to tell stories to his daughter Jo in the evenings and for Saturday naps. Every story was a product of his head. This custom began when she was two. Each new story was a slight variation of the basic tale. Every story had a small creature usually named Roger. It could be Roger Fish, Roger Squirrel or Roger Chipmunk. In every story, Roger went to the wise owl and the owl would send Roger to the wizard.

Today's story was about Roger Skunk. It was a new animal. They must talk about it at the nursery school. Jack had got a new hero. He started the story : "Once upon a time, in the deep dark woods, there was a tiny little creature by the name Roger Skunk. He smelled very bad. He smelled so bad that the other little creatures would not play with him. They would run away from him. Roger Skunk would stand there all alone. Two little round tears would fall from his eyes. Little Jo could already guess what would be the story line next. She asked, "Won't he see the owl"? Jack continued. There lived a big wise owl in the tiptop of a tree. Roger Skunk told him his pathetic tale. The wise owl advised him to go to the wizard.

At last, Roger Skunk came to a little white house after crossing the dark woods and the swamp. A little old man came out. He had a long white beard and a pointed blue hat. Roger Skunk told the wizard how all the little animals ran away from him. He smelled very bad. The wizard asked Roger not to get very close to him. Inside the house, all magic things were jumbled together in a big dusty heap. The wizard demanded seven pennies. Roger had only four. He started crying. The wizard sent him to a magic well where Roger found three pennies. He took them back to the wizard. The wizard was happy and made him smell like roses. All other little animals gathered around him. Now, he smelled so good. They played games and laughed all afternoon.

Roger Skunk's mommy asked him what that 'awful smell' was. Roger replied that he himself smelled like roses. The wizard made him smell like that. She told Roger that they were going right back to "that very awful wizard". But Roger cried that he smelled so bad earlier that all other little animals ran away. The mother said that she didn't care for that. Roger Skunk would smell the way a little Skunk should smell. They went to the wizard and he made him smell very bad again.

Jo didn't like the end of the story. Poor little Roger Skunk was made to smell bad again. She wanted her father to make a little change in the story. She wanted her father Jack to tell her that the wizard took "that magic wand and hit that mommy." She insisted on making that change in the story.

✓ (A) OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1 Mark Each



Stand Alone MCQs

1. What change did Jo want in the story's end?

(A) Skunk to smell of roses

(B) Skunk's mommy to relent

(C) Wizard to hit mommy

(D) Animals to love skunk

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: Because it was due to the mother's action that Roger started smelling bad again

2. How did Mommy skunk behave with the wizard?

(A) She became angry and hit the wizard.

(B) She was pleased and so hugged the wizard.

(C) She was indifferent to the wizard.

(D) She didn't meet the wizard.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: She didn't like Skunk smelling like roses.

3. The smell of roses was _____ for mommy Skunk.

(A) pleasant

(B) unusual

(C) heavenly

(D) awful

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Smell of roses is not normal for Skunks.

4. With which character of the story did Jack associate himself?

(A) An old man

(B) An Owl

(C) A Skunk

(D) A kid

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: The wizard's voice was one of Jack's own favourite effects. So he wanted to be the old wizard.

5. 'Should Wizard hit mommy?' is a _____ within a story.

(A) story

(B) digression

(C) metaphor

(D) moral

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: Should wizard hit mommy is a story within a story where the father usually tells his daughter the same story of a creature named Roger.

6. Jo, a 4 year-old child, is symbolic of _____ in the story.

(A) obstinacy

(B) smartness

(C) innocence

(D) rebelliousness

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: 4 year-old child is innocent.

7. Why did Jo differ in opinion from her father?

(A) Because she was a child.

(B) Because she was unable to see beyond facial expressions.

(C) Because she wanted a happy ending.

(D) All of these

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Because she was only on 4 year-old child and didn't have any mature understanding.

8. Jo disapproved _____.

- (A) Roger's mother having rosy smell
(C) Roger's mother hitting the wizard

- (B) Wizard hitting Roger's mother
(D) Roger's mother hitting Roger

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The wizard had done a good job and Skunk had gained many friends and so it was wrong on mommy Skunk's part to behave selfish and hit the wizard instead of rewarding him.

9. "Daddy."

"What?"

"Roger Skunk. You said Roger Fish."

"Yes. Skunk."

The above dialogue shows Jo to be _____ and her father to be _____.

Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) confused; exhausted
(C) vigilant; hasty

- (B) rude; careless
(D) disrespectful; disinterested

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

10. "Jack didn't like women when they took anything for granted; he liked them apprehensive, hanging on his words."

Choose the option with the correct reference to the textual statement given above. (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) The way Jo was looking out of the window as if she was not interested annoyed Jack.
(B) The way Clare was shifting the furniture downstairs was irksome to Jack.
(C) The way Jack was not able to make Jo sleep on time was making him restless.
(D) The way the skunk's mommy in the story didn't listen to his son, irritated Jack.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.



Extract Based MCQs

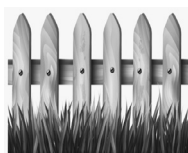
I. Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

"Over the crick and there will be the wizard's house." And that's the way Roger Skunk went and pretty soon he came to a little white house and he rapped on the door." Jack rapped on the window sill and under the covers Jo's tall figure clenched in an infantile thrill. "And then a tiny little old man came out, with a long white beard and a pointed blue hat and said, "Eh? Whatzis? Whatcher want? You smell awful." The wizard's voice was one of Jack's own favourite effects; he did it by scrunching up his face and somehow whining through his eyes, which felt for the interval rheumy. He felt being an old man suited him.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

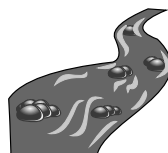
1. Choose the option that tells the location of the wizard's house when Jack says "over the crick".



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- (A) Option 1
(C) Option 3

- (B) Option 2
(D) Option 4

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Select the option that tells you about Jack being a great storyteller.

- Jack knew the right way to the wizard's house as if he had been there.
- Jack was commendable at giving his story realistic details.
- Jack's delivery of speech with sound effects was remarkable.
- Jack looked like a really old man as if he was the wizard.

- (A) 1, 2
(C) 3, 4

- (B) 2, 3
(D) 1, 4

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. Pick the option that suitably decodes the wizard's message when he says "Eh? Whatzis? Watcher want?".

- (A) What is this? What can you want? (B) What's this? What do you want?
(C) Who? What can I do? (D) Who are you? What you want?

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. What was Jo's reaction to Jack's knock on the window?

- (A) She stiffened in anticipation of something thrilling.
(B) She held on to the covers tightly and compressed her lips.
(C) She relaxed, knowing that her father was around to protect her.
(D) She instantly responded in the voice of another character.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

II.

"All right. He said, 'But Mommy, all the other little animals run away,' and she said, 'I don't care. You smelled the way a little skunk should have and I'm going to take you right back to that wizard,' and she took an umbrella and went back with Roger Skunk and hit that wizard right over the head." "No," Jo said, and put her hand out to touch his lips, yet even in her agitation did not quite dare to stop the source of truth. Inspiration came to her. "Then the wizard hit her on the head and did not change that little skunk back."

(CBSE QB, 2021)

1. Roger Skunk's mommy was _____ and _____ when she got to know the truth about her son's aromatic body. Choose the option to fill in the blank correctly.

1. vexed 2. dissatisfied
3. hostile 4. disheartened
(A) 1, 2 (B) 2, 3
(C) 3, 4 (D) 1, 4

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

2. Choose the option that appropriately shows a quote giving away the message Roger's mommy wanted to give Roger.

Quote 1	Quote 2	Quote 3	
Wanting to be someone else is the waste of the person you are.	Growing up means realizing a lot of your friends aren't really your friends.	Confidence is the best makeup you could ever wear.	It takes nothing to join the crowd. It takes everything to be alone.

- (A) Quote 1 (B) Quote 2
(C) Quote 3 (D) Quote 4

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. Pick the option listing the reason Jo wanted to change her father's narrative.

- (A) Jo was getting bored of her father controlling the entire narrative.
(B) Jo thought of the skunk's mother as a villain for not letting him make friends.
(C) Jo was interrupting her father's narrative just to annoy him and have fun.
(D) Jo liked the wizard more and so she took pity on him for getting beaten.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Choose the correct option with respect to the statements given below.

Statement 1: Jo was adding bits to the story created by her own imagination.

Statement 2: Jack was tired and felt relaxed since he didn't have to complete the whole story.

- (A) Statement 1 can be inferred from the extract but Statement 2 cannot be.
(B) Statement 1 cannot be inferred from the extract but Statement 2 can be.
(C) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
(D) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

- III. Jo was starting to fuss with her hands and look out of the window, at the crack of day that showed under the shade. She thought the story was all over. Jack didn't like women when they took anything for granted; he liked them apprehensive, hanging on his words. "Now, Jo, are you listening?" "Yes" "Because this is very interesting. Roger Skunk's mommy said, 'What that awful smell?' "who at?" "And, Roger Skunk said, 'its me, Mommy. I smell the roses'. And she said" 'Who made you smell like that?' And he said, 'The wizard,' and she said, 'Well, of all the nerve. You come with me and we're going right back to that very awful wizard."

(CBSE SQP, 2020–21)

1. Choose the option that best demonstrates the relevant traits of Jo and Jack respectively, based on the extract provided.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (A) Curious and irritable | (B) Patient and irritable |
| (C) Curious and lethargic | (D) Patient and lethargic |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. "Jo was starting to fuss with her hands". This means that Jo was :

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| (A) feeling anxious | (B) getting restless |
| (C) feeling lazy | (D) fighting sleep |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. Jo's "What?" indicated what she was feeling. Pick the option that correctly states these feelings.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. terror | 2. surprise |
| 3. ignorance | 4. displeasure |
| 5. joy | 6. approval |
| (A) 1 and 3 | (B) 2 and 4 |
| (C) 3 and 6 | (D) 4 and 5 |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Mommy says, 'Well, of all the nerve.' This reveals her :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (A) approval, surprise and pleasure | (B) pleasure, hope and approval |
| (C) betrayal, disapproval and hurt | (D) shock, anger and disapproval |

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

- IV. This custom, begun when she was two, was itself now nearly two years old and his head felt empty.

1. Who is 'she' in the above lines?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| (A) Joanne | (B) Jack |
| (C) Joanne's sister | (D) Witch |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. From which lesson have these words been taken?

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| (A) Deep Water | (B) The Enemy |
| (C) Should Wizard Hit Mommy? | (D) The Third Level |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

3. What custom is being referred to here?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| (A) Morning walking | (B) Story telling |
| (C) Self-eating | (D) Doing magic |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

4. Whose head is being referred here?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (A) Owl | (B) Wizard |
| (C) Skunk | (D) Jack |

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

- V. Having a fresh hero momentarily stirred Jack to creative enthusiasm. "All right," he said.

1. Who is 'Jack' here?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (A) Father | (B) Owl |
| (C) Skunk | (D) Wizard |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Who is 'a fresh hero'?

(A) Owl

(C) Tortoise

(B) Skunk

(D) Mouse

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. What was the problem of this 'fresh hero'?

(A) Bad humour

(C) Awful smell

(B) Distorted face

(D) Limping

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. How could Jo know about this creature?

(A) In the class

(C) In the TV

(B) In the mall

(D) In the Zoo

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

VI. "Won't he see the owl?" she asked in a high and faintly roughened voice.

1. Who is 'she' in the above lines?

(A) Owl's wife

(C) Jack's daughter

(B) Skunk's mother

(D) Jo's mother

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Why did 'she' suggest 'he' to see the owl?

(A) To get rid of the smell

(C) To get past the tigers

(B) To get rid of the headache

(D) To reach the Zoo

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. How did Jo know about the owl?

(A) She had already listened a story about an owl.
owls.

(C) The story was predictable

(B) Her mother had told her about

(D) Jo had seen the picture of owl.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. Where did 'he' find the owl?

(A) On the roof.

(C) On top of a big tree.

(B) In an old house.

(D) In the bedroom cupboard.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

VII. "Are magic spells real?" This was a new phase, just this last month, a reality phase. When he told her spiders eat bugs, she turned to her mother and asked, "Do they really?"

1. Who put up the question "Are magic spells real?"

(A) Jack

(C) Jo

(B) Jill

(D) Jimmy

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Why did he/she ask this question?

(A) When she heard the word 'wizard'.

(B) When she heard the word 'magic'.

(C) When she heard the word 'spells'.

(D) When she heard the word 'abracadabra'.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. What answer did 'he' give?

(A) They're real.

(C) They're real in stories.

(B) They're real in mythology.

(D) They're not real.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. What does the word 'phase' mean?

- (A) The face of a person
- (B) Particular time in a sequence of events
- (C) American spelling for 'face'
- (D) Particular sequence of events

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

VIII. "And then a tiny little old man came out, with a long white beard and a pointed blue hat, and said, "Eh? Whatzis? Whatcher want?"

1. Who is the speaker of these words?

- (A) Jo
- (B) Owl
- (C) Jack
- (D) Skunk

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. Who is 'tiny old man' here?

- (A) Owl
- (B) Jack
- (C) Skunk
- (D) Wizard

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

3. Why did tiny old man come out?

- (A) Skunk had knocked at his door.
- (B) Wizard had knocked at his door.
- (C) Jack had knocked at his door.
- (D) Owl had knocked at his door.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. Where did the old man live?

- (A) In a Red House
- (B) In a White house
- (C) In a Black House
- (D) In a Green House

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

IX. So, he took them back to the wizard and was very happy and ran out into the woods and all the other little animals gathered around him because he smelled so good.

1. Who is 'he' in the above lines?

- (A) Owl
- (B) Roger Skunk
- (C) Wizard
- (D) Jack

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

2. What was asked to 'he'?

- (A) To go back
- (B) To pay seven pennies
- (C) To learn the chapter
- (D) None of these

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. What would other animals call 'he' earlier?

- (A) Smelly Skunk
- (B) Fragrant Skunk
- (C) Stinky Skunk
- (D) Fairy Skunk

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

4. Who solved the problem of 'he' and how?

- (A) Wizard
- (B) Owl
- (C) Jack
- (D) Mother Skunk

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

X. Jo sat up, her hands dabbling in the air with genuine fright. "But Daddy, then he said that the other little animals run away!" Her hands skittered off, into the underbrush.

1. Why did Jo start dabbling her hands in the air?

- (A) To show her happiness.
- (B) To show her anger.
- (C) To show her displeasure.
- (D) To show her excitement.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

2. What was Jo apprehensive of?

- (A) Children will again humiliate skunk.
- (B) Children will start playing with skunk.
- (C) Children will like the company of skunk.
- (D) Children will beat skunk.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

3. What does 'skittered' mean?

- (A) Moved excitedly
- (B) Hit hard
- (C) Cleared the way
- (D) Proceeded hurriedly

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

4. What is 'underbrush'?

- (A) Small plants
- (B) Potted plants
- (C) Wild plants
- (D) None of these

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

XI. "Well, we'll see. Now at least have a rest. Stay on the bed. You're a good girl."

1. Who is the author of these words?

- (A) John Updike
- (B) Jack Finney
- (C) Colin Dexter
- (D) Susan Hill

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

2. Who is the speaker of the above words?

- (A) Jo
- (B) Jack
- (C) Wizard
- (D) Owl

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

3. What had the girl asked for?

- (A) To tell the story again with a different ending.
- (B) To tell a new story.
- (C) To ask the wizard to hit Mother skunk.
- (D) Never to tell a story again.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

4. Where did Jack go after telling a story to Jo?

- (A) To sleep
- (B) To help his wife
- (C) To office
- (D) To meet a client

Ans. Option (B) is correct.



(B) SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS



Short Answer Type Questions

(2 Marks Each)

(Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each.)

1. "He was telling her something true, something she must know". Why does the narrator make this statement? (CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. Though Jack was telling his daughter the story of an imaginary character named Roger Skunk, he was actually telling her the humiliations he had to suffer in his own childhood. And that is the reason why the narrator tells us that Jack was telling her something true. Through the story of "Roger Skunk", the narrator Jack wants to emphasize on the fact that mothers are always right and they know what is best for their child. Jack believes in the importance of individuality and the acceptance of what is natural rather than social acceptance by peers. This was what Jack wanted Jo to know and understand.

2. Why do you think both Jo and Jack want a different ending each, for Roger Skunk's story?

(CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. The difference between Jack's and Jo's ending of the story shows the difference in one's perspective according to his/her age. Jack being an adult understands the importance of respecting one's true identity. Through his story, he wanted his daughter to understand the importance of one's own individuality and true self. Jo on the other hand, is a kid and loves to make friends and have fun with them. The fact that Roger skunk's mother stopped him from making friends and having fun was simply wrong in her eyes. This is why Jo was angry at Roger skunk's mother and wanted the wizard to hit her.

3. What is the significance of the "half old tan and half new ivory cage of mouldings, rails and baseboards" appearing at the end of the story?

(CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. Certain threads in the story, which come up like digressions from time to time, hint at the marital discord between Jack and his wife. When Jack went downstairs and watched his wife labour, he saw Clare wearing an old shirt of his on top of her maternity dress, painting the chair. He visualized the woodwork as a cage and he felt caught in an ugly middle position. He felt that both of them were caged together. He must have felt trapped in responsibility and marriage. The use of the image of the "cage" reveals his dissatisfaction with his marriage. The story ends with the most poignant and telling lines—"...he did not want to speak with her, work with her, touch her, anything".

4. Wanting Roger Skunk to continue to smell the way a "little skunk should smell" has great significance. Explain.

(CBSE QB, 2021) 2

Ans. Little Jo had been accustomed to the happy ending of the stories of Roger, where the wizard was helpful to him in fulfilling his wish. At the request of Roger Skunk, the wizard had changed his awful smell to that of the roses. Other small animals liked it and played with Roger Skunk happily. She could not digest the ending of the extended story where Roger Skunk's mother hit the wizard on the head and forced him to change Skunk's smell to the earlier foul one. Jo could not accept Skunk's mother's stubbornness e.g., hitting the well-wisher of her son, Roger Skunk. Jo insisted that her father should tell her the same story again the next day with changed ending. The wizard should hit that unreasonable mommy on the head and leave Roger Skunk emitting the pleasant smell of roses. In the beautiful world of a child's imagination, fairies and wizards are more real than reality itself. She could not digest the harsh realities of life. She did not like the rude mother who hit the benefactor of her own son.

AI 5. How does Jo want the story to end? Why?

[Outside Delhi Set-II, 2020, Delhi Set-I, 2019] 2

OR

How did Jo want the story narrated by her father to end?

[Outside Delhi Set- III, 2019]

OR

Why does Jo want Wizard to hit mommy?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points :

- wanted father to make the wizard hit mommy on her head
- wanted Roger Skunk to have smell of roses intact
- Jo wanted Roger Skunk to be accepted by his friends
- for her, Roger's happiness was of extreme importance

(any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer : Jo wants the wizard to hit mommy on her head with his magic wand for not understanding Roger's feelings. She wishes the smell of roses to be intact because she feels that with that pleasant smell, Skunk will be accepted by his friends happily and play with other animals. Jo wants a happy ending.

6. How can we say that Jack is a dominant male?

[Delhi Set- II, 2019] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- wants women to be hanging on his every word/chauvinist
- hates being contradicted or questioned
- doesn't like women to take anything for granted
- feels trapped when his pregnant wife works

(any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer : Jack is a loving father. He used to tell stories to his daughter, Jo. Now the little Jo has grown a bit older. She has grown very inquisitive and also asks many questions. But Jack, instead of answering his daughter's questions, always tries to keep his end up. In the Roger Skunk story, Jo says that the mommy was not at all justified in hitting the wizard. However, instead of giving any suitable answer to his daughter, he says that mommy should be respected. Thus, we can say that Jack is a dominant male.

7. We can't approve of Jack's attitude towards his wife. Comment.

[Delhi Set- III, 2019] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- didn't like her when she feigned happiness
- wanted to help his wife but didn't, though she was pregnant
- did not want to speak with her, touch her or work with her
- wanted to dominate her.

(Any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2019] 2

Detailed Answer : Jack's attitude towards his wife was not a very healthy one. He did not like the feigned happiness and smile of his wife in a cocktail party. He wanted to help his wife, but he didn't even though she was pregnant. He wanted to dominate her. He didn't want to speak with her, touch her or work with her.

Q. 8. What problem did Roger Skunk face when he went to play with his friends? How did he solve it?

[Delhi Set-III, 2017] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- **What:** friends did not like his smell, hence, avoided him
- **How:** went to the owl and the wizard, got the smell of roses

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Roger Skunk's problem was that he smelled foul. It was because of his stink that nobody mingled with him. Even his friends avoided him and did not play with him. For this reason, Roger used to remain disturbed and even cry. To find a solution to this problem, he went to the wise owl who suggested him to meet the wizard. The wizard helped him by giving him a spell after which he started smelling like roses. The wizard asked him for seven pennies but Roger had only four.

Q. 9. Why does Jo call the Skunk's mommy stupid?

[HOTS] [Comptt., 2015] 2

OR

What did Jo want Roger Skunk's mother to be punished for?

[CBSE SQP, 2014-15]

Ans. Value Points :

- Jo finds mum stupid :
 - mum should not have spanked wizard
 - wants Skunk to get back smell of roses
 - mum to be punished
 - as insensitive, cruel, unfair

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014-15] 2

Detailed Answer: Jo, being a child, considers Skunk's mother to be stupid as she spanked the wizard for giving Skunk the smell of roses. Jo wants Skunk to get back the smell of roses and his mother to be punished as she thinks his mother to be insensitive, cruel and unfair.

10. How was the Skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?

[HOTS] 2

Ans. Value Points : Other stories had a happy ending, Skunk's story did not / Jo (Jack's daughter) had not opposed the ending of any story earlier / she had never challenged Jack's authority / had not so much interrupted the narration earlier / Jack wanted to prove through this story that parents always know what is right / only story in which the animal visited the wizard twice / the story had a twist / the ending of the story remained unresolved.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 2

Detailed Answer : Roger Skunk's story was different from the other stories narrated by Jack because in all the other stories, the family lived happily after meeting the wizard. But in Skunk's case, his mother was not satisfied with the change. Jo, on hearing this story, insisted that her father should change the story and tell that the wizard took a stick and hit the mommy.

Commonly Made Error

- Some students confuse the question as asking about how Jo wanted the story to end.

Answering Tip

- The students must carefully read and understand the question before proceeding with the answer.

11. What was the basic plot of each story told by Jack?**[Delhi Set I, 2017] 2****Ans. Value Points :** — a small creature named Roger

- has a problem
- goes to the owl for solution
- directed to the wizard who solves problem for a fee
- sent to a well to get some pennies to pay the fee
- creature went home happy- family dinner

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : The basic plot of each story told by Jack deals with the idea whether the parents should always decide what their children should do or give the children the basic freedom to make their own choices. Roger was a different animal such as a fish, a squirrel, a chipmunk or a skunk. Also, all stories had a Wizard and a wise owl as its primary characters. Whenever Roger had a problem, it went to the owl who directed the creature to the Wizard. As payment for his services, the Wizard would always demand more money than Roger had to spare.

12. What is mother Skunk's role in the story?**[Outside Delhi Set I, 2017] 2****Ans. Value Points :** make Roger Skunk realise importance of originality/individuality /identity

- Roger Skunk should not be ashamed of his natural attributes
- role of a decisive and protective parent (hits the wizard on the head)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Mother Skunk's role in the story is to convince the reader about the narrator's belief that we should never disobey our parents as they know what is best for us. Mother Skunk told Roger never to forget his distinct identity.

13. Having got rid of his stink, what problem did Roger Skunk face?**[Delhi Set II, 2017] 2****Ans. Value Points :**

- had to face mother's anger at his changed smell
- was taken by the mother back to the wizard to get his old smell back

(Any two)**[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2**

Detailed Answer : Having got rid of his stink, Roger Skunk now had his mother's wrath to face. When she found out that Roger smelt of roses, she scolded him badly. Mommy skunk told Roger to embrace himself as he was born and be happy with it. She dragged Roger Skunk back to the wizard and forced the latter to give Roger his original stink back.

14. Give an example to show that Jo was a sensitive child.**[Foreign Set I, 2017] 2****Ans. Value Points :** — she was upset that Roger Skunk had no friends

- mother had hit wizard.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Jo was a very sensitive child because she was upset that Roger Skunk had no friends. She also expressed her unhappiness when Skunk's mother hit wizard for giving him the smell of roses.

15. How are Jack's views on life different from those of Jo? [HOTS] [Comptt., Delhi Set-III, 2017] 2

Ans. Value Points : Jack's views — mother knew best/the authority of the parent should prevail/ Jo wanted mother be hit by wizard/ the young should have their way

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Jack being a parent thought that the mother knew what was best for Roger Skunk, while Jo thought that Roger Skunk should also have a say in how he wished to smell. Since, he now smelled bad again, he would lose all his friends.

16. What was Roger Skunk's problem? What did he do to solve it?**[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-I, 2017] 2**

Ans. Value Points : problem - foul smell
solution- went to the wizard

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 2

Detailed Answer : Roger Skunk used to emanate foul smell so everyone made fun of him. To solve the problem, he took the wise owl's advice and went to the wizard who made him smell of roses.

AI 17. What story did Jo want to hear the next day and why? What was father's reaction to it?

[CBSE SQP, 2018-19] 2

Ans. Value Points :

- Jo wanted her father to tell the same story but change the ending-wizard would hit the mommy and give back the smell of rose to Roger
- could not bear the thought of Roger with his foul smell and without any friends
- father angry with Jo for interfering in his story- refused to change the ending-wants her to learn to respect parents and their decisions

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-19] 2

Detailed Answer : Jo was not happy with the ending of the story narrated by her father. She wanted her father to tell her the same story the next day, but with a changed ending in which the wizard would hit the mommy and give back the smell to Roger. She wanted the story in this manner because she could not bear the thought of Roger Skunk's friends not playing with him. But her father, Jack, was angry with Jo for interfering in his story. He refused to change the ending. In fact, he wanted her to learn to respect parents and their decisions.

AI 18. On seeing Roger Skunk again with a very bad smell, how did the little animals react first and then later on when he had lost it?

[Delhi Set-III, 2020] 2

Ans. When the Wizard changed Roger's smell to that of roses at his request, the other little animals who earlier hated him gathered around him, because now he smelled so good.



Long Answer Type Questions

(5 Marks Each)

(Answer the following questions in about 125–150 words each.)

1. With respect to the events in the story, 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy', who would you support, Wizard or Mommy? Justify your choice.

[HOTS] [CBSE SQP, 2020–21] 5

Ans. The story 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' could have two endings – one which has been originally told by Jack and the other which Jo wanted the story to end like.

I approve of the mature and realistic one narrated by Jack that the mother skunk hit the wizard on the head and forced him to restore the original smell to the skunk. Every species of animals has its special features. She wanted Roger Skunk to smell the way a little skunk should have. It should not carry the deceptive and borrowed smell of the roses. Roger Skunk is agreed to go with because he loved his mommy more than he loved all the other little animals. She knew what was right.

The mother's point was proved right. When the wizard restored the original foul smell to Roger Skunk, the other little animals got used to the way he was and did not mind it at all. Of course, it took them some time. Jack, did not agree with Joanne's remark that she was a stupid mother. On the other hand, we find her a caring and loving mother. When Roger Skunk was in bed, mommy skunk embraced him and said he smelled like her little baby skunk again and she loved him very much. Thus, Jack's version brings out the mother's love, care and concern for her little baby.

2. Describe Jack's art of storytelling.

[Outside Delhi Set- I, 2019] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- story of a small creature Roger
- has some or the other problem
- goes to wise, old owl for advice
- owl sends him to wizard
- wizard casts a magic spell
- problem gets solved

(Any one)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-19] 5

Detailed Answer : Jack was a good storyteller. He had begun the custom of telling a story to his daughter for the evening naps two years ago. Every day he made a slight alteration in the basic story which usually revolved around a creature named Roger. This creature always fell into some trouble and went to a wise owl for advice. The owl sent him to a wizard who cast a magic spell to solve the problem. To make his stories interesting, he would give sound effects to his stories e.g., when Roger Skunk had knocked at the door of the wizard, Jack rapped on the window sill to create an effect. When Roger Skunk reached the house of wizard, the wizard asked him many questions and Jack gave it one of his favourite effects. He scrunched up his face and spoke the wizard's words like an old man. In the end, when Jo seemed satisfied at Roger getting the smell of roses, he didn't like it. He made a twist in his story and extended the basic story. He hadn't liked the expression on Jo's face which reflected that she thought the story was all over. So, he made a change in the story and narrated it to her.

3. How did Jack end the Roger Skunk story ? How and why did Jo want to change it?

[Outside Delhi Set II, 2016] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- ended story by saying that Mommy Skunk took little Skunk to the wizard and changed the smell back to its original stinky one
- mother knew what was right for Roger Skunk

According to Jo :

- it was a 'stupid mommy'
- couldn't digest the statement that little Skunk's mother hit the wizard on his head and restored his original smell
- mother had no right to deprive Skunk of its happiness
- was happy that Skunk earned a lot of friends by changing smell
- suggested another ending where mother would be hit by the wizard
- wanted mother to be punished

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 5

Detailed Answer : According to Jack's ending of the story, Roger's mother hit the wizard with an umbrella. He, then, acts as she wishes and Roger Skunk starts smelling bad again. Jo wants the ending of the story to be the other way. She wants the wizard to hit on the head of the 'stupid mommy'. She wants the wizard to refuse to make Roger smell bad again.

Children look at this world from a different perspective. They look at people and things quite differently than the way adults do. Their perspective on life reflects simplicity and innocence. Jo has deep sympathy for Roger Skunk. Roger's bad smell kept all the little animals away from him. The little Skunk stood alone and wept. The wizard made Roger smell of roses. He was happy. Other little animals were now attracted towards him. They now played and danced with him.

Jo's main anger is against the "stupid mommy" of Roger Skunk. It was she who forced the wizard to make Roger Skunk smell very bad again. The hero of the story is always a role model for children. The tender-hearted Jo is shocked at the attitude of that 'stupid' mommy. She wants Roger's mommy to be punished. The wizard must hit on her head hard with his magic wand.

4. How does Jo show her independent thinking in the story 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy'?

[Comptt. Delhi / Outside Delhi, 2018] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- she suggests the animal whose story her father was to create, (skunk)
- she keeps interrupting the story with suggestions about the animals, the skunk was going to meet, (owl, wizard etc.)
- asking whether magic spells were real
- she is in a reality phase – asks her mother whether spiders really ate bugs as suggested by her father
- catching her father when he mentions Roger Fish instead of Roger Skunk
- protesting when the mother in the story gets the smell of roses changed to the foul smell of the Skunk
- insists wizard hits the mother

(any 6)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-19] 5

Detailed Answer : Jo is just a little girl of four years but she is very sharp, inquisitive and intelligent. She suggests her father the animal whose story her father is to create. She keeps interrupting the story with suggestions about the animals the Skunk was going to meet such as the owl and wizard. She is not a girl who can easily accept things. She keeps asking questions like whether magic spells are real.

She shows maturity of a young girl. She asks her mother whether spiders really eat bugs as suggested by her father. She is so bright that she catches her father when he mentions Roger Fish instead of Roger Skunk. She is very strong and sensitive and immediately protests if things do not go according to her wish. When Jack ends the story just opposite to her perception, she refuses to accept and expresses her own views and outlook and insists her father to end the story with wizard hitting the mother.

5. How did Jo want the Roger Skunk story to end? Why?

[Delhi Set-I, 2016] 5

Ans. Value Points :

- Jo wanted wizard to hit mommy on head and skunk not to smell bad
- wanted stupid mommy to be punished
- insisted on changed ending next day
- Jo felt mother should not impose her will/her action robbed the son of acceptance of peers
- wanted Roger to be allowed to choose his own life/get rid of the stink
- story with the sad ending was unacceptable
- she was looking at the things from child's perception/friends were more important than family (any three)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

Detailed Answer : The world of children is quite different from that of adults. Their world is a dreamy and magical world. It is a world of fantasy and romance. There is no place for ugliness and stink in their world. Roger skunk is the hero of the story. Jo never wanted her hero to be so ugly and stinky. It offends her fairness and justice. Therefore, Jo disapproves of Jack's ending of the story of Roger Skunk. She wants her father, Jack, to tell the same story in a different way. The wizard must take his magic wand and hit Roger's mommy hard for not understanding Roger's feelings. Little Jo wants 'that stupid mommy' to be punished. Her crime is that she went to the wizard and compelled him to make her son smell bad again. Jo wants him to smell nice so that he can play with other little animals. She doesn't want Roger to feel sad and lonely for no fault of his.

6. The same situation can be viewed through two different perspectives. How does "Should Wizard Hit Mommy?" establish this point through the views of Jack and Jo? [HOTS] 5

Ans. As the child grows into maturity, his perspective and vision of life change gradually. A child views things at a superficial and sensory level but a grown up's vision is realistic, reflective, philosophical and even psychological. Viewed from the study of the story "Should Wizard Hit Mommy?", Jo, a child of four, like most children of her age, prefers to live in dreams and fantasies. She is hostile by nature and would like to wreak vengeance on Skunk's mother and wants the wizard to retaliate.

She is annoyed because her father refuses to accept her suggestion. The father has a mature perspective and sees beyond the surface and explores the philosophical and moralistic aspect of the entire situation. According to her father, the wizard had unwillingly interfered with nature and had, thus, done a great deal of harm and deserved to be punished. According to him, the punishment meted out to the wizard is well-merited and retaliation is out of the question.

Thus, the story makes it clear that the perspective of a child and that of an adult is totally different.

Commonly Made Error

- Some students are not able to understand what is being asked in the question and end up writing summary of the story.

Answering Tip

- The answer must cover the general comments on the difference in perspective of a child and an adult to the same situation and relate it with the perspectives of Jo and Jack respectively.

7. At the end of the storytelling session, why does Jack consider himself 'caught in an ugly middle position'? [Delhi / Outside Delhi, 2018] 5

Ans. Distribution of marks:

Content: 2.5 marks

Expression: 2.5 marks

grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling
coherence and relevance of ideas and style

Ans. Distribution of marks:

Content:

2.5 marks

Expression:

2.5 marks

grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling
coherence and relevance of ideas and style

- Jack possessive about the details of his story
- does not take kindly to Jo's suggested changes
- 'the wizard hitting mommy'
- upset with daughter questioning parental authority
- felt to be in a position similar to that of his wife (in a cage with her)
- yet no sympathy for his wife
- could put neither his daughter to sleep nor help his wife paint the fence

Note- minimum one point for the daughter and one for the wife

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018] 5

Detailed Answer : Jack was 'caught in an ugly middle position' because he was caught between two difficult situations. He was unable to escape the harsh realities of life, rather he tried to habituate himself to the prevailing situation. He had to manage his family with two children, his daughter Jo and his son Bobby. And hence, Jack was entangled between two worlds. The first world belonged to Roger Fish, Roger Squirrel or Roger Chipmunk where he is telling the story of a wise owl and the Wizard with a magic wand.

The world upstairs consists of his children. Jo had raised a question about whether the Wizard should hit the mommy Skunk or not. Jack was unable to satisfy her as he was very cautious about the downside world where his wife Clare was painting. The house was not well kept and the household items were scattered. They were expecting a baby and he was supposed to go and help her as she was working hard to make both the ends meet. In this way, Jack was caught in an ugly middle position between the romantic world and the real world.