

There's a Girl by the Tracks!

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Previous Years' Questions Solved

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Multiple Choice Questions - Solved

1. Who was Baleshwar? Baleshwar was

- (A) a graduate
- (B) a high school dropout
- (C) a postgraduate
- (D) an illiterate

(April 2017)

Answer: (B) a high school dropout

2. The person who helped Baleshwar to take Roma to a hospital was

- (A) traffic police
- (B) railway employee
- (C) her brother, Dinesh
- (D) truck driver.

(June 2018)

Answer: (D) truck driver

3. Baleshwar, the lanky youngster from Mirzapur was a

- (A) call centre executive
- (B) marketing job holder
- (C) high-school drop-out
- (D) physician

(June 2018)

Answer: (C) high-school drop-out

4. Roma Talreja was a

- (A) railway employee
- (B) high school dropout
- (C) call centre executive
- (D) sales executive

(MQP 2020)

Answer: (C) call centre executive

5. 'Take the girl to Airoli,' suggested the cop, 'there's a hospital there.' But Baleshwar disagreed because

- (A) he knew that hospital lacked personnel and equipment
- (B) he knew that Airoli was at least 10 kilometres away
- (C) he was too tired to carry Roma any further
- (D) he felt the hospital may refuse to take accident victim.

(MQP 2020)

Answer: (B) he knew that Airoli was at least 10 kilometres away

6. Doctor Anil Agarwal, seeing the extent of Roma's injuries, admitted her immediately to the ICU without any paperwork. This shows that

- (A) he was scared
- (B) he was Roma's friend
- (C) he cared for life
- (D) he was very influential

(April 2021)

Answer: (C) he cared for life

7. Baleshwar took Roma to the hospital with the help of

- (A) a traffic policeman
- (B) a tempo truck driver
- (C) a motorist
- (D) a railway employee

(April 2021)

Answer: (B) a tempo truck driver

8. Baleshwar shouted, 'Let's go and help her!' But nobody volunteered because
(A) they were afraid of getting involved.
(B) it was dark and getting late.
(C) they were scared to jump off the moving train.
(D) they thought one person was enough to help.

(April 2021)

Answer: (A) they were afraid of getting involved.

2 Mark Questions - Solved

1. Why had Roma fallen by the tracks?

(June 2018)

Answer: Roma Talreja has tried to get on an overcrowded local train. Due to lack of space, she settled in a corner near the door and as the train moved forward, she got pushed, lost her foothold, panicked, couldn't grasp the steel railing above and fell on to the tracks.

2. Why did Baleshwar revisit the spot where Roma had fallen?

(April 2020)

Answer: Roma's brother Dinesh informed Baleshwar that her cell phone and handbag were missing. Baleshwar revisited the spot where Roma had fallen to look for her belongings. He was assured by a railway employee that some of Roma's belongings had been found.

3. What values can we learn from the lesson, "There is a girl by the tracks"?

(September 2020)

Answer: Several values like readiness to help strangers, as Baleshwar and the tempo truck driver helped Roma; having an optimistic outlook and persisting in the face of immediate failure like Baleshwar persisted even when people refused to help him; leaving no stone unturned, as Baleshwar showed when he returned to the incident scene to retrieve Roma's belongings.

3 Marks Questions (Extract) - Solved

1. "There's a closer place I know of,"

(a) Who is the speaker of the above statement?

(b) Why did he choose that place?

(c) What happened after going to that place? (April 2016); (MQP 2017)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra is the speaker of the given statement.

(b) He chose to go to a closer hospital because Roma was bleeding from a head wound and needed urgent medical care. Airoli, suggested by the traffic inspector was ten kilometers away and hence too far.

(c) After reaching the small hospital, Roma Talreja was given first aid. However, due to lack of medical facilities, the duty physician recommended that they move her to a better hospital. She was then taken and admitted to Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital.

2. "Chacha, can I borrow your mobile?"

(a) Who is the speaker?

(b) Who does 'chacha' refer to?

(c) Why did he borrow the mobile? (June 2016)

Answer:

(a) The speaker is Baleshwar Mishra.

(b) The Gujarati speaking tempo truck driver who helped transport Roma Talreja and Baleshwar to the hospital is referred to as 'chacha'.

(c) As the tempo truck lurched forward from the small hospital, Roma gained temporary consciousness. Upon asking, she was able to recall the contact details of her brother Dinesh Talreja. Baleshwar wanted to inform her family of the incident and hence asked to borrow the driver's mobile phone.

3. "Whom can 'I' call?" He asked quickly, fearing that she would black out once more.

(a) Who does 'I' refer to?

(b) What did the listener answer?

(c) What do you mean by 'black out' here? (April 2017)

Answer:

(a) 'I' refers to Baleshwar Mishra.

(b) The listener, Roma Talreja struggles and recalls her brother Dinesh Talreja's phone number. She passes this information to Baleshwar.

(c) Roma had fallen off a local train on to the train tracks and had a bleeding head wound. She was unconscious for the most part of her rescue. She gained consciousness for a brief period and then fell unconscious again. Her falling unconscious is referred to as 'blacking out'.

4. "I'm new to Mumbai, but I've noticed that people here are afraid."

(a) Who was new to Mumbai?

(b) Why did he come to Mumbai?

(c) What made him feel that the people of Mumbai were afraid? (June 2017)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra, a twenty-year-old youth from Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh was new to Mumbai.

(b) Baleshwar was a high school dropout and had come to Mumbai hoping to secure a job. He was living with his two brothers and having found no job, was considering his next options.

(c) When Roma Talreja fell off the local train, several people in opposite train gasped that a girl had fallen on to the tracks. Baleshwar took action to slow his train to help Roma, but nobody else agreed to help him even after Baleshwar asked. Even after Baleshwar carried Roma to the road, no people including motorists were willing to help them. Baleshwar concluded that people were afraid of being inconvenienced by the police and courts.

5. "Please help me take her to a hospital."

(a) Who is making this request?

(b) Why should she be taken to hospital?

(c) Who helped him to take her to hospital?

(April 2018)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra is making this request.

(b) Roma Talreja had fallen off a moving local train and suffered from a bleeding head wound. She was conscious, in need of urgent medical care and hence needed to be taken to the hospital.

(c) Although nobody stopped to help initially, a Gujarati speaking tempo truck driver stopped and helped Baleshwar take Roma to the hospital.

6. "Please help me take her to a hospital." But no one stopped.

(a) Who is the speaker?

(b) Who does 'her' refer to?

(c) Why didn't they stop?

(April 2019)

Answer:

(a) The speaker is Baleshwar Mishra.

(b) 'Her' refers to Roma Talreja, a twenty-one-year-old call centre executive who had fallen from a Mumbai local train onto the tracks.

(c) People who Baleshwar asked for help didn't stop probably because they didn't want to be inconvenienced, and because they might've been afraid of being caught up with the police and courts.

7. "Whom can I call?" he asked quickly.

(a) Who asked this question?

(b) Why did he ask quickly?

(c) What was the reply?

(June 2019)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra asked the question.

(b) Roma Talreja had been unconsciousness after falling from a local train. She had a bleeding head wound. When she regained consciousness for a brief period, Baleshwar quickly asked her the given question before she could black out again.

(c) After struggling for a bit, Roma gave Baleshwar her brother Dinesh Talreja's name and contact details.

8. "Behenji, aap theek hai?" he asked [Sister, are you okay?].

(a) Who is the speaker?

(b) Who is addressed as 'Behenji' here?

(c) Why did the speaker ask this question?

(April 2022)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra is the speaker.

- (b) Roma Talreja, the girl who fell on to the tracks from a local Mumbai train, is referred to as 'Behenji' in the given statement.
- (c) Roma Talreja was laying still after falling off from a moving local Mumbai train. Baleshwar Mishra who had rushed to help her after jumping off his own train asked the given question to gauge the seriousness of the situation.

9. "I think it's astonishing that a stranger would jump off a train and risk his life for me."

(a) Who does 'I' refer to?

(b) Who was a stranger to the speaker?

(c) How did the stranger help the speaker?

(June 2022)

Answer:

(a) 'I' refers to Roma Talreja.

(b) Baleshwar Mishra who rescued her when she fell off a train was a stranger to the speaker.

(c) Roma Talreja had fallen off a moving local Mumbai train and was unconscious with a bleeding head wound. Baleshwar Mishra who was travelling in the opposite direction jumped off his own train at great risk to his own safety. He then carried Roma to the road, got help from a tempo truck driver and rushed her to a nearby hospital for first aid and then to a bigger hospital to be admitted to the ICU. Thus, he helped save Roma's life.

10. "Please help me take her to a hospital."

(a) Who is requesting here?

(b) Who should be taken to hospital?

(c) Why should she be taken to hospital?

(MQP 2021)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra is requesting help in the given statement.

(b) Roma Talreja should be taken to the hospital.

(c) Roma Talreja had fallen off a moving local train and suffered from a bleeding head wound. She was conscious, in need of urgent medical care and hence needed to be taken to the hospital.

11. "Oh, I couldn't thank him."

(a) Who is the speaker?

(b) Who does 'him' refer to?

(c) Why did the speaker want to thank him?

(MQP 2022)

Answer:

(a) The speaker is Baleshwar Mishra.

(b) The middle aged, Gujarati speaking tempo truck driver is referred to as 'him' in the given statement.

(c) Roma Talreja had fallen off a moving local train and was unconscious with a bleeding head wound. Baleshwar carried her to the road and asked the people around for assistance but nobody volunteered to help. The tempo truck driver stopped and helped take Baleshwar and Roma to a nearby hospital. After first aid, when the duty physician recommended that Roma be taken to a hospital with better facilities, the truck driver helped transport them to Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital. On the way, he even allowed Baleshwar Mishra to use his mobile phone.

12. "Please help me to take her to a hospital."

(a) Who does 'me' refer to?

(b) What had happened to her?

(c) What was the result of seeking help?

(April 2023)

Answer:

(a) 'Me' refers to Baleshwar.

(b) Roma Talreja was a call centre executive who had fallen onto the railway tracks and lost consciousness.

(c) Baleshwar carried Roma from the tracks to the roads in the hope of getting help from motorists to take her to the hospital. Unfortunately, although few people slowed down out of curiosity nobody agreed to help Baleshwar. Later, a Gujarati speaking, middle-aged tempo truck driver stopped and helped Baleshwar take Roma to the hospital.

13. "I'm new to Mumbai, but I've noticed that people here are afraid.

(a) Who made this statement?

(b) When did the speaker notice this?

(c) According to the speaker, why were the Mumbai people afraid? (June 2023)

Answer:

(a) Baleshwar Mishra, a twenty-year-old youth from Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh said the given statement.

(b) When Baleshwar Mishra asked his fellow passengers in the local train for help and no one volunteered and when he carried the bleeding and unconscious Roma Talreja to the road and nobody responded to his pleas for help, Baleshwar noticed that the people of Mumbai were afraid.

(c) According to the speaker, Baleshwar Mishra, the people of Mumbai were afraid of helping probably because they were apprehensive of being inconvenienced by the police and courts.

3 Marks Questions - Solved

1. Write briefly the personal details of Roma Talreja and Baleshwar Mishra.

(MQP 2023)

Answer: Roma Talreja was a twenty-one-year-old from Pune, Maharashtra. She was a B.Com graduate who had been working as a call centre executive for two years. She enjoyed several aspects of her job including talking to customers and making new friends at work. She lived with her parents and brother and was engaged to a man named Vijay. Baleshwar Mishra, on the other hand, was a twenty-year-old from Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. He had dropped out of high school and had come to Mumbai in search of a job. He was unable to find a job and was considering what to do next. He lived with his two brothers. On the day of the incident he had spent the day with a friend, had lunch and watched a movie.

2. How was Baleshwar successful in saving the life of Roma Talreja?

(April 2024)

Answer: On the day of December 10, 2010 - a Friday - Roma Talreja lost her foothold on an overcrowded local train and fell onto the tracks in between two stations on the outskirts of Mumbai. Baleshwar Mishra, a youth travelling in a train in the opposite direction, saw the incident, pulled the emergency chain and jumped onto the tracks at great risk to his life. He then carried the unconscious Roma who was bleeding from a head wound a long way to the road where he proceeded to ask strangers around for help. Although a lot of people ignored Baleshwar, a tempo truck driver stopped and helped him take Roma first to a small hospital for first aid and then to Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital. Roma was immediately admitted to the ICU without paperwork and the medical director Dr. Anil Agarwal said that Roma would have bled to death if Baleshwar hadn't helped her. Thus, Baleshwar was successful in saving Roma Talreja's life.

4 Marks Questions - Solved

1. How did Baleshwar manage to take the girl to Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital? (April 2015)

Answer: Baleshwar Mishra was a twenty-year-old youngster from Mirzapur, U.P who had come to Mumbai looking for a job. One day, seeing a girl fall on to the tracks of the Mumbai local railway line, he bravely jumps out of his own moving train to rescue her. Seeing that Roma was injured and unconscious, Baleshwar carried her to the road, pleading to passersby to help him. Although nobody stopped initially, a middle aged, Gujarati speaking, tempo truck driver agreed to help. They laid Roma at the back of the truck and first took her to a nearby small hospital which administered only first aid. Then they moved her back to the truck and rushed her to Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital. She was admitted immediately into the ICU.

2. The Dalai Lama says, "Love and compassion are the true religions to me. But to develop this, we do not need to believe in any religion." How can this be related to the lesson "There's a Girl by the Tracks!?" Justify. (June 2015)

Answer: The story "There's a Girl by the Tracks!" by Deven Kanai is about a girl, Roma, who has an unfortunate accident where she falls off the local train in Mumbai. A youth, Baleshwar, risks his life and leaves no stone unturned to get Roma the help she needs. Despite receiving no help from several onlookers, he persists and a tempo truck driver stops and helps him. He even goes beyond norm to stay at the hospital till Roma's relatives arrive and returns to the scene of accident to search for her lost belongings. Baleshwar did all this for a complete stranger who was not even travelling in the same train as him. Roma's life would've been in danger if no one had helped her. Baleshwar showed the true meaning of love and compassion. He did this out of genuine desire to help someone in need and hence displayed true humanity. This relates to the quote by the Dalai Lama.
