

Lesson 10

THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH

GIST

The Book, That Saved the Earth is a drama set in 25th century. A historian in the museum is telling the story about 20th century; the century of the books. He tells how an old book of rhymes, Mother Goose, saved the earth from Martian invasion. The invaders from Mars consider themselves too intelligent for the earthlings. They think they are superior race than the inhabitants of the earth. Think- Tank is the Commander-in-Chief and ruler of Mars. He is praised and flattered as the most intelligent and powerful creature in the whole universe. Various members from the invaders' team enter a library. They are unable to identify what a book is. They make several wild guesses. Think-Tank gives ridiculous and fantastic interpretations of books. He calls them sandwiches and finally arrives at the conclusion that it must be a communication device for the earthlings. They try to decode what is written in the book. The book is full of nursery rhymes. Their

encoding tells them that earthlings must have been on a mission to attack the Mars. Fearing that, they immediately leave the earth and fly away to the distant Alpha Centauri.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30-40 Words)

1. What difficulty does the crew of the space probe face on Earth?
2. How does Think-Tank explain the books to his probe crew?
3. Why does the space probe crew take vitamins?
4. Think-Tank thinks that Earthlings are after him. What is the reason?

ANSWERS:

1. The space probe lands in a public library. The crew is shocked because the place looked very strange as they had no idea of books. They think the library to be some kind of storage barn.
2. Think-Tank told his crew that the books were sandwiches. He even ordered his crew to eat them. Then, he called them communication devices and later he said that they were meant for watching.
3. Think-Tank wanted the probe crew to find out what was in the books. So, the probe crew takes vitamins to increase their intelligence. They are able to read the books after taking those vitamins.
4. The crew of Think-Tank read about Humpty-Dumpty's fall in the rhyme and showed the picture to Think-Tank. Think-Tank's head resembled that of Humpty-Dumpty. This makes Think-Tank feel that earthlings were planning to invade Mars and capture him.

Long Answer Question [100-150words each.]

1. How did one old book of nursery rhymes save the Earth from a Martian invasion?
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Noodle and Think-Tank

ANSWERS

1. The invaders from Mars considered themselves too intelligent for the earthlings. They thought they were a superior race than the inhabitants of the earth. As ordered by Think-Tank, the Commander-in- Chief and ruler of Mars who was praised and flattered as the most intelligent and powerful creature in the whole universe, various members from the invaders' team entered a library. They were unable to identify what a book is. They made several wild guesses. Think-Tank gave ridiculous and fantastic interpretations of books. He called them sandwiches and finally arrived at the conclusion that it must be a communication device for the earthlings. They tried to decode what was written in the book. The book was full of nursery rhymes.

This book was totally misunderstood by the Martians. Think-Tank misunderstood the Phrases like ‘shell’, ‘silver’ and ‘garden’. They gave him a false idea that earthlings grew silver and weapons. He started thinking that earthlings were very advanced technologically. The crew of Think-Tank read about Humpty-Dumpty’s fall in the rhyme and showed the picture to Think-Tank. Think-Tank’s head resembled that of Humpty-Dumpty. This made Think-Tank feels that earthlings were planning to invade Mars and capture him. So, he ordered them to cancel the invasion and they cancelled their invasion of Earth and went back. Thus one old book of nursery rhymes saved the Earth from a Martian invasion.

2. Noodle and Think-Tank have contrasting characters. Think-Tank likes to be called the ‘Great and the Mighty’. He orders and commands. He is the ruler of Mars, but has no intelligence. He thinks books to be sandwiches. He is wrong about everything. He demands that the crew obey him. He likes to pass on other’s idea as his own. He is a coward who simply boasts about his power.

Noodle, his apprentice, is very clever and wise. He corrects the mistakes of the ruler (Think-Tank) very gently. He never takes credit for his ideas. But he offers them to the ruler very gently. Think-Tank makes them as his own.

Unsolved Questions Short Answer Questions

1. Why did Think-Tank wish to contact the space probe?
2. What is Think-Tank’s interpretation of words like ‘shells’, ‘silver bells’ and ‘garden’ from the nursery rhyme? What is its impact?
3. Mention any two striking qualities of Noodle.
4. Why does Think- Tank declare that the sandwiches are not for ear communication but for eye communication?
5. What happened when Think-Tank was replaced by Noodle?

Long Answer Questions

1. Compare and contrast the characters of Think-Tank and Noodle.
2. How did Mars and Earth become friends?

REFERENCES:

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2. <https://www.cbse.gov.in/cbsenew/question-paper.html>
3. <https://www.educationobserver.com>