

The Tiger King (Vistas Supplementary Reader)

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

SA I (2 marks)

1. What message does the story “The Tiger King” give to the reader?
(2023)
2. What was the hidden agenda behind the Tiger King’s marriage with the princess in the neighbouring state?
(2023)
3. Why did the Maharaja ban tiger hunting in the state?
(Delhi 2014)
4. Why did the Maharaja order the Dewan to double the land tax?
(AI 2014)
5. How did the Maharaja please a high-ranking British official?
(Delhi 2014C)
6. What gave the astrologers the greatest surprise of their life while they were studying the horoscope of the ten-day-old prince?
(AI 2014C)
7. Why did the Maharaja decide to get married?
(Delhi 2014C)
8. How did the Tiger King become the victim of the hundredth tiger?
(AI 2014C)

SA II (3 marks)

9. How did the Tiger King’s marriage bring him closer to his target?
(AI 2019)
10. What made the chief astrologer place his finger on his nose?
(Delhi 2019)
11. What considerations influenced the Tiger King to get married?
(2018)
12. How did the Maharaja deal with a high-ranking British officer who wanted to shoot a tiger?

(Delhi 2017)

13. When he was only ten days old, a prediction was made about the future of the Tiger King. What was ironic about it?

(Delhi 2016)

14. How did the ten-day-old baby (the future Tiger King) react to the prediction about his future made by the astrologers?

(Delhi 2016)

15. What kind of life was enjoyed by crown prince Jung Bahadur till he reached the age of twenty?

(Delhi 2016)

16. Who killed the 100th tiger? Why?

(AI 2015C)

17. The manner of his (the Tiger King's) death is a matter of extraordinary interest. Comment.

(AI 2015)

18. When was the Tiger King in danger of losing his throne?

(AI 2015)

19. How did the Tiger King manage to retain his kingdom?

(Foreign 2015)

20. What made the chief astrologer place his finger on his nose?

(Foreign 2015)

21. Why did the Maharaja ban tiger hunting in his state?

(Delhi 2015C)

LA II (6 marks)

22. What was the prediction of the astrologers regarding the ultimate fate of the Tiger King? How did it come to be true? Describe with reference to the story?

(2020 C)

23. Giving a bribe is an evil practice. How did the Tiger King bribe the British officer to save his kingdom? How do you view this act of his?

(Delhi 2015)

24. Even today so many among us believe in superstitions. An astrologer predicted about 'The Tiger King' that he would be killed by a tiger. He 'killed' one hundred tigers yet was himself 'killed' by a tiger. How did the superstitious belief 'prevail'?

(AI 2015)

CBSE Sample Questions

SA I (2 marks)

1. Comment on any one aspect of the writing style of the author, Kalki in The Tiger King. (2022-2023)

ANSWERS

Previous Years' CBSE Board Questions

1. The story “The Tiger King” portrays the king of Pratibandapuram and his tryst with fate. It gives the message that no one can escape their fate, no matter how powerful they are in life. The king in the story received a prophecy of dying because of a tiger. He then proceeded to put all his efforts into disproving the prophecy, which resulted in destruction of wild life, instead of ruling over his state and serving the people. The story shows us an example of misuse of power and negligence of responsibility.

2. The hidden agenda behind the Tiger King’s marriage to the princess of the neighbouring state was to be able to achieve his goal of killing hundred tigers. In order to achieve his goal, he needed to acquire a large land that had many tigers in it so he could kill them. His kingdom had run out of tigers and he needed thirty more tigers to achieve his goal and prove the astrologer wrong. This was the hidden agenda behind Tiger King’s marriage.

3. There were various reasons because of which the Maharaja banned tiger hunting in the state of Pratibandapuram. He vowed to hunt and kill hundred tigers to prove the astrologer wrong who predicted that a tiger would be the cause of his death. However, the tiger population of his kingdom was quickly diminishing because of the Maharaja’s hunting spree. This is why he did not want anyone else to hunt or kill tigers.

4. After hearing about disappearances of sheep, the Maharaja set out on an expedition to find the hundredth tiger, which was supposed to be the reason for the disappearances. However, the tiger could not be found anywhere. The Tiger King was becoming impatient day by day. In his rage, the Maharaja ordered the Dewan to double the land tax.

5. A high ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram and sought permission to hunt tiger from King. Even though the king declined his request, he did not want to displease the officer. So, in order to please the high ranking British officer, he sent fifty diamond rings to his wife which cost the Maharaja three lakh rupees.

6. The fact that the ten-days-old infant prince spoke clearly and coherently and that he raised intelligent questions about life and death, gave the astrologers the greatest surprise of their life while they were studying the horoscope of the infant crown prince.

7. So far, the Maharaja had succeeded in killing only seventy tigers when they became extinct in Pratibandapuram. In order to fulfil his vow of killing one hundred tigers, the Maharaja decided to get married to a girl from a royal family of a kingdom with a large tiger population.

8. The Tiger King gifted his son a wooden toy tiger. The toy was made by an unskilled carpenter because of which its surface was rough; tiny slivers of wood stood up like quills all over it. A splinter from the wooden tiger pierced his hand, caused suppurating sore, resulting into his death. This is how the Tiger King became the victim of the hundredth tiger.

9. The Maharaja had exhausted the tiger population in Pratibandhapuram but he still had thirty more to kill, so he asked his dewan to find out the tiger populations in different native states. He decided to marry in a royal family with a large tiger population. The Maharaja decided to do this so that he could be allowed to hunt tigers from the state of his father-in-law. The dewan found out the right girl. The Maharaja killed five or six tigers each time he visited his father-in-law.

10. The chief astrologer placed his finger on his nose because he was filled with surprise and wonder on hearing a small baby, just ten days old, speak.

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12. When the high ranking British officer expressed his desire to hunt tigers in Pratibandapuram, the Maharaja denied him permission. He said to the British officer that the latter could hunt anything, even mosquitoes, but not tigers. Later, when the Maharaja realised that refusing the high ranking British officer could jeopardise his kingdom, he sent fifty samples of diamond rings to the British officer's wife to choose from. She kept them all; it cost the Maharaja three lakhs rupees.

13. The chief astrologer predicted that the Tiger King would die one day. The irony was that, hearing this, the ten days old infant Tiger King, then a crown prince, spoke like a wise man and said that everyone who is born had to die one day.

14. After listening to the prediction about his death, the ten-days old crown prince responded by saying that death is inevitable for anybody who is born. It does not require prediction. He wished to know about the manner of death as it is more important than the news of his death itself. When he learnt that the cause of his death would be tigers, he said with a growl: "Let tigers beware!"

15. Crown prince Jung Bahadur drank the milk of an English cow. He was brought up by an English nanny and tutored in English by an Englishman, saw nothing but English movies. Until he reached his twenties, the crown prince Jung Bahadur enjoyed everything which other Indian crown princes during British rule were enjoying.

16. The hundredth tiger was killed by one of the hunters accompanying the Tiger King. The Maharaja missed his mark, but the loud bang of the gunshot made the old and weak tiger faint. If the king had found out about this, the hunters would have lost their job.

17. The occasion was the Tiger King's son's third birthday; he had not been paying much attention to the crown prince because of his obsession of killing hundred tigers. Since, it was his son's birthday, he wanted to give something special to the crown prince. He went to the shopping centre in Pratibandapuram and searched every shop, but could not find anything suitable. He then saw a wooden toy tiger and thought it was perfect for his son. The toy had been carved by an unskilled carpenter. The surface was rough because slivers of wood were poking out, of the entire toy. One of the quills pierced the Maharaja's hand. Although the king pulled it out the wound became infected. The infection spread all over the arm. As the situation worsened, three famous surgeons were called from Madras to treat the king. All three surgeons agreed that the king needed to be operated on immediately. After the surgery, the three surgeons announced that the operation was successful but king had passed away. Ultimately, the Tiger King met his end by the hundredth tiger, ironically not by a real tiger but by a wooden one whose splinter injured him proving deadly.

18. A high-ranking British officer, who was fond of hunting tigers, visited Pratibandapuram. The Tiger King refused to allow the British officer to hunt tigers saying it was banned in his kingdom. He did not even permit the officer to get himself photographed with the tiger killed by the king. This annoyed the high-ranking British officer because directly or indirectly, the king was preventing an important man from fulfilling his desire.

Anticipating unfavourable consequences of denying a British officer and to avert the danger of losing his kingdom, the Tiger King sent a gift of fifty expensive diamond rings to the British officer's wife. Although he thought that the duraisani would only select a couple of rings, he did not mind that she kept them all. In fact,

he was happy to know that he was able to retain his kingdom even though he had to pay three lakh rupees to the British jewellers for the diamond rings.

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21. There were various reasons because of which the Maharaja banned tiger hunting in the state of Pratibandapuram. He vowed to hunt and kill hundred tigers to prove the astrologer wrong who predicted that a tiger would be the cause of his death. However, the tiger population of his kingdom was quickly diminishing because of the Maharaja's hunting spree. This is why he did not want anyone else to hunt or kill tigers.

22. The astrologer predicted that the King will be killed by a tiger. Obsessed with the prediction, the king killed a tiger when he came of age and sent it to the astrologer. The astrologer then clarified that killing one tiger wouldn't make him any safer and that he should be wary of the hundredth tiger. This led to the King going on a killing spree of tigers throughout his adult life. After killing the 99th tiger, the king asked his dewan to arrange for the 100th tiger. The king shot the tiger and felt relieved that he had won against his fate. But the tiger merely fainted from the shot and didn't die. Later on, the king bought a wooden tiger for his son as a birthday gift and got his hands pierced by a tiny sliver on the wooden tiger. He died from the infection of the wound caused by the tiny sliver. Somehow making the prediction come true because the 100th tiger never died and the wooden tiger became the 100th tiger which took his life.

23. The Tiger King dispatched a telegram to a famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta to send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs. Some fifty rings arrived and the king sent all of it to the British officer's wife. The king and his minister expected that the duraisani would choose one or two rings and send the rest back. However, it turned out that the duraisani kept

the entire lot and replied with a thank you note for the gifts. In two days, a bill of three lakh rupees was sent by the British jewellers, to the Maharaja which he was happy to pay. This is how the Maharaja had managed to retain his kingdom. This act of the king sheds light on the deplorable practice of bribery that perpetuates the vicious cycle of corruption, especially considering the fact that the king had personal interests to protect rather than the welfare of his kingdom.

24. From the moment the Tiger King heard the prediction that a tiger would be the cause of his death, he made it the aim of his life not to lose to the tigers. The Tiger King vowed to kill hundred tigers and not rest until his vow was completed. While the Maharaja believed that he was fighting to change his destiny, it was the other way round. One may find it superstitious, but it was his destiny, which pushed him to act the way he did and eventually die because of a tiger.

The Tiger King took lives of the innocent tigers, one after another, until it became an obsession of his. He was selfish, self-centred and to quite an extent, hot-headed, which influenced each of his actions. He banned tiger hunts in Pratibandapuram for others and threatened to confiscate wealth and property of anybody who dared to hurt the tigers. He gave up his royal duties only to fulfil his vow, without once thinking about the effects it would have on his kingdom. He bribed the high-ranking British officer, whom he had denied permission to hunt tigers in Pratibandapuram, so that he, the Tiger King, did not lose his kingdom. The Maharaja even married into a royal family only on one condition, the forests of that kingdom had to have tigers.

After killing ninety-nine tigers, the Tiger King's obsession grew. On his last hunting expedition, when the hundredth tiger was nowhere to be seen, the Tiger King became furious and asked Dewan to double the land tax of the village where he had gone to hunt. The Dewan feared that the king's decision would prove to be catastrophic, if the hundredth tiger was not found and killed quickly; the dewan's job was in jeopardy too.

This chain of events paved way for the death of the Tiger King. The Dewan arranged for a senile tiger to be killed by the Maharaja. However, the King's bullet did not kill the beast; the old tiger merely fainted by the sound of the gun shot. It was one of the king's hunters who finally killed the tiger, leaving the king content with the thought of killing hundred tigers. Therefore, the king's death due to the infection caused by the splinter from the wooden toy tiger, was a death caused by his own action, proving that the superstitious belief prevailed.

CBSE Sample Questions

1. In the story 'The Tiger King' by Kalki, dramatic irony is used as a literary device whereby the words and actions have different meanings for both the characters and its readers.

The author uses this literary device effectively throughout the story.

For example, when Tiger King hunts the first tiger and displays it to the astrologer and he remarks "be very careful with the hundredth tiger".

This is an example of dramatic irony.