



# THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH

In a funny play set in the 20th century, imaginary characters with **Martians on Earth:** strange names like Chief Think Tank and Sergeant Oop go on a mission to Earth to learn about humans, or as they call them, "earthlings."

## **Library Confusion:**

The Martians land in a library filled with books. Chief Think Tank, who thinks he's the smartest because of his big head, mistakes the books for sandwiches. He believes humans keep their food in these strange places.

## **Pills and Misunderstandings:**

Trying to figure out the purpose of the books, Noodle suggests taking vitamin pills to make them smarter. Under the influence of these pills, they attempt to read a rhyme book called Mother Goose. However, their literal understanding of the rhymes leads to confusion.

## **Escape Plan:**

As they interpret a rhyme about Humpty Dumpty, Think Tank believes Earthlings have identified him and might harm him. In a panic, the Martians decide to postpone their invasion plans. A dusty book of rhymes unintentionally prevents an invasion from happening.

## **Lesson Learned:**

The play teaches us a lesson: having only a little knowledge can be risky. The Martians' misunderstanding of books shows that we need to be careful and understand things properly before making conclusions. It's a funny reminder that learning should be thorough and thoughtful.

## Extract Based Questions:

1. Iota: I can't figure it out, Captain. (holding up a book) I've counted two thousand of these peculiar items. This place must be some sort of storage barn.

A) What could Iota not figure out?

Ans. Iota could not figure out what the books were because he had never seen a book before.

B) Where was Iota?

Ans. Iota was at Centerville Public Library on Earth.

C) Find the antonym of the word 'ordinary' in the extract.

Ans. The antonym of ordinary is peculiar.

D) What part of speech is 'peculiar' as used in the extract?

Ans. It is an adjective.

2. NOODLE: Where shall we go, sir? THINK-TANK: A hundred million miles away from Mars. Order the invasion fleet to evacuate the entire planet of Mars. We are heading for Alpha Centauri, a hundred million miles away. (Omega, Iota, and Oop run off right as Noodle helps Think-Tank off left and the curtain closes. Spotlight shines on Historian down right.) Historian: (chuckling) And that's how one dusty old book of nursery rhymes saved the world from a Martian invasion. As you all know, in the twenty-fifth century, five hundred years after all this happened, we Earthlings resumed contact with Mars, and we even became very friendly with the Martians. By that time, Great and Mighty Think-Tank had been replaced by a very clever Martian - the wise and wonderful Noodle! Oh, yes, we taught the Martians the difference between sandwiches and books. We taught them how to read, too, and we established a model library in their capital city of Marsopolis. But as you might expect, there is still one book that the Martians can never bring themselves to read. You've guessed it - Mother Goose! (She bows and exits right.)

A) What was the name of the book?

Ans. 'Mother Goose' was the name of the book.

B) Why did the Historian chuckle?

Ans. The historian chuckled at the idea that the misinterpretation of a book saved the Earth.

C) Which word in the extract is a synonym of 'Conquer'?

Ans. 'Invasion' from the extract is the synonym of 'conquer'.

D) What part of speech is 'And' as used in the extract?

Ans. 'And' is a conjunction

## Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. How did a book change Think-Tank's opinion about the Earthlings? [CBSE 2014]**

**Answer:** This Martians misunderstood a book of nursery rhymes, believing it contained secret information about Earthlings' advanced technology. Words like 'shell,' 'silver,' and 'garden' led Think-Tank to assume that Earthlings grew silver and possessed powerful weapons. Fearing an invasion from Earth, he canceled his own invasion plan and retreated.

**2. What was Noodle's version to describe the so-called 'sandwich'?**

**Answer:** Noodle cautiously informed Think-Tank that he had limited information about the 'sandwiches.' He explained that, based on surveyor films, Earthlings did not eat them. Instead, they seemed to use them as communication devices, which further confused the Martians.

**3. What saved the Earth? How?**

**Answer:** A dusty old book of nursery rhymes saved Earth from a Martian invasion. The Martians failed to interpret the rhymes correctly and believed that Earthlings possessed superior technology and were planning an attack on Mars. Out of fear, they abandoned their mission and even evacuated Mars, fleeing to a distant planet.

**4. How did the book change Think-Tank's opinion about the Earthlings?**

**Answer:** Think-Tank initially believed that Martians were far superior to Earthlings. However, after attempting to decode an old nursery rhyme book, he became convinced that Earthlings had advanced technology and were preparing to invade Mars. This misconception led him to cancel the invasion and evacuate Mars.

**5. Noodle hails Think-Tank as the most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe. Do you agree? Write your opinion of Think-Tank citing instances from the given text.**

**Answer :** Noodle a trainee under Think-Tank, bows before him and praises him as the most powerful and intelligent creature in the universe. However, Think-Tank is not truly intelligent. He completely misinterprets the nursery rhymes. He assumes that words like 'silver,' 'shells,' and 'garden' mean that Earthlings grow metals on farms. He even mistakes books for sandwiches and orders his crew to eat them. When he hears the nursery rhyme about Humpty Dumpty's fall, he panics and decides to flee Mars. This shows that Think-Tank is nothing more than a boastful, pompous fool.

**6. Why was the twentieth century called the 'Era of the Book'?**

**Answer:** The twentieth century was often referred to as the 'Era of the Book' because books played a significant role in people's lives. They contained information on everything, from anteaters to Zulus. Books educated people, provided guidance on various topics, and even served as decorative pieces. They were a primary source of knowledge and learning.

**7. Where did Captain Omega reach with her team?**

**Answer:** Captain Omega and her team landed on Earth and found themselves in the Centerville Public Library. Surrounded by thousands of books, they mistook the library for a storage barn, as they had never seen books before.

**8. Compare and contrast the characters of Noodle and Think-Tank. [CBSE 2012]**

**Answer:** Noodle and Think-Tank have contrasting personalities. Think-Tank enjoys being called 'Great and Mighty.' He is a self-absorbed ruler who gives orders but lacks intelligence. He misinterprets everything, believing books are sandwiches and assuming that Earthlings are growing metals. He demands obedience from his crew and takes credit for others' ideas. In contrast, Noodle is intelligent, logical, and humble. He carefully presents ideas to Think-Tank, allowing him to believe they are his own. Unlike Think-Tank, Noodle is wise and thoughtful, making him a true leader in the end.

**9. The play, 'The Book That Saved the Earth' conveys the message that misunderstanding of cultural differences between various races can cause confusion and conflict. Based on your reading of the play, write how such confusion and conflicts can be checked so that peace and harmony is maintained. [CBSE 2015]**

**Answer:** The confusion in Think-Tank's mind occurred due to his literal interpretation of the nursery rhymes in Mother Goose. To prevent such conflicts and maintain peace and harmony, cultural differences should be addressed by initially sending wise and mature individuals to establish contact before making any decisions, especially regarding war. Think-Tank had sent a probe to Earth, but the crew members were not intelligent or mature enough to understand Earth's culture. Their misinterpretation of the nursery rhymes led to misunderstanding and panic. This highlights the importance of proper communication and cultural understanding to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

**10. Rushing to a conclusion without going into details may lead to chaos and failure. Elaborate this concerning the Martian invasion in the chapter 'The Book That Saved the Earth'.**

**Answer :** The Martians were extremely proud of themselves. Their ruler, the "Great and Mighty" Think-Tank, was full of self-praise and arrogance. He had a quick temper and wanted to attack Earth in a hurry. However, the Martians misinterpreted the messages in a book of nursery rhymes, assuming that Earthlings were technologically advanced and planning an invasion of Mars. This misunderstanding led them to flee in panic. If they had analyzed the situation carefully and made informed decisions, the outcome could have been different. This shows that rash decisions often lead to failure, while success comes through careful planning, knowledge, and perseverance.