

Key points:

- i. Iswaran the storyteller is written by R.K. Laxman.
- ii. The story is based on the theme of self doubt, fear and control. It is also about the art of storytelling.
- iii. The story was narrated to Ganesh by a young man named Mahendra.
- iv. He was a junior supervisor in a firm.
- v. As he was a bachelor he always had his cook Iswaran with him.
- vi. The cook was very attached to Mahendra and followed him everywhere.
- vii. He was so good at telling stories that they appeared to be real.
- viii. His stories were a source of entertainment for Mahendra.
- ix. Once Iswaran told Mahendra about the spirit who carried an unborn baby in her arms.
- x. This terrified him so much and he decided to resign from his job and leave the haunted place the very next day.
- xi. The story highlights the fact that believing in one's stories without verifying facts can sometimes go against one's expectations.

Very Short Answer Questions

Q1. Who is the writer of the story Iswaran the Storyteller?

Ans- R.K Laxman is the writer of the story Iswaran the storyteller.

Q2. Who was the narrator of the story of Iswaran

Ans- Mahendra was the narrator of the story of Iswaran.

Q3. What was the profession of Mahendra?

Ans- Mahendra was a junior supervisor of a firm.

Q4. What was the asset Mahendra had with him.?

Ans- Mahendra had his cook Iswaran with him.

Q5. Which book Iswaran used to read after his

lunch?

Ans- Iswaran used to read some popular Tamil thrillers after his lunch.

Q6. Who escaped from the timber yard?

Ans- A tuskar (elephant) escaped from the timber yard.

Q7. Where did the elephant finally enter?

Ans- The elephant finally entered the school ground.

Q8. In which class was Iswaran studying when the elephant entered the school?

Ans- Iswaran was studying in the junior class at the time when the elephant entered the school ground.

Q9. Where did Iswaran hit the elephant?

Ans- Iswaran hit the elephant in the third toe nail.

Q10. Who was summoned (called) to revive the elephant?

Ans- A veterinary doctor was summoned (called) to revive the elephant.

Q11. Who finally took the elephant to the Jungle?

Ans- Two days later it was led away by its mahout to the Jungle.

Q12. What does the spirit hold in its arm?

Ans- The spirit holds a foetus in its arm?

Q13. What seemed like matchsticks for the elephant?

Ans- The fences seemed like matchsticks for the elephant.

Q14. Who made the elephant frightened?

Ans- Ishwarn made the elephant frightened.

Q15. Why did Iswaran leave the story unfinished?

Ans- Iswaran left the story unfinished as he had to go to warm the dinner.

Q16. How did Iswaran manage to bring down the elephant?

Ans- Iswaran used some Japanese art- karate or jujitsu to bring down the elephant.

Q17. According to Iswaran what was the factory site before?

Ans- According to Iswaran the factory site was a burial ground before.

Short Answer Questions

Q1. In what way is Iswaran an asset to Mahendra?

Ans- Iswaran was the cook of Mahendra. He would follow him uncomplainingly wherever he was posted. He would cook for him, wash his clothes, clean his tent and entertain him by telling interesting stories.

Q2. Why did Mahendra enjoy the story told by Iswaran whether it was credible or not?

Ans- Mahendra enjoyed the story told by Iswaran whether it was credible or not because of his unique story telling method.

Q3. Why Iswaran took the permission to prepare a special dinner for Mahendra?

Ans- Iswaran took the permission for preparing special dinner as it was an auspicious day and according to tradition special food should be prepared to feed the spirit of their ancestors.

Q4. Describe the woman ghost seen by Iswaran.

Ans- The woman ghost was horrible looking and appeared on a full moon night. She was very ugly and had matted hair with wrinkled face. She was seen holding an unborn baby in her arm.

Q5. Why did Mahendra decide to resign from the job?

Ans- Mahendra decided to resign from the job as he became horrified with the scary experience of ghosts.

Q6. What was the profession of Mahendra the narrator of the story?

Ans- Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a company. His job was to keep an eye on the activities at the bridge construction sites, dams, factories, chemical plants and so on by moving to the place.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. What did Iswaran do after Mahendra left for office?

Ans- When Mahendra left for office Iswaran would tidy up the shed, wash the clothes and have a leisurely bath, pouring several buckets of water over his head muttering a prayer all the while. It would be lunch time by then. After lunch he would read for a while before going to sleep. He used to read some

popular Tamil thrillers. The stories that he narrated were greatly influenced by these novels.

Q2. How does Iswaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway? What effect does he want to create in his listeners?

Ans - Iswaran was greatly influenced by the Tamil authors. He was in the habit of creating suspense. He had the quality of narrating even the smallest incident in an impressive way. He presented the incident related to the uprooted tree on the highway in a dramatic way. He was alone and the road was deserted. He saw something that looked like an enormous bushy beast lying sprawled across the road. But as soon as he came closer, he found nothing but a fallen tree with its dry branches spread out. His main purpose was to create suspense and surprise.

Q3. What did the tusker do when it escaped from the timber yard?

Ans- When the Tusker escaped from the timber yard he reached the outskirts of Iswaran's town. He broke down fences like they were mere matchsticks. On the main road, he smashed all the stalls selling fruits, mudpots and clothes, sending people in a state of panic. The Tusker then entered a school ground. The elephant pulled the football goal post, tore the volleyball net, kicked and flattened the water drum. Children and teachers panicked and took shelter in the classrooms and the terrace of the school.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Who has written the story 'Iswaran the Storyteller'?

- a. Mulk Raj Anand b. Ruskin Bond
- c. R.K. Laxman d. Oscar Wilde

2. Who is the narrator of the story 'Iswaran the Storyteller'?

- a. Ganesh b. Mahendra
- c. Iswaran d. ghost

3. Mahendra was a junior..... in a firm?

- a. clerk b. manager
- c. supervisor d. officer

4. Whom does Mahendra narrate the story of Iswaran?

- a. Ganesh b. Mahendra
- c. Iswaran d. ghost

5. Mahendra was a.....

- a. married b. bachelor

- c. cook d. ghost
6. **Iswaran was a.....**
 a. teacher b. supervisor
 c. cook d. ghost
7. **What did Iswaran do for Mahendra?**
 a. cooked b. washed clothes
 c. cleaned room d. all of these
8. **Who was very attached to Mahendra?**
 a. Iswaran b. Ganesh
 c. teacher d. ghost
9. **Who could tell endless stories and anecdotes on varied subjects?**
 a. Ganesh b. Mahendra
 c. Iswaran d. ghost
10. **Who used to take leisurely baths?**
 a. Ganesh b. Mahendra
 c. Iswaran d. ghost
11. **What type of books Iswaran would read after lunch?**
 a. detective b. Tamil thriller
 c. moral d. religious
12. **Iswaran descriptions were greatly influenced by authors.**
 a. English b. American
 c. Tamill d. Hindi
13. **What did Iswaran find on a deserted road?**
 a. bushy beast b. fallen tree
 c. elephant d. ghost
14. **Iswaran belongs to a place which is famous for.....**
 a. juicy fruits b. timber
 c. vegetables d. ghosts
15. **Which animal escaped from a timber yard?**
 a. lion b. tiger
 c. bear d. tusker(elephant)
16. **Which art helped Iswaran to bring down the elephants?**
 a. yoga b. boxing
 c. ju-jitsu d. wrestling
17. **Where did the school children hide to see the mad elephants?**
 a. on trees
 b. in their classrooms
 c. in the headmaster chamber
 d. in the staff room
18. **What happened to the mad elephants when Iswaran hit on its third toenails?**
 a. collapsed
 b. ran away
 c. caught Iswaran in his trunk
 d. made friendship with Iswaran
19. **Why did the people run helter-skelter in panic?**
 a. to see a giant b. to see a tiger
 c. to see an elephant d. to see a bear
20. **What was the special feature of Iswaran stories?**
 a. light humour
 b. tragic ending
 c. full of terror
 d. suspense and surprise ending
21. **Iswaran had an amazing capacity. What was it?**
 a. cutting big trees
 b. catching snakes
 c. cooking fishes
 d. producing vegetables and cooking ingredients
22. **Tusker escaped from a**
 a. circus b. zoo
 c. cage d. timber yard
23. **What would Iswaran do after Mahendra had left for work?**
 a. tidy up the shed
 b. wash the clothes
 c. have a leisurely bath
 d. all of these
24. **When would Mahendra leave for his work?**
 a. early in the morning b. after lunch
 c. after breakfast d. after sunset
25. **What did Mahendra see from his window?**
 a. mouse
 b. cat
 c. lizard
 d. dark cloudy form holding a bundle
26. **Mahendra listened to Iswaran's tales.....**
 a. inattentively b. uncritically

- c. carelessly d. while eating
27. **Why was a veterinary doctor summoned (called)?**
 a. to treat Iswaran
 b. to treat the elephant
 c. to treat Mahendra
 d. to take the elephant away
28. **Where did the elephant enter?**
 a. class room
 b. school ground
 c. staff room
 d. headmaster chamber
29. **What did Iswaran do to tackle the wild elephant?**
 a. hit on his trunk
 b. hit on his third toenail
 c. hit on his head
 d. hit on his stomach
30. **In which class was Iswaran studying when the elephant entered the school ground?**
 a. junior b. senior
 c. 10th d. 12th
31. **How does Iswaran describe a fallen tree?**
 a. a huge mountain
 b. a huge building
 c. a small thing
 d. an enormous bushy beast
32. **How did Iswaran entertain Mahendra?**
 a. telling him jokes
 b. singing song
 c. dancing
 d. telling him stories like television
33. **What made Mahendra wake up on a full moon night?**
 a. moan
 b. nightmare
 c. crying of Iswaran
 d. barking dogs
34. **What influenced Iswaran style of narration?**
 a. his mother b. his grandmother
 c. Tamil thrillers d. his father
35. **What did Iswaran often see at night at his workplace?**
 a. elephant b. snakes
- c. birds d. ghosts
36. **Why did Mahendra want to shift from his workplace?**
 a. because of mad elephants
 b. he did not like the place
 c. because of the fear of ghosts
 d. because of hot weather
37. **Why does Iswaran use dramatic suspense and surprise in story narration?**
 a. to befool others
 b. to catch the attention of the listeners
 c. to boast
 d. to fake
38. **What was Iswaran fond of reading?**
 a. comics
 b. popular Tamil thriller
 c. moral stories
 d. fiction
39. **Who finally led away the mad elephant to the jungle?**
 a. Iswaran b. Mahendra
 c. mahout d. ghost
40. **How was the mad elephant breaking the walls?**
 a. like sticks
 b. like matchsticks
 c. like toys
 d. like branches of tree
41. **How did the elephant enter the school ground?**
 a. by scaring the children
 b. by breaking the brick wall
 c. by breaking the fences
 d. by uprooting trees
42. **Who managed to bring down the beast in the school ground?**
 a. Iswaran
 b. Mahendra
 c. Mahout
 d. Headmaster of the school
43. **Why did the boys run into the classroom and shut the doors?**
 a. they saw a mad elephant
 b. they saw a lion
 c. they saw the headmaster
 d. they saw their teachers

44. Who was studying in the junior class when the elephant entered the school ground?
a. Mahendra b. R.K. Laxman
c. Iswaran d. Ganesh
45. "The beast grunted and wandered about pulling out the football goal post".Who is the beast here?
a. Iswaran b. Mahendra
c. elephant d. bear
46. Who often saw ghosts in the story 'Iswaran the storyteller'?
a. Mahendra b. Ganesh
c. Mahout d. Iswaran
47. "Even now I come across a number of skulls and bones"Who said this?
a. Iswaran b. Ganesh
c. Mahout d. Mahendra
48. "It is an ugly creature with matted hair and a shriveled face".Who is an ugly creature?
a. a female elephant b. a female ghost
c. a female monkey d. a female cook
49. What did the female ghost hold in its arms?
a. a doll b. a torch
c. a magic stick d. a foetus
50. Who frequently appeared in fullmoon light holding a foetus its arms?
a. a female ghost b. a female elephant
a. mouse d. a cat

Answer Key

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| <p>1.c. R.K.Laxman
2.b. Mahendra
3.c. supervisor
4.a. Ganesh
5.b. bachelor
6.c. cook
7.d. all of these
8.a. Iswaran
9.c. Iswaran
10.c. Iswaran
11.b. Tamil thriller
12.c. Tamill
13.b. fallen tree
14.b. timber
15.d. tusker(elephant)
16.c. ju-jitsu
17.b. in their classrooms
18.a. collapsed
19.c. to see an elephant
20.d. suspense and surprise ending
21.d. producing vegetables and cooking ingredients
22.d. timber yard
23.d. all of these
24.c. after breakfast
25.d. dark cloudy form holding a bundle</p> | <p>26. b. uncritically
27.b. to treat the elephant
28.b. school ground
29.b. hit on his third toenail
30.a. junior
31.d. an enormous bushy beast
32.d. telling him stories like television
33.a. moan
34.c. Tamil thrillers
35.d. ghosts
36.c. because of the fear of ghosts
37.b. to catch the attention of the listeners
38.b. popular Tamil thriller
39.c. mahout
40.b. like matchsticks
41.b. by breaking the brick wall
42.a. Iswaran
43.a. they saw a mad elephant
44.c. Iswaran
45.c. elephant
46.d. Iswaran
47.a. Iswaran
48.b. a female ghost
49.d. a foetus
50.a. a female ghost</p> |
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