

BHARATHI VIDYA BHAVAN MATRIC. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL ERODE- 12**STD: X****UNIT – II****THE NIGHT THE GHOST GOT IN**

- James Grover Thurber

I. Answer the Following

1. When did the ghost get into the author's house?

The ghost got into the author's house on the night of November 17, 1915 raised such a hullabaloo of misunderstandings.

2. What did its arrival cause?

Its arrival caused the author's mother to throw a shoe through a window of the house next door and ended up with his grandfather shooting a patrol man.

3. What time did the narrator hear the footsteps? What was the pattern of the footsteps?

He heard the footsteps about a quarter past one o' clock in the morning. It was rhythmic, quick – cadenced, walking around the dining room table.

4. What did the narrator first think about the footsteps?

The narrator first thought about the footsteps as the steps of a man walking rapidly around the dining table.

5. What did Herman do when he was aroused by the narrator?

When he was aroused by the narrator, Herman followed him upstairs.

6. Where was the author when he heard the noise?

The author had just stepped out of the bathtub and was busily rubbing himself with a towel when he heard the noise.

7. What did the narrator think the unusual sound was?

At first, the narrator thought the unusual sound was the footsteps of hat his father or his brother returning home. Then he suspected that it was a burglar.

8. What were the various sounds the brothers heard when they went downstairs?

The brothers heard the footsteps of a man walking and running up the stairs, and as if two men were circling the dining table. .

9. What did the narrator's mother do?

First the narrator's mother tried to call the police but the phone was downstairs. Then she made a quick incomparable decision of throwing a shoe through a pane of glass, just to convey the news about a burglar in the house.

10. Who were the narrator's neighbours?

Mr.Bodwell, a retired engraver and his wife were the narrator's neighbours.

11. How was the health of Bodwell?

Bodwell's health was not good as he was affected by some kind of attacks.

12. How did the Bodwells react when a shoe was thrown into their house?

Bodwell was at the window in a minute, shouting a little, shaking his fist. Mrs. Bodwell said that they would sell the house and go back to Peoria.

13. What do the Bodwells think when they heard the mother shout?

The Bodwells at first thought that there were burglars in their house but finally called the police over the phone.

14. What did the mother do after Bodwells had disappeared from the window?

The narrator's mother suddenly felt as if to throw another shoe because the thrill of heaving a shoe through a window glass had enormously taken her fancy.

15. How many policemen turned out?

A ford Sedan full of policemen, two on motor cycles and patrol wagon with about eight in it and a few reporters turned out.

16. What did the police men do after entering the house?

The policemen flashed lights all over the living room and crisscrossed nervously in the dining room, stabbed into hallways, shot up front stairs and finally went up the back.

17. What could the narrator hear from the downstairs by the tramping of the other police?

The police were all over the place, doors and drawers were yanked open, windows were shot up and pulled down and furniture felt with dull thumps.

18. What did the policemen do in the upstairs?

The policemen began to ransack the floor; pulled the beds away from the walls, tore clothes off the hooks in the closets pulled suitcases and boxes off shelves.

19. What was the grandfather wearing?

The grandfather was wearing a long flannel night gown over long woolen pants, a night cap and a leather jacket around his chest.

20. What conclusions did grandfather jump to when he saw the cop?

Grandfather had evidently jumped to the conclusions that the police were deserters from Meade's army, trying to hide away in his attic. He grabbed a zither's gun and shot at them.

21. Were the policemen willing to leave the house?

The policemen were reluctant to leave without getting their hand on somebody. They began to poke into things again.

22. What made the reporter gaze at the author?

The narrator had put on one of mother's dresses, not being able to find anything else. The reporter looked at him with mingled suspicion and interest.

23. Why was the narrator sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps?

The narrator was sorry to have paid attention to the footsteps because it was all a misunderstanding. There was no ghost moving but the grandfather. He could have averted all that hullabaloo.

24. Why did Herman and the author slam the doors?

Herman and the author slammed the doors because they thought that someone was coming up their stairs. They were scared as they heard the steps of someone.

25. What wake up the mother?

The slamming of the doors by Herman and the author had aroused the mother.

26. What do you understand by the mother's act of throwing the shoe?

The mother's act of throwing the shoe indicates that she was also frightened to go downstairs and call the police. She was very studious and quick in decision making. Hence she threw the shoe in order to catch the attention of the Bodwells to call the police.

27. Why do you think Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house?

Mrs. Bodwell wanted to sell the house because she might have thought the house was haunted or constant nuisance to the neighbours.

28. How did the cops manage to enter the locked house?

The cops managed to enter the house by hitting their shoulders to the big heavy front door, with its thick bevelled glass of the glass narrator's house and broke into it.

29. Why were the policemen prevented from entering the grandfather's room?

The policemen were prevented from entering grandfather's room because the author believed that under steady hammering by Stonewall Jacks on, were beginning to retreat and even desert.

30. Who used the zither and how?

The grandfather used the zither because he believed that the police were deserters from the army who were trying to hide away in his attic. Since he didn't like this, he fired on them with the zither's gun in the darkness.

31. Mention the things the grandfather imagined.

The grandfather first imagined that General Meade's men, under steady hammering by Stonewall Jackson were beginning to retreat and even desert. Secondly when they got to the attic, he thought the police were deserters from the army who were trying to hide away in his attic. Since he didn't like this, fired on them with the zither's gun in the darkness.

PARAGRAPH

1. Describe the funny incident that caused the confusion in the house?

'The Night the ghost got in' is a short story, written by James Thurber. It is a fictionalized account of a night in his childhood.

On the night of November 17, 1915 the narrator was taking a bath and heard some footsteps. It was around 1.00 A.M. He thought that it was his father and brother Roy who had gone to Indiana and were expected back at any time. When, he stuck his head out the door, he didn't see anyone. He wrapped a towel around his waist and walked out into the hallway. He heard footsteps again. He woke his brother, Herman to help him find out what was going on. They didn't see anyone and didn't hear anything anymore. So they went back to their rooms and slammed the doors. Their mother was awakened by the slamming of the doors and wanted to know what was going on. She believed that there were burglars in the house and throws a shoe into the windows of the neighbour house. She asked them to call the police. The police arrived with a few reporters and things just went wild. The grandfather ended up shooting one of the policemen in the arm, thinking that he was a deserter. They found no evidence and left. The next morning at breakfast, the family didn't think that the grandfather would remember anything. But he asked why the cops came round the house the previous night.

The short story was a funny little tale. The commotion that the family went through was hilarious.

2. Narrate the extensive search operation made by the policemen in the house?

The policemen were on hand in a commendably short time. They began banging at the narrator's front door. When nobody responded, they broke into the house. They searched downstairs and upstairs messing up everything. They opened all the doors and windows. They pulled the drawers and furniture. They began to ransack the floor, pulled beds away from the walls, tore clothes off the hooks in the closets. They also

pulled suitcases and boxes off the shelves. Later, they heard some creaking in the attic. They stepped into the attic. As his grandfather thought that they were the deserters from Meade's army, so he started shooting at them. Then he went back to bed. The cops were unwilling to leave without getting their hand on somebody. They felt it was a defeat for them. They began to poke into things again and finally left the place.

ANTONYMS

Despondent	x	cheerful
Suspected	x	trusted
Ceased	x	continued
Palely	x	powerfully
Intuitively	x	artificially
Cowardly	x	courageously
Reluctant	x	Willing
Distinctly	x	commonly
Obviously	x	unclearly
Deserter	x	loyalist
Wispy	x	strong
Gazed	x	glanced
Retreat	x	Advance
Obviously	x	unclearly
Nervously	x	calmly

POEM – 2

THE GRUMBLE FAMILY

- Lucy Maud Montgomery

Appreciation Questions

1. **There's a family nobody like to meet**

They live, it is said, on complaining street.

- a. Where does the family live?

The family lives on the Complaining Street.

- b. Why do you think the street is named as 'Complaining Street'?

The street is named as 'Complaining Street' people who live there always grumble.

2. **They growl at that and they growl at this**

Whatever comes, there is something amiss;

- a. What does the word 'growl' mean here?

The word 'growl' literally means to make a low guttural sound in the throat. But here it means that they keep on complaining about this and that.

- b. Why do they find everything amiss?

They find everything amiss because they are unable to accept anything and dissatisfied with everything.

- c. Who does 'They' refer to?

'They' refers to the members of the Grumble family.

3. **Nothing goes right with folks you meet**

Down on that gloomy complaining street

- a. What is the opinion about the folks you meet down the street?

The folks have the habit of complaining all the things they come across, nothing is right.

- b. What does the word gloomy mean here?

The word 'gloomy' means to appear depressing or frightening.

4. The worst thing is that if anyone stays

Among them too long, he will learn their way

- a. What is the worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them?

The worst thing that can happen if anyone stays with them is that he will learn their attitude, behaviour and mannerism.

- b. What are the ways of the Grumble family?

The Grumble family always complain about something or other. Nothing is right in front of their eyes.

- c. Who does 'he' refer to?

'He' refers to the neighbour.

- d. Explain 'their ways'

It means that they are grumbling against everything.

5. And so it were wisest to keep our feet

From wandering into complaining Street

- a. What is the wisest thing that the poet suggests?

The wisest thing the poet suggests is not to step into complaining street and to keep away from grumbling people.

- b. What does the phrase 'to keep our feet from wandering' refer to?

The phrase 'to keep our feet from wandering' refers to keep away from these grumbling people.

6. Lest we be mistaken for Grumbles, too

- a. Who does 'we' refer to?

'We' refers to the public (People)

- b. Why may we be mistaken?

If we join with the Grumble family, we may be mistaken by others.

7. Let us learn to walk with a smile and a song

No matter if things do something go wrong

- a. What does the poet expect everyone to learn?

The poet expects everyone to learn to lead a life with joy and happiness.

- b. What should we do when things go wrong sometimes?

We should not worry and should take life easy when things go wrong sometimes.

8. And then, be our station high or humble

We'll never belong to the family of Grumble

- a. What does 'station' refer here?

'Station' here refers to position or status in the society.

- b. Write down the words of alliteration.

High, humble are the words of alliteration.

PARAGRAPH

1. Write a paragraph on “The Grumble Family” and their attitude towards other folks.

L.M.Montgomery was a Canadian author and poetess. One of her works is 'The Grumble Family'. The title of the poem itself tells about the nature of the family, she describes. The grumble family is a pessimistic family. It lives in 'Complaining street' in the city of 'Never-Are-Satisfied'. It is beside the 'River of Discontent'. The name of the street, city and the river are the fittest one. The members of the family are always discontented. Nobody wants to meet them. They are never happy with their lives. They are dissatisfied with everything. They complain about everything. Whatever happens in their lives, they complain about it. Rain or sun, summer or winter, high or humble, they never fail to grumble. They always growl at others. Even though everything in their life is pleased to them, they would growl for not having a grumble. They don't have any positive attitude. They find fault at each and everything. They are well known with the name of Grumble. Nobody wants to be with them for a fear that they will also get affected by this habit. Thus no one likes the negative attitude of the grumble family. We should not grumble for everything that goes wrong. If we do so, we would also be listed in the 'pessimistic grumble family'.

2. If you were to live in the complaining street, how would you deal with the people who grumble?

If I were in the complaining street, I would teach the values and ethics of life. I would never allow the pessimism of others to keep us from reaching the heights of victory. Many times we come into contact with people who have nothing positive to say. Their focus is only on the negative part of every aspect. I would not avoid them. Rather I would take it as a challenge to mend the ways of the members of the grumble family. I would always try my best to be an optimist. I would also make them understand that complaining or growling will cause serious health issues. I would give them psychological counseling, teach them how to deal with all the matters in a diplomatic way and to be happy with what they are blessed with.

3. From the poem ‘The Grumble Family’ what kind of behaviour does the poet want the reader to possess?

The poet Montgomery expects the reader to adopt a positive attitude in our daily life. It would bring constructive things in our life. It will make us an optimist and help us avoid worries and negative thoughts. This would help us see the brighter side of life and expect the best to happen. Positive attitude is certainly a state of mind that is well worth developing. It guides us to look at life with a broader vision and find creative solutions. This makes us unique and helps us do things in a better way than others. Optimism is one of the vital virtues to develop hope which turns and improves the situation. When we believe in our abilities, we become motivated. A person with a positive attitude is usually happy and contented. Positive attitude influences our thoughts, actions and health. Successful people see the circumstances as a challenge but not a difficulty. These people are the commoners to have the best attitude of this world.

SUPPLEMENTRY 2 - ZIGZAG**SHORT ANSWERS:**

1. Why did Dr.Ashok's cousin call him?

Dr.Ashok's cousin called him to ask whether he could shelter Zigzag with them when he left for Alaska.

2. Mention atleast two expressions which show that Mrs. Krishnan was not willing to have Zigzag at home.

She had a horrified expression, when she came to know the arrival of Zigzag and she thought that it was an absolute nuisance to have the bird at her home.

3. What other various pets did Somu have?

Dr.Somu had various other pets such as giant green and gold fighting beetle, Spitfire, and the African snake, sidewinder.

4. What was Mrs.Krishnan busy with?

Mrs.Krishnan was busy with painting a sunset at Marina which was to be displayed for sale the following week, as she was a talented artist.

5. What commotion did the boomerang cause in the neighbourhood?

The boomerang sliced through all the TV aerials in the neighbourhood, caused permanent damage to several cars in the parking lot and knocked out their watchman.

6. What happened when Somu left Zigzag with the Krishnans?

Zigzag transferred the fruits and nuts to the chandelier and on to the blades of the ceiling fan. He slept and disturbed snoring louder and louder. He woke up briefly when he wanted to eat some fruits and sometimes he would sit on the verandah looking sulky and bored.

7. How did Zigzag communicate with the Krishnans?

Zigzag communicated with the Krishnans only in snorish, snorese, snorian, snorihili and snoralu...

8. What was the e-mail message sent to Somu by Dr.Krishnan?
Dr.Krishnan sent an e-mail asking Dr.Somu for clear instructions on how to stop Zigzag from snoring.
9. What did Arvind confess?
Arvind confessed that, for the first time in his life, he was looking forward to go to school because he considered school as calm as a monastery compared to their house.
10. Why did Mrs.Jhunjhunwala buy the painting?
Mrs.Jhunjhunwala bought painting of the sunset at Marina painting as she loved the new technique used in the painting. She simply adored the streaky orangey bits made by Zigzag.

PARAGRAPH

1. **Write in your own words the various commotions caused by Zigzag at Dr.Krishnan's residence.**

Dr.Ashok T Krishnan was a child specialist. His friend and a cousin Dr.Somu went to Alaska. So he requested Dr.Krishnan to look after his pet bird Zigzag. He also said that the bird was harmless an unusual and a lovable bird. The bird was an absolute treasure and a real help. The bird could talk and sing in about 21 different languages mostly African languages. When it sang it moved the listeners to tears. The bird arrived with Somu's cook. It was the weirdest – looking bird. Dr. Krishnan's family members tried to speak to the bird but it sulkily refused to say a word despite all their efforts. Dr.Krishnan's son Arvind went to the kitchen and returned hurriedly with a plate heaped with juicy fruit slices and some nuts. Zigzag immediately picked up a walnut. It deposited the nuts on the chandelier hanging from the ceiling. All the fruits on the plate were transferred to the chandelier and on to the blades of the ceiling fan. When the maid switched on the fan, it had been raining papayas and bananas in that room. A guava landed on the maid's cheek with a soft squish and one walnut hit her forehead.

One slice of over ripe papaya came whizzing off the fan and splattered all over Mrs.Krishnan's unfinished masterpiece, the sunset at Marina, spreading streaks of gooey orange pulp and shiny black seeds all over it. These are the various commotions caused by Zigzag at Dr.Krishnan's residence.

2. What was the turn of events when Zigzag was taken to the clinic?

Zigzag , after creating lot of commotions, perched on the curtain rod and slept. And the moment, he fell asleep, he began to snore. The snore grew louder and louder until it sounded as if a herd of elephants trumpeting angrily in the room. The family members tried to wake him up but it was in vain. It slept on undisturbed and snored on. The neighbours complained Mrs.Krishnan about the awful sound and asked if they could have some peace. To restore peace at home, Dr.Krishnan took Zigzag to his clinic. But to his surprise, Zigzag perched himself on the nurse's reception table. Dr.Krishnan warned Zigzag not to sleep and snore. When Dr.Krishnan was halfway to his room, he heard a strange voice controlling the patients waiting in the room. It was Zigzag's voice, clear and commanding . There was a pin-drop silence in the room as everyone watched open mouthed. Dr.Krishnan was amazed, seeing the bird happily doing the job it had been trained for. Zigzag efficiently soothed the frightened patients, scolded the naughty ones and made the crying ones smile. Zigzag recited French poetry which made the crying children laugh. Zigzag never slept or snored. From that day Zigzag was busy in the clinic maintaining the place efficiently.

3. Narrate the story Zigzag in your own words.

Dr.Krishnan was a child specialist. His cousin and a friend Dr. Somu went to Alaska. So he requested Dr. Krishnan to look after his pet bird Zigzag. The bird was harmless, unusual and lovable bird. It could sing in about 21 different African languages. The bird arrived with Somu's cook. It was the weirdest-looking bird. Every member tried to speak to the bird but it sulkily refused to say a word, despite all their efforts. It caused various commotions at Dr.Krishnan's residence. After all the commotions ,the bird slept on the curtain rod and began to snore. The snore grew louder and louder until it sounded as if a herd of elephants were trumpeting angrily in the room. The neighbours complained Mrs. Krishnan about the awful sound and asked if they could have some peace. To restore peace, Mr.Krishnan took Zigzag to his clinic. But to his surprise, Zigzag controlled the patients, waiting in the room. Zigzag was trained to maintain the clinic and it did the work efficiently. And the family decided to have Zigzag till Somu arrived from Alaska.

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