



MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. What custom did Jack follow in the evenings and for Saturday naps?

Ans: Jack would tell his four year old daughter Joanne (or Jo) a story out of his head in the evenings and for Saturday naps. This custom had begun when she was two and now it was nearly two years old.

Q2. What was the basic tale underlying each story that Jack told?

Ans: A small creature named Roger had some problem. He would go to the wise owl who told him to go to the wizard. The wizard performed a magic spell. It solved Roger's problem. He demanded more pennies than Roger had. Then he directed Roger to the place where extra money could be found. Roger felt happy and played many games with other creatures. He then went home. His daddy arrived from Boston. They had supper. The story wound up with the description of the items of their supper.

Q3. How was the custom of story telling especially fatiguing on Saturdays?

Ans: Jo was growing up. She never fell asleep in naps any more. Her brother, Bobby, who was two was already asleep with the bottle. But Jo would not take her nap like an infant. The bumps her feet made under the covers were halfway down the bed. Her fat face deep in the pillow shone in the sunlight. The custom seemed futile and especially fatiguing on Saturdays.

Q4. Which animal did Jo suggest for the story that day? What do you know about this new animal?

Ans: Jo suggested 'skunk' for the story that day. It was a new animal for her. They must be talking about it at nursery school. A skunk or a pole-cat is a small black and white North American animal. It can produce a strong unpleasant smell to defend itself when it is attacked.

Q5. Why did Roger Skunk go to see the old owl? [All India 2014]

Ans: Due to foul body odour of Skunk, other animals were not interested in playing with him. But he wanted to play with friends. So, Roger Skunk went to the wise owl to get rid of the foul smell.

Q6. How did Jo and Jack react as the new animal was mentioned?

Ans: Jo squeezed her eyes shut and smiled to be thinking that she was thinking. She opened her blue eyes and said firmly, "Skunk". Having a fresh hero momentarily stirred Jack to creative enthusiasm. He started telling the story of Roger Skunk that smelled so bad that none of the other little woodland creatures would play with him.

Q7. How did Jack imagine the reaction of Roger Skunk on being universally detested?

Ans: Whenever Roger Skunk went out to play, all of the other tiny animals would cry: "Uh-oh, here comes Roger Stinky Skunk". Then they would run away. Roger Skunk would stand there all alone. Two

little round tears would fall from his eyes. Jack would relate all this with zest, remembering certain humiliations of his own childhood.

Q8. How do you think, did Jo identify with Roger Skunk, the victim of the hatred of other creatures?

Ans: Jo seemed to share the pleasure and pain of the hero of the story—Roger. So complete was her identification that the mention of tears in Roger's eyes brought tears in her eyes. Her mouth drooped down and her lower lip bent forward. Jack's finger traced the course of a tear along the side of her nose.

Q9. Which two opposite forces acted on Jack while he was telling Jo a story about the little skunk?

Ans: Jack was happy that he was telling Jo something true, something she must know. He had no wish to hurry on. But just then, a chair scraped downstairs. He realised that he must get down to help his wife, Clare to paint the woodwork in the living room. Thus, the interests of daughter and wife pulled him in different directions like two opposite forces.

Q10. "This was a new phase, just this last month, a reality phase."

What do you learn about Jo's reality phase? How did her parents try to convince her?

Ans: Jo would ask if the magic spells were real. When Jack told her that spiders ate bugs, she would turn to her mother and ask if that was really so. When Clare told her God was in the sky and all around them, she would turn to her father to know the reality. Jack tried to convince her by saying? "They're real in stories."

***** END *****