



MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

A. Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1. What does the narrator say about Hosahalli?

Answer: Hosahalli village is the scene of action. There is no mention of it in geography books written by the sahibs in England or Indian writers. No cartographer has put it on the map. The narrator highlights its importance by comparing it to the filling of the karigadubu—a festival meal.

Question 2. What are the two special produce of Hosahalli and in what respect ?

Answer: First is the raw mango. The sourness of its bite is sure to get straight to the brahmarandhra, i.e. the soft part in child's head where skull bones join later. Second specialty is a creeper growing in the water of the village pond. Its flowers are a feast to behold. You can serve afternoon meal to the whole family on its two leaves.

Question 3. What exactly had happened ten years ago? How important was it then?

Answer: Ten years ago, there were not many people in the village who knew English. The village accountant was the first one who sent his son Ranga to Bangalore to pursue his studies. It was quite an important event then. The narrator highlights it by saying that the village accountant was the first one who had enough courage to send his son to Bangalore to study.

Question 4. What happened when Ranga returned to his village from the city of Bangalore?

Answer: Ranga's homecoming was a great event. The crowds milled around his house to see whether he had changed or not. People were quite excited as the boy was returning home after studying English at Bangalore. Everyone was surprised to see that Ranga was the same as he had been six months ago, when he had first left the village.

Question 5. How did the old lady satisfy herself about Ranga ?

Answer: The old lady ran her hand over Ranga's chest. She looked into his eyes. She was satisfied to find the sacred thread on his body. She was happy that he had not lost his caste.

Question 6. "What has happened is disgraceful, believe me" says the narrator. What does he refer to? How does he illustrate his point of view?

Answer: The narrator refers to the practice of young persons who during the holidays in village, go on talking in English or bring in English words while talking in Kannada. He calls this mixing up of languages 'disgraceful'. He gives the example of the use of the English word 'change' to an illiterate person. The old lady, being asked to come the next day, went away disgruntled.

Question 7. Why does the narrator refer to the Black Hole of Calcutta?

Answer: During the British rule, hundreds of persons were kept inside a single room. The next morning most of them were found dead due to suffocation. The narrator uses the expression 'Black

Hole of Calcutta' to suggest the large number of people who had turned out to see Ranga.

Question 8. How did Ranga greet the narrator? In what respect did he differ from the present-day boys?

Answer: Ranga greeted the narrator with full devotion. He not only folded his hands, but also bent low to touch his feet. A present-day boy would stand stiff like a pole without joints, keep head towards the sun and jerk his body as if it were either a hand or a walking stick. The narrator, being old fashioned did not approve it.

Question 9. When did Ranga plan to marry and why?

Answer: Ranga did not want to get married at an early age. He wanted to find the right girl. She should be mature enough to understand his love talk. Secondly, he wished to marry a girl he admired. He was against marrying quite young girls who had no manners or were not careful of their face or figure.

Question 10. What examples did Ranga give to explain the importance of marrying late?

Answer: Ranga gave two examples. An officer about thirty, married a girl about twenty-five. Ranga hoped they would be able to talk lovingly to each other. The second example is that of Dushyanta falling in love with Shakuntala, who was quite mature.

Question 11. "Ranga was just the boy for her and she the most suitable bride for him" says the narrator. Who is 'she'? What led narrator to this conclusion?

Answer: 'She' here stands for Ratna, the niece of Rama Rao. She was a pretty girl of eleven. Both her parents having died, her uncle had brought her home. Being a girl from a big town, she knew how to play the veena and the harmonium. She also had a sweet voice. All these qualities made her a suitable bride for a young, educated man like Ranga.

Question 12. How did the narrator let Ranga have a glimpse of Ratna?

Answer: The narrator arranged the meeting very systematically. First he called Ratna on the pretext of sending buttermilk through her. Then he asked her to sing a song. Meanwhile Ranga, whom he had sent for, reached the door. He became curious to see the singer and peeped in. His presence at the door blocked the light and Ratna stopped singing abruptly.

Question 13. How did Ranga and Ratna react at their unexpected encounter?

Answer: Ratna stopped singing abruptly on seeing a stranger outside the room. Ranga felt disappointed when the singing stopped. Ratna stood at a distance with her head lowered. Ranga repeatedly glanced at her. He blamed himself for the singing to stop and offered to leave. Ratna was overcome by shyness and ran inside. Ranga enquired about her.

Question 14. How did the narrator handle Ranga's inquiries about Ratna?

Answer: The narrator did not give him a straightforward reply. He said casually that it did not matter to either of them who she was. The narrator was already married and Ranga was not the marrying type. This aroused Ranga's interest and excitement. He expressed the hope that she was unmarried. His face showed signs of disappointment on learning that she was married a year ago.

Question 15. Why did the narrator tell Ranga that the girl was married a year ago?

Answer: The narrator had made up his mind that he would get Ranga married early. First he brought Ranga and Ratna face to face to arouse his interest in her. In order to test the strength of his

emotions, he told Ranga that she was married a year ago. The shrivelled face of the young man betrayed his feelings.

Question 16. Why did the narrator visit the village astrologer?

Answer: The narrator wanted to exploit the common human weakness—eagerness to know the future. He went to the village astrologer and told him to keep ready to read the stars. He tutored him in all that he wanted the astrologer to say when he would revisit him with Ranga.

Question 17. In what mental /emotional state did the narrator find Ranga? What solution did he offer? How did Ranga react to it?

Answer: Ranga seemed to be lost in thought. Perhaps he was emotionally upset to learn that the girl he had seen that morning was already married one. The narrator offered to take him to Shastri to learn about the stars-whether Guru and Shani were favourable for him or not. Ranga accompanied him without any protest.

Question 18. “What? Only this morning...” Why was this sentence cut off and by whom? What would have been the likely impact if the speaker had completed the sentence?

Answer: The narrator got angry when the astrologer said with surprise that he had not seen the former for a long time. The narrator shouted these words. The astrologer cut this sentence off and completed it in his own way. If he had not done so, the narrator would have ruined their plan by blurting out everything.

Question 19. What according to the astrologer was Ranga’s cause of worry? How did the name Ratna ‘crop up’?

Answer: According to the astrologer the cause of Ranga’s worry was a girl. She probably had the name of something found in the ocean. When asked if it could be Kamla the astrologer did not rule out the possibility. When suggested if it could be Pacchi, moss, the astrologer put a counter question: “Why not pearl or ratna, the precious stone?” Thus the name Ratna cropped up.

Question 20. “There was surprise on Ranga’s face. And some happiness.” What do you think had caused these feelings?

Answer: When the narrator learnt from Shastri—the astrologer, that the name of the girl Ranga was worried about could be Ratna, he was at once reminded of Rama Rao’s niece Ratna. He asked the astrologer if there was any chance of the marriage being fixed there, the astrologer gave a firm assurance. This caused happiness and surprise on Ranga’s face.

Question 21. How did the narrator test the sincerity of Ranga’s feelings about Ratna?

Answer: The narrator employed the age-old trick ‘temptation for the unattainable’. He first mentioned that the girl had been married a year ago. He noticed Ranga’s disappointment. Ranga’s face fell when the narrator mentioned to the astrologer that Ratna was married. When he was sure of the sincerity of Ranga’s feelings about Ratna, he disclosed that she wasn’t married.

Question 22. “There’s greater truth in that shastra than we imagine,” says Ranga. What truth does he refer to and how was he made to admit it?

Answer: After their visit to Shastri, the narrator disclosed to Ranga that Ratna was not married. He observed that whatever Shastri told them had turned out to be true. Still he could not believe that Ranga had been thinking of her. He asked Ranga to confirm it. Ranga frankly admitted the truth that he was thinking of her.

Question 23. What did the narrator tell Shastri about his performance? How did the Shastri react to it?

Answer: The narrator told Shastri that he repeated everything he

had told him without giving rise to any suspicion. He exclaimed
“What a marvellous Shastra yours is!”
Shastri did not like his berating astrology. He retorted that he could
have found out himself from the Shastras.

Question 24. Comment on the ending of the-story ‘Ranga’s
Marriage’.

Answer: The story has a happy ending. Ranga has been married to
Ratna and they have a three year old golden boy named Shyama
after their well-wisher, the narrator. Ratna is eight months pregnant
and about to deliver another baby.

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