



B. Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1. Narrate the story 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' in your own words.

Answer: One summer morning narrator's cousin Mourad came to his house at four in the morning and woke him up by tapping on the window of his room. The narrator was surprised to see Mourad sitting on a beautiful white horse. Mourad asked him to be quick if he wanted to ride. The narrator, Aram, longed to ride and jumped down to the yard from the window and leaped up onto the horse behind his cousin Mourad. Since these Armenian families were quite poor, Aram concluded that Mourad must have stolen the horse. They rode and Mourad sang. Then Mourad had a joy ride alone. It seemed he had a way with a horse, for when Aram tried to ride alone, the horse threw him off and ran away. Since it was broad day light, Mourad hid the horse in the ham of a deserted vineyard. That afternoon, farmer John Byro visited the narrator's house and related his plight. His white horse had been missing for over a month. Uncle Khosrove silenced him with his roaring commands. Aram reported everything to Mourad and requested him to keep the horse till he learnt to ride. Mourad did not agree.

A chance meeting with farmer John Byro after a fortnight firmed up his decision. John Byro had believed the boys since he knew their fathers and was fully aware of the fame of their family for honesty. Mourad returned the horse to its owner then next morning.

Question 2. Relate some of the humorous incidents in the story. Which incident do you find the most amusing and why ?

Answer: The incidents related to uncle Khosrove are quite amusing. The repetition of his pet catchword: "It is no harm; pay no attention to it" causes humour whenever it is used in an incongruous context. For example, his own son Arak ran eight blocks to the barber shop where Khosrove was having his moustache trimmed to tell him that their house was on fire. This was a serious matter. Instead of leaving the place, he roared: "It is no harm; pay no attention to it." When the barber explained that his son was saying that his house was on fire, Khosrove silenced him by roaring: "It is no harm". At the end of the story, uncle Khosrove again became irritated and shouted at farmer John Byro to be quiet. He said, "Your horse has been returned. Pay no attention to it." The incongruity is obvious. The most amusing incident is the conversation between farmer John Byro and uncle Khosrove when the farmer sighed sadly and bewailed the stealth of his horse. Uncle Khosrove remarked, "It is no harm. What is the loss of a horse? What is this crying over a horse?" John Byro tried to explain that his surrey was useless without a horse. But came Khosrove's catchword "Pay no attention to it." This phrase is repeated when the farmer complained that his left leg hurt him. When John Byro said that the horse had cost him sixty dollars, Khosrove remarked, "I spit on money." The incident ends as John Byro walked out angrily slamming the screen door.

Question 3. What impression do you form of cousin Mourad?

Answer: Mourad is a young boy of thirteen. He belongs to the Garoghlanian family of Armenia. Their whole tribe was poverty stricken. In spite of abject poverty, their family was famous for honesty. Mourad was quite adventurous and had a crazy streak in

him. He enjoyed being alive more than anybody else. Mourad loved horse riding. He had a way with a horse. He had tamed the horse by his affectionate behaviour and now the horse was no longer wild. It obeyed Mourad faithfully. His love for the horse is evident in the last scene. While parting, he put his arms around the horse, pressed his nose into the horse's nose and patted it. He also had a way with dogs. The dogs of John Byro followed them around without making a sound. He was kind. He treated a young robin which had hurt its wing. He was worldly-wise and knew how to talk to farmers. Though he loved horse-riding he was averse of keeping the horse for a long time. He is proud of his family which is well known for their honesty and trust. In short, he is a lovable chap.

Question 4. Comment on the role of Aram, the narrator, in the story.

Answer: Aram plays an important role in the story. Besides being the narrator, he is also a commentator. He not only narrates the various adventures, incidents and actions, but also provides useful information regarding the main characters and their behaviour. In fact, he is the fulcrum on which the whole story rests. He gives a graphic description of the Garoghlanian tribe, its members, their traits and economic features. Mom-ad's father Zorab is described as a practical person, whereas Mourad and uncle Khosrove represent the crazy streak in the tribe. Abject poverty of the family does not diminish his pride in his family which is famous for honesty. He says, "No member of the Garoghlanian family could be a thief." He makes a fine distinction between stealing a horse for a ride and stealing a horse to sell it off. He gives a fine description of the horse ride and country side with its vineyards, orchards, irrigation ditches and country roads.

Question 5. Compare and contrast uncle Khosrove and cousin Mourad.

Answer: Uncle Khosrove and cousin Mourad have one very important point in common— their craziness. Mourad was considered the natural descendant of uncle Khosrove in this respect. The second similarity is their dominating nature. Both use pet words and phrases and roar aloud to quieten the hearer. While uncle Khosrove says, "It is no harm; pay no attention to it," Mourad boasts, "I have a way with horses/dogs/farmers." Khosrove shouts at his son Arak, the barber and farmer John Byro. The narrator is a patient listener to Mourad's assertions.

The difference lies in their age groups and physical build up. Uncle Khosrove, a middle aged person is an enormous man with a powerful head of black hair and very large moustache. Mourad is an athletic young chap of thirteen. Khosrove is irritable, impatient and furious in temper. Mourad is reasonable in conversation.

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