



B. Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1. “The best way of getting to know a place is to visit it.” Which place does Masti Venkatesha Iyengar refer to? What do you know learn about it?

Answer: The author refers to Hosahalli, the village of Rangappa and the narrator. From the narrator’s point of view it is an important village in the Mysore state. People may not have heard of it, as there is no mention of it in Geography books. The place has been ignored both by British and Indian authors. No cartographer has put it on the map.

The raw mangoes from the mango trees in the village are quite sour. The extreme potency of the sourness of these mangoes is amply illustrated by the comment: “Just take a bite. The sourness is sure to go straight to your brahmarandhra.” The creeper growing in the village pond had beautiful flowers and broad leaves. The latter can serve as plates for serving afternoon meal. The village doctor Gundabhatta also speaks glowingly of Hosahalli.

Question 2. What was special about Rangappa? How did the villagers react to it?

Answer: Ten years ago, there were not many people in Hosahalli village who knew English. Rangappa, the accountant’s son enjoyed a unique distinction. He was the first one to be sent to Bangalore to pursue his studies. This was considered an act of courage on the part of his father. It was an important event in the village—a sort of first of its type.

Naturally, Ranga’s homecoming was a great event. The crowds of villagers milled around his house to see whether he had changed or not. People were quite excited because Ranga had returned home after studying English at Bangalore. An 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 felt happy that he had not lost his caste. People disappeared from the scene, once they realised that Ranga had not undergone any material change.

Question 3. Give a brief account of the narrator’s two meetings with Ranga after the latter’s return from Bangalore. What opinion did he form about the young man?

Answer: When Ranga returned home after getting his education in Bangalore, crowds of people collected round his home to see him. The narrator was attracted by the crowd. He too went and stood in the courtyard. Ranga came out with a smile on his face. After every one had gone, the narrator asked Rangappa how he was. Ranga noticed him and came near him. He folded his hands and touched the narrator’s feet. He said that he was all right, with the narrator’s blessings. The narrator blessed him and wished that he might get married soon. They exchanged some polite friendly remarks. Then the narrator left.

That afternoon, when the narrator was resting, Ranga came to his house with a couple of oranges in his hand. The narrator thought that Ranga was a generous, considerate fellow. He was of the opinion that it would be fine to have him marry, settle down and be of service to the society.

Question 4. What were Ranga’s ideas about marriage? Do you find

any change in them during the course of the story?

Answer: Ranga was influenced by the English way of life in the matter of marriage. He was not in favour of arranged marriages of the time where the brides were quite young. He told the narrator that he was not getting married just then. He gave two reasons. First, he must find the right girl. She must be mature enough to understand his love-talk. A very young girl might take his words spoken in love as words spoken in anger. He gives examples of a thirty year old officer who married a twenty-five year old lady and that of king Dushyanta falling in love with Shakuntla. The second reason he gave was that one should marry a girl one loves. During the course of the story we find a change in Ranga's ideas about marriage. Not only is he fascinated by Rama Rao's eleven year old niece Ratna, he also marries her in the old traditional way of arranged marriages.

Question 5. What steps did the narrator take to get Ranga married to Ratna?

Answer: The narrator was intimate with Rama Rao's family. He knew that his niece Ratna would be a suitable wife for Ranga. He proceeded systematically. First he created an opportunity where Ranga might listen to Ratna's song and have a glimpse of her. He arranged this sudden encounter of two strangers at his home. The reaction of two youngsters was on expected lines. Ranga felt interested in her. Ratna felt shy, lowered her head and went to the other room.

In order to test the intensity of Ranga's feelings towards Ratna, the narrator said that she had been married a year ago. Ranga looked crestfallen. Then the narrator tutored an astrologer and took Ranga to him. Shastri, the astrologer, gave sufficient assurance that there was no hitch in his marriage to a girl whose name was that of something found in the ocean.

While returning from the Shastri's house, they saw Ratna standing alone in her uncle's house. The narrator went in for a moment and brought the news that Ratna was not married. After ascertaining Ranga's views, the marriage was settled.

Question 6. What estimate do you form of Ranga?

Answer: Ranga is a typical South Indian young man whose feet are firmly entrenched in the traditional Indian culture but head is swayed by the latest acquisition of English language and ways of life.

He seems to have attained marriageable age according to the norms prevalent in society at that time. The narrator finds him generous and considerate. The young man could rightly assess a person's worth and knew when it would be to his advantage to talk to someone.

At first, Ranga seemed to be in favour of love marriage—marrying a girl of one's choice, whom one loved and who would be mature enough to understand love-talk and reciprocate it. The systematic steps taken by the narrator to rope in Ranga to marry Ratna shows that the young man has a sensitive heart. Ranga's act of naming his golden boy 'Shyama' after the dark coloured narrator Shyama shows his adherence to the English custom of naming the child after someone you like. On the whole, Ranga appears as a smart but lovable fellow.

Question 7. Comment on the title of the story 'Ranga's Marriage'.

Answer: The title of the story is quite appropriate and suggestive. It at once sums up the theme of the story. The whole story has one central issue Ranga's marriage. It begins with Ranga's refusal to marry just then and ends with his blissful married life. All the incidents contribute to the central theme.

The writer has presented the working of a young educated Indian's mind and heart. He is easily influenced by the English way of life and customs. He wants to adopt them in his own life as well. The

narrator, who is his well-wisher takes deep interest in him and takes active steps to wean Ranga away from the fantasy of love-marriage. By arousing his interest and fascination in a young girl, Ratna, he makes Ranga agree to marry her. Thus Ranga's one condition for marriage is fulfilled—he knows the girl and loves her. She does not fulfil the other condition of being a mature girl in twenties—she is just eleven at that time.

Question 8. Write a brief note on the ending of the story 'Ranga's Marriage'.

Answer: The ending of the story is superb. Like all the tales of romance where the hero and heroine are finally united, the caption "....and they lived happily ever after" is usually displayed. The writer goes here one step further. He presents Ranga as a happily married husband, a proud father and a good member of the joint family.

He has a three year old son, a golden child, whom he had named 'Shyam' after the narrator to express his love and gratitude to the elderly person. We also learn that Ratna is about to deliver another child and Ranga's sister has come there with his mother. They will not only look after household affairs but Ratna as well.

The scene of a toddler putting his arms round the legs of an elder and the latter kissing him on his cheek and placing a ring on his tiny little finger as a birthday gift presents a lovely emotional scene full of tender affection and love. What a happy ending!

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