



6. At first, Private Quelch was a hero in the eyes of his fellow soldiers. Support this observation with suitable examples from the story in about 100 words.

Answer:

In the beginning of the training, when all interacted with Private Quelch, they thought him to be far intelligent than any ordinary fellow. However, it was only with the passage of time they came to know the other side of the truth. No doubt, The Professor was a rapacious reader and his intelligence was admirable and the knowledge he acquired was not ordinary; however, the fashion in which he exhibited his learning not just annoyed his mates but also let him down in front of his seniors. Not just this, Quelch became an object of mockery and was laughed at by fellow soldiers. In the first lecture that the platoon had in musketry, The Professor pointed out the exact figure of the muzzle velocity at which a bullet leaves a rifle, two thousand, four hundred and forty feet per second. Even during the training marches of the battalion, Private Quelch never ran out of enthusiasm and was tireless. He used to work hard; he had brains and was sure to get a commission before long. He would stay up late at nights reading borrowed training manuals. He was a hero in the eyes of every soldier. All admired him for his knowledge and the spirit he had. However, this all lived not long and soon all lived in terror of The Professor. He would publicly correct anyone who made a mistake. Quelch was so condescending that he was disliked by all.

7. Private Quelch knew 'too much'. Give reasons to prove that he was unable to win the admiration of his superior officers or his colleagues in about 100 words.

Answer:

Although Private Quelch was far knowledgeable than his fellow soldiers, he was little admired and more disliked. He always exhibited his learning without being asked for and had uncanny habit of correcting any and everybody. He did not spare his seniors as well, who came to deliver lectures to the platoon. He did it first with the Sergeant who came to deliver a lecture on the mechanism of a service rifle and later in the class of Corporal Turnbull who was taking lesson on hand grenade. Although he always had been correct with the facts he gave, he was not appreciated for his condescending nature. He tried best to impress his seniors with his knowledge and know how, he forgot that they were his seniors after all and had much experience of life and far better knowledge of technicalities of any subject. The Sergeant though did not say much to The Professor; Corporal Turnbull did not miss his chance and assigned Private Quelch permanent cook house duties to teach him lesson. Thus, the great knowledge that The Professor possessed doomed him and became the reason for him being disliked by all.

8. (a) Write down the positive and negative traits of Private Quelch's character instances from the story.

Positive traits	Instances from the story
(i)	
(ii)	
(iii)	
(iv)	

Negative traits	Instances from the story
(i)	
(ii)	
(iii)	
(iv)	

Answer:

	Positive traits	Instances from the story
(i)	He was very hardworking.	He sat up reading books till late night.
(ii)	He was very confident.	He had the guts to interrupt his instructors like the sergeant and even Corporal Turnbull.
(iii)	He was blessed with an excellent memory.	He could remember technical definitions and other information very precisely.
(iv)	He appeared most enthusiastic and tireless.	He could think of a song, even after 30 miles of walk.

	Negative traits	Instances from the story
(i)	He was not pleasant in his looks.	He always had a frown, was lanky and stooped.

(ii)	He was very condescending to his team-mates.	He would pretend to help and show off in the bargain.
(iii)	He was tactless and ill-mannered.	He rudely interrupted his instructors and pretended to have superior knowledge than them.
(iv)	Quelch's worst flaw was his tendency to overshadow others.	He needlessly tried to show his knowledge, belittle and humiliate others.

(b) Attempt a character sketch of Private Quelch using your notes in about 100 words.

Answer:

Private Quelch, just another soldier in the platoon, who thought not so of himself; too much learned to be a student, he was called 'The Professor' by his mates. He had thorough knowledge about almost everything. He had an ambition to get commission in the army. He borrowed training and studied them till late in the night. He corrected the Sergeant and answered all his questions promptly and correctly. He gave an excellent lecture when asked by Corporal Turnbull. His salute at the pay table was a model to behold. The orderly officer praised him generously because Quelch kept his hut meticulously clean. He was tireless after long route marches and liked to sing. He surprised his colleagues by recognizing an aircraft by its harsh noise that others could not recognize.

Writing Task

9. You are the 'Professor'. Write a diary entry after your first day at the cookhouse, describing the events that led to this assignment, also express your thoughts and feelings about the events of the day in about 175 words.

Answer:

Dear Diary
Sunday
23rd November 2014

Today was my first day in cookhouse. It was not so bad as I thought earlier. I felt greatly depressed and dejected when I was assigned permanent cook house duties for no fault of mine. Never in my mind I had imagined that I'll be punished for my knowledge. I didn't want to annoy the corporal by exhibiting my knowledge of the subject. My sole aim was to excel in my field because being an orphan I had struggled a lot and wanted to do something big in my life. However, I will do my every task perfectly. I saw that they were peeling off potatoes which was unhygienic and also noticed a thing that they did not use different khadais for different dishes and the quality of rice was also not so good. I will try to improve these things in after days. I will also try to get out of here and proceed to my ambition to get a stripe.

***** END *****