Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Question Bank: Grandfather and the Python

1. **Which particular species of animals did Grandmother not like? Why?**

**Ans:** Grandmother was tolerant of most birds and animals but she drew the line at reptiles. She said that they made her blood run cold. Even a handsome sweet-tempered chameleon had to to be given up. Grandfather should have known that there was little chance of his being allowed to keep the python.

1. **How is the python described and from where had the grandfather brought the python from?**

**Ans:**  The python is about four feet long and it was quite a young one. Grandfather had brought it from a snake charmer for six rupees impressing the bazaar crowd by slinging it across his shoulders and walking with it.

1. **How did the grandmother react after seeing the python? What did grandfather say?**

**Ans:** The grandmother nearly fainted after seeing the python curled round Grandfather’s throat.She screamed and told him to get rid of it at once as he would be strangled. The grandfather denied and said that he was just a young fellow and he would soon get used to them.

1. **Who was going to come to stay? What would happen if she sees a snake, according to the grandmother?**

**Ans:** Aunt Mabel who was grandfather’s cousin was going to come to stay. Grandmother said that she would the moment she would know that there is a snake in the house.

1. **Which funny remark was uttered by grandfather about Aunt Mabel? Why?**

**Ans:** Grandfather said that if the aunt would leave them the moment she sees the snake then she ought to be shown the python as soon as she arrives. It was said because both grandfather and the narrator did not look forward to her visits as she was too fussy.

1. **Why could grandfather not leave the python lose in the garden? What initial solution was offered by grandmother?**

**Ans:** Grandfather could not leave the python lose in the garden as it would find its way into the poultry house and then it would be on a killing spree. The initial solution offered by grandmother was to lock him in the bathroom and call the snake charmer.

1. **What indicated that grandfather was unsuccessful to find the snake-charmer? What was the next solution given by grandmother?**

**Ans:** The grandfather returned looking crestfallen, that indicated that he was unsuccessful to find the snake-charmer. The next solution provided by the grandmother was to take it away and leave it in the jungle across the river bed.

1. **Why did grandfather want to go the bathroom first? Who accompanied him? What happened there?**

**Ans:** After coming dejectedly, grandfather went to the bathroom to give him some food first. He took a plucked chicken with him to give it to the python. He was accompanied there by the narrator, grandmother, a cook and gardener. When grandfather opened the door, it was found that the python wasn’t there.

1. **Why had the python left, according to grandfather? What did the narrator say? What can one understand from his remark?**

**Ans:** According to the grandfather, the python had left because he was hungry. The narrator wished it wasn’t too hungry as it would go to on a killing spree.

1. **How had the python escaped? Which different places were searched?**

**Ans:** The python had left from the window was left open. A careful search was made of the house, the kitchen, the garden, the stable and the poultry shed.

1. **Which two emotions did grandmother feel on python’s sudden disappearance? Why?**

**Ans:** Grandmother was half way between anxiety and relief on python’s sudden disappearance. She was anxious as it would appear again and was relieved as for time being it had disappeared.

1. **What happened for a couple of days after Aunt Mabel’s arrival?**

**Ans:** After Aunt Mabel’s arrival, for a couple of days Grandfather and the narrator were a little apprehensive in case the python made a sudden appearance.

1. **When did the python make an appearance? Where? How did Aunt Mabel react after seeing it?**

**Ans:** The python made a sudden appearance on the third day in the evening. He was found in the garden in the guava tree. As soon as Aunt Mabel saw it, Aunt Mabel came flying up the veranda steps looking as though she had seen a ghost.

1. **What did the grandmother sprinkle on Aunt Mabel? What had Aunt Mabel seen, according to her?**

**Ans:** The grandmother sprinkled Eau-de-Cologne on Aunt Mabel. According to Aunt Mabel, she had seen a great boa-constrictor which was twenty feet long.

1. **How did Grandfather decide to kill the python? What happened when he reached the guava tree?**

**Ans:** Grandfather decided to kill the python probably with an umbrella. When he reached the guava tree, the python had disappeared.

1. **Which were the most unexpected places where the python made sudden appearances? How did Aunt Mabel react to it?**

**Ans:** The most unexpected places where the python made sudden appearance were; under a cushion. Aunt Mabel had another fit of hysterics when she had seen him admiring Aunt from under a cushion.

1. **Mention the chronological order in which the python was found the next morning.**

**Ans:** Next morning the python curled up on the dressing table, gazing at his reflection in the mirror. A little later he was seen in the garden again, then on the dressing table, admiring himself in the mirror.

1. **What did grandfather observe? Mention the two funny comments said by the narrator. What was the consequence of the second one?**

**Ans:** Grandfather observed that perhaps the attention the python was receiving from everyone had made him a little conceited. The two funny comments said by the narrator were; that Aunt Mabel must have frightened the python. Secondly, the python was probably trying to look better for Aunt Mabel. He regretted saying the second one had the Grandmother overhear it and she brought the flat of her broad hand down on his head.

1. **What kind of trap was laid for the python?**

**Ans:** A trap was laid by preparing a large cage with a mirror at one end. In the cage, a juicy chicken and various other delicacies were left, a trap door was fitted on the opening.

1. **What did the narrator see when he was going to school, one morning? What did the narrator do?**

**Ans:** One morning when the narrator was going to school, he saw that the python had curled up in the cage He had eaten everything left out for him and was relaxing in front of the mirror which resembled like a smile on his face- if you can imagine a python smiling.

1. **How did the python react after being trapped?**

**Ans:** After the narrator lowered the trapdoor gently, the python took no notice as he was in raptures over his handsome reflection.

1. **How was the python carried to the jungle?**

**Ans:** The grandfather took the python, put him into the cage and was carried to the other of the river bed in the pony trap.

1. **What was observed by the grandfather regarding the python in the end of the story?**

**Ans:** Grandfather observed that when he left the cage in the jungle with the trapdoor open, he made no attempt to get out. The grandfather didn’t have the heart to take the mirror away as it was the first time he had seen a snake fall in love.

**Lines Composed in a Wood on a Windy Day**

On a windy day, the poet feels that her soul is awakened and her spirit is soaring high. It is carried aloft (high in the air) on the wings of the breeze. The poet also feels that the wind around her is wild and roaring. This wild wind generates feelings of happiness and pleasure on the earth and the sea.

The poet observes that the withered grass in the sunshine glances (shines), the bare trees move their branches, the dead leaves beneath dance merrily and the white clouds move (scud) across the blue sky.

The poet wishes if she could see the ocean lashing its waves (she is in the forest). She wishes to experience the foam of the billows (waves) and also the whirlwinds of spray. She wants to see how the proud waves dash and desires to hear the wild roar of their thunder (noise) on that day.