



# Moments

## The Lost Child

# 1

— Mulk Raj Anand

NCERT SOLUTIONS



### What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

- 1. What are those things that the child sees on his way to the fair ? Why does he lag behind ?**

**Ans.**The child comes across various things and scenes on his way to the fair. He sees the toys in the shops, doves, insects, butterflies, dragonflies raining flower petals, He lags behind in watching all these things.

- 2. In the fair, he wants many things, what are they ? Why does he move on without waiting for an answer ?**

**Ans.**The child comes across various things like sweets, garlands, balloons and swings. He is also amazed by the snake charmer who plays his flute for the coiled snake. But he moves on without waiting for an answer from his parents because he knows that his parents won't buy those things for him. They are very poor and give him lame excuses.

- 3. When does he realize that he has lost his way ? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described ?**

**Ans.**The boy realized that he has lost his way when he requested his parents to allow him to go on the roundabout swing and found them nowhere around him. The boy became very anxious and insecure after this incident. He started crying. His face was convulsed with fear. He was panic stricken and moved here and there in search of his parents.

- 4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier ?**

**Ans.**The child lost the interest in the things that he had wanted earlier because he had lost his parents. None of the materialistic things tempted him to that extent, when his parents were not around him. This shows that the child loved his parents more than anything in the world. He simply wanted to meet his parents and be with them as soon as possible.

- 5. What do you think happens in the end ? Does the child find his parents?**

**Ans.**No, the child doesn't find his parents at the end. He has been carried away by a gentleman who tries to divert his mind by taking him to those places which can tempt him and can make him quiet. But the boy only demanded one thing. He wanted to see his parents and nothing else. So, in the end he was still in search of his parents.

## **Talk About it**

### **1. How to ensure not to get lost ?**

**Ans.** The fair is a crowded place to visit. The only precautionary measure that can ensure that we do not get lost is to be with our parents in the whole fair. Even the parents should also try to please their kids by buying them some items from the fair. The safety of the children of that age is in the hands of the parents. Therefore, one can ensure not to get lost by being together in the fair.



# The Adventures of Toto

# 2

— Ruskin Bond

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## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

**1. How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo ?**

**Ans.** Grandfather bought Toto from a tonga driver for a sum of five rupees. He bought him because he could not see Toto being tied to a feeding trough. So, he decided to buy him and keep in his private zoo.

**2. "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty ?**

**Ans.** Yes its true that Toto was a pretty monkey. He had sparkling eyes and pearly white teeth.

**3. Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how ? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog ?**

**Ans.** Grandfather wanted to go to Saharanpur for his pension work. He took Toto with him as he couldn't let him irritate the family members especially grandmother in his absence. The ticket collector had great presence of mind and he wanted to annoy the grandfather so he said that Toto was a dog, not a monkey, so that he could charge his fare as well.

**4. How does Toto take a bath ? Where has he learnt to do this ? How does Toto almost boil himself alive ?**

**Ans.** Toto used to take bath in a delightful manner. It was a great treat for him during the cold winter evenings when the large bowl of warm water was given to him by grandmother for his bath. He used to cunningly test the temperature with his hand one then gradually step into the bath first with one foot and then others. He has learnt to do this from seeing the narrator.

Toto wanted to bath himself in the kitchen fire and nearly succeeded in boiling himself alive by jumping in a kettle full of boiling water.

**5. Why does the author say, "Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long"?**

**Ans.** The author says that Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long because of his mischievous activities in the house. He had irritated all the members and neighbours of grandfather. Grandfather wanted to give him a chance but he was not willing to improve. He broke too many things and destroyed many clothes. So, it was difficult to keep him and continue bearing losses.

### **Talk About it**

**1. Do you have a pet ? Is your pet mischievous ? Tell the class about it.**

**Ans.** Yes, I have a pet dog whose name is Bobo. He is not a mischievous animal as Toto. He calmly sits over the mat, drinks milk twice a day. He also goes with me for walk in the morning and evening. He is very good. He is loyal and takes care of all the family members.



# Iswaran the Storyteller

# 3

—R.K. Laxman

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## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

**1. In what way was Iswaran an asset to Mahendra ?**

**Ans.** Iswaran was an obedient and loyal person. He was Mahendra's cook. He was very caring and hard-working. He did all the jobs such as cooking meal, washing clothes and told stories to Mahendra each night. He obeyed his master with full dedication. So, he was an asset to Mahendra.

**2. How does Iswaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway ? What effect does he want to create in his listeners ?**

**Ans.** Iswaran was greatly influenced by the Tamil authors. He was in the habit of creating suspense. He had the quality of narrating even the smallest incident in an impressive way. He presented the incident related to the uprooted tree on the highway in a dramatic way. "He was alone and the road was deserted. He saw something that looked like an enormous beast lying across the road. But as soon as he came close, he found there nothing but a fallen tree". His main purpose was to create suspense & surprise.

**3. How does he narrate the story of the tusker ? Does it appear to be plausible ?**

**Ans.** Iswaran narrated the story of the tusker exaggeratedly. The Tusker, having escaped from the timber yard, stamped on bushes, tore up wild creepers and broke the branches at his will. The elephant became uncontrollable and entered the school ground. It created chaos there. Everyone in the school tried to escape. No one dared to face the tusker. In the meantime, Iswaran took a cane from a teacher and moved towards the elephant. He hit his third toenail and the beast collapsed. He claimed that he had used the Japanese art to control the tusker. But the story seems totally implausible as it is very difficult to believe that a child can control a mad elephant.

**4. Why does the author say that Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters ?**

**Ans.** Iswaran was an expert in telling the mysterious stories in a dramatic way. It was his daily routine to entertain Mahendra at night. Mahendra could listen to and watch the development of the story. Thus, Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV.

**5. Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of the imagination. What happens to him on a full-moon night ?**

**Ans.** Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of imagination as he didn't believe in



ghosts. One day Iswaran told him about the female ghost holding a foetus in her arms. On a full-moon night, he woke up from his sleep and looked outside the window. He got shocked to see the same figure and began to sweat profusely.

**6. Can you think of some other ending for the story ?**

**Ans.** The present story ends with Mahendra's resolve to leave the haunted place. But it is not the appropriate ending. Mahendra should not have decided to leave the haunted place without knowing the reality. The story could end up as : Courageously Mahendra approached the woman and tried to know the reality. As soon as Mahendra caught the woman, it vanished. It was nothing but an apparition developed by Iswaran.

**Talk About it**

**1. Is Iswaran a fascinating storyteller ? Discuss with your friends the qualities of a good storyteller. Try to use these qualities and tell a story.**

**Ans.** Undoubtedly, Iswaran is a fascinating storyteller. Telling stories is an art. It is not everybody's cup of tea. He has the ability of making others realise the true spirit of story. He makes use of gestures and dramatic skills to give sound effect.

A good story letter should be an epitome of the qualities mentioned below :

1. He should have vivid imagination
2. He should Possess oratory skills.
3. He should be able to act during the narration.
4. He should use punctuations properly during narration.
5. He should have the ability to vary the tone according to the situation.
6. He should have amusing personality.
7. He should be capable of creating and maintaining interest of the listeners.

Students should tell their own stories in the class.



# In the Kingdom of Fools

# 4

— Kannada Folktale (ed.) A.K. Ramanujan

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## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

1. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the kingdom of Fools ?

**Ans.**The guru and the disciple found that in the Kingdom of Fools people used to work during nights and sleep during days. Everything was cheap and cost the same.

2. Why does the disciple decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fool ? Is it a good idea ?

**Ans.**Everything was cheap in the Kingdom of Fools. The disciple was tempted by the cheap food. So, he decided to stay in that Kingdom. It was not a good idea to stay there for a long time as one could be in danger any time because of the unpredictable behaviour of fools.

3. Name all the people who were tried in the king's court, and give the reasons for their trial ?

**Ans.**The owner of the house *i.e.*, the merchant, the bricklayer, the dancing girl and the goldsmith were tried in the king's court. They all were tried because the thief died when the wall of merchant's house had collapsed. The merchant was tried for building a weak wall. The bricklayer was tried for doing work carelessly. The dancing girl was tried for disturbing the concentration of the bricklayer. The goldsmith was blamed for making the dancing girl walk up and down to his house a dozen times.

4. Who is the real culprit according to the king ? Why does he escape punishment ?

**Ans.**The merchant's dead father was held responsible for making the wall weak. But according to the king the rich merchant was the real culprit because he had inherited both sins and riches of his father. He escaped the punishment because he was too thin for the stake.

5. What are the Guru's words of wisdom ? When does the disciple remember them ?

**Ans.**The Guru was full of wisdom and knew well that the unpredictable behaviours of the fools could create danger anytime. The Guru's words were, "They are all fools. This won't last very long, and you can't tell what they'll do to you next." The disciple remembered them when he was arrested by the men of the king for execution merely because he was fit for the stake. It was because of Guru's words of wisdom that the execution was postponed.

**6. How does the Guru manage to save his disciple's life ?**

**Ans.** The Guru arrived in time to save his disciple and created a drama. He told the king that it was not an ordinary stake and whoever went to the stake first would become the king in next life.

The second to die would become his minister. The king didn't want to lose his kingship. So, he and his minister died at the stake.

The Guru and his disciple were released. Thus, the Guru managed to save his disciple's life by befooling the foolish king.



# The Happy Prince

# 5

—Oscar Wilde

NCERT SOLUTIONS



## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About The Text

- 1. Why do the courtiers call the prince 'the Happy Prince' ? Is he really happy ? What does he see all around him ?**

**Ans.** He was a Prince when he was alive. Being a prince he never knew sorrow and suffering, so, the courtiers called him, "the Happy Prince" But he was not happy in real sense as his heart could feel the misery of needy people. He saw the miserable conditions of the people around him.

- 2. Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seams-tress ? What does the swallow do in the seamstress' house ?**

**Ans.** The seamstress was tired due to overwork. She was so poor that she could not buy oranges for her little sick son. Her son was thirsty. The Happy prince saw the poor lady and her son. He felt pity for them. So, he sent a ruby for her. The swallow came to the poor woman's house and laid the ruby on the work table next to the thimble. The bird (Swallow) fanned the boy's forehead with wings and flew back to the Happy Prince.

- 3. For whom does the prince send the sapphires and why ?**

**Ans.** The playwright was very poor. He was incapable of buying food and firewood. The prince sent the sapphires for the playwright so that he could finish a play for the director of the theatre in time. The prince sent his second sapphire to a poor match girl. Her matches had fallen into the gutter. She was afraid that her father would beat her for loss. So, she was helped by the prince by sending her the second sapphire.

- 4. What does the swallow see when it flies over the city ?**

**Ans.** The swallow saw all categories of people. He found the rich making merry in their beautiful houses the beggars were sitting at the gates. He also saw a group of wandering children who were poverty-stricken.

- 5. Why did the swallow not leave the prince and go to Egypt ?**

**Ans.** At first, the swallow was willing to go to Egypt just after discharging his duty properly. But when he saw prince's activities of charity and kindness he got impressed. On the other hand, now the Happy Prince had become totally blind due to the deeds of charity. In this condition, he could not leave the prince helpless. He left the idea of going to Egypt and decided to serve the prince.

- 6. What are the precious things mentioned in the story ? Why are they precious ?**

**Ans.** The leaden heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow are the two precious



things mentioned in the story. They are precious as they did various deeds for the welfare of people and sacrificed their lives for the sake of others.

### **Talk About it**

- 1. The little swallow says, “It is curious, but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold.” Have you ever had such a feeling ? Share your experience with your friends.**

**Ans.** Man is a social animal. He is social because he is dependent on others to lead a satisfactory life. In this regard, mutual help is required. Whenever we help others, there is a feeling of satisfaction. Whenever we are helped by others, we feel grateful. We become, satisfied. Yes, I have experienced such a feeling many a time. I believe in helping others. Others too help me whenever I am in need. I help others considering it as my duty. I remember the day when I started helping others. Since that day I feel more confident and have become a successful citizen. I feel the presence of God around me.



# The Last Leaf

# 6

—O. Henry

NCERT SOLUTIONS



## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

1. What is Johnsy's illness? What can cure her, the medicine or the willingness to live?

**Ans.** Johnsy falls ill with pneumonia. She keeps lying in her bed for many days. During this, she has a fancy that she will die when the last leaf on the ivy creeper falls. The treatment given by the doctor proves useless because she is expecting death anytime. Not medicine but the willingness to live can cure her.

2. Do you think the feeling of depression Johnsy has, is common among teenagers?

**Ans.** The mind is highly sensitive and imaginative in the teenage. If any fancy takes place in their mind it becomes very difficult to get them out of that. So, the feeling of depression Johnsy has, is very common among teenagers.

3. Behrman has a dream. What is it? Does it come true?

**Ans.** Behrman is a sixty years old painter. He lives on the ground floor of the building in which Sue and Johnsy live. He had a dream. His dream was to paint a master-piece. This dream comes true when he paints a leaf on the wall. Johnsy thinks it is the last leaf on the ivy creeper. This last leaf saves Johnsy's life.

4. What is Behrman's masterpiece? What makes Sue say so?

**Ans.** Behrman is a sixty year old painter. He paints a leaf on the wall. It looks like the last leaf on the ivy creeper. Johnsy thinks it is the real leaf. It does not fall in the ice cold wind and storm and rain. This inspires a willingness for life in Johnsy's mind. Johnsy gets better soon. So, Sue calls this painting, Behrman's Master-piece.

### Talk About It

1. Have you ever felt depressed and rejected? How did you overcome such feelings? Share your experience with your classmates.

**Ans.** Yes, I have once felt depressed and rejected when I scored below average marks in the mathematics exam. I was feeling very depressed and sad by this incident. My teachers and parents supported me to get out of this. They helped me in overcoming my doubts by practising more and more sums in a day. Then in my final examination, I secured better marks than before. Then I was relaxed and calm.



# A House Is Not a Home

# 7

—Zan Gaudioso

NCERT SOLUTIONS



## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

- 1. What does the author notice one Sunday afternoon? What is his mother's reaction? What does she do?**

**Ans.** The narrator, while doing his homework noticed the smoke pouring in through the seam of the ceiling. The room was filled with the smoke very quickly. The narrator and his mother ran outside to save their life. His mother ran out of the house with a small metal box full of important documents. She became so crazy that she rushed back to the house just after dropping the box.

- 2. Why does he break down in tears after the fire?**

**Ans.** The narrator's house was completely burned down. Five hours later when the fire was finally put out, he realised at once that his cat was nowhere. He had to face the loss of old school, his house and cat. In such a state, he cried and broke down in tears.

- 3. Why is the author deeply embarrassed the next day in school? Which words show his fear and insecurity?**

**Ans.** The narrator was embarrassed as he did not have his shoes and his clothes were wierd. He didn't have study material. He had no backpack. He had the feeling of insecurity. All things appeared strange to him. He was shocked deeply and seemed frustrated. The words uttered by him were: "was I destined to be an outcast a geek all my life? I didn't want to grow up' change or have to handle life, if it was to going to be this way." 'I just wanted to curl up and die'. These words reveal his fear and insecurity.

- 4. The cat and the author are very fond of each other. How has this been shown in the story ? Where was the cat after the fire? Who brings it back and how?**

**Ans.** The narrator loved his cat very much. He never Let her go far from him. She kept sitting beside him when he did his homework and other household work. When the author got his cat back, his happiness was beyond the limits. He grabbed her quickly and felt relieved. This proved that they were very fond of each other. The cat ran over a mile away when the house was on fire. A stranger lady brought it back as there was a phone number written on the collar of the cat.

- 5. What actions of the schoolmates change the author's understanding of life and people, and comfort him emotionally? How does his loneliness vanish and how does he start participating in life?**

**Ans.** His schoolmates brought school supplies, notebooks, all kinds of different clothes



for the author in order to help him. It was a matter of surprise and too difficult for him to believe. He received emotional satisfaction. People who had never spoken, introduced themselves one by one. All things seemed under control now and created his interest in life. Now he had all the things whatever he used to have. He started enjoying his life as usual.

**6. What is the meaning of “My cat was back and so was I ?” Had the author gone anywhere? Why does he say that he is also back?**

**Ans.** Here the author wants to point out that life without affection is useless. He was depressed after a great loss in all fields. His old school and teachers were always in his mind. The fire had reduced his house to ashes. His cat was also not with him. In such circumstances he considered himself dead and had no interest in life. In the end as soon as the situation changed he felt relieved. Now he had all the things with him. The author had not gone anywhere. It was his state of mind. He recovered from his gloomy state and started enjoying life when he got his cat back.

### **Talk About It**

**1. Have any of your classmates/schoolmates had an experience like the one described in the story where they needed help? Describe how they were helped.**

**Ans.** Two years ago, my friend Rahul visited the market to buy some household things. It was a crowded market and a shop caught fire due to short-circuit. The panic stricken people rushed here and there. My friend too was trying to leave that place. He along with three other people got himself locked in a nearby shop to escape from smoke. But the shop was filled with smoke within a little span of time. They felt suffocated by the fumes. They considered that their end was near. In the meantime, a team of firefighters broke open the shelter and took them out of the shop. They were hospitalised quickly. I got my friend back because of the team and the grace of God.





# The Beggar

# 8

— Anton Chekhov

NCERT SOLUTIONS



## What's inside

– Textbook Exercise Q's (solved)

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## TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

### Think About It

**1. Has Lushkoff become a beggar by circumstance or by choice ?**

**Ans.**Lushkoff was a middle aged man and belonged to the Russian choir. He was sacked from the choir because of his drinking habits. He became a beggar by choice as he did not like to work hard at that stage.

**2. What reasons does he give to Sergei for telling lies?**

**Ans.**Lushkoff told the truth and accepted that he was a liar. Formerly, he used to be a singer. He told lies to seek the favours of others. If he had spoken the truth none would have helped him. So, he decided to tell lies.

**3. Is Lushkoff a willing worker? Why, then, does he agree to chop wood for Sergei?**

**Ans.**No, he was not a willing worker. He was too weak to work. He had lost his strength and stamina due to his habit of drinking and secondly he was a middle aged man. He agreed to work because of pride and shame and he had been trapped by his own words. So, he had no other way but to accept Sergei's offer.

**4. Sergei says "I am happy that my words have taken effect." Why does he say so ? Is he right in saying so?**

**Ans.**Sergei looked satisfied with the performance of the beggar and felt happy when Lushkoff's jobs of packing and hauling of the furniture was over, he praised him while handing him a rouble. But Lushkoff still didn't develop the habit of working hard. He continued being an idle person.

**5. Lushkoff is earning thirty five roubles a month. How is he obliged to Sergei for this?**

**Ans.**Sergei played a very important role in improving the condition of beggar. It was because of Sergei that Lushkoff could earn thirty five roubles a month. He offered him a job to chop wood at his home. Later on he sent him to one of his friends to do the job of copying. Lushkoff was highly obliged to Sergei because now he was a notary because of him.

**6. During their conversation Lushkoff reveals that Sergei's cook, Olga is responsible for the positive change in him. How has Olga saved Lushkoff ?**

**Ans.**Olga was a social and sympathetic lady. She Loved humanity. She realised the condition of Lushkoff and tried her best to improve the man. She did the work of his part as she wanted to change him.

She kept criticising him in order to improve him. He realised her feelings towards him and a change took place in his heart. So, Olga was responsible for the positive change in him.

### **Talk About it**

#### **1. How can we help beggars/abolish begging ?**

**Ans.** Begging is a curse for society. The number of beggars is increasing day by day. Beggars can be seen at all public places. Some of the beggars have made it a business. It has become a serious problem. Our society and the government should take necessary steps to solve this problem. Global spread of education is required. Our government should pass strict Laws against begging. Beggars should be given an opportunity to work. Financial support can be provided to them in order to set up some work. Beggars may be turned into skilled labourers. The government should set up beggar's home only for the handicapped. Begging is a bad practice and is an impediment in the way of progress. So, we should discourage begging and beggars.