

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ.
WORKSHEET-3
SESSION: 2020-2021
SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE
CLASS: 8(A BC D E)
CHAPTER: The Hero

Let's Read

Swami hurriedly got up and spread his bed under the bench and crouched there. It seemed to be a much safer place, more compact and reassuring. He shut his eyes tight and encased himself in his blanket once again and unknown to himself fell asleep, and in sleep was racked with nightmares. A tiger was chasing him. His feet stuck to the ground. He desperately tried to escape but his feet would not move; the tiger was at his back, and he could hear its claws scratch the ground....Scratch, scratch and then a light thud...Swami tried to open his eyes, but his eyelids would not open and the nightmare continued. It threatened to continue forever. Swami groaned in despair.

With a desperate effort he opened his eyes. He put his hand out to feel his granny's presence at his side, as was his habit, but he only touched the wooden leg of the bench. And his lonely state came back to him. He sweated with fright. And now what was this rustling? He moved to the edge of the bench and stared into the darkness. Something was moving down. He lay gazing at it in horror. His end had come. He realised that the devil would presently pull him out and tear him, and so why should he wait? As it came nearer, he crawled out from under the bench, hugged it with all his might, and used his teeth on it like a mortal weapon.

"Aiyo, something has bitten me," went forth an agonised, thundering cry and was followed by a heavy tumbling and falling amidst furniture. In a moment Father, cook and a servant came in, carrying light.

And all three of them fell on the burglar who lay amidst the furniture with a bleeding ankle. Congratulations were showered on Swami the next day. His classmates looked at him with respect, and his teacher patted his back. The headmaster said that he was a true scout. Swami had bitten into the flesh of one of the most notorious house-breakers of the district and the police were grateful to him for it.

The inspector said, "Why don't you join the police when you are grown up?"

Swami said for the sake of politeness, "Certainly, yes," though he had quite made up his mind to be an engine driver, a railway guard or a bus conductor later in life.

When he returned home from the club that night, Father asked, "Where is the boy?"

"He is asleep."

"Already!"

"He didn't have a wink of sleep the whole of last night," said his mother.

"Where is he sleeping?"

"In his usual place," Mother said casually. "He went to bed at seven thirty."

"Sleeping beside his granny again!" Father said. "No wonder he wanted to be asleep before I could return home – clever boy!"

Mother lost her temper. "You let him sleep where he likes. You needn't risk his life again."

Father mumbled as he went in to change, "All right, mollycoddle and spoil him as much as

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you like. Only don't blame me afterwards."

Swami, following the whole conversation from under the blanket, felt tremendously relieved to hear that his father was giving up on him.

-R. K. NARAYAN

Q.1. Write the meaning of the underlined words (use dictionary) and learn the spellings.

Q.2. Fill in the blanks:-

- a) Swami moved to the edge of the bench and stared into the _____.
- b) All three of them fell on the _____ who lay amidst the furniture.
- c) The _____ said that he was a true scout.

Q.3. Answer the following questions in short:-

- a) What nightmare troubled Swami in his sleep?
- b) How did Swami help in catching the burglar?

THE END