

GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
SESSION: 2020- 2021
WORKSHEET 1
CLASS: 8 (A B C D E)
SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

CHAPTER: THE HERO

NOTE: Parents please ensure that the student reads the given passage very carefully to answer the questions that follow.

Let's Read

Now, read the story of a boy who was afraid to sleep alone but was forced to do so.

For Swami, events took an unexpected turn. Father looked over the newspaper he was reading under the hall lamp and said, "Swami, listen to this: News is to hand of the bravery of a village lad who, while returning home by the jungle path, came face-to-face with a tiger...." The paragraph described the fight the boy had with the tiger and his flight up a tree, where he stayed for half a day till some people came that way and killed the tiger.

After reading it through, Father looked at Swami fixedly and asked, "What do you say to that?"

Swami said, "I think he must have been a very strong and grown-up person, not at all a boy. How could a boy fight a tiger?"

"You think you are wiser than the newspaper?" Father sneered. "A man may have the strength of an elephant and yet be a coward; whereas another may have the strength of a straw, but if he has courage he can do anything, Courage is everything; strength and age are not important."

Swami disputed the theory. "How can it be, Father? Suppose I have all the courage, what can I do if a tiger should attack me?"

"Leave alone strength, can you prove you have courage? Let me see if you can sleep alone tonight in my office room."

"A frightful proposition," Swami thought. He had always slept beside his granny in the passage, and any change in this arrangement kept him trembling and awake all night. He hoped at first that his father was only joking. He mumbled weakly, "Yes," and tried to change the subject; he said very loudly and with a great deal of enthusiasm, "We are going to admit even elders in our cricket club hereafter. We are buying brand new bats and balls. Our captain has asked me to tell you...."

"We'll see about it later," Father cut it. "You must sleep alone hereafter."

Swami realised that the matter has gone beyond his control – from a challenge it had become a plain command; he knew his father's tenacity at such moments.

“From the first of next month I'll sleep alone, Father.”

“No, you must do it now. It is disgraceful sleeping beside Granny or Mother like a baby. You are in the second form and I don't at all like the way you're being brought up,” he said, and looked at his wife, who was rocking the cradle.

“Why do you look at me while you say it?” She asked, “I hardly know anything about the boy.”

“No, no, I don't mean you,” Father said.

“If you mean that your mother is spoiling him, tell her so; and don't look at me,” she said and turned away.

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

Q.2. Fill in the blanks: -

- a) Swami's father was reading the newspaper under the _____ lamp.
- b) Swami had always slept beside his granny in the _____.
- c) The village lad stayed for half a day up on a _____.

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

- a) What news did Swami's father read to him?
- b) What did Swami's father ask him to do to prove that he had courage?

THE END

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