

Class 9, Moments

Ch. 5 The Happy Prince

Exercises-

Think about it

Question 1.

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

Answer:

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 people around him.

Question 2.

Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seamstress? What does the swallow do in the seamstress' house?

Answer:

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 table beside her. The bird fanned the boy's forehead with wings and flew back to the Happy Prince.

Q3. For whom does the prince send the sapphires and why?

Q4. What does the swallow see when it flies over the city?

A. The swallow bird saw the rich making merry in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at the gates. He flew into dark lanes, and saw the white faces of starving children looking out listlessly at the black streets. Under the archway of a bridge two little boys were lying in each other's arms trying to keep themselves warm. They were hungry. They ran away from there when the watchman shouted at them.

Q5. Why did the swallow not leave the prince and go to Egypt?

A. The swallow bird did not leave the prince as it loved him. As the statue was blind, the bird wanted to remain with it.

Q6. What are the precious things mentioned in the story? Why are they precious?

A. The two precious things are the dead swallow bird and the statue's broken heart. According to God, they were precious because in the garden of paradise, the little bird shall sing for ever more and in heaven, the Happy Prince's heart shall praise God.

Extra Questions and Answers

Short Answer Type

Question 1.

Where was the statue?

Answer:

The statue of the Happy Prince was on a tall pillar at a high place in the city. It was a beautiful statue. It was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold. For eyes it had two sapphires.

Question 2.

Where was the swallow going? Why did he stop there?

Answer:

The swallow was going to Egypt. His friends had gone to Egypt six weeks before but he had stayed behind. So he was going to join them. He stopped near the statue to take some rest during the night. There was plenty of air. So he stopped there.

Question 3.

Why did the Happy Prince ask the swallow to stay?

Answer:

The Happy Prince told the swallow that he wanted to help the poor but he could not move as his feet were fastened to the pedestal. He requested the swallow to stay there and take the ruby to the seamstress.

Question 4.

What happened to the swallow in the end?

Answer:

The swallow decided to help the people through the Happy Prince. He stayed there for many days. Now the winter had come and there was frost all around. In the end, the swallow died due to frost. The weather was so bad for him that he could not survive.

Question 5.

What happened to the Happy Prince's leaden heart?

Answer:

Happy Prince's leaden heart did not melt in the furnace. It was thrown away. The angels considered the leaden heart the most precious thing in the city. They took it to the heaven.

Question 6.

Why did the workmen at the foundry throw the leaden heart?

Answer:

The workmen at the foundry threw the leaden heart on the heap of garbage, because it did not melt in the furnace. They found it useless.

Question 7.

How did God reward the prince and the swallow?

Answer:

God rewarded the Happy Prince and the swallow by giving them a place in heaven. The swallow will sing forever in the garden of paradise and the Happy Prince will live in the city of gold.

Question 8.

Why did the Swallow cry when the Happy Prince asked him to pluck out one of the sapphires?

Answer:

When the happy Prince asked the swallow to pluck out one of the sapphires from his eyes he felt that that it was really a cruel and painful task. He was aggrieved to such a heartless job, so he cried.

Long Answer Type

Question 1.

How did the Happy Prince help the seamstress?

Answer:

The Happy Prince helped the seamstress by giving a ruby. He could see her that she was tired due to over work. Her little son was sick. He was thirsty and asking for oranges. The poor seamstress had nothing to give him but river water. The Happy Prince felt pity for them. The prince asked the swallow to pluck out his ruby from the hilt of his sword and give it to the old poor seamstress. The swallow obeyed his order and placed the ruby beside the woman. He fanned the sick boy by his wings and made him comfortable. It shows that the Happy Prince had empathy, sympathy and kindness in his character. He acted out of concern and compassion.

Question 2.

How did the Happy Prince and the little swallow help the playwright?

OR

How did the little swallow carry out the wishes of the Happy Prince to playwright? What do you learn from the character of the prince and the swallow?

Answer:

The playwright was to finish the play for a theatre. It was very cold. He was hungry too. He did not have money to arrange for food and fire. The Happy Prince requested the swallow to pluck out the sapphire from one of his eyes and take it to the playwright. The swallow took the sapphire to the playwright.

Now he could buy food and firewood. Thus the Prince and the swallow helped the young playwright. Both the Happy Prince and the swallow sacrificed their lives for others. 'Service before self' is what they teach. They were kind, sympathetic, caring and sacrificing. I learn from them that God loves those who serve others. '

Question 3.

‘Goodness can never be destroyed.’ Do you agree? Illustrate with reference to the story ‘The Happy Prince’.

Answer:

Yes, I agree with the statement, “Goodness can never be destroyed”. In the story the Happy Prince had goodness for all. He had a kind heart and was moved by the widespread poverty and misery of the people. So, he had his great will to help others in adverse circumstances. He gave his eyes, gold and jewels to the poor. The swallow was the messenger of the Happy Prince. When the swallow died at his feet, the heart of the Happy Prince was broken into two due to its death. The statue of Happy Prince was no longer useful and beautiful. It was pulled down. When the statue was melted in a furnace, the leaden heart did not melt because goodness can never be destroyed.

Question 4.

Imagine yourself as the swallow who flew over the city and had seen the widespread poverty. Describe your feelings.

Answer:

I have been living with the Happy Prince for the last many days, helping the poor and the needy. He has already given his eyes and jewels to the poor. He still wants to help the poor. Today, I flew over the city. The rich were making merry in their beautiful houses while the beggars were sitting at their gates. When I flew into dark lanes, I saw the white-faced starving children. I saw two little boys under a bridge. They were very hungry. The watchman shouted at them and chased them away. They went out in the rain.

Question 5.

‘The two most precious things in the city’ were the Happy Prince and the swallow. Do you agree? Illustrate.

Answer:

The two most precious things in the city were the leaden heart of the Happy Prince and the dead swallow. The Happy Prince had sacrificed his all to serve the suffering humanity and help the poor. The swallow fulfilled the wishes of the Happy Prince. He sacrificed his self-interest of going to Egypt. He carried gold and jewels to the suffering people. He remained with the Prince in the bad weather. He died at the Prince’s feet. So, the angel was right when it took the leaden heart of the Prince and the dead swallow to heaven. *

Question 6.

“The Happy Prince had compassion for the poor.” How do you think the swallow came to know about it?

Answer:

The Happy Prince had pity and compassion for the poor. When the swallow landed there, he saw the Happy Prince weeping at the miserable condition of the people around him. The swallow at once realised that he had compassion for the poor. Compassion is a good value that everyone should have. We should have good feelings for others. We should understand the needs of others and help them. If someone is leading a miserable life, we should have

compassion for him and help. It makes us a good human being. The Happy Prince and the Swallow had compassion for the poor and the needy. They were rewarded by God for their sympathy and compassion for the poor.

Question 7.

Why could, according to you, the Happy Prince not see the misery of people when he was alive ? What does it show about his character?

Answer:

When the Happy Prince was alive, he could not see the misery of people because he was never out of his palace and was happy throughout his life. He lived a comfortable life inside the palace and never saw the misery and ugliness of the people around him. Being a Prince, he never knew about the sorrows and sufferings of the people. But, in real sense, his heart could feel the misery of the people around him. The Happy Prince was kind and sympathetic. When he saw misery all around he wept for others. He sacrificed everything for the good of others. It shows that he was kind and compassionate for others and helpful to the suffering society.

Question 8.

The Swallow in the story 'The Happy Prince' played a crucial role in making the Prince happy. What traits does the bird possess which makes it fulfil its tasks?

Answer:

The swallow enjoyed flying and was excited about reaching Egypt, where they awaited his arrival. He was inquisitive. When he saw there was no rain falling and yet drops fell on him, before looking for a dry chimney pot, he ascertained that they were falling from the cheeks of the Happy Prince. Being extremely helpful, he offered to deliver the ruby to the seamstress so that she could buy food for her son. He also fanned the boy with his wings to cool his feverish state. The swallow was extremely compromising and delayed his departure to Egypt in order to carry out the wishes of the Happy Prince, by delivering his gems and gold to the needy in the city. The painstaking bird plucked leaf after leaf of the gold plating on the statue and gave it to the poor and sacrificed his life for the Happy Prince.

Question 9.

"Good deeds always pay." Do you agree? How were the Happy Prince and the swallow rewarded for their good deeds?

Answer:

Yes, good deeds always pay in one's life. A good deed is the one which makes someone happy. When we help a person in his problems we are blessed. So, it should be our aim to help the suffering humanity. It is not only the person but God will also be happy. We are satisfied when we do a good act. A bad deed always hurts. One is never happy and satisfied. In fact, the Happy Prince and the Swallow helped the suffering people as much as they could. Both the Happy Prince and the swallow were rewarded for their good deeds by God. They found a permanent place in heaven. Good deeds always make us warm and happy.

Question 10.

If the Happy Prince had been alive and had known the misery of people, he would have made a

lot of difference to the lives of people. Do you agree? Justify.

Answer:

A king full of compassion and sympathy for his people can never see them in misery. Unfortunately our traditional kings, though very kind and compassionate, were never aware of their people's misery. But the Happy Prince was a kind prince. When he was alive, he sacrificed everything for the welfare of his subordinates. But he never came to know about their misery. When he knew it, it was too late. I think if he had been alive, he would have made a lot of difference to the lives of his people.

Question 11.

How did the Happy Prince and the little swallow help the matchgirl? How will you feel if you help someone in need?

Answer:

The Happy Prince told the swallow that a poor little girl sells matchboxes. Her matches had fallen in the gutter and they all were spoiled. She was crying. If she did not take money home, her father would beat her. The Prince also pointed out that she was barefooted. He requested the swallow to pluck the sapphire from his other eye and give it to the girl. The swallow plucked the sapphire and gave it to the girl. Helping someone in need is always a noble act. One is blessed. If I help someone in need, it will give me a lot of satisfaction. The sparrow and the prince found the girl in need and they helped her. It brought them close to God. It was a great act on their part.

Question 12.

How did the Happy Prince help the poor and the starving children? What lesson do you learn from the story?

Answer:

The Happy Prince had become blind now. He had given his eyes to the playwright and to the matchgirl. Now he requested the swallow to stay with him forever. The swallow flew over the city and told the sufferings of the poor to the Prince. The Prince was deeply moved.

He asked the swallow to take off the gold leaves from his body and give them away to the poor. The swallow picked off the gold leaf after leaf till the Happy Prince looked dull and grey. The swallow distributed the gold among the poor and the starving children to make them happy. The lesson provides a valuable lesson to be always ready to help the people in need.
