

I. Packing:

Q. Discuss the humor in the story.

Ans.

- The inexperienced packers create a lot of confusion and mess.
- Jerome wanted to dictate the packing, boss the job and let Harris and George potter about under his instructions. Turned out that he ended up doing the first section of the packing.
- Jerome's self praise about being a greatly talented packer.
- Jerome looks for his boots, wonders if he has put them in the bag
- Packing, unpacking and repacking several times makes the story humourous.
- Jerome is obsessed with his toothbrush and gets dreams about not having put it in the bag.
- He rummages through everything, turns everything out of the bag, finds George's and Harris' several times, but cannot find his own toothbrush.
- It was found in a boot.
- After slamming the bag shut Jerome discovers that he has packed his spectacles in it.
- George and Harris were in charge of packing the hamper.
- They squash tomatoes, remove them with a spoon, pack pies at the bottom and squishing them, upset salt over everything is very silly.
- Adding to this is the butter episode where they scrape butter from slippers, put it in a kettle and then take it out from the kettle and keep it in a chair. It gets stuck to Harris's back when he sits on it, while they go round in circles looking for it.
- The author has used exaggeration to make the story hilarious to read.

Q. Discuss Montmorency's character, as described in the story.

Ans:

- Montmorency was involved actively in all the packing activities.
- The ambition of his life was to get in people's way and be sworn at.
- He loved squirming in anywhere where he was not particularly wanted.
- He loved being a perfect nuisance and making people mad.
- He felt his day was not wasted when he irritated/annoyed people, and when they threw things at his head.
- His highest aim was to make people stumble over him and curse him steadily for an hour.

II. Reach for the Top:

Q. Give a brief character sketch of Santosh Yadav.

Ans.

- Santosh was not always happy with the traditional way of life; lived on her own terms ways; broke traditions; wore shorts when all other girls wore traditional Indian dresses.
 - determined to achieve her goals; determined to chose the right and rational path;
 - headstrong and bold; decided to fight the system of child marriage; threatened her parents that she would never marry if she was not given proper education;
 - understood the value and need of education; left home and got herself enrolled at a school in Delhi; was willing to work and earn to pay for her education.
 - focussed on learning to be a mountaineer; saved money to enroll for course in mountaineering; later apologized to her father for not having taken his permission.
 - had an iron will and amazing mental toughness; her fellow climbers were fond of her desire to work together.
 - compassionate and caring towards her fellow climbers; selflessly shared her own oxygen cylinder to save the life of a team mate.
 - proud of being Indian; patriotic spirit even at the peak of Mt Everest.
 - fervent environmentalist; brought down 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas.
-

III. The Last Leaf:

Q. What was Behrman's masterpiece? How did it save Johnsy's life?

Ans.

- Behrman saw Johnsy's condition, she had given up all hopes of surviving the illness
 - He heard about the last leaf that she was waiting for to fall, so she would die
 - Behrman painted a leaf on the ivy creeper outside her window
 - Johnsy believed that the last leaf had not fallen
 - This rekindled in her a will to live
 - Behrman lost his life due to exposure in the cold
 - His masterpiece was the leaf he had painted, that brought in Johnsy the wish to live
-

IV. Weathering the Storm in Ersama:

Q. Describe Prashant's contribution for the survivors of the storm in Ersama?

- Prashant was only nineteen years old, but he decided to step in as the leader of his village;
 - Organised a group of youths and elders to jointly pressurise the merchant to give his rice;
 - Branches from fallen trees were gathered to light fires on which the rice was cooked;
 - For the first time in four days, the survivors at the cyclone shelter could eat properly;
 - Organised a team of youth volunteers to clean the shelter of filth, urine, vomit and floating carcasses; these volunteers also tended to the wounds and fractures of the injured people;
 - Youth task force gathered young boys to lie with empty utensils on their stomachs to communicate to the helicopters that they needed food;
 - Found a large number of orphaned children, and set up a polythene sheet shelter for them;
 - Got the women to look after them, while the men went about the task of getting food and materials for shelter;
 - When Prashant realised that women and children were sinking deeper and deeper in their grief, he got the women to work in the food-for-work programme started by an NGO;
 - Organised sports events for the children;
 - Prashant's group believed that orphans should be resettled in their own community itself, in new foster families;
 - Had no time to bother about his own grief; the widows and children of his village counted on him completely.
-