



**KITE VICTERS STD 10 ENGLISH Class 09**  
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**UNIT -1 GLIMPSES OF GREEN**  
**THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR.**

Dear children,

We have completed two lessons from the first unit, a story by Ruskin Bond and a poem by William Wordsworth.

What message did you get?

**“All creatures in this earth must live in harmony”**

Now, listen to the [audio](#)

Have you listened to the audio? Who said it?

Yes, it is from the short story “Bhoomiyude Avakasikal” by Vaikom Muhammed Basheer.

All of you know very well about him. Recently, on 5 July, we observed [Basheer day](#)

Now complete the table and prepare a profile of Vaikom Muhammed Basheer.

Born	
Birth place	
Known as	
Career	
Spouse	
Notable works	
Honours	
Death	



Dear children,  
Open your text book, take page no:23

We have to learn a short story by Basheer -- **“The snake and the mirror”**

Read paragraph 1:

*Basheer, the Sultan of stories is a true lover of nature. He highlights the blend of all creatures and nature in his stories. The stories evoke humour and sarcasm on the follies of man. Here is such a story. Read and enjoy.*

## The Snake and the Mirror

1 ‘Has a snake ever coiled itself round any part of your body? A full-blooded cobra?’ All of us fell silent. The question came from the **homeopath**. The topic came up when we were discussing snakes. We listened attentively as the doctor continued with the tale.



What did you understand?

A homeopath and his friends were discussing the snakes. Suddenly, all the friends fell silent.

Why did they fall silent?



Now, read paragraphs 2 and 3. Underline the new words while reading and find out their meanings with the help of a dictionary.

2 It was a hot summer night about ten o' clock. I had my meal at the restaurant and returned to my room. I heard a noise from above as I opened the door. The sound was a familiar one. One could say that rats and I shared the room. I took out my box of matches and lighted the kerosene lamp on the table.

3 The house was not electrified; it was a small rented room. I had just set up medical practice and my earnings were **meagre**. I had about sixty rupees in my suitcase. Along with some shirts and dhotis, I also possessed one solitary black coat which I was then wearing.

1. What was the topic that came up for discussion between the doctor and his friends?

2. What does the expression 'a full-blooded cobra' suggest?

3. 'The sound was a familiar one.' What was the sound?

The homeopath is narrating his own story. He says about his rented room, income and possessions.

New word-Meagre

Read the following sentences:

1. I can't buy a car, because I get only a meagre income.
2. She can't write English sentences, because she has a meagre vocabulary in English.

Is the meaning clear?

Now, try to answer these questions:

1. Where did the doctor have his meal from?
2. Why did the doctor say that the noise was familiar?
3. Why did the doctor live in a small rented room?
4. What were the possessions of the doctor?



Read paragraphs 4 and 5.

4 I took off my black coat, white shirt and not-so-white vest and hung them up. I opened the two windows in the room. It was an outer room with one wall facing the open yard. It had a tiled roof with long supporting gables that rested on the beam over the wall. There was no ceiling. There was a regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. I made my bed and pulled it close to the wall. I lay down but I could not sleep. I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the wind god seemed to have taken time off.

Now, let us answer some questions:

1. What did the doctor do when he reached the room?
2. Pick out an example of irony from the fourth paragraph.
3. Why did the author go out of the room?
4. What was the book that the author took out to read?
5. What were the things placed on the table?

5 I went back into the room and sat down on the chair. I opened the box beneath the table and took out a book, *The Materia Medica*. I opened it at the table on which stood the lamp and a large mirror; a small comb lay beside the mirror.



The author described the room where he stayed. Look at the pictures below. Using them, prepare a description of the room. (Read again the paragraphs 2-5 if needed).



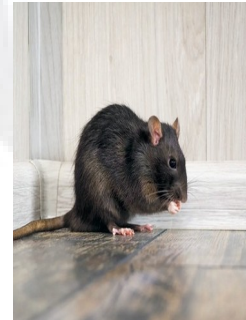
Kerosene lamp



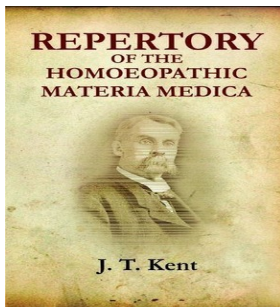
Window



Old tiled roof



Rat



Materia Medica



Table



Mirror and Comb

**The doctor was staying in a small rented room, because, his income was meagre. He decided to write a letter to his friend describing the life in that rented room. Prepare it.**

(You have learnt how to write a personal letter in the first lesson).