



Read the excerpt from the story 'The Snake And The Mirror' and answer the questions that follow.

I didn't jump. I didn't cry out. There was no time to do any such a thing. The snake slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow. The hood was spread out and its head was hardly three or four inches from my face!

It would not be correct to say merely that I sat there holding my breath. I was turned to stone. But my mind was very active. The door opened into darkness. The room was filled with darkness. In the sight of the lamp I sat there like a stone image in the flesh.

I felt then the great presence of the Creator of this world and this universe. God was there.

Suppose I said something and he did not like it. I tried in my imagination to write in bright letters outside my little heart the words 'O God!'.

There was some pain in my left arm. It was as if a thick leaden rod – no, a rod made of molten fire - was slowly but powerfully crushing my arm. The arm was beginning to be drained of all strength. What could I do?

At my slightest movement the snake would strike me! Death lurked four inches away. Suppose it struck, what was the medicine I had to take? There were no medicines in the room. I was but a poor, foolish and stupid doctor. I forgot my danger and smiled at myself.

It seemed as if god appreciated that. The snake turned its head. It looked in to the mirror and saw its reflection. I do not claim that it was the first snake that had ever looked into the mirror. But it was certain that the snake was looking into the mirror. Was it admiring its own beauty? Was it trying to make an important decision about growing a moustache or using eye shadow and mascara or wearing a vermilion spot on its forehead.

1.Why did the narrator not jump or cry on seeing the snake? 2.Where had the snake come from?

3.'I was turned to stone'. When does the doctor say so? Why?

4.How did the speaker react to the snake's presence?

5. How far was the snake's hood from the narrator's face?

6.Whose presence did he feel there? What did he try to do then?

7. How did the narrator feel when the snake coiled around his left arm?

8.What brought the feeble smile on the doctor's face?

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## MATCH THE WORD WITH MEANING

TREMBLE	TO REEL INTO RINGS
<b>SLITHER</b>	DEPRIVED OF STRENGTH
MOLTEN	SHIVER
COIL	MOVE LIKE A SNAKE
DRAINED	MELTED, GLOWING RED HOT
	SLITHER MOLTEN COIL

Assignment Here are the beginning of a few sentences which show the humour sense of the doctor. Find out the lines

from the text book and complete the given sentences.

```1. I would get married to a ...... .

```2.If I made some silly mistakes ......

3.There was a regular traffic .....