



ATTINGAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT
STANDARD 10
ENGLISH
THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

Read the first three paragraphs of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' and answer the questions that follow.

'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. 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. 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 familiar sound the homeopath used to hear from the roof ?
- 2 Who is the narrator?
- 3 'The house was not electrified; it was a small rented room. I had just set up medical practice and my earnings were meagre.' What picture of homeopath do you infer from these sentences?
- 4 Identify the **noun phrase** in the subject position in the following sentence.
The house was not electrified.
- 5 Where did the narrator have his meal?

6 Complete the conversation between the homeopath and his friend.

- Homeopath : Hello, I'm feeling horrible
Friend :(a).....?
Homeopath : A snake coiled around my arm.
Friend : Then,(b).....?
Homeopath : Somehow its attention got diverted towards the mirror and I escaped from there.
Friend : That's really a miracle.
Homeopath : Would you mind(c).....? I need to take a bath.
Friend : Ya sure. Here is the oil.
Homeopath : I think the snake will leave my room by tomorrow morning,.....(d).....?
Friend : Let's hope so.

- 7 Homeopath somehow escaped from the snake and took shelter at his friend's house. He narrated the whole incident to his friend. Prepare the likely **narration**. (The following questions may help you to attempt the narration.)

- a Who is narrating the incident?
- b The narration should be in first person. (True /False)
- c Describe the setting of the incident?
- d Write a few sentences about his rented room?
- e Write a few sentences about the homeopath?
- f What happened while he was sitting on the chair in front of the table?
- g What did the snake do?
- h How did the homeopath sit when the snake coiled around his arm?
- i What kind of thoughts flashed across his mind?
- j How did he escape from the snake?