



**ATTINGAL EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT
STANDARD 10
ENGLISH
THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR
ANSWER KEY**

1. The sound of rats
2. Homeopath
3. He is not rich as he has just started his medical practice.
4. The house
5. The narrator had his meal at the restaurant.
6.
 - a) What's the matter?
 - b) How did you escape?
 - c) Would you mind giving me some oil?
 - d) Won't it?

7. Sample narration.

Oh! My God ...still I can't believe how I escaped from that full blooded cobra. I reached home after having meals at the restaurant. As soon as I opened the door, I heard a noise from the roof. I was not really startled as it was a familiar sound for me—sounds of rats. I took out my box of matches and lighted the kerosene lamp on the table. My house was not electrified and it was small too. It had only one room. After reaching the room, I took off my clothes and opened the windows. 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.

Then I sat down on the chair and took out a book, *The Materia Medica* and was about to read it. At that time I noticed the large mirror and a small comb near the lamp on the table. I felt tempted to look into the mirror and you very well know that I am a great admirer of beauty. I believed in making myself look handsome. I picked up the comb and ran it through my hair and adjusted the parting so that it looked straight and neat. Being a bachelor, I wanted to keep my looks attractive. I was admiring my beauty and my smile. I thought of keeping that attractive smile on my face to look more handsome.

While I was admiring my beauty, suddenly I heard a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground. I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. Everything happened all of a sudden. 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! I was turned to stone but my mind was very active. I sat like a stone image in the flesh. At my slightest movement the snake would strike me!! Many negative thoughts flashed across my mind. But still I smiled feebly at myself.

To my surprise, the snake turned its head and looked into the mirror and saw its reflection. The snake was gazing into the mirror. I didn't know whether it was appreciating its beauty or not. Luckily the snake unwound itself from my arm and slowly slithered into my lap and from there it crept onto the table and moved towards the mirror. Maybe it wanted to enjoy its reflection at closer quarters. Holding my breath, I got from my chair and ran out of the house.