

Packing - Jerome K. Jerome

Additional Questions

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks each)

1. "I impressed the fact upon George and Harris and told them that they had better leave the whole matter entirely to me.

- (i)** Who is 'I' in the above lines?
- (ii)** Who are George and Harris?
- (iii)** What is the 'whole matter'?
- (iv)** Why did he want the whole matter to be left to him?

Ans:

- (i)** 'I' refers to the narrator Jerome.
- (ii)** George and Harris are Jerome's friends.
- (iii)** The 'whole matter' refers to the packing for their journey.
- (iv)** He wanted the whole matter to be left to him because he claimed to be very good at packing.

2. "This was hardly what I intended. What I had meant, of course, was, that I should boss the job, and that Harris and George should potter about under my direction.

- (i)** What is 'this' the narrator is referring to?
- (ii)** What did he mean to do?
- (iii)** What is the meaning of 'potter'?
- (iv)** Why did he want to boss around?

Ans:

- (i)** By 'this', the narrator is referring to the response of his friends to his offer.
- (ii)** He had meant to supervise the packing.
- (iii)** 'Potter' means to do things that are not very important.

(iv) He wanted to boss around because his intention was to make them follow his instructions, as he was good at packing.

3. 'They began in a light-hearted spirit, evidently intending to show me how to do it, I made no comment'

(i) Who is 'they' in the above lines?

(ii) What did they begin?

(iii) What did they want to show?

(iv) Who made no comment?

Ans:

(i) 'They' refers to George and Harris.

(ii) They began to pack the food hamper.

(iii) They wanted to show Jerome that they were better at packing.

(iv) The narrator made no comment.

4. "I'll take my oath I put it down on the chair, said George, staring at the empty seat. I saw you do it myself, not a minute ago,"

(i) What did George put on the chair?

(ii) What does he mean by 'my oath'?

(iii) Who saw it a minute ago?

(iv) What did he see?

Ans:

(i) George says that he had put butter on the chair.

(ii) He means that he is willing to make a solemn promise.

(iii) Harris saw it a minute ago.

(iv) He saw George keeping the butter on the chair a minute ago.

5. "Do you prefer the inside or the outside, J? I said I generally preferred to sleep inside a bed."

(i) Who is asking the question above?

(ii) Who is 'J'?

(iii) What does he mean by 'inside or outside'?

(iv) What is the preference mentioned by the second person?

Ans:

(i) The question is being asked by Harris.

(ii) 'J' is Jerome.

(iii) Harris wants to know on which side of the bed Jerome would like to sleep.

(iv) The second person, Jerome says that he prefers to sleep on the inside of the bed.

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words: 2 Marks each)

1. What was Jerome doubtful about? What did he do?

Ans: Jerome was doubtful about having put his toothbrush into the bag. He rummaged through the bag, disturbing the entire packing. He could not find only his toothbrush. He scrutinised every thing taking them out one at a time, and finally, spotted it in his boots. He repacked the bag once again.

2. What was it that haunted Jerome always?

Ans: His toothbrush was the thing that haunted Jerome always, making his life miserable. He would dream that he'd not put in his brush, wake up suddenly in a cold sweat, and begin hunting for it. He keeps forgetting, or packing and unpacking it or rush up to pick it up to his room in the last moment and carry it wrapped in a handkerchief in his pocket.

3. How would you describe Harris' attempt at packing?

Ans: Harris went about the packing in a very light-hearted manner. Jerome was excited to see the worst packer go about doing the job. A lot of food, kettles, bottles, jars, plates, were piled up to be packed. Harris put in the tomatoes first and placed the bottle of jam on top of it. The mashed tomatoes had to be removed with a spoon. He proved his worth as a packer very soon.

4. Was George able to do a decent job of packing?

Ans: The clumsy boy stepped on the butter, and after he got it off his slipper and after several trials at scrap it off fully, he placed it on a chair and Harris sat upon it unknowingly. Harris and George began searching for the missing butter. After a while, George took it off Harris' back and packed it in a teapot. He was no better at packing.

5. How did dog spoil three lemons?

Ans: Montmorency was very engrossed in sniffing around the entire packing area. He had to know everything. He pretended to toss around the lemons as though they were rats. He got into the hamper and 'killed' three of them before Harris could land him with the frying-pan.

Long Answer Questions (100-150 words: 8 Marks each)

1. How important is it to plan your packing?

Ans: Planning is an important part of everyone's life. It is very important to be systematic at all times. This extract from 'Three Men in a Boat', is an attempt made by the author to make us understand that every task has to be done with passion and focus, if it has to be successful. He explains to us how their attempt at packing turns out into a chaos, primarily because they are not sure as to what they want, and how they should put their requirements together.

It would perhaps have been done in a better manner, if they had divided their duties and accomplished them with perfection. Packing is an art, that is perfected by a few. This is because it is not given adequate importance. The ideal way of packing is to list out your daily requirements of clothes, toiletries, medicines, and put them into packets, according to the number of days you are travelling. Provide packets for storing soiled-linen/washed linen. Additional requirements such as food, water, beverages, should also be specifically planned and packed neatly. Packing of food should be done carefully, so as to ensure that they do not get crushed or spoilt. If you plan, the time required for packing, will also be less, and you will not forget the essentials.

2. Write a paragraph on a problem you faced because of having forgotten to pack something essential. You had gone on a trek with your friends.

Ans: It was a Monday morning. We were to go on a trek through the Gir forest, as we were the students of forestry. I had refused my mother to help me with my packing because I wanted to be independent. She tried to give me guidance because she was a veteran trekker. I was adamant and refused to pay attention. I completed my packing, and was very proud of my achievement. We had to report at the station at 5 p.m.. With my back pack ready, I went off on our first trek. It was around 8 p.m. the next morning, when we reached the guest house that was booked for the ten members of the group. We were to begin our trek at 6 a.m. the next morning. All of us were ready, after completing our morning ablutions, breakfast et-al. The only thing left was putting on the trekking shoes. I looked for it all through my bag. Emptied the bag and turned it inside out. Alas, I had forgotten the most important thing—the shoes. How could I go? I deserved this for not enlisting my mother's help!

3. Write an article for your school magazine on your recent visit to Ooty.

Ans: MY SUMMER VACATION – OOTY

By XYZ

Ooty is one of the best hill stations in our country. It is called the Queen of Hill Stations.

We planned a five day trip to Ooty and booked a resort before a week. We packed our luggage and boarded the train to Mettupalayam. From there, we booked a van and reached a resort in Ooty. After the sweltering heat of the Chennai metropolis, Ooty welcomed us with its pleasant, cool and moist climate. The terrain was so beautiful, a feast to the eyes of the beholder.

We planned to visit the various tourist spots of Ooty – Dodabetta Peak, Sims Park, Pykara Lake, and Tea Garden, leisurely, spreading it out through the five days. Boating was an experience of a lifetime. We captured the beauty of Ooty in our camera, to preserve for posterity. The Botanical Garden in Ooty is perhaps the only one of its kind. Thousands of varieties of trees and flowers are arranged in such a beautiful manner, that the tourists are lured to the garden and want to relish its timeless beauty indefinitely. If you want to enjoy your summer vacation, Ooty is a good choice to go to with your family and friends.

Self- Assessment Test

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. “so we placed the bath where he could tumble into it on getting out in the morning, and went to bed ourselves.

(i) From which lesson has this line been taken?

(ii) Who is ‘we’?

(iii) Why were ‘we’ placing the bath?

(iv) Why did they want him to tumble?

2. “then they started round the room again looking for it?

(i) Who were ‘they’?

(ii) Why did they start going around?

(iii) What were they doing before this?

(iv) What were they looking for?

Short Answer Questions

1. How would you assess the behaviour of George and Harris?

2. As a fourth friend, how would you help in the packing?

3. What is essential before you prepare for a journey?

4. Why did the author reopen the bag first time?
 5. Why did the author place a bath tub beside George while he was sleeping?
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Long Answer Questions

1. You are Harris. You have forgotten your warm clothes at home. Write an email to your mother telling her to reach it to Jerome's house.
2. Laziness is a hurdle in achieving success. Explain in reference to the chapter, 'Packing'.
3. As Montmorency, make a diary entry of your experience with packing.