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ENGLISH LITERATURE QUESTION ANSWERS

CHAPTER 1: Attila by R. K. Narayan (pg7)

BOOK : New Aster (Advanced) CLASS – VII

COMPREHENSION :

A : Answer these questions :

Q1) What kind of a dog did the speaker's family want ?

Ans: The family wanted a strong formidable dog, who could prevent break-ins and theft in their house.

Q2) At the beginning of the narrative , was Attila able to measure up to their expectations? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans : No, because he was not very prepossessing appearance and was none to playful.

Q3) Why were the family members satisfied with the name Attila ?

Ans: They were satisfied as no more satisfying name was thought for a man or animal. Moreover it was the name of Scourge of Europe, who was frequently called Attila , the Hun , who caused trouble.

Q4) Why did the family research about the "Scourge of Europe "? What were the findings ?

Ans: As time passed Attila showed love of humanity which was some times disconcerting therefore they wanted to find out whether the Scourge of Europe was like this.

On delving into the ancient history of Attila, they found that as a child he used to cling to his friends and parents so fast that he had to be beaten and separated from them but when he was fourteen , he showed the first sign of his future by knocking down a fellow who tried to touch his marbles.

Q5) How did Attila respond to the entry of strangers ?

Ans: The moment the gate clicked, Attila became alert and stood looking towards the gate. When anyone entered , he blindly charged forward but when the strangers stopped and smiled, he would melt and behave as if he was apologizing for being violent. Until he was patted and stroked and told that he was forgiven , he would be in misery.

Q6) What issues did the speaker's mother have with the dog ?

Ans: The mother felt that Attila ate like an elephant . One could employ two watchmen for the price of rice and meat he consumed. Even in his presence , flowers were stolen from the garden in the morning. She feared that a burglar might be easily shown around the house as he was the most noiseless dog she had ever seen in life.

Q7) How did Attila react when Ranga entered the premises ?

Ans: When Ranga was about to go out of the house after stealing , Attila stood below looking expectantly . He did not bark but stood up and put his four paws on the lap of the burglar. He put back his ears and licked Ranga's hand and rolled his eyes . Infact ,he hung his tail loosely down looking miserable and followed Ranga thinking him to be his new companion.

Q8) How did Attila prove to be a hero ?

Ans: Attila proved to be a hero by running after Ranga so fast and blocking his way such that Ranga stumbled over him and fell. A piece of jewellery flew out of his hand due to which Ranga was caught by the man and the police. In this way they concluded that Attila was a cunning detective and could solve the case.

B) Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1.) He gave no hope that he would do credit to his name .

a) Who is 'he' in this sentence ?

Ans: The dog , Attila.

b) What is the significance of his name ?

Ans: The dog was named after the Scourge of Europe . The Scourge meant someone who causes trouble and frequently called Attila, the Hun. He was the leader of the tribal empire of the Huns, Ostrogoths and the Allens. He was also the most fearsome enemies of the Roman.

c) How do you know that he would do no credit to the name ?

Ans: He did not have any prepossessing appearance and not very playful. He loved humans . He did not prevent a variety of people entering the gates rather wagged his tail and was friendlier to them.

2) The people at home did not like this attitude very much. They thought it rather a shame.

a) Whose attitude is the speaker talking about ?

Ans: Attila , the dog.

b) What was wrong with the attitude ?

Ans: Whenever he heard the gate click, he hardly stirred . He wagged his tail looking in that direction . He would not advance blindly charging at strangers.

c)What were their expectations ?

Ans: They expected him to prevent the break-ins and theft in their house. The mother wanted the dog to prevent the stealing of flowers from the garden in the morning. She wanted him to stay awake the whole night and prowl for the burglar.

3) The young man was extremely irritated at this. He considered it to be the most uncharitable cynicism.

a) Who was the young man?

Ans: The young man was the defender of the dog and the youngest son in the family.

b) Why was he irritated ?

Ans: He was irritated with his mother for expecting the dog prowling at night for the burglars. She wanted to lock him at night so that he would not call in a burglar and show him round. According to her he was the most noiseless dog.

d) Explain the phrase 'uncharitable cynicism'.

Ans: The young defender thought that the negative statement given about Attila by his mother that he was not a successful and an honourable guard dog was disliked by him. Therefore he considered it to be the most uncharitable comment.

C) Think and answer.

1) The bond between Ranga and Attila was of mutual respect. Why or why not? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: It was of mutual respect because when Ranga sat down to eat, he lay before him. He sat on the edge of his mat when Ranga went to sleep in his hut. He waited patiently at the edge of the pond when Ranga went there for a wash and slept on the roadside when Ranga was at work.