

ENGLISH LITERATURE QUESTION ANSWERS

CHAPTER 7: The Remarkable Rocket (Pg 66)

BOOK : New Aster (Advanced) 7 CLASS – VII

A. Answer these questions.

1. Describe the princess. How did she reach the castle?

She was a Russian Princess who was pale and looked like a white rose. She reached the castle by driving all the way from Finland in a sledge drawn by six reindeers.

2. What was the difference in opinion between the rocket and the squib?

The difference in opinion between the rocket and the squib was, the rocket's opinion was that the king's son was fortunate that he was getting married on the very day the rocket was being let off and the squib's opinion was that they were being let off in the Prince's honour.

3. What was the rocket's opinion about itself? How does it describe its ancestry?

The rocket's opinion about itself was that he was a remarkable rocket and came from remarkable parents. His mother was the most celebrated Catharine Wheel of her day, and was renowned for her graceful dancing. She spun around nineteen times before she went out, and each time she did so she threw into the air seven pink stars. She was three feet and a half in diameter, and made of very best gunpowder. His father was of French extraction. He flew so high that his performance was highly applauded in the newspapers.

4. Why did the rocket feel that its companions were hollow and empty?

The Rocket's companions told the rocket to keep himself dry and not to shed tears if he wanted to give pleasure to others. The Rocket felt that its companions were hollow and empty because they had a petty view of life.

5. What did the two little boys say to the rocket? Why?

The two little boys called the rocket as an old stick and wondered how it came in the ditch. They put it into the fire as it would help to boil the kettle.

They could not recognize it as the rocket lost its original appearance after being thrown into the muddy ditch.

6. Why wasn't the eventual launch of the rocket remarkable?

The eventual launch of the rocket wasn't remarkable because it went up straight into the air during the day and there was nobody to see it, not even the boys who incidentally made the launch possible by removing its dampness. They were fast asleep.

B. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. *I prefer them to stars myself, as you always know when they are going to appear, and they are as delightful as my own flute-playing*

a. Who is 'I' in this context?

The king is 'I' in this context.

b. What does he prefer?

He prefers the fireworks.

c. Why does he prefer them?

He preferred them because he knew when they were going to appear and they were as delightful as his own flute playing.

2. *Let the fireworks begin.*

a. Who is the speaker?

The king is the speaker.

b. What happened after he said this?

The royal pyrotechnician with his six attendants marched down to the end of the garden carrying a lighted torch at the end of a long pole.

c. Describe the fireworks.

It was a magnificent display of fireworks which lit up the sky. The Catherine Wheel spun round and round. The Roman Candle went with a boom. The squibs danced all over the place and the Bengal Lights made everything look scarlet. The crackers enjoyed themselves with a bang and the Fire -balloon soared away dropping tiny blue sparks.

3. *'Delightful!' he cried, 'I shall go on like this for ever. What a success I am!'*

a. Who is the speaker?

The rocket is the speaker.

b. What was the speaker's opinion about himself?

The rocket thought highly about himself. Despite being seen by no one, it considered itself to have been an incredible success.

c. Was he really successful? Why/why not?

No, the rocket was not successful as when he went up into the air in broad day-light, there was nobody to watch him.

C. Think and answer.

1. *What are the characteristics of the remarkable rocket? Do you think these characteristics help one grow in life? Give reasons for your answer.*

The rocket's mind was so much clouded with self importance that it appeared to be selfish. He did not want to listen to anyone else. The rocket was proud and could not accept his failure. Although he believed he was sympathetic and virtuous, in actuality he was haughty, arrogant.

These characteristics do not help one to grow in life as to succeed one must be humble, a good listener and sympathetic to others. One must accept one's failure.