

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 10: THE BOOK THAT SAVES THE EARTH



THE BOOK THAT SAVES THE EARTH

~Summary~

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Historian Talks about a Book that Saved Earth

It is the twenty-fifth century. The scene is set at the Museum of Ancient History. The department is that of twentieth century. Historian tells the people that twentieth century was called the Era of the Book. There were books on everything. They covered all aspects of life. She tells that Martians (people of Mars) decided to invade Earth in 2040. Everyone was surprised to know that it was a book that saved the Earth. She turns on the projector and shows how it all happened.

Think Tank Orders the Invasion of Earth

The ruler of Mars, the Mighty Think Tank, is a proud creature whose head is full of himself. He calls Earth a ridiculous planet. He commands his trainee Noodle to call the space probe that is invading the Earth.

Space Probe Lands in Centerville Public Library

The space probe finds itself in a Centerville Public library. They are puzzled. They are not familiar with books. They do not understand what are those thousands of objects.

Guesses made by Martians about the Books

Sergeant Oop thinks that the books are hats. But Think Tank calls them sandwiches and orders the crew to eat them. The wise noodle gently suggests that they may be devices of communication. Think Tank asks the probe team to listen to them. They do not hear anything. Again, Noodle very politely suggests that earthlings watched them. They cannot read the books and come to a conclusion that the printed lines and pictures must be some kind of code.

Think-Tank Commands the Team to Take Vitamins

Think Tank asks the probe team to eat the vitamins given to them. They follow him and are able to read the book. The lines are about Mistress Mary and her garden of cockle shells and silver bells.

Mighty Think-tank is Alarmed

Think Tank thinks that the earthlings were very advanced. They grew shells and silver. They had taught animals culture and music. He thought they were about to send cows for an invasion to the moon. He is further terrified when he is sent the picture of the fallen Humpty-Dumpty. He thinks it to be his picture.

Think-Tank Calls Off the Invasion

He cancels the invasion. He asks his probe to leave. He orders his fleet to escape to the star Alpha Centauri and evacuate Mars. He wants to be as far away as possible from earthlings.

Martians and Earthlings are Friends in Twenty Fifth Century

The Historian reveals that it was 'Mother Goose', a book of rhymes, that saved the Earth. Anyway, Noodle succeeded Think Tank and became the head of Mars. Mars and Earth were now friends. Earthlings had even set up a library in their capital, Marsopolis. Funnily, however, Martians could never gather the courage to read the 'Mother Goose' book.

Conclusion of The Book That Saved the Earth

In the chapter – The Book That Saved the Earth states how Mother Goose, which is a well-known English nursery rhymes book, saves Planet Earth from a Martian invasion. It teaches students that a person who thinks greatly of himself but has little knowledge can be dangerous.

NCERT SOLUTION

Questions (Page No. 63)

(READ AND FIND OUT)

Question 1. Why was the twentieth century called the 'Era of the Book'?

Answer: The twentieth century was called the 'Era of the Book' because there were books about everything, from anteaters to Zulus. Books taught people how to and when to and where to and why. Books illustrated, educated, punctuated and even decorated.

Question 2. Who tried to invade the earth in the twenty-first century?

Answer: Martians tried to invade the earth in the twenty-first century.

Questions (Page No. 65)

(READ AND FIND OUT)

Question 1. What guesses are made by Think-Tank about the books found on earth?

Answer: The Think-Tank initially guesses that the books are sandwiches. Noodle corrects him and says that he thinks that books are some sort of communication devices. Then he thinks that the books are used for ear communication. Finally, he concludes that they are used for eye communication.

Questions (Page No. 74)

(THINK ABOUT IT)

Question 1. Noodle avoids offending Think-Tank but at the same time he corrects his mistakes. How does he manage to do that?

Answer: Noodle avoids offending Think-Tank but at the same time he corrects his mistakes. Each time he thinks that Think-Tank is wrong, he first adulates Think-Tank and then presents his own thoughts saying that they are just insignificant piece of data in his head. In this way, he lets Think-Tank know what is correct and does not make him feel that he is being corrected.

Question 2. If you were in Noodle's place, how would you handle Think-Tank's mistakes?

Answer: If I were in Noodle's place, I would try to politely correct Think-Tank's mistakes and suggest the corrections.

Question 3. Do you think books are being replaced by the electronic media? Can we do away with books altogether?

Answer: Yes, books are being replaced by the electronic media with the emergence of digitization. We now have e-books and online classes, which do not require paperback books.

No, I don't think that we can do away with books altogether because although there is a tendency of moving towards the electronic media, books still have their own importance. There are millions of people who love to read books. The feel and satisfaction of reading a book while holding it in your hands and turning its pages, is altogether a different experience that e-books will never be able to replace.

Question 4. Why are books referred to as a man's best companion? Which is your favourite book and why? Write a paragraph about that book.

Answer: Books are referred to as a man's best companion because they guide us, teach us, make us laugh, make us cry, make us introspect and help us to become a better version of ourselves. Books are the companions who will never leave us. They impart knowledge and wisdom. We can learn from them, enjoy them and get inspired.

(Student can write the name of his/her favourite book and explain what he/she likes about the book.)

Questions (Page No. 74)

(TALK ABOUT IT)

Question 1. In what ways does Think-Tank misinterpret innocent nursery rhymes as threats to the Martians? Can you think of any incidents where you misinterpreted a word or an action? How did you resolve the misunderstanding?

Answer: Think-Tank misinterprets innocent nursery rhymes as threats to the Martians.

Omega reads the lines from the rhyme:

"Mistress Mary, quite contrary,

How does your garden grow?

With cockle shells and silver bells

And pretty maids all in a row"

Listening to the above lines, Think-Tank thinks that people on Earth are so advanced that they can actually grow crops of rare metals and high explosives.

Iota reads another rhyme from the book:

“Hey diddle diddle! The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon,
The little dog laughed to see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.”

Listening to the above lines, Think-Tank thinks that Earthlings have taught their domesticated animals musical culture and space techniques. Even their dogs have a sense of humour.

Oop reads lines from another rhyme:

“Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall...”

Listening to this, Think-Tank gets frightened because the picture of the Humpty-Dumpty resembles Think-Tank’s mighty balloon brain. He thinks that the Earthlings have seen him and are after him. He infers that the people on Earth are planning to capture Mars Central Control and him.

(Students can include any incident where he/she misinterpreted a word or an action and explain how he/she resolved the misunderstanding.)

Question 2. The aliens in this play speak English. Do you think this is their language? What could be the language of the aliens?

Answer: No, I don’t think that English is their language because they are not able to understand what is written in the book Mother Goose. They think the words are codes written in little lines and squiggles and dots.

As these aliens are martians, they might have a martian language.