



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
(2020-21)

Class: IX QUESTION BANK – PACKING Subject: ENGLISH

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each.

(I)

Their taking it in the way they did irritate me. There is nothing does irritate me more than seeing other people sitting about doing nothing when I'm working.

(a) Who is the speaker here and whom is he talking about?

Ans: The speaker here is Jerome, the narrator of the story. He is talking about his friends, George and Harris.

(b) What does the speaker mean by 'it'?

Ans: By 'it', the speaker Jerome means the response of his friends to his suggestion for packing. Both of them at once left the entire task to him and stretched themselves comfortably while he struggled alone.

(c) What irritates the speaker the most?

Ans: The speaker is irritated the most when other people sit idle while he has to work.

(d) What work did the speaker have to do?

Ans: The speaker, Jerome had to pack the bag for the trip that the three friends had to go on the next morning.

(II)

However, I did not say anything but started the packing. It seemed a longer job than I had thought it was going to be...

(a) Whom does 'I' stand for?

Ans: 'I' stands for Jerome, the author.

(b) Why didn't 'I' say anything?

Ans: Jerome didn't say anything as he himself had asked his friends to leave the whole matter (of packing) entirely to him. So now, he couldn't argue or back out.

(c) How did the job not match his expectation?

Ans: Jerome had thought that it was a simple job that would not take much time. But when he started, it seemed to be a long and a tedious one.

(d) Why did the job take longer than he had expected?

Ans: The job took longer than expected as Jerome had to pack the bag for all three of them. George and Harris didn't help him at all. On top of it, he had to unpack and repack it over and over again for one reason or the other.

(III)

Harris said that we should be wanting to start in less than twelve hours' time and thought that he and George had better do the rest, and I agreed and sat down, and they had to go

(a) What was 'the rest' that Harris and George offered to do?

Ans: 'The rest' refers to the packing that remained after the bag had been packed. Jerome had packed the bag and now the hamper was left which has been referred to as 'the rest'.

(b) Why did Harris and George offer to do 'the rest'?

Ans: Harris and George had seen Jerome's clumsiness while packing the bag. So, they offered to take care of the rest of the packing, lest the task became unending and their departure got delayed.

(c) Why did Harris particularly mention that they had less than twelve hours' time to start?

Ans: Harris mentioned 'less than twelve hours' time' as he felt that if Jerome had to complete rest of the packing, twelve hours' time might not be sufficient for him to finish the job.

(d) Who does 'I' refer to? Why did 'I' agree to the proposal?

Ans: 'I' refers to Jerome. He agreed to the proposal as he knew well how incompetent his friends were. He wanted to see them fumble as they went about packing the hamper.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The author says, "I never saw two men do more with one-and-two pence worth of butter in my whole life" What did George and Harris do with the butter?

Ans. George trod on the butter and it stuck to his slipper. George got it off his slipper and tried to put it into the kettle. They did not succeed. They put it down on a chair. Harris sat on the butter and it stuck to him. Then they went all over the room to search for it.

2. Do you think the author packed better than George and Harris? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Yes, the author packed better than his friends, George and Harris. He forgot to put in some things. But he did not create any chaos. On the other hand, George and Harris breaks cups and plates, squash a tomato and make a mess of butter. They put the pies at the bottom and put heavy things on it. Thus the author packed better than George and Harris.

3. 'Now, I'm not like that.' What does the narrator intend to convey by this statement?

Ans: By this statement, the narrator intends to convey his dislike for sitting idle and watching someone else work hard. He preferred to walk around and supervise work in his natural energetic way. However, this actually means that he too was not interested in toiling but liked to boss over others.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Describe how the author packed the bag for going on a trip?

Ans. The narrator started packing. It seemed a longer job than he had thought it was going to be. At last, he finished packing. But Harris told him that he had not packed the boots. He opened the bag and packed the boots in. Then, when he was going to close it, an idea came to him. He was not sure whether he had packed his toothbrush. So he unpacked the bag and took everything out but could not find the toothbrush. Then he shook everything one by one. At last, he found his toothbrush in a boot. He repacked once more. Now George asked him if he had packed the soap. He decided not to do the packing again. But he found he had packed his spectacles in it. So, he reopened the bag and repacked it. He was able to complete packing at 10.05 p.m.

2. When did the "horrible idea" occur to Jerome? Why was it a "horrible idea"?

OR

What fuss does Jerome's toothbrush often create for him?

Ans: The "horrible idea" that occurred to Jerome as soon as he had finished packing in his boots was whether he had packed in his toothbrush or not. He was always in the habit of forgetting to pack his toothbrush. The idea was horrible in the sense that it made him panic and grow restless.

It would haunt him so much that at night he would dream that he had not packed the toothbrush. He would wake up in cold perspiration, get out of bed and hunt for it. Again, he would pack it without using it in the morning, which meant that he would have to unpack it again. And whenever he was fishing for it, it would be the last thing to come out of the bag. After using it he would again forget to pack it and at the last moment would have to rush upstairs to fetch it. As a result, he would carry it to the railway station, wrapped up in his pocket-handkerchief. Thus, the toothbrush was a constant source of bother and horror for Jerome.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did the author pack first of all?

- (A) baskets
(C) bag
- (B) suitcase
(D) hampers

Ans. (C) bag

2. What thing haunts the author while travelling?

- (A) tooth-brush
(C) tobacco box
- (B) tooth-paste
(D) boots

Ans. (A) tooth-brush

3. Where did the author find the tooth-brush finally?

- (A) inside a book
(C) inside a boot
- (B) inside a pocket
(D) he did not find it

Ans. (C) inside a boot

4. What did George and Harris start the packing with?

- (A) breaking a cup
(C) breaking a jar
- (B) breaking a plate
(D) breaking a kettle

Ans. (A) breaking a cup

5. George put the butter on a chair. What happened then?

- (A) Harris sat on the chair and butter stuck to him
(C) the author ate it
- (B) the dog ate it
(D) George ate it

Ans. (A) Harris sat on the chair and butter stuck to him

6. What did the three friends toss for?

- (A) packing
(C) beds
- (B) butter
(D) all of the above

Ans. (C) beds

7. What did Montmorency do to the jam?

- (A) he ate it
(C) he tumbled it over
- (B) he puts his leg into the jam
(D) he jumped over it

Ans. (B) he puts his leg into the jam

8. Montmorency pretended that lemons were:

- (A) rats
(C) cats
- (B) rabbits
(D) all of the above

Ans. (A) rats

Q1. How many characters are there in the narrative? Name them. (Don't forget the dog!).

A. There are four characters in the story. They are the narrator, Jerome, his friends George and Harris and a dog named Montmorency.

Q2. Why did the narrator (Jerome) volunteer to do the packing?

A. Jerome was proud of his packing skills and so, he offered to do the packing. Actually, he did not intend to do the packing work, but he wanted to supervise his friends and direct them to pack the right way.

Q3. How did George and Harris react to this? Did Jerome like their reaction?

A. George and Harris readily agreed to Jerome's plan. They sat on the sofa and the chair respectively, and watched Jerome do the packing.

Q4. What was Jerome's real intention when he offered to pack?

A. Jerome did not intend to do the packing work, but he wanted to supervise his friends and direct them to pack the right way.

Q5. What did Harris say after the bag was shut and strapped? Why do you think he waited till then to ask?

A. After the bag was shut and strapped, Harris pointed out that Jerome had forgotten to pack his boots. I think that he waited till then because he thought that Jerome would pack the boots in the end.

Q6. What "horrible idea" occurred to Jerome a little later?

A. The horrible idea that struck Jerome was that whether he had packed his toothbrush or not.

Q7. Where did Jerome finally find the toothbrush?

A. He found the toothbrush inside a boot.

Q8. Why did Jerome have to reopen the packed bag?

A. Jerome had to reopen the bag because he had packed his spectacles in it.

Q9. What did George and Harris offer to pack and why?

A. George and Harris offered to pack the food baskets. They did so because they wanted to show that they were better packers than Jerome.

Q10. While packing the hamper, George and Harris do a number of foolish and funny things.

Tick the statements that are true.

- (i) They started with breaking a cup.
- (ii) They also broke a plate.
- (iii) They squashed a tomato.
- (iv) They trod on the butter.
- (v) They stepped on a banana.
- (vi) They put things behind them, and couldn't find them.
- (vii) They stepped on things.
- (viii) They packed the pictures at the bottom and put heavy things on top.
- (ix) They upset almost everything.
- (x) They were very good at packing.

A. The true statements are:

- (i) They started with breaking a cup.
- (iii) They squashed a tomato.
- (iv) They trod on the butter.
- (vi) They put things behind them, and couldn't find them.
- (vii) They stepped on things.
- (ix) They upset almost everything.

Q. What does Jerome say was Montmorency's ambition in life? What do you think of Montmorency and why?

A. Montmorency's aim in life was to create hurdles in the way of others and get scolded for it. I think that Montmorency was a loving pet who liked playing with his masters.

Introduction:

This story is an extract from Jerome K. Jerome's novel 'Three Men in a Boat'. The narrator of the story and his two friends decided to go on holiday. The question of packing the things for the journey arose. The author thought that he was an expert in packing. He asked his friends, George and Harris to leave packing to him. When he had finished packing, certain things remained out. He opened the bag again. In the same way, he had to pack and unpack time and again. The packing was still not complete. Harris and George undertook to do the rest of the job. But they were also not expert in packing. They damaged a number of things and did the job shabbily. At last, the packing was complete by 12.50 in the night. They went to bed with the intention of waking up at 6.30 in the morning.

"Packing" is an extract from Jerome K. Jerome's novel 'Three Men in a Boat'. This is a humorous extract about the confusion and mess created by people who are inexperienced in the art of packing. It exposes the utter clumsiness of the three friends – Jerome, George, and Harris. They consider themselves to be skilled in the art of packing but, in reality, all of them have little knowledge about working in an organised manner.

Hence, to the great amusement of the reader, the small job of packing is carried out by them with many a jerk and jolt.

THEME

"Packing" is based on the theme that routine tasks are not as easy as they seem to be. The humorous account amuses the readers with the chaotic and confusing situations created by the clumsiness of three friends, all of whom consider packing to be child's play.

TITLE

“Packing” is an appropriate title for this extract from the novel ‘Three Men in a Boat’. It forms one of the chapters of the novel. The three men are – Jerome, George, and Harris. They have to go on a pleasure boat journey and have to pack for it. All three of them think they are ‘past masters’ in the art of packing, but all they end up creating is an utter mess. They are disorganized, unplanned, foolish, careless and unsystematic and cannot properly pack a thing. They blame each other for being poor at packing and each boasts of his packing acumen. Thus, the extract is all about packing and, therefore, the title is appropriate.

Packing Characters

The Narrator, Jerome

Jerome, the narrator of the story, is the one who narrates the happenings from his point of view. The narrator is overconfident and rates his packing skills a bit too high. He volunteers to pack their personal belongings as he prides himself on his packing. As he says, “Packing is one of those many things that I feel I know more about than any other person living.” He is also arrogant and expects to sit back as boss as his friends carry out the tedious part of packing. He imagines sitting back and passing orders as Harris and George potted about under his direction, “really teaching them, as you might say”. His friends, however, do not take him seriously and finally he has to struggle while trying to pack the bag by himself, as his friend’s lounge about offering suggestions.

Jerome is both clumsy and forgetful. He first forgets to pack the shoes and then can’t recall if he has put in his toothbrush or not. He unpacks the bag twice clumsily to accommodate the missing items.

The narrator also comes across as a person with a good sense of humour. Though he boasts about his skills of packing, he also recounts the way he packs, which is disorganised and chaotic. He has to pack and repack the bag as he forgets, or cannot find, various items – including his boots and his toothbrush. He also portrays his two friends in a humorous light. They all come across as somewhat lazy and awkward which gives rise to most of the comedy. When his friends fumble while packing the hamper, he sits at the edge of the table and watches them because now it is his turn to have fun at their expense. However, he is a carefree person and ignores the clumsiness of his friends in the same way as he ignores his own.

George and Harris

George and Harris are the friends of the narrator, Jerome. As they start packing, they, like their friend Jerome, are very sure of their prowess as packers. Both start packing cheerfully wanting to show the narrator how to go about the task. However, according to narrator they are the worst packers in the world. That they are rather incompetent we realise as they get to packing the food hampers. They begin by breaking a cup. Harris packs the strawberry jam on top of a tomato and squashed it. George steps on the butter, Harris sits on it. They pack the pies at the bottom and squash them by putting heavy objects over them. When the narrator comes over and quietly sits on the edge of the table, this irritates them as narrator had known it would. It makes them nervous and excited. They are even more clumsy and aren’t able to find what they want. However, like the narrator, the two men are carefree and good-natured. In spite of making fools of themselves, while packing for the trip, they don’t criticise or blame each other and ignore each other’s mistakes.

Montmorency

Montmorency is the pet dog of the three friends – Jerome, George and Harris. He is a well-loved pet and, therefore, knows no restraints. He is a high-spirited animal and instinctively rushes to probe everything, and in doing so creates a nuisance for his masters. Montmorency had a tendency to get underfoot and be more of a general hindrance than of any help. He disrupts the packing in umpteen ways because he would like to be a part of all the activities going on in. He doesn't mind being shouted at and does not even respond when they try to move him away from the packed stuff. In fact, no amount of scolding can dampen his enthusiasm. He may be ill-trained, temperamental, destructive and meddlesome but he is loved as much by the readers as much as by his masters. His presence in the story makes it more interesting and amusing.