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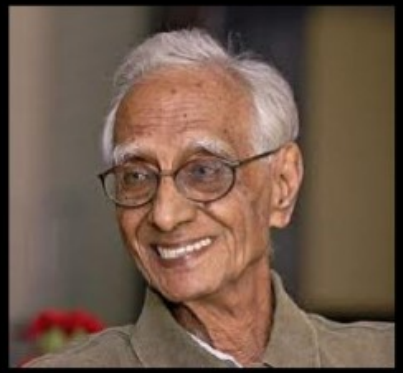
Class-XII

English

Flamingo

Chapter-6



Ashokamitran

Poets and Pancakes

Part - 6

Neha Rajvanshi

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Comprehension

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Question 1. what does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery' of those subjected to make-up?

Answer : By 'the fiery misery' the writer means the pain and trouble caused by the heat produced by the so many lights in the make-up room. Those subjected to make-up had to face bright light and lot of heat there.

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Question 2. What is the example of national integration that the author refers to?

Answer. The head of the make-up department was earlier a Bengali. He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, and Anglo-Burmese and the local Tamils.

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Thus there were persons belonging to different states, religions and using different languages.

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Question 3. What work did the 'office boy' do in the Gemini Studios? Why did he join the studios? Why was he disappointed?

Answer. The office-boy used of make-up the players who played the crowd. On the days of crowd-shooting, he mixed his paint in a very big vessel and applied it quickly and noisily on the faces of the crowd players.

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He had joined the studios in the hope of becoming a star actor or a top screen writer, director or lyrics writer. He was disappointed because he failed to do so and remained only a 'boy'

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Question 4. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?

Answer. The author's duty was to cut newspaper clippings on a wide variety of subjects and store them in files. The onlookers noticed him merely tearing up newspapers. Hence to them he seemed to be doing next to nothing.

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Question 5. Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on?

Answer. The office boy was frustrated because in spite of a good opening, he remained only an office boy. He had a good formal education and was a bit of poet too. But his great literary talent was being allowed to go waste. He showed his anger on Kothamangalam Subbu, the No. 2 at Gemini Studios.

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Question 6. Who was Subbu's Principal?

Answer. Mr. S.S. Vasan, the founder of the Gemini Studios was Subbu's Principal.

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Question 7. Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List four of his special abilities.

Answer.

(i) Subbu had the ability to look cheerful at all times.

(ii) He was very creative. Film-making was quite easy with Subbu around

(iii) He was literary inclined too - a poet and novelist. He was an amazing actor.

(iv) He had a charitable and loving nature.

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Question 8. Why was the legal adviser referred to as the opposite by others?



Answer. The lawyer was in the Story Department. He was officially known as the legal adviser. He had unwittingly brought to an end the career of promising young actress. Hence he was referred to as the opposite by others.

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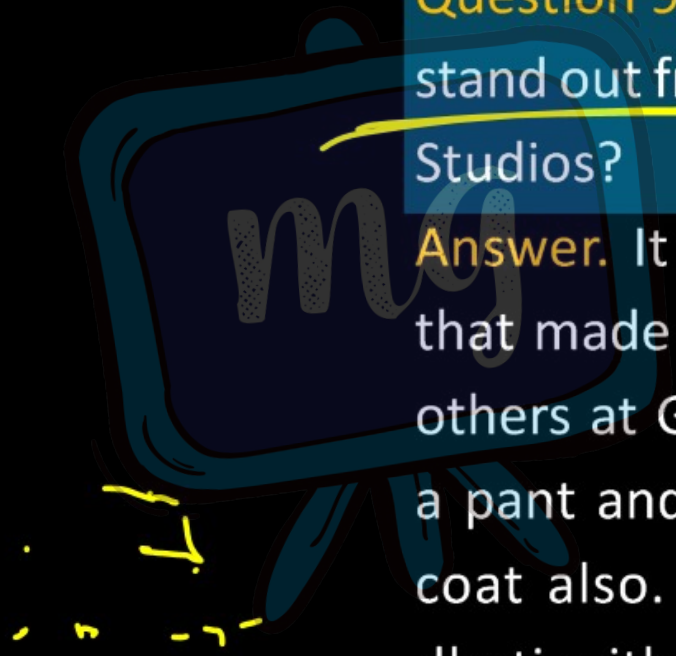

Question 9. What made the lawyer stand out from the others at Gemini Studios?

Answer. It was the lawyer's dress that made him stand out from the others at Gemini Studios. He wore a pant and a tie and sometimes a coat also. Others put on a khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt. These looked like a uniform.

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Question 10. Did the people at Gemini Studios have any particular political affiliations?

Answer. Most of the people at Gemini Studios were Gandhiites and Khadiites, i.e. they wore khadi and worshipped Gandhi, but beyond that they did not have any particular political affiliations. However, they were all averse to communism.

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Question 11. Why was the Moral Rearmament Army welcomed at the Studios?

Answer. The Moral Rearmament Army was a kind of counter movement to international Communism. Big bosses of Madras like Mr. Vasan simply played into their hands. So the Moral Rearmament Army was welcomed at the Gemini Studios.

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Question 12. Name one example to show that Gemini studios was influenced by the plays staged by MRA.

Answer. Madras and the Tamil drama community were influenced by the plays staged by MRA. For some years almost all Tamil plays had a scene of sunrise and sunset in the manner of 'Jotham Valley' with a bare stage, a white background curtain and a tune played on the flute.

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Question 13. Who was the Boss of Gemini Studios?

Answer. The Boss of Gemini Studios was Mr S.S. Vasan.

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Question 14. What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios?

Answer. The People at Gemini Studios were Tamil speakers. The Englishman was addressing them in his own language - English. He had a peculiar accent. Hence there was a lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at the Gemini Studios.

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Question 15. Why is the Englishman's visit referred to as unexplained mystery?

Answer. During the Englishman's speech no one understood what he was talking about. The audience were baffled. They did not know what an English poet was doing in a film studio which made Tamil films for the simplest sort of people. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

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Question 16. Who was the English visitor to the studios?

Answer. The English visitor to the studios was Stephen Spender. He was an English poet and essayist who concentrated on themes of social injustice and class struggle. He was also the editor of 'The Encounter'.

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Question 17. How did the author discover who the English visitor to the studios was?

Answer. The author went to the British Council library to get an idea about the periodical 'The Encounter'. He read the editor's name. It was the poet who had visited the Gemini Studios. Thus the author discovered who the English visitor to the studios was.

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Question 18. What does "The God that Failed' refer to?

Answer. 'The God that Failed' was the collection of six essays by six eminent men of letters. In these essays each of them described separately his journey into communism and his disillusioned return. The word 'God' refers to communism.

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Question 19. How does the author describe the incongruity of an English poet addressing the audience at Gemini Studios?

Answer. The English poet was addressing the Tamil knowing audience at Gemini Studios in English with a typical provincial accent. He was talking about the thrills and travails of an English poet to a dazed and silent audience. This was an incongruity.

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Question 20. What do you understand about the author's literary inclinations from the account?

Answer. The writer was a prose-writer. He wanted to send a short story for the short story contest organized by a British periodical by the name 'The Encounter'.