

Chapter 7 : Frog And Nightingale

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2. Have you come across people who are not what they seem to be - like someone who is extremely friendly and helpful yet you are not very comfortable with him /her as you feel it is a put-on? Have a class discussion about such people and why you feel as you do.

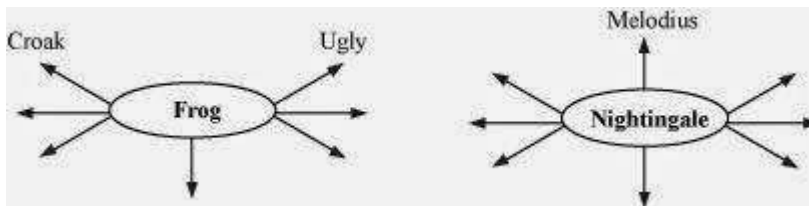
Answer

Yes, I have come across such persons. They pretend for having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs etc., that they don't really possess. At first, They are or can be successful in impressing others. However, when the real picture is revealed, they are subjected to embarrassment and humiliation. They also lose their popularity and the previously formed impression gets marred.

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3. Before you read the poem complete the word - web with the words that we associate with a Frog and a Nightingale.

Frog: Croak, Ugly, etc.



Answer



5. The following is a summary of the poem but it is jumbled up. Write out the events in their correct order to form a continuous paragraph.

- (a) As a result, her voice lost its beauty, and the other creatures stopped coming to hear her sing.
- (b) Soon the nightingale became famous, and creatures from miles around came to hear her sing.
- (c) All the creatures in the bog cheered and clapped at her beautiful song.
- (d) He offered to train the nightingale, so that she could sing even more beautifully.
- (e) So the frog could sing unrivalled in the bog once more.
- (f) The next night the frog introduced himself.
- (g) The frog charged an admission fee, and earned a lot of money from these concerts.
- (h) A frog croaked all night in a bog, in an unpleasant voice.
- (i) But the frog made the nightingale rehearse continuously in the rain.
- (j) One night a nightingale began to sing in a melodious voice.
- (k) Finally the nightingale burst a vein and died.

Answer

(h) A frog croaked all night in a bog, in an unpleasant voice.

- (j) One night a nightingale began to sing in a melodious voice.
- (c) All the creatures in the bog cheered and clapped at her beautiful song.
- (f) The next night the frog introduced himself.
- (d) He offered to train the nightingale, so that she could sing even more beautifully.
- (b) Soon the nightingale became famous, and creatures from miles around came to hear her sing.
- (g) The frog charged an admission fee, and earned a lot of money from these concerts.
- (i) But the frog made the nightingale rehearse continuously in the rain.
- (a) As a result, her voice lost its beauty, and the other creatures stopped coming to hear her sing.
- (k) Finally the nightingale burst a vein and died.
- (e) So the frog could sing unrivalled in the bog once more.

6. Now that you have read the poem, add more personality traits to the word-web of the frog and the nightingale as depicted in the poem. Then complete the table given below. (Some of the words in the box below may help you. You may also use the words given in Q. 1.)

Character	Extract	Personality
Nightingale	Sorry - was that you who spoke?	Polite, Timorous
Frog	Yes,... you see, I'm the frog who owns this tree In this bog I've long been known For my splendid baritone.	
Nightingale	Did you...did you like my song?	
Frog	Not too bad - but far too long The technique was fine, of course, But it lacked a certain force.	
Frog	Without proper training such as I And a few others can supply You'll remain a mere beginner, But with me you'll be a winner.	
Nightingale	But I can't sing in this weather.	
Nightingale	...This is a fairy tale - And you're Mozart in disguise Come to earth before my eyes.	
Frog	Come, my dear - we'll sing together.	

Frog	We must aim for better billing You still owe me sixty shillings.	
Frog	Brainless bird - you're on the stage Use your wits and follow fashion. Puff your lungs out with your passion.	
Frog	...I tried to teach her, But she was a stupid creature.	

Dismissive	Nervous	Timid	Presumptuous
Superior	Fawning	Shy	Polite
Meek	Possessive	Dominating	Mercenary

Answer

Character	Extract	Personality
Nightingale	Sorry - was that you who spoke?	Polite, Timorous
Frog	Yes,... you see, I'm the frog who owns this tree In this bog I've long been known For my splendid baritone.	Territorial, proud, arrogant, haughty, boastful
Nightingale	Did you...did you like my song?	Susceptible, modest
Frog	Not too bad - but far too long The technique was fine, of course, But it lacked a certain force.	Dismissive, patronising
Frog	Without proper training such as I And a few others can supply You'll remain a mere beginner, But with me you'll be a winner.	Superior, haughty, boastful
Nightingale	But I can't sing in this weather.	Timid, condescending, meek, nervous, polite

Nightingale	...This is a fairy tale - And you're Mozart in disguise Come to earth before my eyes.	Eager to please, flattering
Frog	Come, my dear - we'll sing together.	Polite, hypocrite
Frog	We must aim for better billing You still owe me sixty shillings.	Possessive, witty, selfish
Frog	Brainless bird - you're on the stage Use your wits and follow fashion. Puff your lungs out with your passion.	Arrogant, overbearing, authoritative
Frog	...I tried to teach her, But she was a stupid creature.	Deceitful, arrogant, clever

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8. On the basis of your understanding of the poem, complete the sentences given below by choosing the appropriate option.

1. The frog's aim was to
- (a) make the nightingale a sensation
 - (b) make the nightingale as good a singer as him
 - (c) maintain his supremacy in the bog
 - (d) make a lot of money

Answer

(c) maintain his supremacy in the bog

2. The animals reacted to the nightingale's song with
- (a) hatred
 - (b) admiration
 - (c) indifference
 - (d) suggestions for improvement

Answer

(b) admiration

3. The nightingale accepted the frog's tutelage as she
- (a) was not confident of herself
 - (b) wanted to become as good a singer as the frog
 - (c) wanted to become a professional singer
 - (d) was not a resident of Bingle Bog

Answer

(c) wanted to become a professional singer

9. Read the stanza given below and complete the sentences by choosing the appropriate option.

*Day by day the nightingale
Grew more sorrowful and pale.
Night on night her tired song
Zipped and trilled and bounced along,
Till the birds and beasts grew tired
At a voice so uninspired
And the ticket office gross
Crashed, and she grew more morose -
For her ears were now addicted
To applause quite unrestricted,
And to sing into the night
All alone gave no delight.*

(i) The nightingale was sorrowful and pale because

1. she had been practicing in the rain
2. she had been performing all night
3. she was losing confidence in herself
4. she was falling ill

Answer

2. she had been performing all night

(ii) The audience was tired of her song because

1. they had heard it many times
2. it had become mechanical
3. she looked tired
4. she had added trill to her song

Answer

2. it had become mechanical

(iii) She no longer enjoyed singing alone as

1. she wanted to sing only for titled crowd
2. she was now used to the appreciation she got
3. the frog was no longer with her
4. she had become proud of herself

Answer

2. she was now used to the appreciation she got

10. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) How did the creatures of Bingle bog react to the nightingale's singing?

Answer

The creatures of Bingle Bog favoured the nightingale's songs to a great extent. In fact, they gathered in crowds to hear the nightingale sing. Animals and birds, from far and wide, came to hear her sing her

melodious songs.

(b) Which are the different ways in which the frog asserts his importance?

Answer

The frog asserts his importance by being authoritative, territorial and imposing. He pretended to be a great singer and he also said that he was the reporter of Bog 'Trumpet'. He boasted that he was a music critic and a musician like Mozart and was ready to train her.

(c) Why is the frog's joy both sweet and bitter?

Answer

The joy of the frog was sweet as the nightingale could gather so many people to attend her concert. The more the audience, the more would be the earning, which the nightingale was bound to pay to the frog as tuition fees. Moreover, he was happy that he succeeds in torturing the bird and pushing her towards death. However, it was bitter as he knew deep within his heart that the nightingale's talent surpassed his own and thus, nobody as great as the present audience had ever come to hear him from far and wide. It was pure jealousy.

(d) Why was the frog angry?

Answer

The frog was angry because the nightingale had ceased to sing

melodiously. Her song was so dull that no one liked it. This had suddenly crashed the income of frog making him angry.

(e) How did the frog become the unrivalled king of the bog again?

Answer

The frog became the unrivalled king of Bingle Bog, after the death of the nightingale. Now no bird or animal would compete with the frog in singing. Secondly, all of them over there were greatly scared of him.

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11. Discuss the following questions and write the answers in your notebooks.

(a) Bring out the irony in the frog's statement - 'Your song must be your own'.

Answer

Irony is a literary device which means the expression of one's meaning by saying something which is the direct opposite of one's thoughts. Earlier the frog tells the nightingale that she should not boast about on her original songs but later on he finds fault in the nightingale by saying: "Your song must be your own." So there is an instance of irony in this statement.

(b) Do you think the end is justified?

Answer

The end faced by the innocent nightingale is pitiful yet justified. It portrays the truth where evil people have an upper-hand over the innocent ones. Thus, it is natural that the 'innocence' of the nightingale is killed by the 'cruel and crafty designs' of evil symbolised by the frog.

(c) Do you think the nightingale is 'brainless'? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer

No, I don't think the nightingale is brainless. Being simple, innocent, shy or dismissive does not mean foolish. It is only being noble. She wanted to be a successful and acclaimed singer. So, she accepted the frog's advice of giving her vocal training. Her only fault was that she lacked confidence.

(d) In spite of having a melodious voice and being a crowd puller, the nightingale turns out to be a loser and dies. How far is she responsible for her own downfall?

Answer

The nightingale is, herself, responsible for her own downfall. She doesn't use her capability to judge and evaluate sweet-tongued people. That's why she is killed by the evil designs of the frog who plays her to her death.

(e) Do you agree with the Frog's inference of the Nightingale's

character? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer

Yes, I agree with the frog's notion of the Nightingale's character. Being flattered and submissive and timid, she invited her own death upon herself. She should have been able to see through the frog's plots and reverted accordingly. However, her innocence didn't allow her to evaluate the frog's tricks.

14. Write an obituary for the nightingale. You may begin like this: May the kind soul..... (or you may make use of your own beginning)

Answer

May the kind and innocent soul of the Nightingale rest in peace! The nightingale was very innocent, timid, simple and compassionate. She was the symbol of human values. She was very virtuous. Her absence among us can be felt all the time. She bore evil towards none but had to pay the price of being innocent, submissive, simple-hearted and credulous. The death of the Nightingale teaches us that one must look out and be vigilant against sweet-tongued people, who turn friendly instantly. We must all learn something from the sacrifice of the Nightingale. We must shun the people having the qualities of the frog.

13. The nightingale has scaled the heights of success. But now the audience is dwindling, the frog is unhappy and reprimands her all the time. She is mentally and physically exhausted and fears failure. As the nightingale, write a diary entry highlighting her fears and analyzing the reasons for her failure.

1st December

Monday

I still remember the time when the bog creatures were pleasantly surprised to hear my soothing, sweet and divine voice. Everyone admired my song. My song was such a hit that the creatures requested me to sing again and again. But the gala days vanished away soon. Now they are no longer interested in my song. Constant singing has damaged my vocal chords. I cannot sing melodiously as my voice has got hoarse and shanky. I am surprised and doleful at the indifferent attitude of the bog creatures. Even my master trainer, frog is annoyed with me and scolds me all the time. he keeps on reminding me that my song lacks a certain force and my singing is full of errors. Am I not a good singer? Will I ever be able to sing well? Perhaps not. because my song as lost its spontaniety and originality. the audience who used to applaud my song are now loosing interest and withdrawing. The frog constantly reprimands me because the total collection of money from the sale of tickets to my concert has fallen sharply. How will I pay the sixty shilling- the remaining fee for the training? I am mentally and physically exhausted. I shudder at the mere thought of being a failure where once I earned kudos for my singing.

Oh God! Please Help me

Nightingale