

L-7 The Louse and the Mosquito

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:-

1) 'It was only afternoon

Fairly early, fairly soon

When the king came for a snooze,

Doffed his crown and shirt and shoes

Lay down on the bed and sighed'.

- a) Why did the king come inside the room?
- b) Why does the poet say 'fairly early, fairly soon'?
- c) Identify the poetic device in the 2nd and 4th line and explain it.
- d) Give the synonym of 'doffed'.

2) 'Yes, yes, yes, that's all old hat,

Said Sir Leap, I know all that.

Keep your stale advice. He smiled

Seriously – I'm not a child'.

- a) Name the poem and the poet.
- b) What advice did the louse give to the mosquito?
- c) Why does the mosquito call it 'stale advice'?
- d) Identify the poetic device in the 1st line.

3) What was the ancestral house of Creep? Who all stayed with her?

4) Why did Creep allow the mosquito to spend the night?

5) What did the servant's find in the king's bed? What did they do?

6) Why did the mosquito want to bite the king?

7) What happened to the mosquito?

8) It is aptly said 'be cautious while dealing with strangers'. Elucidate with the help of the poem 'The Louse and the Mosquito'.

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