

CHAPTER-04

A Bicycle Built for Two

Extracts

Question -1

There was an ambitious young eel

Who determined to ride on a wheel;

But try as he might,

He couldn't ride right,

In spite of his ardor and zeal.

i) What did the eel want to do?

ii) Was the eel successful in riding the bicycle?

iii) Give the meaning of the words, "**ardor**" and "**zeal**".

Question 2.

If he sat on the saddle to ride

His tail only pedalled one side;

And I'm sure you'll admit

That an eel couldn't sit

On a bicycle saddle astride.

- (i) What issue did the eel face while it tried to ride the bicycle?
- (ii) Why the eel was not able to pedal both sides?
- (iii) Give the meaning of the word “**astride**”.

Question 3.

*Or if he hung over the top,
He could go, but he never could stop;
For of course it is clear
He had no way to steer,
And under the wheel he would flop.*

- (i) What would happen if the eel would hang over the top of the bicycle?
- (ii) Why the eel was not able to steer properly?
- (iii) Give the meaning of the word “**flop**”.

Question 4.

*His neighbor, observing the fun,
Said, “I think that the thing can be done,
If you’ll listen to me,
You’ll quickly agree
That two heads are better than one.*

- (i) Who was the neighbour of the eel?
- (ii) What idea did the neighbour come up with?
- (iii) State the rhyme scheme of this stanza.

Question 5.

“And this is my project, old chap,

*Around our two waists I will wrap
This beautiful belt
Of bottle-green felt
And fasten it firm with a strap.”*

(i) How did the neighbour resolve the issue?

(ii) State the rhyme scheme of this stanza.

(ii) Give the meaning of the words “chap” and “strap”.

Question 6.

*This done, with a dignified mien
The two squirmed up on the machine,
And rode gayly away,
Or at least, so they say,
Who witnessed the wonderful scene.*

(i) Explain the scene where their plan worked.

(ii) State the rhyme scheme of this stanza

(iii) Give the meaning of the words “mien”, “gayly” and “squirmed”.

Answer the questions in 30 words each.

1. What did the eel want to do? Why couldn't he do it?

2. What plan was devised by the neighbour to solve the problem?

3. Was the plan successful? Were the eels able to ride the bicycle?

4. State the rhyme scheme of the poem.
5. Mention any two poetic devices used in this poem.

