

A HERO- R.K. NARAYAN

STUDY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

'Hero' is a very interesting and entertaining story written by R. K. Narayan. The story is about a small, timid boy named Swami who became a hero and pride of his family after an incident that happened on that fateful night. As a young boy, Swami disliked going to school or to work hard. He simply enjoyed playing cricket and listening to stories from his grandmother. He was pampered by her and so preferred to sleep by her side. However, the situation turned worse when Swami's father tried to discipline him by asking him to sleep alone. He wished him to become both independent and responsible. The story is all about how Swami accidentally proves on to become a heroic boy who seems to be daring enough to halt a robbery attempt.

MIND MAP

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In order to make Swami a daring and a courageous boy, Father asked him to sleep alone in his office room for one night. He really wished to see him grow up into a brave and an independent boy.

Swami fulfilled his promise of sleeping alone at night in the office room. He was indeed forced by his father to sleep there in order to prove that he was a man.

While sleeping, he remembered all the ghostly and devilish stories that he had heard from his friends and grandmother. He then chose to sleep under the bench so that he could save himself from the clutches of the devils.

At midnight he saw some shadow moving. He resolved to fight back and patiently waited for the devil to come near to the bench. Swami clutched at the ankle of the intruder with all his might until blood started oozing out.

He gave out a helpless cry which brought all the family members to the room only to discover that it was a burglar. Thereby, Swami proved himself to be a brave boy for which he was applauded both by school and law.

THEME

Through the story 'A Hero', R.K. Narayan has portrayed various kinds of emotions that a child experiences in his life. He undergoes and fights out feelings of fear, insecurity, self-control, powerlessness, bravery and sense of independence, exactly like Swami. While going through the story, the readers can sense the author emphasizing the reality **that bravery and courage do not come by age or experience but by determination**. He has also highlighted that Swami was quite afraid of ghosts and did not have the courage to sleep alone at night; however his father wanted him to become an independent and daring boy who must be confident enough to handle any adverse situations. At last, in order to prove himself, the fear-driven Swami dares to take action of biting the burglar's ankle, fearing that it might be devil. He does not think about the outcome of his action, thereby displaying the inner element of bravery embedded deep within him.

