

Get Going!

A. Let us find the answers from the story.

1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words / phrases from the story.

(a) Grandfather usually slept on the bed in the attic but he was not home.

(b) Briggs always kept a glass of camphor beside him at night.

(c) Aunt Gracie had a burglars phobia.

(d) The narrator's mother and Herman were sleeping in a room just under the attic bedroom.

(e) Rex was the narrator's Bull terrier / pet dog.

2. Why did father want to sleep in the attic?

A) Father wanted to sleep in the attic because he wanted to be away in a place where he could think.

3. Why was mother opposed to the idea of father sleeping in the attic?

A) Mother was strongly opposed to the idea of the father sleeping in the attic because the wooden bed in the attic was ~~was~~ wobbly and unsafe. She was worried that if the bed fell, the headboard would fall on father's head and kill him.

4. What was Briggs Beall's biggest fear?

A) Briggs' biggest fear was that he would suffocate to death while sleeping.

5. Where was Aunt Melissa Beall born?

A) Aunt Melissa was born on South High Street.

6. Who was Herrman?

A) Herrman was the narrator's brother.

7. Why did Rex assume Briggs was the culprit?

A) Rex assumed that Briggs was the culprit because he never liked Briggs.

B. Let us read between the lines.

1. Why do the narrator's friends feel that the incident makes for a better recitation than it does for a piece of writing?

A) The narrator's friends feel that the incident makes for a better recitation than it does for a piece of writing because the chaos and confusion of the events that transpired are better demonstrated with action and demonstration, rather than in writing.

2. Why did Briggs pour camphor on himself?

A) Briggs poured camphor all over himself because he probably panicked at the loud noise and shouts and thought that he was suffocating to death.

C. Let us go beyond the story.

1. How do you think the narrator felt when he realised that the whole ruckus was because of him?

A) I think the narrator would have found all the situation quite amusing and been unable to decide whether he should laugh or feel bad for causing such an inconvenience to everyone. The whole incident appears to be a comedy of errors which all began because the bed flopped.

2. What do you think grandfathers may have said on hearing the story after he came back home?

A) The grandfathers must have thought that in his vast life he must have seen, heard and experienced almost everything. But after listening to the incident about the night the bed fell, he may have realized that there was still a lot to be seen. He may have grumbled at first, but eventually, he would have laughed.