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The Giant

(Poet - Charles Mackey)

About the Author

Charles Mackey (1814 - 1889) was a British poet and journalist, son of a naval officer, born at Perth, he engaged in journalism, published songs and poems (1834)

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Reading

A) Answer the Questions :-

1. What lines from the poem tell you that the giant appeared strong?

Ans - The giant was fierce and strong. His step was heavy on the floor. His arms were ten yards long. He scowled and frowned; he shook the ground.

2. What was the speaker's initial reaction to the giant?

Ans - In the beginning, the speaker trembled in fear and felt weak before the giant.

3. What happened when the speaker stood up to the giant?

Ans - When the speaker stood up to the giant, it did not seem as fierce and mighty anymore. He grew pale, thin and small as if he had turned into smoke. He sank before the speaker and ultimately vanished away.

4. "Is this the mighty foe?" How did the speaker feel at this moment?

Ans - The speaker felt proud of herself for being able to stand courageously before the mighty giant when she said "Is this the mighty foe?"

5. How did the speaker gain confidence in herself?

Ans When the speaker bravely stood up to the giant and declared that she was not scared of him, she saw the giant becoming weaker. This gave her the confidence that she was strong enough to defeat him.

6. Was the giant truly powerful? How do we know?

Ans - Whether the giant was weak or powerful depended on how the speaker saw it. At first the speaker was scared, so the giant seemed fierce, strong and powerful. But later, when the speaker gathered courage and looked him in the face the giant did not seem all that power anymore.

B) Think and Answer :-

1. Do you think it becomes easier to defeat 'giants' after the first time? Why?

Ans - Every giant that we face in the life is a challenge. We require courage to face

them each and every time. But when we defeat a giant for the first time, it gives us confidence in ~~ourself~~ ourselves. This makes it easier to stand up to a giant the next time.

2. His blood-red eyes turned blue as skies. How did this change in colour happened? Why did the giants eye turn blue?

Ans- When the giant was defeated by the speaker, he faded and then vanished. There was nothing but blue sky in the place when he had stood. This is why the blood-red eyes of his eyes faded into the blue of the sky as a colour, blood red represents war, violence and suffering and blue stands for peace. So the colour changes from the red to blue also indicates movement from suffering to victory, peace and happiness.

Appreciating the poem

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a. What do you think the giant in the poem stands for?

Ans - The giant in the poem stands for the difficult situations that we all have to face in life and the challenges that seem impossible to overcome.

b. What is the 'shadow' the giant casts over us? You can refer to a dictionary to know ~~that~~ what another meaning of 'shadow' is?

Ans - According to the dictionary, shadow also means the bad affect or influence something has. In the poem, the shadow the giant casts over us is the negative thoughts and feeling that difficulties have on us.

c. How does the giant try to defeat us or 'strike us dumb'?

Ans - The giant tries to defeat us by taking away our hope and happiness and stopping us from trying to achieve our goals.

d. How can the person is 'true' of heart defeat the giant?

Ans. - A person is said to be true of heart if they have the faith, courage and confidence to face fears bravely. The person who is true of heart faces their fear and tries their hardest to overcome it.

e. What is the lesson we learnt from this poem?

Ans. - We will face many obstacles in life, many of which seem impossible to defeat. Though we are afraid, we must believe in our abilities and face it with determination and hard work. Once we do, we will see that it is not as great or as difficult to defeat with as we thought. We must not let our fears get the best of us.

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26.7.21

Using Words

Complete these Similes with suitable comparison :-

1. The water was as hot as fire
2. Nazreen's eyes shone like diamond
3. The chocolate was as sticky as glue
4. George frowned like monster
5. The water sparkled like star
6. My mother is as smart as spy