



## ENGLISH

### NCERT - NCERT ENGLISH(HINGLISH)

### THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

#### Think About The Text

1. “The sound was familiar one.” What sound did the doctor hear? What did he think it was? How many times did he hear it? (Find the

places in the text.) When and why did the sounds stop?



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2. What two “important” and “earth-shaking” decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror?



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3. “I looked into the mirror and smiled,” says the doctor. A little later he says, “I forgot my danger and smiled feebly at myself.” What is the doctor’s opinion about himself when:

(i) he first smiles, and

(ii) he smiles again? In what way do his thoughts change in between, and why?



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4. This story about a frightening incident is narrated in a humorous way. What makes it humorous? (Think of the contrasts it presents between dreams and reality. Some of them are listed below.)

(i) The kind of person the doctor is (money, possessions)

(ii) The kind of person he wants to be (appearance, ambition)



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5. This story about a frightening incident is narrated in a humorous way. What makes it humorous? (Think of the contrasts it presents between dreams and reality. Some of them are listed below.)

(i) The person he wants to marry

(ii) The person he actually marries



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6. This story about a frightening incident is narrated in a humorous way. What makes it

humorous? (Think of the contrasts it presents between dreams and reality. Some of them are listed below.)

(i) His thoughts when he looks into the mirror

(ii) His thoughts when the snake is coiled around his arm



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**Thinking About Language**

1. Here are some sentences from the text.

Say which of them tell you, that the author:

(a) was afraid of the snake, (b) was proud of his appearance, (c) had a sense of humour, (d) was no longer afraid of the snake.

1. I was turned to stone.

2. I was no mere image cut in granite.

3. The arm was beginning to be drained of strength.

4. I tried in my imagination to write in bright letters outside my little heart the words, 'O God'.

5. I didn't tremble. I didn't cry out.

6. I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile.

7. I was suddenly a man of flesh and blood.

8. I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor too on top of it!

9. The fellow had such a sense of cleanliness...!

The rascal could have taken it and used it after washing it with soap and water.

10. Was it trying to make an important decision about growing a moustache or using eye shadow and mascara or wearing a vermilion spot on its forehead?





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## 2. Expressions used to show fear

Can you find the expressions in the story that tell you that the author was frightened?

Read the story and complete the following sentences.

1. I was turned \_\_\_\_\_.

2. I sat there holding \_\_\_\_\_.

3. In the light of the lamp I sat there like \_\_\_\_\_.



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3. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

I knew a man was following me, I was scared out of my wits. (very frightened)



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4. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the

appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

I got a fright when I realised how close I was to the cliff edge.



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5. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

He nearly jumped out of his skin when he saw the bull coming towards him.



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6. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

You really gave me a fright when you crept up behind me like that.



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7. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

Wait until I tell his story — it will make your hair stand on end.



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8. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the

appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

Paralysed with fear, the boy faced his abductors.



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9. Match the meanings with the words/expressions in italics, and write the appropriate meaning next to the sentence.

The first one has been done for you.

The boy hid behind the door, not moving a muscle.



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**10.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense. Meena asked her friend, “Do you think your teacher will come today?”



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**11.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense. David asked his colleague, “Where will you go this summer?”



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**12.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense.



He asked the little boy, “Why are you studying English?”



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**13.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense.  
She asked me, “When are we going to leave?”



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**14.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense. Pran asked me, “Have you finished reading the newspaper?”



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**15.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense.

Seema asked her, “How long have you lived here?”



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**16.** Report these questions using if/whether or why/when/where/how/which/what. Remember the italicised verbs change into the past tense.

Sheila asked the children “Are you ready to do the work?”



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