

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
NCERT Solutions
Beehive Chapter 7
Packing

Page No: 89 Thinking about the Text

I. Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30 – 40 words).

1. How many characters are there in the narrative? Name them. (Don't forget the dog!).

Ans: There are four characters in the narrative. They are Jerome (the narrator), George, Harris and Montmorency (the dog).

2. Why did the narrator (Jerome) volunteer to do the packing?

Ans: The narrator volunteered to do the packing because he took pride in himself for his packing skills. He had formed an opinion about himself of being the best packer and just wanted to show it off.

3. How did George and Harris react to this? Did Jerome like their reaction?

Ans: George and Harris readily accepted Jerome's suggestion. George smoked a pipe and "spread himself over the easy-chair", while Harris put his legs on the table and lit a cigar. No, Jerome got irritated by their reaction.

4. What was Jerome's real intention when he offered to pack?

Ans: When Jerome had offered to pack, his real intention was that he would boss the job while Harris and George would work under his directions. Then he would push them every now and then and teach them how to do it properly and show off his packing skills.

5. What did Harris say after the bag was shut and strapped? Why do you think he waited till then to ask?

Ans: After the bag was shut and strapped, Harris mentioned that Jerome had forgot to pack the boots. He had waited till then to ask because he wanted to see irritation on Jerome's face and at the same time, ridicule his packing skills also.

6. What “horrible idea” occurred to Jerome a little later?

Ans: The "horrible idea" that occurred to Jerome a little later was that he was not sure whether he had packed his toothbrush or not. It had happened with him on earlier occasions also that whenever he was traveling, he always forgot if he had packed his toothbrush or not. The thought that now he would have to unpack to check the things, haunted him and made his life a misery.

7. Where did Jerome finally find the toothbrush?

Ans: Jerome started putting the things out of the bag to find out his toothbrush. Finally he found it inside a boot.

8. Why did Jerome have to reopen the packed bag?

Ans: Jerome had to reopen the packed bag twice owing to his forgetfulness. Once he had to reopen it because he had forgotten to pack the boots. The next time, he unpacked when he realized he had packed his tobacco-pouch in it.

9. What did George and Harris offer to pack and why?

Ans: George and Harris offered to pack the food hampers because it was getting late and they thought that Jerome had already taken too much of time. They also wanted to show their skills to Jerome.

10. While packing the hamper, George and Harris do a number of foolish and funny things. Tick the statements that are true.

- (i) They started with breaking a cup.
- (ii) They also broke a plate.
- (iii) They squashed a tomato.
- (iv) They trod on the butter.
- (v) They stepped on a banana.
- (vi) They put things behind them, and couldn't find them.
- (vii) They stepped on things.
- (viii) They packed the pictures at the bottom and put heavy things on top.
- (ix) They upset almost everything.

(x) They were very good at packing.

Ans: Statements (i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (ix) are true.

II. What does Jerome say was Montmorency's ambition in life? What do you think of Montmorency and why?

Ans: Jerome says Montmorency's ambition in life was to get in the way of others and be scolded for that. Montmorency was a mischievous little dog who loved creating troubles for others. I think that Montmorency was a perfect nuisance because he could go anywhere where he was not wanted, make people mad and have things thrown at his head. He meant no trouble intentionally but created a mess around when being in a playful mood. When people shouted at him or threw things at his head, he got discouraged and then went away to sit silently, which the narrator calls as the fulfillment of his conceit.

III. Discuss in groups and answer the following questions in two or three paragraphs (100 –150 words)

1. Of the three, Jerome, George and Harris, who do you think is the best or worst packer? Support your answer with details from the text.

Ans: In spite of forgetting things or creating a mess while packing, out of the three, Jerome seems to be the best packer. He knew how to arrange things in order. But both Harris and George messed everything. Harris packed the strawberry jam on top of a tomato and squashed it. George stepped on the butter. They put lighter things at the bottom and heavier things on top of that. Till the time Jerome packed, although he took his time, others created a mess all around. They kept things behind them and started searching for them. In an attempt to be perfect, they upset almost everything.

2. How did Montmorency 'contribute' to the packing?

Ans: The packing escapade was already a messy job and Montmorency's contribution made it even more tiresome. He did his level best to be a "perfect nuisance".

He came and sat down on things, just when they were about to be packed. Whenever Harris or George reached out for something, Montmorency would poke his damp nose in between. He put his leg into the jam and disturbed the teaspoons. He also pretended that the lemons were rats. So he got into the hamper and killed three of them before Harris could land him

with the frying-pan.

3. Do you find this story funny? What are the humorous elements in it?

(Pick out at least three, think about what happens, as well as how it is described.)

Ans: Yes, this story is definitely funny as it shows three adults making fool out of themselves.. Not only is the way in which the three friends pack for their trip quite mirthful, but the way the author narrates all the incidents is also entertaining. The narrator, who prides himself on his packing ability, unpacks and repacks the things thrice, much to the amusement of his other friends.

The first humorous element is when the narrator offers them to pack the things and they are worse than the narrator. Emulating his friends, the narrator sits back and watches them make mess of everything. Consequently, he has to do packing though his real intention was to boss the job.

The second humorous element is that George placed the butter on the chair and Harris sat on it and it stuck at his back. When they searched it for packing, it was missing. They search for it everywhere in the room. At last, George finds it at Harris's back.

The third humorous element is that Montmorency squirms in where he is not wanted. The disturbance created by the brings its own amount of fun in the story.

Page No: 90 Thinking about Language

I. Match the words/phrases in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

A	B
1. slaving	(i) a quarrel or an argument
2. chaos	(ii) remove something from inside another thing using a sharp tool
3. rummage	(iii) strange, mysterious. Difficult to explain
4. scrape out	(iv) finish successfully, achieve
5. stumble over, tumble into	(v) search for something by moving things around hurriedly or carelessly
6. accomplish	(vi) complete confusion and disorder

7. uncanny	(vii) fall, or step awkwardly while waking
8. (to have or get into) a row	(viii) working hard

Ans: 1 - (viii)

2 - (vi)

3 - (v)

4 - (ii)

5 - (vii)

6 - (iv)

7 - (iii)

8 - (i)

II. Use suitable words or phrases from Column A above to complete the paragraph given below.

A Traffic Jam

During power cuts, when traffic lights go off, there is utter ____ at crossroads. Drivers add to the confusion by ____ over their right of way, and nearly come to blows.

Sometimes passers-by, seeing a few policemen ____ at regulating traffic, step in to help.

This gives them a feeling of having ____ something.

Ans: During power cuts, when traffic lights go off, there is utter chaos at crossroads. Drivers add to the confusion by getting into a row over their right of way, and nearly come to blows.

Sometimes passers-by, seeing a few policemen slaving at regulating traffic, step in to help.

This gives them a feeling of having accomplished something.

III. Look at the sentences below. Notice that the verbs (italicized) are all in their bare form.

2. The table below has some proverbs telling you what to do and what not to do. Fill in the blanks and add a few more such proverbs to the table.

	<i>Positive</i>		<i>Negative</i>
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(i)	Save for a rainy day.	(i)	Don't cry over spilt milk.
(ii)	Make hay while the sun shines.	(ii)	Don't put the cart before the horse.
(iii)	___ before you leap.	(iii)	___ a mountain out of a mole hill.
(iv)	___ and let live.	(iv)	___ all your eggs in one basket.

Ans: (iii) Look Before you leap.(positive)

(iii) Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill.(negative)

(iv) Live and let Live.(positive)

(iv) Don't put all your eggs in one basket.(negative)

(v) Mind your own business.(positive)

(v) Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.(negative)

(vi) Be first at the feast and last at the fight.(positive)

(vi) Don't count the days, make the days count!(negative)