

COMPREHENSION FROM PAST PAPER

2019 :-

PARAGRAPH:-

When I returned to the -----
----- with disgust and dread.

QUESTIONS:-

1. What leads us to believe that this passage is from a science fiction story?

A:- The two things lead us to believe that the passage is from a science fiction story. First of all, the Martian creature described in the passage evokes an otherworldly feeling. Secondly, the passage demonstrates the elements of a science-fiction story through dramatic expressions employed. These expressions include the timings of the scene, the crowd's yelling, the Martian's gradual emergence from the cylinder, and the thorough description of Martian features. Therefore, the presence of Martian, an alien, and the dramatic expression of the scenario lead us to believe that the passage is from a science fiction story.

2. How was the crowd behaving?

A:- The crowd was behaving differently due to the differences in

nature among the people. Some of them were curious about the thing that fell into the pit, while others were frightened and left the common soon after the incident. Many of them were trying to figure out the nature of that thing while hoping it would be a human. But, on the other hand, they were also frightened about the possibility of the creature coming out as a monster. So, the behaviour of the crowd was a mixture of excitement and terror due to the uncertain nature of the creature.

3. Why did the mood of the crowd alter?

A:- The mood of the crowd altered due to the horrific emergence of the creature. Initially, they were excited and hoping that the thing that would emerge out of the cylinder would be, more or less, a human. But after the terrifying emergence of the creature, their moods changed from excitement to fear. Moreover, the horrific features of the Martian, monster-like features were enough to traumatise a person. So, the emergence of a monster, against their expectations, and its horrific features changed the mood of the crowd.

4. What was the narrator's initial reaction to the "Thing"?

A:- Initially, like other crowd members, the narrator was curious about the 'thing'. Therefore, he joined the crowd around the pit despite the warning given to him by one of the crowd members. To explore about the 'thing', he leaned into the pit to peer into the cylinder. With the deadly rays of the setting sun, that fell into his eyes, the cylinder looked perfectly black to him. He was anticipating the 'thing' to turn out into a human; however, after taking ^{another} look, he noticed the creature's true features. Thus, the initial reactions of the author were curiosity and excitement.

5. Why did the author feel disgusted?

A:- The author felt disgusted due to the monstrous appearance of the Martian. The Martian's horrific features, such as V-shaped mouth, lack of brow ridges and chin behind the wedge, constant ^{quivering} lips, and Gorgon-like clusters of tentacles, struck the author with horror. These features coupled with the turbulent breathing and the intensity of Martian's eyes further increased the author's fear. Furthermore, the author's distaste was greatly influenced by the Martian's fungoid, greasy brown skin. So, the author felt disgusted due to the terrifying and nasty appearance of the Martian.