

ISWARAN THE STORY TELLER

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About Author



Explanation of the topic

The Aryabhata Academy





R.K. LAXMAN

. He is best known for his creation of daily cartoon strip, You Said It in The Times of India, which started in 1951.

R.K. Laxman's full name Rasipuram Krishnaswami Laxman, born in October 24, 1921, Mysore. He also received the Padma vibhushan Award and many more.



Study materials

Text Book Chapter

[Link for supportive materials](#)

Iswaran the Storyteller

Quick Examination Tips



Word Meaning

Question bank

STRESS BUILDER AND STRESS
BUSTER



ISWARAN THE STORY-TELLER



- The title of this chapter ISWARAN THE STORYTELLER tells us that this story is about Iswaran. He is called the story teller because story telling is an art and he is good at it. Iswaran uses special effects, does voice modulation, uses his body language to make the story realistic so that the listener get attracted and is captivated in his story. The writer wants to highlight this quality of Iswaran – that he is so good at telling stories, they appeared to be real and were a source of entertainment for Mahendra. So this is a story about Mahendra, a junior supervisor and his cook, Iswaran. Mahendra had to keep moving from place to place as ordered by his head office. He worked mainly in coal mining area, railway bridge construction site etc.

- But fortunately he had an expert cook and caretaker, Iswaran who cooked, washed, his cloth and chatted with him at night. Every morning whenever Mahendra would go out for work after breakfast Iswaran would tidy up the shed, wash his cloth and after lunch would read Tamil thrillers during his spare time. As a result he innovated his own thrillers and would tell it to Mahendra. Mahendra would listen patiently and uncritically. Iswaran would describe narrating even the smallest incidents with suspense and a surprise ending into the account. For example, instead of saying that he had come across an uprooted tree on the highway he would say the road was deserted and he spotted something that looked like an enormous bushy beast lying sprawled across the road. But when he came closer he saw it was a fallen tree with its branches spread out.



- Next, He told a story how he had paralyzed a mad elephant that had created havoc. He told that these animals work for timber Lorries but when they turn wild even the most experienced Mahout is not able to control them. In one such incident a tusker escaped from the timber yard and began roam about – stamping on bushes, tearing creepers and breaking branches at will. Soon it reached the outskirts of the town and began smashing shops and stalls. Finally it reached Ishwaran's school. There every one was terrified watching the drama of the tusker, it pulled football goal post and volleyball net. Later Ishwaran told that he grabbed a cane from the teacher's hand and faced the mad tusker boldly. He hit on to the third toe of the elephant and it shivered and collapsed. At this point he would leave the story and Mahendra remained in dangling situation.



- On one auspicious day he weaved a story about a ghost woman holding a foetus on her hand. Mahendra stooped him for such nonsense stories and there are no such type of figure but our imagination only after a few days Mahendra heard some noise near his window sill during night time. First he put it as some sort of small animal like cat but the noise became louder and louder. When he peeped through the window he fainted for he saw some cloudy figure clutching a bundle near his window sill. Mahendra could not sleep that night. In the morning Ishwaran smilingly asked about the sound and the woman ghost, which Mahendra had earlier refused to believe. He also complained about how he chilled him the other day. Mahendra was so upset that he decided to resign his job that very day.



- **TEXTUAL PARAGRAPHS WITH EXPLANATION**

- THE story was narrated to Ganesh by a young man, Mahendra by name. He was a junior supervisor in a firm which offered on hire supervisors at various types of construction sites: factories, bridges, dams, and so on. Mahendra's job was to keep an eye on the activities at the work site. He had to keep moving from place to place every now and then as ordered by his head office: from a coal mining area to a railway bridge construction site, from there after a few months to a chemical plant which was coming up somewhere.