

THE SUMMER OF THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE HORSE

RTC – 1

“In the second place, we were poor. This was the part that wouldn’t permit me to believe what I saw. We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty stricken. Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies, not even the old men of the family. Most important of all, though, we were famous for our honesty. We had been famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries, even when we had been the wealthiest family in what we liked to think was the world. We were proud first, honest next, and after that we believed in right and wrong. None of us would take advantage of anybody in the world, let alone steal.”

1. Which of the following most accurately captures the narrator’s psychological conflict in the passage?

- a) He admired Mourad’s courage but feared punishment.
- b) He found it impossible to reconcile the act of theft with his family’s moral inheritance.
- c) He believed poverty naturally compels people towards crime.
- d) He considered honesty irrelevant in conditions of extreme deprivation.

2. Select the option that best reflects the irony embedded in the expression “comical poverty.”

- a) Their poverty was so severe that it appeared absurd and unbelievable.
- b) The family enjoyed making jokes about their poverty.
- c) The narrator wished to entertain readers through exaggeration.

d) The tribe intentionally pretended to be poor despite hidden wealth.

3. The word “take advantage of” in the passage implies unethical exploitation. Which sentence uses the phrase in the same sense?

a) Students should take advantage of the library facilities before examinations.

b) She took advantage of the opportunity to display her talent.

c) Tourists took advantage of the pleasant climate during winter.

d) The lawyer took advantage of the old man’s ignorance to acquire his property.

4. Which statement most strongly substantiates the claim that moral prestige was valued above material prosperity in the Garoghlanian family?

a) “Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough...”

b) “We were poor. We had no money.”

c) “We had been famous for our honesty for something like eleven centuries.”

d) “Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living...”

5. Explain how the narrator associates family honour with personal morality in the passage.

RTC – 2

“Mourad, I said, where did you steal this horse? Leap out of the window, he said, if you want to ride. It was true, then. He had stolen the horse. There was no question about it. He had come to invite me to ride or not, as I chose. Well, it seemed to me stealing a horse for a ride was not the same thing as stealing something else, such as money. For all I knew, maybe it wasn’t stealing at all. If you were crazy about horses the way my cousin Mourad and I were, it wasn’t

stealing. It wouldn't become stealing until we offered to sell the horse, which of course, I knew we would never do."

1. Which of the following best explains the narrator's attempt to justify Mourad's action?

- a) He believed laws should not apply to children.
- b) He considered wealth redistribution morally acceptable.
- c) Emotional obsession clouded his ethical judgement.
- d) He wished to protect the reputation of the horse owner.

2. The passage primarily reveals the narrator's—

- a) inability to distinguish between fantasy and reality.
- b) gradual surrender of moral reasoning under emotional temptation.
- c) resentment towards Mourad's adventurous personality.
- d) intention to expose the crime publicly.

3. The word "crazy" in the passage suggests intense obsession. Which sentence conveys the opposite idea?

- a) The scientist remained rational despite public criticism.
- b) The crowd went crazy after the final goal.
- c) He was crazy enough to risk his life for fame.
- d) The child became crazy with excitement on seeing the circus.

4. Which statement best supports the narrator's distorted moral logic in the passage?

- a) The temporary use of stolen property was viewed as less immoral than commercial theft.
- b) The narrator intended to confess the truth after riding the horse.
- c) The boys believed ownership itself was meaningless.
- d) Mourad persuaded the narrator through force and intimidation.

5. Why does the narrator fail to condemn Mourad immediately despite recognising the theft?

RTC – 3

“That was all, no matter what anybody happened to be talking about. Once it was his own son Arak running eight blocks to the barber’s shop where his father was having his moustache trimmed to tell him their house was on fire. This man Khosrove sat up in the chair and roared, It is no harm; pay no attention to it. The barber said, But the boy says your house is on fire. So Khosrove roared, Enough, it is no harm, I say. My cousin Mourad was considered the natural descendant of this man, although Mourad’s father was Zorab, who was practical and nothing else. That’s how it was in our tribe. A man could be the father of his son’s flesh, but that did not mean that he was also the father of his spirit.”

1. Which characteristic of Khosrove is most prominently highlighted in the anecdote?

- a) His emotional vulnerability during crises
- b) His inability to understand reality
- c) His deep attachment to family property
- d) His exaggerated indifference towards worldly disturbances

2. Select the most appropriate inference regarding Mourad’s personality.

- a) Mourad’s unconventional spirit resembled Khosrove more than his biological father.
- b) Mourad inherited Zorab’s practical temperament completely.
- c) Mourad rejected the traditions of his tribe.
- d) Mourad admired Khosrove solely because of his authority.

3. The word “practical” in the passage implies realistic and grounded behaviour. Which sentence employs the word in the same contextual sense?

- a) Her practical approach prevented the situation from becoming chaotic.
- b) The students attended a practical class in Chemistry.
- c) The examination included both theoretical and practical sections.
- d) The engineer submitted a practical file to the supervisor.

4. Which statement best interprets the line “father of his son’s flesh, but not the father of his spirit”?

- a) Biological inheritance determines moral identity entirely.
- b) Spiritual and temperamental influence may transcend blood relations.
- c) Children inevitably rebel against parental authority.
- d) Physical resemblance is more important than emotional resemblance.

5. How does the anecdote about Khosrove contribute to the characterisation of Mourad?