

Short-Answer Questions

Q.1. When did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his kingdom? How was he able to avert the danger?

[CBSE Delhi 2010, 2012]

Ans. Tiger King, to disprove the astrologer's prediction started to hunt and kill tigers. He also banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. Anyone who disobeyed him was punished and all his wealth and property was confiscated. A British high ranking officer wished to hunt tigers. The Maharaja told that the officer could hunt any other animal except the tiger. The British officer's secretary wanted the Maharaja to allow the British officer to take a photograph of himself holding a gun and standing over a tiger's carcass. The Maharaja refused permission because he did not want anybody to kill a tiger. At this the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom. Hence, he offered a bribe of 50 gold rings which were valued at three lakhs, to the wife of the British officer. By this act the Maharaja was able to avert the danger.

Q.2. What did the British officer's secretary tell the Maharaja? Why did the Maharaja refuse permission?

[CBSE (AI) 2010]

Ans. The British officer's secretary told the Maharaja to allow him to shoot the tigers in his kingdom. But the Maharaja did not allow him because he thought that the number of tigers would decrease and he would not be able to complete the desired number.

Q.3. Why, do you think, was the Maharaja in danger of losing his throne?

[CBSE (AI) 2010, CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. A high-ranking British official came to the state. He desired to hunt tigers. The Maharaja did not give permission. The officer sent a word to get himself photographed holding a gun beside a tiger's dead body. However, the Maharaja refused even that. As the Maharaja had prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, he was in danger of losing his kingdom.

Q.4. What led the Maharaja to start out on a tiger hunt?

[CBSE (AI) 2010]

Ans. When the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram was born, an astrologer had predicted that his death would be caused by a tiger. So the Maharaja started out on a tiger hunt.

Q.5. What was the astrologer's reaction when the Maharaja told him that he had killed his first tiger?

[CBSE (F) 2010]

Ans. On being told that the Maharaja had killed his first tiger, the astrologer announced that he could kill ninety-nine tigers but he must be very careful with the hundredth tiger.

Q.6. How does the hundredth tiger take its final revenge upon the Tiger King?

[CBSE (F) 2010]

Ans. Few days after killing the hundredth tiger, the Maharaja gifted a wooden tiger to his son on his third birthday. A tiny splinter on the surface of the wooden tiger pierced the Maharaja's right hand, leading to a sore followed by the Maharaja's death. Hence, the hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon the Tiger King.

Q.7. Why did the Maharaja decide to get married?

[CBSE (F) 2010]

Ans. As the Maharaja occupied the throne at the age of twenty, he went on a tiger hunting campaign. He was excited to kill his first tiger, and within ten years he killed seventy tigers. Soon tigers became extinct in his own state. So he got married in the royal family of a state that had a large number of tigers.

Q.8. Why was the Maharaja so anxious to kill the hundredth tiger?

[CBSE (AI) 2012]

Ans. The Maharaja had killed 99 tigers. If he could kill just one more tiger, he would have no fear left. Then he could give up tiger hunting altogether. Moreover, he had to be extremely careful with the last tiger.

Q.9. What sort of hunts did the Maharaja offer to organise for the high-ranking British officer? What trait of the officer does it reveal?

[CBSE Delhi 2013]

Ans. For the high ranking British officer, the maharaja was prepared to organise any other hunt, a boar hunt, he could go on a mouse hunt, even a mosquito hunt. But a tiger hunt was impossible. The officer was a big show-off. He actually did not wish to hunt or kill the tiger himself, he just wanted to be photographed with a gun in his hand, standing over a dead tiger.

Q.10. Why was it a celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram?

Ans. It was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram because the Maharaja banned tiger hunting in the state. Except the Maharaja, no one was allowed to hunt tigers. It was proclaimed that if anyone was found hunting a tiger, all his property and wealth would be seized.

Q.11. The manner of his (the Tiger King's) death is a matter of extraordinary interest. Comment.

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. The Maharaja had vowed to kill hundred tigers to ensure his longevity. As soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would be killed by a tiger. Even after the Maharaja killed hundred tigers, he was killed by a tiger. It is quite ironical because eventually he was killed by a tiger, though a wooden one.

Q.12. Why did the Tiger King decide to get married?

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. As the Maharaja occupied the throne at the age of twenty, he went on a tiger hunting campaign. He was excited to kill his first tiger, and within ten years, he killed seventy tigers. Soon tigers became extinct in his own state. So he got married in the royal family of a state that had a large number of tigers.

Q.13. How did the Tiger King's Diwan prove to be resourceful?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

Ans. After the Tiger King had killed 99 tigers, no more tigers are left. After some time there were indications of the presence of a tiger in the forests of a village. The king goes there but does not find the tiger. Then he asks the Chief Minister to find the tiger or he would remove him from his job. The Diwan had hidden in his house an old tiger which had been brought from the People's Park in Madras. He takes that 100th tiger to the forest to be killed by the king.

Q.14. How did the ten-day-old baby (the future Tiger King) react to the prediction about his future made by the astrologers?

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. On hearing the prediction, the ten-day-old prince spoke in his squeaky voice that 'everyone who is born has to die one day'. He was told that he would be killed by a tiger. To this he responded, 'Let tigers beware'.

Q.15. What kind of life was enjoyed by crown prince Jung Bahadur till he reached the age of twenty?

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. The royal infant grew up to be the king of Pratibandapuram, who was obsessed with the idea of killing one hundred tigers. He wanted to do so to disprove the prophecy which said that his death would come from the hundredth tiger. This made him kill all the tigers of Pratibandapuram. He even married to realise this ambition. He came to be known as the Tiger King.

Long-Answer Questions

Q.1. Who was the Tiger King? What is the story associated with the birth of the Tiger King?

Ans. The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram was called the Tiger King. At his birth, astrologers predicted that one day he would actually have to die. They further said that he would grow up to become a great warrior, a great hero, a great champion, but would die one day. Surprisingly, a miracle took place. The ten-day-old prince spoke in his squeaky voice that “everyone who is born has to die one day. So it would make sense if they could tell the manner of his death”. Everyone present there was tongue-tied. A baby of ten days not only opened its lips but even asked intelligent questions. The chief astrologer then said that since the prince was born in the hour of bull and the bull and the tiger are enemies, the death of the prince would result from a tiger. The royal infant was not afraid to hear these words. He grumbled asking the tigers to beware.

Q.2. How did the hundredth tiger take its revenge on the Tiger King?

Ans. A few days after the Maharaja killed the hundredth tiger, it was the third birthday of his son. The Maharaja desired to give him some special gift on this occasion. He purchased a wooden tiger from a toy shop and gifted it to his son.

That day, the Maharaja and his son were playing with the wooden tiger. The surface of the toy was rough since it had been carved by an unskilled carpenter. A tiny splinter pierced into the Maharaja’s right hand. He pulled it out. But the next day, the infection spread even in the Maharaja’s right arm. Within four days, it developed into a pus and his arm became sore. Three famous surgeons were called from Chennai. They performed the operation. Even though the operation was successful, the Maharaja passed away. Thus, the hundredth tiger took its revenge on the king.

Q.3. Giving a bribe is an evil practice. How did the Tiger King bribe the British officer to save his kingdom? How do you view this act of his?

[CBSE Delhi 2015]

Ans. Tiger King wanted to disprove the astrologer’s prediction and therefore started to hunt and kill tigers. Anyone who disobeyed him would be punished and all his wealth and property would be confiscated. In order to have enough tigers to hunt, he had banned hunting tigers in his kingdom. A high-ranking British official came to the state. He desired to hunt tigers. The British officer was also not allowed to hunt. The officer sent a word to get himself photographed holding a gun beside the tiger’s dead body. However, the Maharaja refused even that. As the Maharaja had prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, he was in danger of losing his kingdom. Hence, he

offered a bribe of 50 gold rings that was valued at three lakhs to the wife of the British officer. By this act the Maharaja was able to avert the danger.

In my view, this reveals the corrupt attitude of both the King and the British official. It also shows how blinded the King was in his ambition (to prove the astrologer wrong) that he wasted the people's money to appease his ego. He was ready to relinquish people's hard-earned money to ensure that his longevity is ensured by proving the astrologer wrong.

Q.4. Even today so many among us believe in superstitions. An astrologer predicted about 'the Tiger King' that he would be killed by a tiger. He 'killed' one hundred tigers yet was himself 'killed' by a tiger. How did the superstitious belief 'prevail'?

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. A few days after the Maharaja killed the hundredth tiger, it was the third birthday of his son. The Maharaja desired to give him some special gift on this occasion. He purchased a wooden tiger from a toy shop and gifted it to his son.

That day, the Maharaja and his son were playing with the wooden tiger. The surface of the toy was rough since it had been carved by an unskilled carpenter. A tiny splinter pierced into the Maharaja's right hand. He pulled it out. But the next day, the infection spread even in the Maharaja's right arm. Within four days, it developed into a pus forming sore spreading all over the arm. Three famous surgeons were called from Chennai. They performed the operation. Even though the operation was successful, the Maharaja passed away. Thus, the hundredth tiger took its revenge on the king.

This shows that the superstitions prophecy did eventually prevail. The 100th tiger was not killed by the king. However, it died. But with regard to the king, the 100th tiger, appeared in the form of the inanimate tiger, that caused the death of the king.