MY BIG BROTHER CLASS VIII

-MUNSHI PREMCHAND

VALUES: “Success is not just about hard work or talent -- it’s also about love, humility, and understanding.”

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **The elder brother was not good at academics. How does the narrator convey this?**

ANS: The narrator conveys this through a few humorous sentences. He wrote that his brother would stay in one class for more than a year because he wanted to build a solid foundation.

**b. What was the difference in the routines of the two brothers?**

b. The elder brother would study very hard. He would start studying from four o’clock in the morning to ten o’clock at night. The younger brother, however, lived a carefree life and would often go out to play football and volleyball after school and roam around in the green ­ fields, forgetting all about his studies.

**c. Describe the timetable drawn up by the narrator. How were the intent and reality completely different?**

Ans: According to the timetable set up by the narrator, he would wake up at six in the morning, wash, have breakfast and sit down to study. From six to eight, hewould study English. Then, he would study arithmetic for an hour followed by half an hour of history. He would have his food and leave for school. Afterreturning from school at three thirty, he would relax for half an hour. He would study geography from four to ­ five and grammar from ­ five to six. He wouldtake a half-hour stroll in front of the hostel and then eat. Again, he would do translation from eight to nine and study Hindi from nine to ten. From ten toeleven, he would study miscellaneous subjects and then ­ finally go to sleep. The routine carried all his good intentions of becoming a studious student but in reality he could not ignore the call of the green ­ fields or temptation of playingfootball or volleyball. So the very next day he would break his routine and follow his heart’s desires.

**d. What was the impact of the elder brother’s lectures on the narrator?**

Ans: At ­ first, the narrator would pay a lot of attention to his elder brother’s lectures and would try to follow a strict routine. His brother’s harsh words would even make him cry. But due to his fun-loving nature, he would soon fail to stick to the routines and give in to different temptations. But after coming ­ first in the examination, the narrator would slowly start to undermine his elder brother’s lectures and do things as he pleased.

**e. How did the elder brother’s sermons change when he failed for the first time?**

Ans: When the elder brother failed for the ­ first time and the narrator came ­ first, the elder brother’s attitude towards the narrator underwent a bit of change. Instead of being too harsh with his words and making the narrator cry, he would give him long lectures drawing references from Ravan’s story. He would tell him to not bask too much in the glory of coming ­ first. He would also give examples from his own struggles of doing geometry and essay writing to convince the narrator that subjects in higher classes are truly dif­ficult and require a lot of hard work.

**f. What was the elder brother’s reaction to failing for the second time?**

Ans: The elder brother was devastated and broke down when he got to know that he had failed once again.

**Answer in brief:-**

**1. Do you think that the elder brother had to suppress his desires to be a role model to his younger brother? Why do you think so?**

Ans: Yes, I think that the elder brother took it upon himself to become a role model for his younger brother, and in doing so he stopped enjoying his life and was deeply unhappy. I think so because he would time and again urge his younger brother to follow his path and study all the time.

**2. Bring out the humour in the story—both in words as well as in situations.**

Ans: The author has used many humorous instances to show the comical relationship shared by the brothers. He has compared the elder brother’s educational pursuit with that of house building. His inability to pass examinations has been humorously equated with that of building a house with strong foundations. Though the elder brother was constantly studying and lecturing his younger brother on the same, he was the one who failed whereas the younger brother who enjoyed life to its fullest came ­ first. The irony of the situation makes it comic.

**3. Irony is the expression of one’s meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect. Bring out the irony in the story.**

Ans: The irony in the story is most present in the two brothers’ attitude towards studying and the way they fared in their ­ final examinations. The elder brother who was the most committed towards his study goals would fail many times whereas the younger brother who spent his time playing and roaming around would stand ­ first in examinations.

**4. Whom do you like more—the narrator or his brother? Give reasons**

Ans: I like the elder brother more than the narrator because I think he is funny. He tried very hard to become the role model of his younger brother but in reality his younger brother was much ahead of him in many ways. He was hard working and tried his best to prove his worth as the elder brother. Though he failed, he was consistent with his effort and that made him quite an interesting person.

**5. Then he ran at top speed towards the hostel and I ran behind him. What does the last line tell you about the interpersonal relationship between the siblings?**

Ans: The last line indicates that both the siblings shared a childish bond. They loved to tease each other. They competed against each other and each tried to outdo the other