

Questions & Answers

A Fishy Story

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CBSE Board Class: 8th Sub: English

Vocabulary

Sr. No.	Word	Meaning
1	Winnows	Very small freshwater fish.
2	Gumption	Initiative and resourcefulness.
3	Angler	A person who fishes with a hook or a line.
4	Exaggerate	Make something seem more than it really is.
5	Hauls	The amount of fish caught.
6	Parlour	A shop providing specifies goods or services
7	Inn	A small hotel
8	Stolid	Not showing much emotion or interest.
9	Solemn	Serious
10	Fragments	Small parts that have broken off something.

Extra Questions

Q 1. What caught the author's attention?

Ans: The narrator and his friend happened to see an old glass-case fixed quite high above the chimney-piece. The glass-case had in it a very big trout. The fish fascinated the visitors. It was thought to be a remarkably fine fish.

Q 2. How did the old gentleman narrate the story?

Ans: The old gentleman noticed the interest of the visitors in the fish. He remarked that the fish was very uncommon. George agreed with him, and asked casually how it weighed. The man said that it weighed eighteen pounds, six ounces.

Then he went on with his story. He said he caught the fish below the bridge with a minnow about sixteen years ago.

Q 3. How did the local carrier narrate the story?

Ans: The local carrier came to the door of the room after the old gentleman had left. He also looked at the fish. When he learnt that the visitors were strangers, he came out with his own story about the fish. He said that it was he who caught the fish about five years ago. He claimed that he caught it just below the lock with a fly, adding bidding the visitor's good night. Five minutes thereafter, a third man came in and described how he caught the trout with bleak.

Q 4. How did the third man narrate the story?

Ans: A serious-looking man appeared after the local carrier had left. George turned to him and prompted him to speak out. He almost invited him to say his piece by asking him as to how he caught the fish. He showed his surprise but did not hesitate in weaving his own yarn. He said that he had to struggle hard to catch the big fish and had his rod broken. He claimed that fish weighed thirty-four pounds on the scale when he weighted it carefully at home. He went in his turn.

Q 5. How did the landlord narrate the story?

Ans: The visitor told the landlord all the stories about the fish told to them. The landlord laughed heartily and made fun of all the men who had told those stories. Then he described how he had caught the fish years ago when he was just a school-going boy. At this point he was called out of the room.

Q 6. Narrate the incidence of revelation of trout fish.

Ans: George could not control himself. He climbed up on the back of a chair to look at the fish closely. The chair slipped and George held on to the glass case of the fish tightly, throwing down the case along with him and the chair on the ground. The narrator feared for the fish. He saw the fish broken into "thousand" pieces. It was something strange and inexplicable. The visitors, however, realized the reality about the fish. The fish was not stuffed one, as they had thought, but was made of plaster of Paris.

a. Who spoke these words? Where were the speaker and his listeners sitting?

Ans: An old gentleman spoke these words. He, along with George and the narrator, was sitting in a riverside inn.

b. Whom did the speaker refer to by "him"?

Ans: "Him" refers to the trout kept in a dusty old glass case.

c. How much did the fish weigh according to the speaker?

Ans: According to the speaker, the fish weighed eighteen pounds and six ounces.

d. Who came in after the speaker left?

Ans: The local carrier came in after the speaker left.

2 a. Who said these words and to whom?

"You haven't injured the fish, have you?"

Ans: The narrator said these words to George.

b. What made the speaker say these words?

Ans: The narrator said these words because George had accidentally dropped the fish and had himself fallen on it.

c. What did they see when the listener got up?

Ans: When George got up, they saw that the fish had shattered into a thousand pieces.

d. What truth did they learn about the fish from this incident?

Ans: They learnt that it wasn't a real fish. It was made of Plaster of Paris.

Answer these Questions

Q 1 Where was the trout and why did it fascinate George and the narrator?

Ans: The trout was in an old glass case, fixed high on the wall of an inn. Its fascinated George and the narrator because it was extremely huge.

Q 2 How many people claimed that they had caught the trout? Who were they?

Ans: Five people claimed that they had caught the trout. The first was an old gentleman, the second was the local carrier, the third was a man who came into the inn, the fourth a middle- aged man and the fifth was the owner of the inn.

Q 3 Which four pieces of information did the carrier give about his catching the trout?

Ans: The carrier said that it had been nearly five years since he had caught the trout. He had caught it on a Friday afternoon with a fly. He also said that it weighed twenty- six pounds.

Think and Answer

Q 1 In what way is this story about the trout a 'fishy' story?

Ans: The story is fishy not only because it is about a trout, but also because the fish became a mystery after five people claimed to have caught it.

Q 2 How do you think George and narrator felt after they discovered the truth about the trout?

Ans: George and the narrator must have felt silly that they thought that the plaster-of- Paris fish was a real one.

Q 3 Which part of the story did you enjoy the most? Why?

Ans: The part where George and the narrator discovered the truth about the fish was most enjoyable because it was very funny.