

Class 7 (English)
2. Into Thin Air
Sec.2 Dr Goray and the Giggling Ghost

Summary:-

A doctor named Golaknath Goray, a fat and bald man, is search of a ghost who keeps giggling at him throughout the story. Whenever Dr Goray goes out to bring a glass of water from the drinking fountain, he can hear someone's giggling sound. He looks out of his cabin at the nurses and patients but doesn't make out who is making that sound. This goes on for many weeks. This makes him so irritated that he starts doing absent-minded things at work. And whenever he does such crazy things, he again hears the sound *khi-khi-khi-khi*. One day doctor Goray falls off a ladder when he climbs up to check on a patient's file. Along with him also fall down all the files like some birds flying around him. Not just this, an open bottle of indelible ink topples over his head. When this happens, he again hears the same sound khi-khi-khi-khi. This makes him so angry that he rushes out into the corridor without washing his face. Everyone who sees his face gets shocked. But Dr Goray just doesn't care about how he looks. Somehow he has to catch his poltergeist. He then brings a hypnotist's disc to catch and destroy the ghost. Then all of a sudden he turns to a closed door to open it. But he is incapable of opening it as it is stuck very badly. The painters have painted the door's frame with a thick enamel paint. Dr Goray thinks that the ghost has jammed the door to annoy him. He keeps trying to open the door by continuously banging it all afternoon. In the evening when Dr Goray is checking his temperature while looking at himself in the mirror once again he hears the irritating sound khi-khi-khi-khi. Frustrated Dr Goray rushes towards the closed door again. He

pushes the door so hard that it opens with a jerk taking him inside. Inside the room Dr Goray finally sees his poltergeist. It wasn't any rakshasa or any devil, but an old tap which was not closed properly. The air in the half open tap was making that sound of khi-khi-khi-khi. Next day, early morning, Dr Goray calls a plumber, Sant Singh to fix the tap. Within a few minutes, the old noisy tap is replaced with a new shiny tap which actually runs water instead of making sounds like khi-khi-khi-khi. Now Dr Goray is happy and relieved to finally get rid of his poltergeist, the giggling ghost.

A. Word meanings:-

1. for the life of him- however hard he tried
2. going bonkers- becoming crazy
3. swivel chair- a chair on which you can turn the seat around
4. indelible- impossible to remove
5. poltergeist- a ghost believed to make loud noises
6. unparalleled powers- better abilities than those of anyone else
7. immobilize- stop someone from moving
8. spite- deliberately annoy someone
9. at his wits' end- so worried he did not know what to do
10. hysterical- too afraid to control his behaviour
11. taking a battering- suffering repeated attacks
12. subsided- became quieter
13. humanoid- a creature that looks like a human
14. wrench- a metal tool for holding and turning things

B. Arrange the sentences in the correct order:-

Ans. 3, 1, 8, 4, 5, 7, 9, 6, 10, 2

C. Answer the questions:-

Q.1 *All afternoon he tried pulling the door open.....*

a. What happened right before this?

Ans. Right before this, Dr Goray threatened to immobilize the giggling ghost and returned absent-mindedly to his room. He had then turned to go back out of the room but had tried opening the wrong door.

b. Why did he want to open the door?

Ans. He wanted to open the door because he did not want to let the ghost annoy him by jamming the door and preventing him from going outside.

Q.2. *The hospital was buzzing.*

a. What does the buzzing refer to?

Ans. The buzzing refers to the constant whispered conversations that the hospital staff were having. They were discussing the possibility of a ghost in the hospital.

b. What set off the buzzing?

Ans. The employees began talking like this after they heard Dr Goray's outburst about a poltergeist being in the hospital.

Q.3. *.....he was speechless at what he saw.*

a. What did Dr Goray see?

Ans. Dr Goray saw where the 'giggling' sound was coming from. He realized that the giggling ghost was just an old, dry, half-open tap that gave out a khi-khi-khi-khi sound.

b. What does 'speechless' mean here?

Ans. *Speechless* refers to the reaction that Dr Goray had when he realized the cause of the giggling was a half open tap in the washroom.

Q.4 *But he was too relieved to care.*

a. Why was Dr Goray relieved?

Ans. Dr Goray was relieved because he had found the cause of the problem that was distracting him and had found a solution to fix it.

b. What did he not care about?

Ans. Dr Goray did not care that all the postage stamps in his letter-tray flew up and were floating all around his room.

D. Answer the questions:-

Q.1 How was Dr Goray affected when he could not identify the source of giggling?

Ans. When Dr Goray could not identify the source of the giggling he became increasingly frustrated and distracted. He began to do absent-minded things at work such as placing the thermometer in a patient's pocket instead of under his tongue.

Q.2 How did Dr Goray finally manage to open the door?

Ans. After trying all afternoon to pull the door open, he finally threw himself against the door. The door suddenly flew open with a blast.

Q.3 Who or what was Dr Goray's poltergeist?

Ans. Dr Goray's poltergeist was an old, dry, half-opened tap. The air in it was making the khi-khi-khi-khi sound.

E. Practice the following questions based on grammar:-

**A] MAKE NEGATIVE SENTENCES BY USING ONE OF THE VERBS GIVEN IN THE BOX:-
(FIRST ONE IS SOLVED FOR YOU)**

would, did, could, was

1. Dr Goray was a peaceful man who hurt a fly.
Ans. Dr Goray was a peaceful man who would not hurt a fly.
2. Dr Goray like the giggling
3. He bear it
4. Dr Goray reach the file
5. he use the open door
6. There ghost at all

B] FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH APPROPRIATE WORDS FROM THE BOX:-

wasn't, weren't, wouldn't, couldn't, hadn't

1. Dr Goray_____ understand where the giggling was coming from.
2. They_____ staying there anymore.
3. The door simply_____ open!
4. It_____ been opened for a long time.

5. It_____ a ghost after all!

F. Look up the dictionary to find out meanings of the following words from the lesson:-

1. giggling
2. plump
3. sniggering
4. devastate
5. queerly
6. screechy
7. buzzing