

# Saket Shishu Ranjan H.S. School

Class:- 11th

Subject- English

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## Lesson:-3 (Snapshot)

### Ranga's Marriage

**Question 1** Comment on the influence of English language and the way of life on Indian life as reflected in the story. What is the narrator's attitude to English?

**Answer 1** The story Ranga's marriage is set in a village Hosahalli, which was in the Erstwhile Mysore state. In those days, there were very few people in Hosahalli who knew English. Like today, even during those days, English occupied a very prominent place in the hearts and minds of people. The village accountant mustered enough courage to send his son Ranga to Bengaluru for higher studies. When Ranga returned home it became almost a festive occasion for the entire village.

People had a lot of respect for Ranga because he knew English. Even a simple word in English like 'change' was not heard of. When Rama Rao's son uses this word, even the narrator could not understand. He had to ask Ranga the meaning of the word. The author in his narration shows that he has a positive attitude towards English, but he also asserts that learning a foreign language or knowing it need not affect our tradition and culture. This is evident by the emphasis on Ranga wearing the sacred thread and doing 'namaskars' to the elders.

**Question 2** Astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars. Comment with reference to the story?

**Answers-** The story presents astrologers in an unfavourable light. The author seems to be having a dig at them through the words of the narrator. The story gives a graphic description of how the narrator employs the astrologer to trick an unwilling young man to agree to marry a young girl. He tutors him in all that he wants him to say.

The narrator took Ranga to the astrologer. The shastri took out his paraphernalia. Those included two sheets of paper, couriers and a book of Palmyra leaves. He called astrology as ancient science. He moved his lips fast as he counted on his fingers. He did some calculations before telling Ranga that he was thinking about a girl. She had the name of something found in the ocean. He assured them that their negotiations would definitely bear fruits. Ranga was impressed by the science of astrology.

That evening the narrator congratulated shastri for repeating everything he had taught without giving rise to any suspicion. He kicked astrology by saying "What a marvellous shastra you are!" The shastri didn't like it and said that he could have found it out himself from his shastra. This shows that astrologer's perceptions are based more on hear-say and conjecture than what they learnt from the study of the stars.

**Question 3** Indian society has moved a long way from the way the marriage is arranged in the story. Discuss.

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**Answer 3** In the story, 'Ranga's marriage', the entire process of choosing a bride for Ranga is based upon the system which was followed long back in our country. Now that scenario has changed completely. Rarely, marriages happened at a young age. People have become conscious about the fact that if the marriage has to last, a certain sense of maturity is required and this maturity can be obtained through education only. When the boy and girl decide to do marriage they always make a conscious decision. Now-a-days, in India, marriages take place after the girl and boy consent to do so. Sometimes, the parents and the society do not approve but the Indian law supports this decision. In the story, 'Ranga's marriage', the initiative for Ranga and Ratna's wedding was taken by the narrator. However, these days we see a lot of changes taking place as far as a marriage scenario is concerned in India.

**Questions 4** What kind of a person do you think the narrator is?

**Answer 4** Shyama, a person who is too attached to his soil and his village, is the narrator of Ranga's marriage. According to the story, he is very simple and kind hearted person. He seems to have a lot of admiration of his village and knows the smallest tit-bits about his place. The narrator seems to have a clear perception and is a good judge of people. He realises that Ranga is a good groom for Ratna. He wastes no time and does everything for their marriage to be solemnized. His efforts culminate in a happy ending for which he earns a lot of respect. This is evident when Ratna and Ranga name their son after him.