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NCERT Class 9 English Solutions: Chapter 7 - Packing Part 1

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Concise to the point answers designed for high exam score.

Question 1:

Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30 – 40 words) .

Q. How many characters are there in the narrative? Name them. (Do not forget the dog!) .

A. The four characters in the narrative are Jerome (the narrator) , George, Harris, and Montmorency (the dog) .

Q. Why did the narrator (Jerome) volunteer to do the packing?

A. The narrator was proud of his packing skills and hence volunteered to do packing skills. He believed that could do the packing better than anyone else.



Q. How did George and Harris react to this? Did Jerome like their reaction?

A. George and Harris accepted Jerome's suggestion and demonstrated laziness. Jerome did not like that they did not even offer to help.

They both eased out, George lit a pipe laid down on an easy-chair, Harris spread his legs on the table and put on the cigar.

Q. What was Jerome's real intention when he offered to pack?

A. Jerome's real intention when offering to pack was to become a boss with

Harris and George working according to his directions. He imagined pushing them aside and teaching them how to do it properly.

Q. What did Harris say after the bag was shut and strapped? Why do you think he waited till then to ask?

A. Once bag was shut and strapped, Harris asked Jerome about putting his boots. According to Jerome Harris was like that by nature.

Q. What “horrible idea” occurred to Jerome a little later?

A. Jerome had a horrible thought that he might have packed his toothbrush inside a boot.

Q. Where did Jerome finally find the toothbrush?

A. Jerome found the toothbrush inside a boot when he went through all the packing.

Q. Why did Jerome have to reopen the packed bag?

A. Jerome reopened the bag to take his tobacco-pouch.



Q. What did George and Harris offer to pack and why?

A. George and Harris offered to pack the hampers for carrying food because they wanted to start in less than 12 hours' time. Since Jerome had wasted so much time, it was therefore, better, if George and Harris did rest of the packing.

Q. While packing the hamper, George and Harris do a number of foolish and funny things. Tick The statements that are true.

(i) They started with breaking a cup.

(ii) They also broke a plate.

(iii) They squashed on a banana.

(iv) They trod on the butter.

(v) They stepped on a banana.

(vi) They put things behind them, and could not find them.

(vii) They packed the pictures at the bottom and put heavy things on top.

(ix) They upset almost everything.

(x) They were very good at packing.

Answer:

Statements i, iii, iv, vi, vii and ix are true. They were clumsy and not proficient in packing the food hampers.

Question 2:

What does Jerome say was Montmorency's ambition in life? What do you think of Montmorency and why?

A. According to Jerome, Montmorency's ambition was to get scolded for getting in the way. He liked to go where he was not desired and be a nuisance,

Question 3:

Discuss in groups and answer the following questions in two or three paragraphs (100 - 150 words)

Q. of the three, Jerome, George and Harris, who do you think is the best or worst packer?

Support your answer with details from the text.

A. According to the text, none of the three friends, Jerome, George and Harris were proficient in packing. Although Jerome took pride in his packing skills, he forgot to pack the boots, could not remember if he had packed his toothbrush, and accidentally packed his tobacco-pouch. Similarly George and Harris were clumsy while packing the food hampers. They started by breaking a cup. Then, they squashed on a banana and trod on the butter. They put things behind them, and could not find them. Thus Jerome was a better packer.

Q. How did Montmorency 'contribute' to the packing?

A. Montmorency was a dog who according to Jerome was very irritating and an obstruction. It came and sat down on things about to be packed. He “contributed” in the following way:

- It put its leg into the jam and distributed the teaspoons.
- It pretended that the lemons were rats. It went into the hamper and squished three of them before Harris could hit with a frying pan.

Q. Do you find this story funny? What are the humorous elements in it?

(Pick out at least three; think about what happens and how it is described.)

A. The story is made funny by depicting adults making complete fools of themselves during packing.



The narrator, Jerome, although he prides himself on his packing ability – to the amusement of his friends George and Harris - unpacks and repacks the same things three times. Since they were getting late George and Harris came to save the day and started packing the food hampers.

However, they turned out to be even worse at packing, while the narrator simply sits back and watches them make a mess of everything. They squashed on a banana and trod on the butter. They put things behind them, and could not find them.

Things became more amusing when, Montmorency, a dog enters the picture.

- The narrator made things more amusing by including “insightful” comments. He compares the things he unpacked for finding his toothbrush to the same state of chaos that existed when the world was created.
- When George and Harry trod on butter, the narrator says that he had never seen anyone do more with one-and-two pence worth of butter.

- The narrator describes how Montmorency killed three “lemons” by getting into the hamper before Harris could land a frying pan on it.