SmartKalike

CBSE Class 10 · English

The Book That Saved the Earth

10 most probable questions for Boards 2027

Q1. 1 mark · Very short answer

In which century do Earth and Mars resume contact and become friendly? (1 mark)

Answer

Earth and Mars resumed contact in the twenty-fifth century, five hundred years after the events of the Martian invasion.

Q2. 2 marks · Short answer

How does a book of nursery rhymes prevent the Martian invasion and save Earth? (2 marks)

Answer

A book of nursery rhymes saves Earth when Think-Tank mistakes Humpty Dumpty's "great fall" for a threat against him. Fearing an invasion, he orders the Martians to leave Earth and evacuate Mars.

Q3. 5 marks · Long answer

How do Think-Tank's vanity and overconfidence appear in the episode, and what happens to him and Noodle by the end? Explain Noodle's succession and Think-Tank's orders to evacuate Mars and leave for Alpha Centauri.

Answer

Think-Tank's vanity and overconfidence make him mistake ordinary books and nursery rhymes for proof of an Earth invasion.

1. He admires his appearance in a mirror and boasts that Martians are more attractive than Earthlings. He also tells Noodle that mental exercise might give him a "balloon brain" like his own.

2. Think-Tank insists that he is never wrong. He first calls books "communication sandwiches" and orders the crew to listen to them, then changes his explanation when Noodle says Earthlings open and watch them.

3. After the crew reads Humpty Dumpty, Think-Tank sees the character's picture as resembling himself. He interprets "had a great fall" as a threat to capture him and take control of Mars.

4. He orders the Martians to leave Earth, remove all traces of their visit, and evacuate Mars. He plans to escape to Alpha Centauri, a hundred million miles away.

Think-Tank is eventually replaced by Noodle, whom the historian describes as a wise and wonderful Martian.

Q4. 6 marks · Very long answer

Do you think electronic media are replacing books? Discuss whether books can be done away with altogether, giving reasons for your view. (6 marks)

Answer

Electronic media have made reading faster and more accessible, but they have not made books unnecessary. Printed books and digital resources serve readers in different ways.

1. Books support focused reading because they do not contain pop-up alerts or require an internet connection. A novel, for example, can be read quietly without interruptions.
2. Electronic media provide quick access to vast information. Students can search online for current news, explanations and educational videos within minutes.
3. Books remain valuable for careful learning. Readers can underline passages, turn back easily and study printed pages without depending on a device or battery.
4. Digital content can be updated quickly and shared widely. However, online information needs to be checked for accuracy, while a reliable printed reference can offer organised, edited material.
5. Books also preserve stories, ideas and knowledge for future readers. Libraries make these works available to people who may not have reliable internet access.

Books and electronic media can complement each other, but books cannot be done away with altogether because they remain dependable, accessible and meaningful sources of knowledge and pleasure.

Q5. 10 marks · Very long answer

Explain how Think-Tank and his crew misinterpret the rhymes about Humpty Dumpty, Mary's garden and 'Hey diddle diddle'. How do these interpretations turn an innocent book into an imagined threat to Mars? (10 marks)

Answer

Think-Tank's overconfidence makes him mistake harmless nursery rhymes for dangerous messages and imagine that Earth is preparing to attack Mars.

1. The rhyme about Mary's garden mentions "silver bells and cockle shells" and "pretty maids all in a row". Think-Tank treats these ordinary images as a coded description of weapons and an organised Earth army.

2. In "Hey diddle diddle", a cow jumps over the moon, a dog laughs, and a dish runs away with a spoon. Think-Tank interprets the rhyme as evidence that Earthlings can travel through space and are planning a military operation.

3. The rhyme about Humpty Dumpty describes him sitting on a wall and having "a great fall". Think-Tank sees Humpty's picture, recognises a resemblance to his own head, and believes the Earthlings are threatening to capture him.

4. Think-Tank takes the nursery rhymes as secret plans rather than children's verses. His fear leads him to order the crew to leave Earth and the Martians to evacuate Mars for Alpha Centauri.

Thus, his foolish interpretations stop the invasion and save Earth.

Q6. 1 mark · Very short answer

What was the twentieth century often called? (1 mark)

Full answer on SmartKalike: https://smartkalike.com/cbse/class-10/english/the-book-that-saved-the-earth

Q7. 2 marks · Short answer

What does Think-Tank's crew initially mistake the books and the library for? (2 marks)

Full answer on SmartKalike: https://smartkalike.com/cbse/class-10/english/the-book-that-saved-the-earth

Q8. 5 marks · Long answer

Explain how honeybees use the sun to navigate and communicate the direction and distance of food through their dance. How can a light bulb serve as a reference direction inside a dark hive?

Full answer on SmartKalike: https://smartkalike.com/cbse/class-10/english/the-book-that-saved-the-earth

Q9. 6 marks · Very long answer

Explain how Think-Tank misinterprets innocent nursery rhymes as threats to the Martians. What does the episode show about the consequences of misunderstanding unfamiliar language and cultural references? (6 marks)

Full answer on SmartKalike: https://smartkalike.com/cbse/class-10/english/the-book-that-saved-the-earth

Q10. 10 marks · Very long answer

Describe how Think-Tank treats books as communication devices and how the Martians interpret Mother Goose as a code. Explain how these misunderstandings make Think-Tank fear Earth and abandon the invasion. (10 marks)

Full answer on SmartKalike: https://smartkalike.com/cbse/class-10/english/the-book-that-saved-the-earth

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