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9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi -11009
2024-2025

Class-VII

Subject – English MCB
Topic- L-12- The Stolen Bacillus

Reference to Context

1.a) The Bacteriologist said 'blue ruin' as a cry of shock after realizing that the anarchist stole the tube containing the cholera bacteria.

b) The Bacteriologist ran after the stranger because he realized that the tube containing what the stranger believed to be cholera bacteria had been stolen. Despite the bacteria being harmless and only capable of causing blue patches, the Bacteriologist was concerned about the potential panic and harm the anarchist could cause if he released it into the city's water supply.

c) Yes, the Bacteriologist was somewhat careless. Due to his carelessness, the anarchist tricked him and stole the tube; however, it is also a fact that the Bacteriologist had no reason to suspect the visitor's malicious intentions.

2. a) The phrase "Vive l'Anarchie" means "long live anarchy." It's typically used as a rallying cry by anarchists to express their desire for a society without government or authority.

b) The stranger exclaimed "Vive l'Anarchie" after ingesting what he believed to be cholera bacteria. He intended to use it to create chaos and disrupt societal order, aligning with anarchist ideologies. By claiming "the cholera is abroad," he thought he was announcing the onset of an epidemic.

c) The Bacteriologist beamed and smiled with a sense of amusement because he knew the truth that the bacteria the stranger ingested were harmless and would only cause blue patches. The Bacteriologist's reaction reflects the story's underlying humour and the twist that the perceived threat was actually innocuous.

Question and Answers-

a) The pale-faced man gained access to the Bacteriologist and his laboratory by presenting a forged letter of introduction.

b) He called the anarchists 'fools' because he believed that using biological agents like the cholera bacteria was a more effective method of creating chaos than using bombs.

c) The Bacteriologist said he was 'obliged' to keep cultures of living bacteria for study and research purposes.

d) The tube containing the bacteria broke when the man, trying to maintain his balance in the cab, accidentally cracked it against the cab's apron. Before it broke, he was planning to release the bacteria into the city's water supply.

e) The anarchist drank the contents of the tube because it had broken, and he wanted to ensure that the supposed cholera bacteria would still be released into the city through himself.

f) The Bacteriologist revealed to his wife that the stolen tube contained a new harmless bacterium that would only cause blue patches. However, to astonish his visitor, he had told the visitor that the tube contained cholera-causing bacteria. The Bacteriologist was bothered that he would have to undertake the trouble and expense to prepare more of the same bacteria.