THE ELEVATOR

Multiple Choice Questions

1) What aspect of the elevator makes Martin uneasy?

(a) Its speed and noise (b) Its size and confined space.

(c) The absence of a mirror (d) The lack of emergency buttons

2) How does Martin's father react to his concerns about the elevator?

(a) He tries to help him overcome his fear (b) He ignores him completely.

(c) He mocks and belittles him. (d) He becomes afraid as well

3) Whenever Martin tried using the stairs instead of the elevator, he got _____.

(a) excited (b) tired (c) breathless (d) fearful

4) The relationship between Martin and his father was _____.

(a) affectionate (b) friendly (c) distanced (d) interactive

5) The detail about the large woman that contributes most to her unsettling presence is _____.

(a) her continuous laughter (b) her silence and direct stare

(c) her habit of following Martin (d) her conversations with Martin

6) In what way does the story's unresolved ending enhance its impact?

(a) It leaves readers frustrated with the lack of answers.

(b) It creates a sense of closure for Martin's fears.

(c) It reflects the unpredictability of fears and unresolved emotions.

(d) It suggests Martin's fears were imaginary

7) Based on your understanding, which of the following best describes the large woman?

(a) A symbol of Martin's imagination (b) A physical manifestation of his insecurities

(c) A mysterious but harmless individual (d) A direct threat to Martin.

8) What does the large woman do when she gets on the elevator with Martin?

(a) She talks to him. (b) She smiles at him.

(c) She stares at him silently. (d) She tries to help him.

9) Martin, in the story, The Elevator, is afraid of being trapped in the elevator. What is this fear called?

(a) Hydrophobra (b) Arachnophobia (c) Claustrophobia (d) Aquaphobia

10) In the story's progression, when does Martin's fear reach its peak?

(a) When his father calls him a coward

(b) When he realises he must face the elevator alone.

(c) When the large woman steps into the elevator with him

(d) When the large woman smiles at him in the end.

11) Which of these sentences from the story. "The Elevator' is not true?

(a) Martin was a thin twelve-year-old boy

(b) The lady was wearing an old green coat

(c) Martin was skinny, weak and bad at sports

(d) The lady had large fleshy cheeks, no chin and brown eyes.

12) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statement (1) and (2).

Statement 1 : Martin backed away from the elevator ran down the stairs and broke his leg

Statement 2 : In the morning, when the elevator door opened, the fat lady awaited him.

(a) Statement 1 is independent of Statement 2

(b) Statement 2 is the cause of Statement 1

(c) Statement 1 is an example of Statement 2

(d) Statement 1 is a contradiction of Statement 2

13) "You're afraid," said his father. "When are you going to grow up and act like a man?"

What does this sentence tell us about Martin's father's character? He was _____.

(a) cowardly (b) greedy (c) insensitive (d) rude

14) Based on the story, how would you analyse the relationship between Martin and his father?

(i) Loving (ii) Caring (iii) Friendly (iv) Disjointed (v) Distanced

(a) Only (i) (b) Only (iv) (c) (iv) and (v) (d) (v) and (i)

15) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order

(i) Martin feels uneasy about the elevator.

(ii) Martin's father dismisses his fears.

(iii) Martin encounters the large woman for the first time.

(iv) Martin is left alone with the woman in the elevator.

(a) (i), (iii), (iv), (ii) (b) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) (c) (ii), (i), (iii), (iv) (d) (iii), (ii), (i), (iv)

16) Which of the following best describes the sequence of Martin's emotional journey?

(a) Fear → Dismissal→ Escalation → Terror

(b) Curiosity Confidence → Fear → Relief

(c) Fear Relief Anger → Defeat

(d) Confidence → Fear → Dismissal → Triumph

17) Martin is the _____ in the story.

(a) protagonist (b) antagonist (c) villain (d) caricature

18) 'Hello Martin', who says the following words?

(a) Mrs. Ullman (b) Martin's Father

(c) The doctor at the hospital (d) The strange woman

19) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2).

Statement 1 : Terrified of the fat lady in the elevator, Martin ran down the dark stairs, fell and broke his leg

Statement 2 : Angry and disappointed that his son had behaved like a fool and coward, Martin's father did not talk to him on the way to the hospital.

(a) 1 is true, 2 is false. (b) 1 is false, 2 is true

(c) 1 is the cause for 2 (d) 1 and 2 are independent of each other

Extract Based Questions

Extract 1

"It was an old building with an old elevator - a very small elevator, which could carry only three people. Martin, a thin twelve-year-old, felt nervous in it from the first day he and his father moved into the apartment. Of course he was always uncomfortable in elevators, afraid that they would fall, but this one was especially unpleasant. Perhaps this was because of the poor lighting and the dirty walls. Perhaps it was because of the door, which never stayed open long enough, and slammed shut with a loud clanging noise. Perhaps it was the way the elevator shuddered each time it left a floor, as if it was exhausted. Maybe it was simply too small. It seemed crowded even with only two people in it."

(i) Who is the protagonist of the story? Why is he fearful of elevators? What kind of building is it?

Ans. Martin, a twelve- year old boy is the protagonist of the story.

He is fearful of the elevators because of the poor lighting, dirty walls and door that slammed loudly.

It is an old building with very old elevator.

(ii) What kind of a boy is Martin? List his few characteristics.

Ans. Martin is a sensitive, anxious, and insecure boy who is easily affected by his surroundings and the people around him. He is particularly afraid of elevators, especially the old, small one in his building, which makes him feel trapped and uneasy.

Some of the characteristics of Martin are:

(a) He is physically weak and often out of breath.
(b) He struggles with activities like climbing the stairs and is made to feel inadequate by his father.
(c) He is very under confident, vulnerable and cowardly.

(iii) What do you think the description of the elevator suggests about Martin's feelings? (3)

Ans. The description of the elevator suggests that Martin feels uneasy, anxious, and trapped in the small, dark old space. The poor lighting, dirty walls and the loud, slamming door make the elevator feel uncomfortable and unsafe, intensifying Martin's fear. The elevator's shuddering motion and cramped size reflect Martin's feelings of claustrophobia and vulnerability.

These details highlight his discomfort and unease. showing how even simple everyday things, like using the elevator, become sources of anxiety for him. It also suggests that Martin feels a lack of control and security, contributing to his overall fear and nervousness

(iv) Why was Martin scared of using the elevator? List any three possible reasons.

Ans. Martin was scared of using the elevator because of the following reasons

Martin had a general fear of elevators, worrying that they might fall, which made him anxious whenever he had to use one

The elevator was old, small, and poorly maintained, with dirty walls, poor lighting, and a noisy door that slammed shut, making it feel unsafe and uncomfortable

The elevator was cramped and felt crowded even with only two people inside, which made Martin feel trapped and uneasy in such a confined space.

(v) Martin disliked using the staircase. Why?

Ans. Martin disliked using the staircase because it was dark and unwelcoming. It had no windows and broken lights, which made it feel eerie and uncomfortable. As he climbed, the silence and the sound of his own footsteps echoed, creating the unsettling feeling that someone else was following him.

Additionally, the physical effort of climbing seventeen floors left Martin exhausted and out of breath, it made the stairs feel like a tiring and overwhelming challenge. All these factors combined made the staircase a place Martin preferred to avoid

Extract 2

"Martin's father worked at home. He wanted to know why Martin was out of breath. "Why didn't you take the elevator?" he asked, frowning at Martin. You're not only skinny and weak and bad at sports, his face seemed to say, but you are also a coward. After that, Martin always took the elevator. He would have to get used to it, he told himself, just like he got used to being bullied at school.

(1) How old was Martin? On which floor did he live? What word would you use to describe Martin?

Ans. Martin was twelve years old

He lived on the 17th floor.

Martin could be described as claustrophobic and vulnerable child

(ii) Martin met a strange person in the elevator one day. What did she do that scared Martin? What happened to Martin when he ran away after seeing her?

Ans. One day, Martin met a strange woman in the elevator. She stared at him with sharp eyes, making him feel scared and uncomfortable. He tried to avoid looking at her, but she kept watching him. Terrified, Martin ran away when the elevator stopped at his floor

However, in his hurry, he fell down the dark stairs and hurt himself. His father was angry, calling him a coward for being afraid and not using the elevator. Martin's fear of the woman led to his injury, making him feel even more vulnerable.

(iii) Comment on the ending of the story, 'The Elevator'. Identify any two elements of horror in the story.

Ans. The ending of The Elevator' is chilling and unsettling as Martin's fear of the strange woman becomes a nightmare. The open-endedness of 'The Elevator' adds to the sense of suspense and unease, leaving many questions unanswered. The true nature of the strange woman is never fully explained, allowing readers to speculate whether she is simply a bizarre character or a supernatural presence or may be just Martin's imagination.

Two elements of horror in the story are

(a) The Unseen Threat : The strange woman's continuous, unnerving stare and mysterious actions create a sense of danger without fully explaining her motives.

(b) Claustrophobia : The small, creaky elevator and the dark, oppressive stairs add to the atmosphere of confinement, making Martin feel trapped and vulnerable.

(iv) How did the father react to Martin's fears? What does it show about his character?

Ans. The father reacts dismissively to Martin's fears, calling him a coward and telling him to grow up' He is frustrated by Martin's anxieties and doesn't take them seriously. He brushes off Martin's concerns about the strange woman in the elevator

This reaction shows that the father is unsympathetic, impatient, and lacks understanding of his son's emotional struggles. He expects Martin to be brave and tough, without acknowledging the real fears that his son is facing. This highlights the father's inability to provide emotional support, which makes Martin feel isolated and misunderstood

(v) In what way does the story reflect universal themes of fear and vulnerability? (4)

Ans. The story The Elevator shows universal themes of fear and vulnerability through Martin's experiences. His fear of the elevator and the strange woman makes him feel trapped and helpless

Martin is emotionally vulnerable, as he struggles with his fears but feels unable to talk about them, especially with his unsympathetic father. The story highlights how fear can make people feel isolated and weak Fear affects their sense of safety and control. It shows that fear, whether real or imagined, can deeply impact a person's life

Extract 3

"She was wearing an old green coat that ballooned around her. As she waddled into the elevator, Martin was sure he felt it sink under her weight. She was so big that her coat brushed against him, and he had to squeeze himself into a corner. There was no room for anybody else. The door closed quickly behind her, and instead of facing it, she turned around and stared at Martin."

(1) Who is 'she' in the above extract? Describe her appearance.

Ans. She is a strange, fat lady who Martin encountered in the elevator

She is described as a fat lady wearing an old green coat that balloons around her. Her face is described as having large fleshy cheeks with no chin, just a large mass of neck. Her blue eyes are tiny but sharp, and they seem to be constantly staring at Martin, making him uncomfortable. This eerie, unsettling appearance contributes to Martin's fear of her.

(ii) Martin was sure he felt it sink under her weight. Why did he feel so? What does it imply?

Ans. Martin felt the elevator sink under the woman's weight because he noticed the elevator's movement change when she entered. This likely refers to the feeling of the elevator becoming slightly heavier due to the weight of the Lady or slower as she stepped in

The implication is that the woman was very large, and her presence made Martin feel the elevator was struggling to carry her. It adds to the sense of discomfort and fear that Martin feels in the confined space, making the elevator seem even more unsafe and claustrophobic.

(ii) Do you think the title of the story is justified? Give reasons

Ans. The title 'The Elevator is justified as it is central to the story's events and themes. The elevator serves as both the physical setting and the metaphorical space where Martin experiences his fears and vulnerability. His discomfort with the elevator mirrors his inner anxieties. It becomes a place of emotional tension, especially when he encounters the strange woman. The elevator, small and claustrophobic, symbolises Martin's feeling of being trapped, both in the confined space and by his fears.

Additionally, the elevator's movements-shuddering, stopping, and its unsettling atmosphere-heighten the sense of horror.

(iv) Based on your reading of the story, describe Martin's encounter with the lady in detail? (3)

Ans. Martin's encounter with the lady in the elevator is creepy and frightening. One morning, she enters the elevator, and Martin feels it sink under her weight. Her large coat brushes against him, and he has to squeeze into a corner. The woman turns around and stares at him with sharp eyes, making him uncomfortable. Despite trying to avoid her gaze, she keeps staring and Martin feels trapped. When the elevator reaches the first floor, she slowly exits, and Martin runs past her to escape. The encounter leaves him disturbed, and he could not stop thinking about her, feeling nervous about meeting her again.

(v) Do you think the fat lady is real or is she an imagination of Martin? Explain and give reasons.

Ans. It is likely that the fat lady is real, but she is perceived by Martin as a source of fear and discomfort. The story describes her in detail, including her green coat and sharp blue eyes, suggesting that she physically exists in the story. Additionally, the lady's actions, like entering the elevator, staring at Martin, and pressing the stop button, all indicate that she is interacting with him in a tangible way.

However, Martin's intense fear and his emotional state might make him overthink her presence. This makes her seem more ominous or supernatural than she actually is. This could

explain why Martin is so disturbed by her, even though she may simply be an odd, perhaps socially awkward, woman. The woman's eerie behaviour, combined with Martin's vulnerability makes her seem more threatening than she might actually be

Extract 4

"Martin started running down the stairs. The stairs were dark and he fell. His father was silent on the way to hospital, disappointed and angry with him for being a coward and a fool. Martin had broken his leg and needed to walk on crutches. He could not use the stairs now. Was that why the fat lady had smiled? Did she know what would happen? At least his father was with him in the elevator on the way back from the hospital. There was no room for the fat lady to get in, and if she did, his father would see her and maybe he would understand. When he got home, he could stay in the apartment for a few days. The doctor said that he had to rest as much as possible. Martin felt quite safe from the fat lady now."

(i) What causes Martin to run down the stairs? What happens when Martin runs down the stairs? How does Martin's father react to the accident?

Ans. Martin runs down the stairs in panic after encountering the woman again in the elevator.

As Martin runs down the stairs in a fit of fear he falls and breaks his leg, which leads him to use crutches Martin's father is silent and disappointed, expressing his anger at Martin for being a coward.

(ii) What does this incident reveal about Martin's relationship with his father? What impact does this event have on Martin's emotional state?

Ans. The incident reveals that Martin's father does not understand or support him. He criticises Martin instead of showing concern for his well-being Martin feels further isolated and ashamed, which deepens his fear and internal conflict.

(iii) Do you learn something from the story? What is the central message?

Ans. Yes, we do learn how baseless it is to live with meaningless fears. The central message of the story is about overcoming fear and facing vulnerability Martin's fear of the elevator and the strange woman symbolises how fear can control us and make us feel trapped It also shows how our imagination can amplify our fears, leading to unnecessary anxiety.

The story reminds us that facing our fears, even when they seem irrational, is an important part of growing up.

(iv) What does the story suggest about the role of family support in overcoming fear?

Ans. The story suggests that lack of family support can make overcoming fear even more difficult. Martin's father dismisses his fears, calling him a coward and urging him to grow up. This lack of understanding makes Martin feel isolated, and dejected as his emotional struggles are not validated.

If Martin had received empathy and encouragement from his father, he might have felt more confident in facing his fears. The story highlights that emotional support from family can play a crucial role in helping someone overcome their fears and build resilience

(v) How does the setting of the elevator contribute to the theme of entrapment?

Ans. The setting of the elevator helps show the theme of entrapment. Its small space makes Martin feel cramped and uncomfortable. The shaky movements and poor lighting make the elevator feel even more eerie.

When the woman enters. Martin feels trapped, unable to escape. The elevator's confined space reflects Martin's feelings of fear and isolation, both physically and emotionally, reinforcing the theme of being stuck or trapped

Extract 5

Martin hobbled to the buttons and pressed nine, but it didn't do any good. The elevator stopped at ten, where the fat lady was waiting for him. She moved in quickly, and he was too slow to get past her in time to get out. The door closed and the elevator began to move. "Hello, Martin', she said, and laughed, and pushed the Stop button.

(i) How does the author use the large woman's character to deepen the story's suspense?

Ans. The author uses the large woman's character to deepen the story's suspense by making her mysterious and unsettling Her size and appearance, with the ballooning green coat and sharp blue eyes, make her seem physically imposing and strange adding to Martin's sense of discomfort. Her unblinking stare and silent behaviour create an eerie, tense atmosphere, keeping Martin (and the reader) on edge. The woman's odd actions, like pressing the stop button and staring at Martin without speaking heightens the mystery and makes the reader question her intentions, increasing the overall sense of suspense throughout the story

(ii) How does the story portray the effects of ridicule on a person's psyche? What is the result of this?

Ans. The story portrays the effects of ridicule on Martin's psyche through his interactions with his father When Martin expresses his fear of the elevator and the woman, his father ridicules him by calling him a coward and telling him to grow up. This constant mockery makes Martin feel ashamed of his emotions and causes him to believe that his fears are irrational.

As a result, he becomes more isolated and anxious, struggling to cope with his fear on his own. The ridicule affects his confidence, making him feel vulnerable and unable to share his feelings. The story highlights how belittling someone's emotions can negatively impact their mental well-being and self-worth.

(iii) The tone of the story plays an important role in aggravating the reading experience. Comment.

Ans. The tone of 'The Elevator' is suspenseful, unsettling and psychologically tense. The author creates a sense of unease by describing Martin's fear of the elevator and the strange woman in vivid detail. The claustrophobic atmosphere of the elevator and the woman's unpredictable behaviour build tension, keeping the reader on edge.

(iv) The fat lady says, 'Hello Martin'. How does this create a feeling of horror? Justify.

Ans. When the fat lady says, 'Hello Martin', it creates a feeling of horror because it reveals that she knows him, even though he has never seen her before. This adds an eerie, unsettling layer to her character, suggesting that she may be watching him or has some sort of control over the situation.

(v) How would you describe the relationship between Martin and his father?

Ans. The relationship between Martin and his father is distant and emotionally strained. Martin's father dismisses his fears, calling him a coward and telling him to 'grow up'. He ridicules Martin's emotions instead of offering support or understanding This lack of empathy leaves Martin feeling isolated and vulnerable, as he cannot openly express his fears. His father's reactions show that he doesn't acknowledge Martin's emotional struggles. This makes their relationship feel more like a one-sided and disconnected bond, where Martin's emotional needs go unmet.

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