
CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature

NCERT Solutions

Moments Chapter 8

A House is Not a Home

Page No:54 Think About It

1. What does the author notice one Sunday afternoon? What is his mother's reaction?

What does she do?

Ans: One Sunday afternoon, the author notices some strange smell. Suddenly he could see smoke pouring in through the seams of the ceiling and filling the room very quickly. The smoke was so thick that they could barely see anything. By the time they ran out into the front yard, the roof was already engulfed in flames and was spreading very quickly. His mother frantically runs back into the house. She had brings out a small metal box full of important documents. She wants to bring out important things from the house one by one. She is in a 'crazed state'.

2. Why does he break down in tears after the fire?

Ans: After the fire, he brakes down into tears because it suddenly strikes him that he has suffered a big loss. After a few moments, he realizes that his cat could not be seen anywhere and the thought of it that the cat might have perished in the fire makes him cry. He gave a new lease of life when it was a small kitten. Cat and the author are emotionally attached to each other. So it is a big emotional loss for the author. The simple thought of losing everything to that cruel fire breaks him down.

3. Why is the author deeply embarrassed the next day in school? Which words show his fear and insecurity?

Ans: The author is deeply embarrassed the next day in school. As he was still wearing the same clothes that he had worn to the church the morning fire broke out. He had no shoes, so he had to borrow some tennis shoes from his aunt. The clothes he was wearing looked weird, he had no books or homework, and his backpack was gone, everything seemed embarrassing to him.

Words used in the lesson that show his fear and insecurity are "...outcast and geek..." , "...like

a zombie.”, “...wanted to curl up and die.” , “Everything felt surreal”, “All the security...had all been ripped away”.

4. The cat and the author are very fond of each other. How has this been shown in the story? Where was the cat after the fire? Who brings it back and how?

Ans: The author has great affection towards his cat. The way the cat makes merry with the author ,shows the bond they share with each other. She sleeps in his gown's pocket and fiddles with his pen. He cries inconsolably when he couldn't find his cat after the fire. The cat was so freaked by the fire and ran a mile away from the house. One woman found her and took her in. She located the author's number on the cat's collar. However, she couldn't reach them as the phone had been disconnected because of the fire. The woman then made personal efforts to find the author and returned back the cat.

Page No: 56

5. What actions of the schoolmates change the author's understanding of life and people and comfort him emotionally? How does his loneliness vanish and how does he start participating in life?

Ans: Everybody in the school developed an empathy with the author's plight. The schoolmates showed genuine concern for the author in spite of not knowing him well. The schoolmates pooled resources to buy a set of everything he needed. People whom he had never spoken to before started coming to him and befriended him. They also invited him to their houses. The author made new friends. He was overwhelmed by their love and cooperation. He realized that his new school and new people around him were good. This motivated him to move ahead in life and overcome his past trauma.
