



L. 5 Should Wizard Hit Mommy ?

By John Updike

Q1 Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

a) Why did Roger Skunk go to see the owl ?

Ans : Roger Skunk was an animal who was avoided by his due to his bad smell. So he went to see the old owl, expecting that he might help him with his problem.

b) How did wizard help Roger Skunk ?

Ans : Roger Skunk told the wizard his problem that all the little animals ran away from him because he smelled very bad. The wizard agreed to help him. He took a magic wand in his hand and asked Roger Skunk what he wanted to smell like. Roger Skunk thought for a while, then said he wanted to smell like roses. The wizard used his magic spell. Suddenly the wizard's house was full of the smell of roses

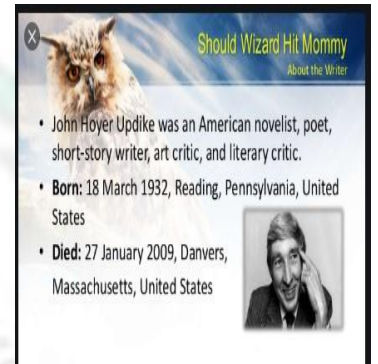
c) Why did Joe want the wizard to do when Mommy Skunk approached him ?

Ans : Joe wanted the story to end with his magic wand for not understanding Roger's feelings. The wizard should punish the mother. She wanted to dream of a magical and beautiful world devoid of ugliness and stink. She wants the baby Skunk to smell good, so that he can play with other animals. She doesn't want Roger to feel sad and lonely for no fault of his.

Q 2 Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words:

a) Why did Joe feel that Skunk's Mommy was stupid ?

Ans : Children look at this world from a perspective which is different from that of an adult. Their perspective on life reflects their fantasy and innocence. Joe considers little Roger Skunk the hero of the story. She has a deep sympathy for Roger skunk. Her expressions while listening to the story of poor Roger reflect her feelings. Roger faced segregation. His bad smell kept all little animals away from him. The little Skunk stood alone and wept. When the wizard made Roger smell of roses, he was happy. The other little animals were now attracted towards him. They played and danced with Roger who smelled like roses now..



Jo's main anger is against "stupid mommy" of Roger Skunk. It was she who forced the wizard to make Roger Skunk smell very bad again. The hero of the story is always a role model for children. The tender-hearted Jo is shocked at the attitude of that "stupid mommy". She wants that Roger's mommy must be punished. The wizard must hit on her head with his magic wand.

Children think stories and always want happy endings. Whereas adults know that in real life, there may not always be a happy ending.

b) A child's stand point invariably is different from that of an adult. Justify the statement with reference to the story, 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?'

Ans : Roger Skunk was awful smelling. No one wanted to come close to him. Therefore he went to a wizard to make him smell sweet. The wizard made him smell like roses. Roger Skunk's mother did not like that and asked the wizard to make him the way he was. The wizard did the same. When the child heard this she did not like the way her Skunk to be sweet smelling and the mother to be punished. This shows that opinion of adults and children differ.

The world of a child is quite different from that of an adult. It was the world of fantasy and wonder. There is no place for ugliness in their world. An adult's perspective is different from that of a child's because the adult has experience of life. On the other hand, the child's mind is not developed. The child is curious and inquisitive about things around him. The child's imaginary power is exemplary. He wants to get more and more knowledge about the things described to him. It is the duty of an adult to mould the behaviour of a child. Adults should give them the knowledge that things are not as they are seen. There is a difference of perspective regarding life between the two only because of mature and immature minds