

(NOVEL)
THREE MEN IN A BOAT

THREE MEN IN A BOAT ---JEROME K JEROME

Plot

It is a fictional story about three friends and their dog. The story is written in first person and a lot of humor and anecdotes are found in it.

The author Jim, his friends Harris and George live with various illusionary diseases and therefore decide to take a break and go down the river for a holiday. They decide to camp on the boat on fine days and stay at an inn when it rains. There are several incidents like packing, journey to historical places, cheese story which are exaggerated and evoke a lot of laughter.

QUESTIONS

1. Character sketches

1. Jim: - hypochondriac—dislikes sea voyages—romantic nature—comfort seeker—overconfident (eg: cheese story packing)—dislikes tomb visit—enjoys boat trip—vain about appearance and clothes—believes in God.
2. Harris:-has fits of giddiness—likes pretending—practical—restless when hungry
3. George:-quietest of all—speaks in medical terms—most sensible—lazy and overweight—enjoys good food.
4. Montmorency:- a dog – looks innocent - like an angel—very mischievous- chief ambition to meddle around-has many friends-killed a dozen chickens-does not enjoy boat trip-faithful to friends.
5. Uncle Podger: - funny character-fussy- pretends to be independent-very dependent—careless—absent minded—blames others—boastful—tires the whole household

2. Give an account of the PACKING incident. How do the three friends behave during the Packing incident?

Ans : Hints

All three have different ideas—each wanted the other to pack—lack of organizational capacities—packed and unpacked several times—broke things-- all three careless, disorganized and forgetful.

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3. Harris attempts to make scrambled eggs. Describe his attempt.

Ans: Hints

Offered to cook—proud of his culinary skills—friends provided with required provisions – was worried about spoiling his attire—put all eggs in pan -- stirred with fork—burnt himself—dropped everything—danced around stove—was left with a burnt bit of the dish — blamed the stove.

4. Montmorency's encounter with the cat was also another exaggerated incident in the story. Comment

Ans : Hints

Montmorency the dog – hated cats—cried joyfully at the sight of cat trotting—reached the cat at great speed—cat unaware of impending danger—found enemy in front – turned round—sat in the middle of road—looked questioningly—he felt nervous—silent message was passed – cat continued to trot—went back in the rear unhappily—shrank whenever ‘cats’ was pronounced thereafter—sudden reformation in Montmorency.

5. Punting is not as easy as it looks. Describe the incidents in support of the statement.

Ans : Hints

Punting not easy—requires practice-- two incidents occur—a sad one -- a funny one— young boy fell in the grip of death—was careless—walked off the punt altogether—punt drifted away—left clinging to pole—pole sank slowly with boy—writer went to punt—without pole—drifted away—saw a fishing punt—two fisherman in punt—they called out —writer came near them—caught him—saved him.