

Coming Home to Dehra

1-Mark Questions and Answers

1. Who wrote the story Coming Home to Dehra?

Answer: The story Coming Home to Dehra was written by Ruskin Bond.

2. How old was the narrator when he returned to Dehra?

Answer: He was eleven years old.

3. In which year did the narrator return home?

Answer: He returned home in the winter of 1944.

4. Where was the narrator's father working?

Answer: His father was working in the Royal Air Force (RAF) in New Delhi.

5. Where did the narrator live with his father?

Answer: He lived with his father in a large tent near Humayun's Tomb in Delhi.

6. What illness did the narrator's father suffer from?

Answer: He suffered from malaria and later jaundice.

7. Why was the narrator sent to boarding school?

Answer: He was sent to boarding school because his father was sick and could not look after him all the time.

8. Where was the boarding school located?

Answer: The boarding school was located in Shimla.

9. Who told the narrator about his father's death?

Answer: His class teacher told him about his father's death.

10. Where did the narrator first go after reaching Dehra railway station?

Answer: He first went to his grandmother's house.

11. What was the name of the cook in the house?

Answer: The cook's name was Mangal Singh.

12. Who was the baby in the house?

Answer: The baby was the narrator's half-brother.

13. What vehicle did the narrator use to travel from the station?

Answer: He traveled in a tonga.

14. Name one tree that grew commonly in Dehra.

Answer: The mango tree grew commonly in Dehra.

15. What did the stepfather bring home from the hunting trip?

Answer: He brought a pheasant.

2-Mark Questions and Answers

1. Why did the narrator not like boarding school?

Answer: The narrator did not like the boarding school because it was strict and unfriendly. He also missed his father very much and felt lonely there.

2. Describe the narrator's relationship with his father.

Answer: The narrator and his father were very close and happy together. They spent time walking, collecting stamps, buying books, and making plans for the future.

3. How did the narrator learn about his father's death?

Answer: His class teacher took him for a walk and slowly told him that his father had died. The narrator understood the message and began to cry.

4. Why did the narrator feel angry at the headmaster?

Answer: The headmaster took the letters written by his father and later pretended that he did not remember them. This hurt the narrator and made him feel anger.

5. How did the narrator feel when he reached the Dehra station?

Answer: He felt sad and lonely because no one came to receive him. He had to sit alone and then hire a tonga by himself.

6. Describe the narrator's grandmother.

Answer: The grandmother was white-haired, strong, and practical. She cared for the narrator and supported him when he arrived home.

7. How did the narrator react on seeing his half-brother?

Answer: The narrator was surprised and unprepared to see the baby. He looked at the baby without much excitement because it was all new to him.

8. How did the narrator feel in his mother and stepfather's house?

Answer: He felt lonely and unwanted because his mother and stepfather did not show him much love or care.

9. Why does the narrator say his father's death felt like a vanishing?

Answer: The narrator did not see the body or the funeral, so the death did not feel real to him. It seemed as if his father had simply disappeared.

10. Describe the natural beauty of Dehra.

Answer: Dehra was full of trees like mango, neem, eucalyptus, and jacaranda. The roads were peaceful, and the gardens had fruit trees like litchi and guava.

1. Why was the narrator returning to Dehra?

****Answer:****

The narrator was returning to Dehra because his father had passed away, and now he had to stay with his mother and stepfather. Earlier, after his parents separated, the narrator had gone to live with his father. He and his father were very close and happy together. They spent time walking, watching movies, collecting stamps, and reading books. His father always cared for him with love. But his father fell sick with malaria and later developed jaundice. Even though his father tried to stay strong and hopeful, his health became worse, and he eventually died.

Since the narrator was young and could not live alone, he was kept in a boarding school for some time. Later, the school and his family decided that he should return to his mother in Dehra. But the narrator did not feel happy about going back because home for him meant being with his father. Now that his father was not there anymore, returning to Dehra felt strange and sad. He felt nervous, uncertain, and lonely. This is why the narrator was coming back to Dehra—because he had nowhere else to go after his father's death.

2. Describe the narrator's life with his father in Delhi.

****Answer:****

The narrator's life with his father in Delhi was full of love, joy, and freedom. They lived in a big tent near Humayun's Tomb. During that time, the area was not crowded like today. It had open land and wild animals like black buck and nilgai moving around. The narrator and his father used to take long walks together, exploring old forts and tombs. These walks helped them bond closely.

They also shared many hobbies. They collected stamps, watched films together—especially funny movies—and enjoyed reading books. The narrator's father had taught him how to read

and write even before he went to school, which shows how loving and caring he was. Even though Delhi summers were very hot, they managed by using khus curtains that smelled fresh when sprinkled with water. The narrator remembered this smell fondly because it reminded him of the peaceful time with his father.

They even made happy plans to travel to England after the war was over. The narrator felt safe, cared for, and deeply loved when he lived with his father. Those months were some of the happiest in his life, and the memory stayed with him forever.

3. How did the narrator feel when he reached Dehra railway station?

****Answer:****

When the narrator reached Dehra railway station, he felt lost, confused, and very lonely. The station was crowded with people, luggage, coolies, and noise. But in the middle of all this noise, the narrator felt alone because nobody came to receive him. He sat on his small tin trunk and watched the people move around him. Slowly the crowd reduced, and still nobody from his family arrived. This made him feel even more worried.

The narrator had come after many years, and he did not know what to expect from his new home with his mother and stepfather. The absence of a welcoming face made him feel unwanted. An old coolie finally came and helped him. He carried the narrator's trunk and guided him to a tonga. The narrator sat beside the tonga driver and watched the trees and quiet roads of Dehra. But instead of enjoying the sight, he felt a deep sadness. He missed his father and the loving welcome he used to receive from him. For him, Dehra felt unfamiliar and cold, even though it was supposed to be home. This showed how alone the narrator felt without his father.

4. What kind of person was the narrator's grandmother?

****Answer:****

The narrator's grandmother was a loving, practical, and strong woman. She lived alone in a big old house. When the narrator arrived at her door unexpectedly, she immediately understood that something had gone wrong. No one had gone to the station to receive him, and she became upset about that. But she did not waste time complaining. Instead, she acted quickly. She helped him into the tonga and took him to his mother's house so he would not feel abandoned.

The grandmother cared about proper behavior and responsibility. She was angry when she learned that the narrator's mother and stepfather had gone hunting and left the baby behind. This showed that she valued family care and duty. Though the grandmother did not openly praise the narrator, she showed affection quietly. For example, she noticed his pimples and height, which showed she cared about his growth.

She was also a bit humorous and superstitious. She was afraid of tonga rides behind white horses, thinking they were too jumpy. Her personality was strong, protective, strict, and loving. She provided comfort and stability, something the narrator needed after losing his father.

5. Why did the narrator feel sad and lonely in his mother's house?

****Answer:****

The narrator felt sad and lonely in his mother's house because he did not receive the warmth, love, and closeness that he had shared with his father. When his mother returned home, she gave him only a small, quick kiss. It did not feel emotional or caring. His stepfather did not notice him much at all. Both the adults were more focused on themselves. They drank and relaxed while the narrator felt ignored.

The narrator also learned that he had a baby half-brother. This was unexpected, and he was not ready for such a change. The presence of new people and new relationships made him feel like an outsider in the house. The servant Mangal Singh looked at him in a strange way, which made him uncomfortable and uneasy.

The biggest reason for his sadness, however, was the absence of his father. His father had loved him deeply, listened to him, cared for him, and spent time with him. Now the narrator felt as if he had no one who truly understood or loved him. The house did not feel like home anymore. It felt like a place where he had to stay, not where he belonged. This made him feel very alone and heartbroken.

Character Sketches

1. The Narrator (The Boy / Ruskin Bond)

The narrator is a sensitive and thoughtful young boy. He loves his father very much and enjoys spending time with him. When his father dies, the narrator feels a deep sadness, and he is not able to forget him. He feels lonely when he returns to his mother in Dehra. He does not get the same love and warmth that he received from his father. The narrator is quiet and observant. He watches people carefully and remembers everything very clearly. He also notices nature around him, like trees and gardens. He has a gentle heart and feels things deeply. He is still a child who needs love, care, and comfort, especially after losing someone so important.

2. The Father

The narrator's father is a loving, caring, and understanding man. He spends a lot of time with his son, taking him for walks, buying books, collecting stamps, and watching movies. He teaches him how to read and write. The father always tries to keep his son happy and loved. Even when he is sick with malaria, he remains cheerful and hopeful. He plans to take his son to England after the war, which shows that he always thinks about their future together. The father is the narrator's biggest source of comfort, joy, and emotional support. His death leaves a very big emptiness in the narrator's life.

3. The Mother

The narrator's mother is a bit distant and less affectionate. She does not show much emotional warmth when she meets the narrator. She has started a new life with her second husband, and she seems busy with her own responsibilities. She does not understand how deeply the narrator misses his father. She treats him kindly, but not lovingly. She expects him to simply adjust to the new family situation. The mother is not bad, but she does not show the affection and tenderness that the narrator needs. This makes the narrator feel lonely in her house.

4. The Stepfather

The stepfather is a businessman who drinks whisky and relaxes when he comes home. He pays very little attention to the narrator. He is neither loving nor cruel—he is simply indifferent. He does not try to know the narrator or understand his feelings. He only wants peace in his house and wants the narrator to stay out of his way. Because he does not show kindness or care, the narrator does not feel comfortable around him. The stepfather represents the cold and distant environment in the house.

5. The Grandmother

The grandmother is a strong, responsible, and practical woman. She lives alone but manages everything in her house. When the narrator arrives unexpectedly, she understands his situation and helps him immediately. She cares about him and wants him to feel safe. She gets upset when she learns that the narrator's mother and stepfather left the baby at home and went hunting. This shows that she values family care and responsibility. She does not show affection with words, but she shows her love through her actions. She is a comforting and dependable presence in the narrator's life.

6. Mangal Singh (The Servant)

Mangal Singh is the servant in the narrator's mother's house. He is tall, dark, and has a scar on his face, which gives him a frightening appearance. He looks at the narrator curiously, which makes the narrator uncomfortable. Mangal Singh does not speak much. He simply follows orders and does the housework. Though he does not harm anyone, his presence makes the narrator uneasy. He represents the unfamiliar and unfriendly environment that the narrator finds in his mother's home.

Summary

The story *Coming Home to Dehra* is written by Ruskin Bond. It talks about his childhood memories and how he felt when he returned home after his father's death.

The narrator was eleven years old when his father died. Before this, he lived happily with his father in Delhi. They lived in a tent near Humayun's Tomb. The place was quiet and full of open land. The narrator and his father went for long walks, explored old tombs, collected stamps, read books, and watched movies together. They were very close. His father was kind, loving, and friendly. They had planned to go to England after the war. These days were the most joyful time of the narrator's life.

But his father became sick with malaria and later jaundice. He had to go to the hospital. Soon, the narrator got the sad news that his father had passed away. This broke his heart. He cried a lot and felt empty inside because the person he loved most was gone.

After this, the narrator was sent back to live with his mother and stepfather in Dehra. When he reached Dehra railway station, nobody came to receive him. He sat alone on his small trunk, feeling lost and lonely. Finally, an old coolie helped him and took him to a tonga.

First, he went to his grandmother's house. She was surprised to see him arrive alone. She then took him to his mother's new house. When they reached there, they found his mother and stepfather had gone for hunting. They had also left their baby at home. His grandmother was upset by this.

When his mother returned, she gave him only a quick kiss. His stepfather did not care about him at all. The narrator also found out he now had a baby half-brother. The house did not feel warm or loving. There was a servant named Mangal Singh who looked frightening, and the narrator felt uneasy around him.

The narrator had his own room, but he still felt lonely. He missed his father very much. He remembered how happy he used to be with him. Now, even though he had returned home, it did not feel like home anymore. Home, for him, was where his father was.

The story shows the sadness of losing someone close, the feeling of loneliness, and how difficult it is for a child to adjust to a new life without love and support.