

**DATE: 24 May 2021 ENGLISH LITERATURE QUESTION / ANSWER CLASS - VII**

### **Chapter - 3 A Hero by R.K. Narayan**

### **Summary**

*A Hero* is a beautiful short story by R.K. Narayan. This story is about a 9 year old boy named Swami. He lives in Malgudi with his parents and grandmother. He has the habit of sleeping with his grandmother. This irritates his father. This short story presents the traumatic experiences of Swami. By accident he catches one of the most notorious house breakers of his district and becomes a hero.

The story opens with Swami's father. He is reading a newspaper article about the bravery of a small boy. He calls Swami and tells the story of that boy who saves himself from the tiger. Swami is not ready to accept that story. He feels that the story is imaginary. But Swami's father tells him about the importance of courage. Swami now gets a challenge to sleep alone in his office room. Swami is scared and he does not want to accept that fearful challenge. He tries to divert the discussion. But his father is adamant. He forces him to sleep in his office. At last he has to follow the order of his father.

When Swami sleeps in his father's office, he remembers the stories of ghosts and devils. Then he goes under the bench and tries to sleep. Suddenly he hears that someone is walking down. Swami fears that his end has come. Thus mistaking him for the ghost, Swami catches the intruder's leg and cries for help. Then family members enter the room and catch the person. The police congratulate him and thus he becomes a hero.

**THEME:** In A Hero by R.K. Narayan, the theme of fear, insecurity, control, powerlessness, bravery and independence is suggested.

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B. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BRIEFLY IN ABOUT 30 WORDS:

Q2. What was the challenge given to Swami by his father? How did he receive it?

Ans2. Swami was challenged to sleep in his father's office room alone. His father does this to test Swami's courage. Swami received this challenge boldly.

Q3. Describe swami's feelings in the office room at night.

Ans3. He was terrified of the dark and crouched under the bench in his father's office room when he was forced to sleep there all alone. He remembered the stories of the devils and ghosts he had heard. As he was being racked by nightmares, he heard a rustling sound and he saw something moving down.