

Section 1 – A Hero

I. Answer the following

1. What story did Swami's father read to him?

Swami's father read out a newspaper story to him which described the bravery of a boy who fought off a tiger that he encountered while walking through the jungle.

2. What habit of Swami's did Father find disgraceful?

Father found Swami's habit of sleeping beside his grandmother disgraceful.

3. Why did Swami find the idea of sleeping in his Father's office 'a frightful proposition'?

Swami found the idea of sleeping in his father's office 'a frightful proposition' because he had always slept beside his grandmother in the passage and the idea of sleeping alone left him trembling and awake all night. He tried to avoid the situation by changing the subject in the hope of distracting his father.

4. As the night advanced, Swami felt that something dreadful would happen to him. What did he think would happen?

As the night advanced, Swami remembered all the stories of ghosts and devils that he had ever heard in his life and felt faint with the fear that any second he would be carried away by one of them.

5. There was absolute silence in the room. But some noises reached Swami's ear. What were they?

Swami heard ordinary sounds through the silence of the night, such as ticking of the clock, rustling of trees, others in the house snoring and the humming of night insects.

6. How did Swami help in preventing the burglary?

Late in the night, Swami heard a rustling sound and saw something coming towards him. He was convinced that it was a devil that had come

to finish him off. Instead of waiting passively for the end, he attacked it and bit it as hard as he could. It turned out to be a burglar. Swami bit his ankle so badly that it bled and he fell down, and was soon apprehended when the adults came into room after hearing the commotion.