

- [Iswaran The Story Teller Summary](#)

Iswaran The Story Teller Summary

This story by R.K. Laxman revolves around Mahendra, a junior supervisor who frequently relocates due to his job, and his cook, Iswaran, who is not only responsible for cooking and household chores but also entertains Mahendra with thrilling stories. Iswaran is an avid reader of Tamil thrillers and creatively invents his own stories, which he narrates to Mahendra. These stories often involve elephants and supernatural elements, captivating Mahendra despite their unbelievable nature.

One notable story Iswaran tells is about how he, as a young boy, managed to paralyse a mad elephant that had gone berserk and was causing chaos in a school playground. He explains that hitting the elephant's third toenail can paralyse its nervous system, a secret known to mahouts (elephant handlers). Another story involves ghosts, particularly a woman ghost seen on full moon nights carrying a foetus, which terrifies Mahendra. Eventually, the fear of these ghost stories leads Mahendra to resign and leave the place.

Key Elements

- **Characters:** Mahendra (junior supervisor), Iswaran (cook and storyteller)
- **Themes:** Friendship, imagination, fear, and the supernatural
- **Setting:** The place where Mahendra stays and works, including the shed which was once a burial ground

Textual Evidence

Iswaran's story about the mad elephant: "If the elephant is hit on the third toenail, his nervous system gets paralysed."

Ghost story: "A woman ghost seen only on a full moon night, moaning and carrying a foetus in her arms."

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is Iswaran and what is his role in Mahendra's life?
- What kind of stories does Iswaran like to tell?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how Iswaran managed to paralyse the mad elephant in his story.
- Describe Mahendra's reaction to the ghost story.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the significance of Iswaran's storytelling in the story. How does it affect Mahendra?
- Analyze the theme of fear and imagination as portrayed in the story.

Answer Key

Level 1 – Easy

- Iswaran is Mahendra's cook and caretaker who also entertains him by telling stories.
- Iswaran likes to tell thrilling stories, often involving elephants and ghosts.

Level 2 – Moderate

- Iswaran told that hitting the elephant's third toenail paralyses its nervous system, which he did to stop the mad elephant from causing harm.
- Mahendra was terrified by the ghost story and even thought he saw the ghost, which made him decide to leave the place.

Level 3 – Challenging

- Iswaran's storytelling provides companionship and entertainment to Mahendra, but also introduces elements of fear and imagination that affect Mahendra's mental state.
- The story explores how imagination can create fear, as Mahendra becomes scared of the ghost stories and this fear influences his decisions.

Quick Reference

- **Iswaran:** Cook and storyteller
- **Mahendra:** Junior supervisor
- **Mad elephant story:** Hitting the third toenail paralyses the elephant
- **Ghost story:** Woman ghost carrying a foetus on full moon nights

Glossary

- **Caretaker:** A person responsible for taking care of someone or something.
- **Innovated:** Made changes by introducing new ideas.
- **Loopholes:** Flaws or gaps that allow evasion.
- **Paralysed:** Unable to move or function.
- **Berserk:** Out of control with anger or excitement.
- **Mahaut:** Elephant handler.
- **Helter-skelter:** In a disorderly or hurried manner.
- **Foetus:** An unborn baby developing in the womb.