

- Summary of My Brother's Great Invention

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"My Brother's Great Invention" is a humorous and engaging story narrated by Anita, a fourteen-year-old girl, about her younger brother Anand who fancies himself a scientist and inventor. Anand creates various inventions, including a burglar alarm that accidentally drenches their father with water, and later, a time machine that causes a series of chaotic events when a thief named Boppa breaks into their house. Despite the mishaps, Anand remains convinced of his genius and continues inventing, dreaming of contacting creatures in outer space.

Key Elements

- **Characters:** Anita (narrator), Anand (inventor brother), Papa, Ma, Boppa (thief), neighbours like Mrs. Sharma and Dr. Mohan.
- **Setting:** The family home and neighbourhood.
- **Plot:** Anand's inventive attempts, the burglar alarm incident, the time machine creation, the thief's intrusion, and the eventual rescue by neighbours.
- **Theme:** Creativity and imagination, the spirit of invention, family dynamics, and dealing with unexpected consequences.

Textual Evidence

Anand's burglar alarm: "The moment the door opens, this alarm is tripped off and makes a clanging sound. Then this water bag here is loosened and falls on the thief's head."

On Anand's conviction: "Anand insists that he is a genius and has launched a new project —something about a telephone to contact creatures in outer space."

Solved Example

Q: Why was Papa angry at the beginning of the story?

A: Papa was angry because he was drenched with water from the burglar alarm Anand had rigged, which was triggered when he opened the door softly.

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the narrator of the story?
- What was Anand's first invention mentioned in the story?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the incident involving the burglar alarm and its effect on the family.
- What does Anand's character tell us about his personality?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how the story uses humor to portray Anand's inventive spirit.
- Discuss the theme of imagination and its impact on the story's events.

Answer Key

- **Q:** Who is the narrator of the story?
A: Anita, Anand's elder sister.

- **Q:** What was Anand's first invention?
A: A burglar alarm that triggers a water bag to fall on the intruder.
- **Q:** Describe the burglar alarm incident.
A: Anand's alarm was triggered when Papa opened the door softly, causing a water bag to fall on him, soaking him and making him angry.
- **Q:** What does Anand's character tell us?
A: Anand is imaginative, enthusiastic about science, persistent, and sometimes careless about consequences.
- **Q:** How does humor portray Anand's spirit?
A: The story uses funny incidents like the water bag prank and the chaotic time machine episode to show Anand's inventive but imperfect experiments.
- **Q:** Discuss imagination's impact.
A: Anand's imagination drives the plot, leading to both trouble and excitement, highlighting creativity's power and risks.

Quick Reference

- **Inventor:** A person who creates new devices or methods.
- **Burglar alarm:** A device to alert about intruders.
- **Time machine:** A fictional device to travel through time.
- **Imagination:** The ability to form new ideas or images.

Glossary

- **Racket:** Loud noise.
- **Sopping:** Soaking wet.
- **Scowling:** Frowning in anger.
- **Rigged up:** Assembled temporarily.
- **Tinkering:** Experimenting with small changes.
- **Dynamos:** Electric generators.
- **Elaborate:** Detailed and complicated.
- **Clanging:** Loud metallic sound.
- **Smugly:** Proudly.
- **Stealthily:** Quietly and secretly.
- **Sceptical:** Doubtful.
- **Frantic:** Very hurried and anxious.
- **Crestfallen:** Disappointed.
- **Offended:** Upset or hurt feelings.

- **Groggily:** Sleepily.
- **Ruffianly:** Rough or violent looking.
- **Gasped:** Took a short breath in surprise.
- **Brandishing:** Waving threateningly.
- **Cudgel:** A short thick stick used as a weapon.
- **Muffled:** Not loud or clear.
- **Eerie:** Strange and frightening.
- **Clattering:** Continuous loud noise.
- **Unison:** Together.
- **Hastily:** Quickly.
- **Peering:** Looking carefully.
- **Indulgently:** Fondly or leniently.
- **Intruders:** People who enter without permission.
- **Dismantled:** Taken apart.
- **Niggling:** Slight or persistent feeling.

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