

Character Sketch

The young doctor is the protagonist of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'. He reveals himself, his strength, weakness and liveliness in the events of the night narrated in the story. Write a character sketch of the young doctor.

Sample Response

The homeopathic doctor is the central character in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' written by the celebrated Malayalam writer Vaikom Muhammed Basheer. He is unnamed in the story and is known by the designation. The homeopathic doctor was young and handsome and took pride on both his beauty and his status as a doctor. When he was sitting in front of the mirror, he had the tendency to look into the mirror and see his own beauty, an act which reveals his narcissism. He entertains a dream of being protected by a rich wife who is a busy doctor. These fantasies surely reveal a less masculine, less-big-brotherly character, willing to accept a wife, who is more placed than himself. However, he is a young man with composed nature who would not lose his presence of mind even at the face of imminent death. He is able to collect himself, think and act wisely, when he sees himself coiled by a cobra on the shoulder. Above all, he is a good story teller, in a native good-natured humour, capable of looking at oneself with affectionate, but realistic appreciations.

Conversation

After the shocking experience with the snake the doctor ran to his friend's house. Imagine that the doctor tells his friend what had happened. Write a likely conversation between the doctor and his friends.

Sample Response

Doctor : (Thumping on the door) Vinu! It's me! Please open.

Vinu : I'm coming. (opens the door) Get in. What's the matter? What happened?

Doctor : Give me some water.

Vinu : (offering a bottle of water) Take it. Relax. Cool. You're safe.

Doctor : Vinu, I can't believe! I'm still alive! Believe me! A snake coiled on me.

Vinu : Woops! What! What happened to you? I'm at a loss.

Doctor : True. I was sitting at my table. I heard something fall, but didn't mind it. But, in no time, I felt it on my back. Oh! I can't believe I got over.

Vinu : Really? God's grace! What did you do?

Doctor : Nothing. Nothing at all! I was a stone. Just a heap! But it looked into the mirror, saw its own face and then went away.

Vinu : That's strange. Anyway, by God's will! You're ok. It must have been pretty handsome in the mirror.

Doctor : May be. He might have been looking for a bride!