Lesson 3

Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed (Ray Bradbury)

Q.1: Why did Harry want to go back to Earth?



Ans: Harry wanted to go back to Earth because the wind blew as if to flake away their identities. At any moment, the Martian air might draw his soul from him, as marrow comes from a white bone. He felt submerged in a chemical that could dissolve his intellect and burn away his past.

Q.2: Why did he want to stay?

Ans: He wanted to stay because of a war on Earth. All the rockets had blown up. They were stranded on Mars.

Q.3: What climate did they face?

Ans: They faced severe climate. In the morning, hot wind blew and it was foggy at night. The wind blew as if to flake away their identities. Summers burned the canals dry. Summer moved like flame upon the meadows. In the empty Earth settlement, the painted houses flaked and peeled. The wind had done something to their house. The air had burned it.

Q.4: What was the condition of Bittering family on hearing the news of the war on Earth?

Ans: The Bittering family was shocked. They felt stranded. The mother held onto her husband and daughter. The daughter wept. Harry was drenched in the hotness of his fear.

Q.5: What did they want to grow?

Ans: They wanted to raise crops and children.

Q.6: What was the condition of their house?

Ans: The wind had done something to it. The air had burnt it. The painted house flaked and peeled. The boards were all warped out of shape.

Q.7: What was the advice that Harry gave to the people?

Ans: Harry advised the people to build a rocket to go back to Earth.

Q.8: How dangerous can a Martian virus be?

Ans: A Martian virus can be very dangerous. It can change the Earth people both physically and mentally. It can also affect their memory. The Bittering family had turned dark, golden-eyed, thin, and tall.

Q. 9: What were the feelings of the Bittering family after landing on Mars?

Ans: They were fearful. They were scared of losing their identity and of uncertainty of their future.

