

The summer of the beautiful white horse(Summary)

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This is a story of two tribal Armenian boys who belonged to the Garoghlanian tribe. For their family, even in times of extreme poverty nothing could match the importance of honesty. They never did anything wrong and never lied or never even stole anything. The story talks about an incident that revolves around two cousins Aram who is nine years old and Mourad who is thirteen. The world, for Aram, at that time, seemed to be a delightful and extremely joyous yet mysterious dream. People believed in every imaginable kind of magnificence. Mourad was considered to be crazy by everybody he knew.

The story opens with Mourad coming to Aram's house at four in the morning one fine day. He tapped on the window to Aram's room. When Aram looked out of the window, he was taken aback and startled to see Mourad riding a beautiful white horse. In fact, he was so dazed that Mourad had to say "Yes, it's a horse. You are not dreaming." All this was too unbelievable because Aram knew that they were too poor to be able to afford to buy a horse. The only way Mourad could possess it could be by stealing. They were too honest to lie and yet too crazy to ride a horse. Mourad then told Aram that it wasn't easy to get the horse to behave so nicely. At first it wanted to run wild but since he had a way with a horse he developed an understanding with the horse.

That afternoon his uncle Khosrove who was a crazy streak of the family came to their house for coffee and cigarettes. While he was sipping coffee and smoking in the parlour, another visitor arrived. The latter was a farmer named John Byro. He was an Assyrian who out of his loneliness had learned to speak Armenian. Sighing sadly he said that his white horse which had been stolen last month was still gone. Uncle Khosrove became irritated and snubbed him for crying over a horse.

Thus, they kept the horse for two weeks, enjoying its ride in cool air and singing to their heart's content on the country roads. They hid it from the rest of the world by keeping it in a barn of the deserted vineyard. Meanwhile, Aram came to know that the horse was stolen from John Byro. They planned not to return it to him so soon although it pricked their conscience to steal, which was completely their ethics and tribal norms.

One fine day they came across John, the farmer. Such was the boys' family famous for their honesty that the thought of his horse being stolen by the boys never crossed John's mind. He was just amazed at the resemblance and said: "I would swear it is my horse if I

did not know your parents.” This moving experience led the boys towards John’s vineyard the very next morning. They left the horse in the barn after patting it affectionately. Later that Based on day, John seemed to be very pleased and shared the news of the return of his horse with Aram’s mother. The story teaches us the importance and necessity of honesty even in the face of greed and passion

### Question 1

What two character-traits of Mourad are hinted at by the narrator in the initial part of the story?

#### Answer:

Mourad was considered crazy by everybody who knew him except the narrator. He was quite crazy about horses. Secondly, he enjoyed being alive more than anybody else.

### Question 2

What traits of the Garoghlanian family are highlighted in this story?

#### Answer:

The Garoghlanian family though now poor, were famous for their honesty even when they were wealthy. They were proud of their family first, honest next and after that they believed in right and wrong. None of them would take advantage of anybody in the world. They would not steal. No member of the Garoghlanian family could be a thief.

### Question 3

Why does the narrator mention uncle Khosrove? Which characteristic features of the man are highlighted?

#### Answer:

Cousin Mourad seemed to inherit the crazy streak of uncle Khosrove. He was a big man with a powerful head of black hair and very large moustache. He was quite furious in temper, very irritable and impatient. He would stop anyone from taking by roaring his pet phrase, “It is no harm; pay no attention to it”.

## Long Answer Type Questions

### Question 1: Did the boys return the horse because they were conscience-stricken or because they were afraid ?

The story gives no indication that the boys were afraid of anyone or anything. Hence the return of the horse was not directed by fear.

Secondly they were at first not conscience - stricken because their intention was not to steal. They just did it for the purpose of riding and not for money.

They were so crazy about horses and could not afford one. Moreover the last phrase gives us a clue to the mental state of their mind. Mourad had the horse for over one month ,when farmer John Byro, whose horse it was visited the narrator's home. They still retained the horse for two more weeks. Later on, Mourad rejected Aram's offer to keep the horse any longer. Though they were not conscience -stricken at first ,that would not let them steal and then they decided to return the horse to its rightful owner.

John Byro on meeting the boys praised the family for their honesty and trusted the boys and therefore the thought of stealing

the horse did not arise. Hence in order to uphold the reputation of the family, the boys returned the horse to the rightful owner.

### Question 2:

What impression do you form of cousin Mourad?(Character sketch of Mourad )

#### Answer:

Mourad is a young boy of thirteen. He belongs to the Garoghlanian family of Armenia. Their whole tribe was poverty stricken. In spite of abject poverty, their family was famous for honesty. Mourad was quite adventurous and had a crazy streak in him. He enjoyed being alive more than anybody else. Mourad loved horse riding. He had a way with a horse. He had tamed the horse by his affectionate behaviour and now the horse was no longer wild.

It obeyed Mourad faithfully. His love for the horse is evident in the last scene. While parting, he put his arms around the horse, pressed his nose into the horse's nose and patted it. He also had a way with dogs. The dogs of John Byro followed them around without making a sound. He was kind. He treated a young robin which had hurt its wing. He was worldly-wise and knew how to talk to farmers. Though he loved horse-riding he was averse of keeping the horse for a long time. He is proud of his family which is well known for their honesty and trust. In short, he is a lovable chap.

### Question 3:

Comment on the role of Aram, the narrator, in the story.

#### Answer:

Aram plays an important role in the story. Besides being the narrator, he is also a commentator. He not only narrates the various adventures, incidents and actions, but also provides useful information regarding the main characters and their behaviour. In fact, he is the fulcrum on which the whole story rests. He gives a graphic description of the Garoghlanian tribe, its members, their traits and economic features.

Note - Read the summary and write all the answers. Stay Home, Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Do not go out. Use old notebooks for writing your answers.