

## AN ASTROLOGER'S DAY



### Notes

The short story, “**An Astrologer’s Day**,” has been written by the renowned Indian writer, **R. K. Narayan**. R. K. Narayan’s literary prowess has positioned him in the league of Dickens, Chekhov, Faulkner and Flannery O’Connor, among others. “An Astrologer’s Day” is a thriller. It is a suspense story which describes a day in the life of fake astrologer. This story deals with various themes related to human nature, such as hypocrisies, selfishness, shrewdness and revengefulness. Let’s read and find out how the story not only exposes the fake astrologer, but also highlights the gullible and superstitious people who approach him.



### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson, the learner:

- Recognises the narrative techniques of creating suspense and surprises;
- Discusses how superstition is the religion of feeble minds;
- Discovers the role of language in the formation of our identities and culture;
- Interprets characteristics of works of literature from colonial India.

### 3.1 SECTION I

Punctually at midday he opened his bag and spread out his professional equipment, which consisted of a dozen **cowrie** shells, a square piece of cloth with **obscure mystic** charts on it, a notebook and a bundle of **palmyra** writing. His forehead was **resplendent** with sacred ash and **vermilion**, and his eyes **sparkled** with a sharp abnormal **gleam** which was really an outcome of a continual searching look for customers, but which his simple clients took to be a **prophetic** light and felt comforted.

**cowrie:** small sea creature with a bright, coloured external shell; used as money in the past (*kodi*)

**obscure:** not easy to see or understand

**mystic:** relating to magic or sorcery or involving magical powers

**palmyra:** tall, fan-leaved Palm tree whose leaves can be used for writing

**resplendent:** having a bright and attractive appearance

**vermilion:** a brilliant red pigment, used in the powdery form, by Indian wives and in rituals as *sindoor*

**sparkle:** to shine brightly with many small points of light

**gleam:** soft light that shines for a short time

**prophetic:** having the power to say correctly what will happen in the future

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## Notes

**cosmos:** plant grown in gardens for its brightly coloured flowers

**dahlia:** brightly coloured garden flower with long, thin petals in a shape like a ball

**flank:** to be at the side of someone or something

**surging:** increasingly greatly and suddenly

**auctioneer:** person who organises the selling at an auction (*nilam*)

**din:** loud and unpleasant noise or mixture of noises

**vociferousness:** making a loud outcry and expressing something repeatedly

**ware:** product

**flock:** move or come together in large numbers

**dally:** waste time or do something slowly

**transact:** do and complete an activity

**crackle:** make a lot of short, dry, sharp sounds

**enchantment:** attractive and pleasing quality

The power of his eyes was considerably enhanced by their position—placed as they were between the painted forehead and the dark whiskers which streamed down his cheeks: even a half-wit's eyes would sparkle in such a setting. To crown the effect he wound a saffron-coloured turban around his head. This colour scheme never failed. People were attracted to him as bees are attracted to **cosmos** or **dahlia** stalks. He sat under the boughs of a spreading tamarind tree which **flanked** a path running through the Town Hall Park. It was a remarkable place in many ways: a **surging** crowd was always moving up and down this narrow road morning till night. A variety of trades and occupations was represented all along its way: medicine sellers, sellers of stolen



Fig. : 3.1

hardware and junk, magicians and, above all, an **auctioneer** of cheap cloth, who created enough **din** all day to attract the whole town. Next to him in **vociferousness** came a vendor of fried groundnut, who gave his **ware** a fancy name each day, calling it Bombay Ice-Cream one day, and on the next Delhi Almond, and on the third Raja's Delicacy, and so on and so forth, and people **flocked** to him. A considerable portion of this crowd **dallied** before the astrologer too. The astrologer **transacted** his business by the light of a flare which **crackled** and smoked up above the groundnut heap nearby. Half the **enchantment** of the place was due to the fact that it did not have the benefit of municipal lighting. The place was lit up by shop lights. One or two had

**hissing** gaslights, some had naked flares stuck on poles, some were lit up by old cycle lamps and one or two, like the astrologer's, managed without lights of their own. It was a **bewildering crisscross** of light rays and moving shadows. This suited the astrologer very well, for the simple reason that he had not in the least intended to be an astrologer when he began life; and he knew no more of what was going to happen to others than he knew what was going to happen to himself next minute. He was as much a stranger to the stars as were his innocent customers. Yet he said things which pleased and astonished everyone: that was more a matter of study, practice and **shrewd** guesswork. All the same, it was as much an honest man's labour as any other, and he deserved the wages he carried home at the end of a day.



Notes

**LET US UNDERSTAND 3.1**

At midday, an astrologer opened his backpack and took out his professional gear, which included cowrie shells, cloth with mystic charts, a notebook and palmyra writing. He wore a saffron-coloured turban around his head, and his eyes shone with an unnatural brightness. People were drawn to him in the same way that bees are drawn to cosmos or dahlia stalks. He sat beneath a tamarind tree at Town Hall Park, where a range of trades and occupations were represented. The astrologer knew nothing about the stars, but somehow made a career by positioning himself next to the person selling fried groundnuts.

**hissing:** making a noise like a long s sound  
**bewildering:** confusing  
**crisscross:** a pattern of intersecting or crossing lines  
**shrewd:** quality of judging a situation accurately and turning it to one's own advantage

His place was lit by adjacent shop lights, gaslights, naked flares, antique cycle lamps, and without their own lights. He was a hard worker who deserved the money he brought home at the end of the day.



**INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.1**

1. What is the profession of the protagonist in the story?
2. What were the professional equipments used by the protagonist to attract his customers?
3. Given below are a few words. Find their antonyms (words with opposite meaning from the passage and write them in the blanks given):

Blunt .....

Discomfort .....

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- tilling:** preparing and using land for growing crops
- tangles:** an untidy mass of things not in order
- disposed:** to be willing or likely to do something
- impetuous:** likely to do something suddenly, without thinking about the results of one's actions
- endear:** cause someone to be liked
- forbidding:** unfriendly and likely to be unpleasant
- paraphernalia:** all the objects needed for or connected with a particular activity
- careworn:** appearing tired, worried, and unhappy
- grumble:** to complain about someone or something in a disturbed way
- vague:** unclear
- tilt:** to cause to move into a sloping position

Costly	.....
Complex	.....
Innocent	.....
Dishonest	.....

4. Does the astrologer have special powers of predicting the future?

**3.2 SECTION-II**

He had left his village without any previous thought or plan. If he had continued there he would have carried on the work of his forefathers—namely, **tilling** the land, living, marrying and ripening in his cornfield and ancestral home. But that was not to be. He had to leave home without telling anyone, and he could not rest till he left it behind a couple of hundred miles. To a villager it is a great deal, as if an ocean flowed between.

He had a working analysis of mankind's troubles: marriage, money and the **tangles** of human ties. Long practice had sharpened his perception. Within five minutes he understood what was wrong. He charged three pies per question and never opened his mouth till the other had spoken for at least ten minutes, which provided him enough stuff for a dozen answers and advices. When he told the person before him, gazing at his palm, 'In many ways you are not getting the fullest results for your efforts,' nine out of ten were **disposed** to agree with him. Or he questioned: 'Is there any woman in your family, maybe even a distant relative, who is not well disposed towards you?' Or he gave an analysis of character: 'Most of your troubles are due to your nature. How can you be otherwise with Saturn where he is? You have an **impetuous** nature and a rough exterior.' This **endeared** him to their hearts immediately, for even the mildest of us loves to think that he has a **forbidding** exterior.

The nuts-vendor blew out his flare and rose to go home. This was a signal for the astrologer to bundle up too, since it left him in darkness except for a little shaft of green light which strayed in from somewhere and touched the ground before him. He picked up his cowrie shells and **paraphernalia** and was putting them back into his bag when the green shaft of light was blotted out; he looked up and saw a man standing before him. He sensed a possible client and said: 'You look so **careworn**. It will do you good to sit down for a while and chat with me.' The other **grumbled** some **vague** reply. The astrologer pressed his invitation; whereupon the other thrust his palm under his nose, saying: 'You call yourself an astrologer?' The astrologer felt challenged and said, **tilting** the other's palm towards the green shaft of light: 'Yours is a nature...' 'Oh, stop that,'

the other said. 'Tell me something worthwhile...'

**LET US UNDERSTAND 3.2**

The astrologer had left his town without thinking or planning ahead of time. He had a working analysis of mankind's problems, such as marriage, money and human bonds. He was paid three pies for each question and never opened his lips until the other person had spoken for at least ten minutes. It gave him enough information for a dozen responses and suggestions. He gave standard, relatable responses that involved common life realities. This immediately warmed the hearts of his clients, as even the mildest of people enjoys illusions like having a forbidding exterior. The astrologer noticed a man standing before him and encouraged him to sit and talk for a while. The other complained about something in an unclear manner. However, the astrologer confronted him and claimed to be an expert on human nature. The other requested something useful and of interest.



*Notes*

**piqued:** slightly angry or annoyed, because someone has hurt one's feeling of pride  
**anna:** former Indian currency in the form of a copper coin, worth one sixteenth of a rupee  
**fling:** to throw something or someone suddenly and with a lot of force  
**bluffing:** deceiving someone by making them think either that one is going to do something when one really does not want to do it, or that one has knowledge that one does not really have, or that one is someone else



**INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.2**

1. Does the protagonist choose to be an astrologer by choice?
2. How could the astrologer satisfy his 'clients' ?
3. What was the signal for the astrologer to bundle up and go home?
4. Given below are a few words. Find out their synonyms (words of same meaning) from the passage and write them in the blanks given:
  - i. Problem .....
  - ii. Ancestor .....
  - iii. Insight .....
  - iv. Far off .....
  - v. Ray .....
  - vi. Murmur .....

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## Notes

**pact:** a formal agreement between two people or groups of people

**hoot:** a short, loud, high sound

**babble:** to talk or say something in a quick, confused, excited, or silly way

**agitate:** to make someone feel worried or angry

**puffing:** in this context, to smoke tobacco

**ruthlessly:** in a way that shows no thought or worry about pain caused to others when deciding what one needs to do

**disgorge:** to be forced to and unwillingly give money

**mutter:** to speak quietly and in a low voice that is not easy to hear

**incantation:** words that are believed to have a magical effect when spoken or sung

**convincing:** able to make one believe that something is true or right

**haggling:** the act of arguing about the price of something to make the seller reduce it

## 3.3 SECTION-III

Our friend felt **piqued**. 'I charge only three pies per question, and what you get ought to be good enough for your money...' At this the other withdrew his arm, took out an **anna**, and **flung** it out to him, saying: 'I have some questions to ask. If I prove you are **bluffing**, you must return that anna to me with interest.'

'If you find my answers satisfactory, will you give me five rupees?'

'No.'

'Or will you give me eight annas?'

'All right, provided you give me twice as much if you are wrong,' said the stranger.

This **pact** was accepted after a little further argument. The astrologer sent up a prayer to heaven as the other lit a cheroot. The astrologer caught a glimpse of his face by the match-light. There was a pause as cars **hooted** on the road, *jutka*-drivers swore at their horses and the **babble** of the crowd **agitated** the semi-darkness of the park. The other sat down, sucking his cheroot, **puffing** out, sat there **ruthlessly**. The astrologer felt very uncomfortable. 'Here, take your anna back. I am not used to such challenges. It is late for me today...' He made preparations to bundle up. The other held his wrist and said, 'You can't get out of it now. You dragged me in while I was passing.' The astrologer shivered in his grip; and his voice shook and became faint. 'Leave me today. I will speak to you tomorrow.' The other thrust his palm in his face and said, 'Challenge is challenge. Go on.' The astrologer proceeded with his throat drying up. 'There is a woman...'

'Stop,' said the other. 'I don't want all that. Shall I succeed in my present search or not? Answer this and go. Otherwise I will not let you go till you **disgorge** all your coins.' The astrologer **muttered** a few **incantations** and replied, 'All right. I will speak. But will you give me a rupee if what I say is **convincing**? Otherwise I will not open my mouth, and you may do what you like.' After a good deal of **haggling** the other agreed. The astrologer said, 'You were left for dead. Am I right?'

'Ah, tell me more.'

'A knife has passed through you once?' said the astrologer.

'Good fellow!' He bared his chest to show the scar. 'What else?'

'And then you were pushed into a well nearby in the field. You were left for dead.'

'I should have been dead if some passer-by had not chanced to peep into the well,' exclaimed the other, **overwhelmed** by **enthusiasm**. 'When shall I get at him?' he asked, **clenching** his fist.

'In the next world,' answered the astrologer. 'He died four months ago in a far-off town. You will never see any more of him.' The other groaned on hearing it. The astrologer proceeded.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 3.3

The stranger challenges the astrologer to return an anna to him with interest if he can prove he is bluffing. The astrologer is able to persuade the stranger to pay him eight annas for satisfactory answers, but it comes with the clause that if the astrologer is wrong, he has to pay back twice as much. At one point the astrologer wanted to quit, but the stranger gripped his wrist and declared that he could not back out then. The astrologer shivered under his control and his voice turned faint. Even though the astrologer tried giving him a different day, the other declined.



#### Notes

**overwhelmed:** to be filled with sudden, strong emotion, that is too much to manage

**enthusiasm:** a feeling of energetic interest in some subject or activity and wanting to be involved in it

**clench:** to close or hold something very tightly, often in a determined or angry way



Fig. : 3.2

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**Notes**

**pinch:** a tiny amount of something, especially the amount that one can hold between their first finger and thumb

**reflectively:** in a way that shows that one is thinking carefully and quietly

**choke:** to make someone stop breathing because something is blocking one's throat

He even stopped the astrologer as he started speaking about a woman in his life. The stranger's interest revolved only around his current search. Realising that he has no other option, the astrologer revealed how the stranger had been fatally wounded, pushed into a well and left for dead. The astrologer then informed the stranger that his culprit had died four months ago in a distant place and that he would never see him again.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.3**

1. How much fee did the astrologer charge per question?
2. How did the astrologer initially react upon seeing the stranger?
3. "Leave me today. I will speak to you tomorrow." Who is the speaker of the following words? Choose the appropriate option.
  - i) The astrologer
  - ii) The stranger
  - iii) The shopkeeper
  - iv) The narrator
4. What does the astrologer's scar symbolise in the story? Choose an appropriate answer from the given options.
  - i) A physical injury
  - ii) A birth mark
  - iii) A reminder of his past mistake
  - iv) A mark of his expertise in astrology

**3.4 SECTION- IV**

'Guru Nayak—'

'You know my name!' the other said, taken aback.

'As I know all other things. Guru Nayak, listen carefully to what I have to say. Your village is two day's journey due north of this town. Take the next train and be gone. I



see once again great danger to your life if you go from home.’ He took out a **pinch** of sacred ash and held it out to him. ‘Rub it on your forehead and go home. Never travel southward again, and you will live to be a hundred.’

‘Why should I leave home again?’ the other said **reflectively**. ‘I was only going away now and then to look for him and to **choke** out his life if I met him.’ He shook his head regretfully. ‘He has escaped my hands. I hope at least he died as he deserved.’ ‘Yes,’ said the astrologer. ‘He was crushed under a lorry.’ The other looked **gratified** to hear it.

The place was **deserted** by the time the astrologer picked up his articles and put them into his bag. The green shaft was also gone, leaving the place in darkness and silence. The stranger had gone off into the night, after giving the astrologer a handful of coins.

It was nearly midnight when the astrologer reached home. His wife was waiting for him at the door and demanded an explanation. He flung the coins at her and said, ‘Count them. One man gave all that.’

‘Twelve and a half annas,’ she said, counting. She was overjoyed. ‘I can buy some **jaggery** and coconut tomorrow. The child has been asking for sweets for so many days now. I will prepare some nice stuff for her.’



Fig. : 3.3

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Notes

**gratified:** pleased and satisfied

**deserted:** without any people

**jaggery:** solid dark sugar made in India from sugarcane and the sap of date palm trees, locally known as *gur*

**swine:** an extremely unpleasant and unkind person

**pyol:** a raised platform used to sit or even lie down, built on either sides of the main door of a house

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## Notes

**gasp:** take a short, quick breath through the mouth, especially because of surprise, pain or shock

**gamble:** to risk money in a game of luck

‘The **swine** has cheated me! He promised me a rupee,’ said the astrologer. She looked up at him. ‘You look worried. What is wrong?’

‘Nothing.’

After dinner, sitting on the *pyol*, he told her, ‘Do you know a great load is gone from me today? I thought I had the blood of a man on my hands all these years. That was the reason why I ran away from home, settled here and married you. He is alive.’

She **gasp**ed. ‘You tried to kill!’

‘Yes, in our village, when I was a silly youngster. We drank, **gambled** and quarrelled badly one day—why think of it now? Time to sleep,’ he said, yawning, and stretched himself on the *pyol*.

### LET US UNDERSTAND 3.4

The astrologer advised the stranger named Guru Nayak to take the next train for home and to never travel southward again if he wanted to live long. Sensing Guru Nayak’s keenness to know whether his culprit died in a manner, apt for his wrongdoing, the astrologer clarified that a lorry had crushed him. The stranger left after that and the area had become empty. On returning home, the astrologer’s wife was thrilled to know how he had received a handful of coins from a stranger. The twelve and a half annas would make it possible for her to buy the ingredients to prepare some sweets for her child. However, the astrologer felt cheated as he had been promised a full rupee.

It is only after dinner that the astrologer revealed to his wife how he was feeling light after a long time. He informed her how as a drunk youngster, he had tried to murder a man in his community after a major quarrel over a game of gambling. It is because of the sense of guilt of having the blood of a man on his hands, that he had moved and settled away from his home. But having seen Guru Nayak alive that night, he felt unburdened. Consequently, he stretched himself on the *pyol* and yawned.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.4

1. What motivated the astrologer to confront the stranger openly? Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
  - a) Fear of exposure

- b) Guilt and the need for redemption
  - c) The stranger's insistence on the truth
  - d) Desire for revenge.
2. Where was Guru Nayak's village situated?
  3. When did the astrologer reach home?
  4. What did the astrologer's wife plan to do with twelve and a half annas?

### CHARACTER SKETCHES

#### The Astrologer

- He is described as a middle-aged man with an impressive turban, draped in a saffron-colored gown. His eyes are intense and scrutinizing.
- The astrologer is shrewd, confident, and cunning. He has a knack for observing people and reading their reactions. He is also secretive about his past.
- He earns his livelihood by pretending to be an astrologer, using his knowledge of human nature to make accurate predictions about people's lives.

#### Guru Nayak

- He is a well-dressed man with a prominent scar on his face.
- Initially, he appears to be a troubled and disturbed individual, carrying the weight of a dark secret. He is desperate to find the man (astrologer) who he believes is responsible for ruining his life;
- He is the catalyst for the conflict in the story, driving the plot forward as he confronts the astrologer.



#### DO YOU KNOW

- This story was first published in 1947.
- It becomes the first chapter of R. K. Narayan's short story collection *Malgudi Days*.
- R. K. Narayan was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1960.
- He is also the recipient of Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan,



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## LET'S LEARN



## Notes

Read the following sentences carefully:

- a) I have been studying for three hours.
- b) I had been studying for three hours before she called.

The first sentence indicates that the person started studying in the past, and the action is still ongoing.

The second sentence conveys that the studying occurred for a duration before another past event, which is the phone call.

In both examples, the continuous aspect emphasises the duration of the action. If it is ongoing up to the present, then it is in **Present Perfect Continuous Tense**; and if it had been ongoing up to a specific point in the past then it is in **Past Perfect Continuous Tense**.

Hence, the Present Perfect Continuous tense is used to express the duration of an action that started in the past and continues into the present. The basic structure of the sentences would be as the following:

**[Subject + has/have (present perfect auxiliary) + been + present participle  
(base verb + -ing)]**

Examples:

1. I have been studying for two hours.
2. They have been working on the project all week.
3. She has been reading that book for a while.

Likewise, the Past Perfect Continuous tense is used to describe the duration of an action that started in the past and continued up to another point in the past. This tense helps to establish a timeframe for an ongoing activity that started before another event in the past. The basic structure of the sentences would be as the following:

**[Subject + had (past perfect auxiliary) + been + present participle  
(base verb + -ing)]**

**Examples:**

1. I had been working for several hours when he called.
2. They had been waiting for a long time before the bus arrived.
3. She had been practicing the piano before the concert.

Understanding these tenses enhances your ability to convey the continuity and duration of actions across different time frames.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.5**

Fill in the blanks with appropriate form of verbs:

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for her exams for three hours.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on the project since last Monday.
3. By the time we arrived, they \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for us for over an hour.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for you for more than an hour.
5. They were exhausted because they \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) at the party for hours.
6. By the time he got the job, he \_\_\_\_\_ (search) for it for six months.
7. The children \_\_\_\_\_ (play) in the garden since morning.
8. When they finally met, they \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) on the phone for hours.
9. She realized she \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on the wrong assignment all night.
10. He \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) the house for the last two days.

**LITERARY DEVICES****Irony**

Irony is a literary device characterised by a contrast between what is expected and what actually occurs. It often results in a humorous, surprising, or thought-provoking effect. It is a tool used by writers to convey deeper meanings or to highlight the discrepancy between appearance and reality.

**Example:** “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry

In this story, the astrologer said for Guru Nayak, “The swine had cheated me! He promised me a rupee.” Yet in reality, it is the astrologer who cheated Guru Nayak by concealing his true identity and showcasing his astrological power which was false.

*Notes*

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## Notes

## VOCABULARY ENRICHMENT

## Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are combinations of a main verb and one or more particles (prepositions or adverbs). The meaning of a phrasal verb is often different from the individual words. For example, “take off” can mean to remove something, but as a phrasal verb, it can also mean to leave quickly, like an airplane taking off.



## INTEXT QUESTIONS 3.6

1. Fill in the blanks using the correct forms of the phrasal verbs given in the box.
 

put back	put on	put up	put out	put off
put by	bring in	look after	climb up	make out
come up with	fall back on	to keep up with		

  - i. Every wise person \_\_\_\_\_ a little money for a rainy day.
  - ii. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the fire after you have cooked rice.
  - iii. She couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ the answer during the test, so she left it blank.
  - iv. The meeting was \_\_\_\_\_ as the chairman was not well.
  - v. The children need someone to \_\_\_\_\_ them while their parents are away.
  - vi. The concert organizers had to \_\_\_\_\_ extra chairs to accommodate the unexpected crowd.
  - vii. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the dictionary on the top shelf after you have looked up the meaning of the words.
  - viii. \_\_\_\_\_ your cardigan as it is cold.
  - ix. The team \_\_\_\_\_ a great performance.
  - x. The cat tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the tree to catch the elusive bird.
  - xi. I could not \_\_\_\_\_ what he was trying to say.
  - xii. The couple is always trying \_\_\_\_\_ their neighbour's status.

xiii. If one has some savings, one can \_\_\_\_\_ them in times of need.

2. Match the table A with table B:

Table A	Table B
i. looked through	a) glanced at
ii. looked into	b) searched for
iii. looked after	c) took care of
iv. looked at	d) examined
v. looked for	e) read through



*Notes*

### LET'S DO

1. There is an error in each line with a blank alongside. The verb in each sentence is incorrect. Remember to underline the error and write the correct form of verb in the blank space alongside.
  - i. At the beginning of the year, Rahul did not knew a word of Urdu.
  - ii. Now he was able to read simple Urdu book without difficulty.
  - iii. His parents pays special attention to his needs and encourage him.
  - iv. But Atul's case has different.
  - v. Instead of making progress he seeming to be going slow.
  - vi. The negative factors at home causes all this differences.
2. In the following passage there are mistakes of subject-verb agreement. Go through if you can find the slips and correct them.
  - i. My father giving me some money yesterday. He always gave some money whenever he is in a happy mood; but the trouble are, his happy mood does not last very long. I is waiting for his next happy mood now.
  - ii. What guide the wasp or the bee when it flies home? When young bees fly out for first time, it makes short flights. The bees fly a yard or two, circle around, and then fly one. At last they know all the landmarks around the hive. Each flight is longer then the one before. These flights are not to test their wings but to get to know the country. They find their way home because they have flew over the country and seen it. They know their geography.

### LET'S WRITE

1. Write a paragraph discussing how the story portrays the interplay between destiny

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## Notes

and individual choices, using examples from the plot.

- Write a paragraph exploring how the contrast between light and darkness is used to convey deeper meanings about knowledge, deception, and self-discovery.

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

- The astrologer's predictions are vague and general, yet his clients believe in their accuracy. This underscores the role of perception in shaping our beliefs and actions.
- People can change and seek redemption if they were given the opportunity. For ex, the protagonist, the astrologer, was initially a deceitful and morally questionable character. However, his encounter with a man from his past leads to a transformation.
- Though it is popularly believed in the power of destiny, individuals can control their own lives.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

- How does the astrologer manipulate his client's palm reading?
- What does the astrologer's interaction with his clients reveal about human nature?
- What is the significance of the title, "An Astrologer's Day"?
- What is the moral of the story "An Astrologer's Day" by R.K. Narayan?

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****3.1**

- Astrology
- a dozen cowrie shells, a square piece of cloth with obscure mystic charts on it, a notebook, and a bundle of palmyra writing
- Sharp, Comfort, Cheap, Simple, Shrewd, Honest
- No



**3.2**

1. No
2. He would always say relatable things which pleased his customers. His strategy was to let a customer speak for at least ten minutes. That gave him enough stuff for a variety of answers.
3. When the nuts vendor blew out his flare and rose to go home that was a signal for the astrologer.
4. Trouble, Forefathers, Perception, Distant, Shaft, Grumbled

**3.3**

1. Three pies per question
2. Startled and fearful
3. i) The astrologer
4. A reminder of his past mistake

**3.4**

1. b) Guilt and the need for redemption
2. two day's journey due north of astrologer's town
3. at midnight
4. She wanted to prepare some nice sweets for her daughter.

**3.5**

1. has been studying
2. have been working
3. had been waiting
4. have been waiting
5. had been dancing
6. had been searching
7. have been playing
8. had been talking
9. had been working
10. has been painting

**3.6**

1. i. put by  
ii. put out



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*Notes*

## An Astrologer's Day



## Notes

- iii. come up with
- iv. put off
- v. look after
- vi. bring in
- vii. put back
- viii. put on
- ix. put up
- x. break down
- xi. makeout
- xii. to keep up with
- xiii. fall back on

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2. i. looked through | e. read through |
| ii. looked into      | d. examined     |
| iii. looked after    | c. took care of |
| iv. looked at        | a. glanced at   |
| v. looked for        | b. searched for |

## Let's Do

1.
  - i. At the beginning of the year, Rahul did not **know** a word of Urdu.
  - ii. Now he was able to read simple Urdu **books** without difficulty.
  - iii. His parents **pay** special attention to his needs and encourage him.
  - iv. But Atul's case **is** different.
  - v. Instead of making progress he **seems** to be going slow.
  - vi. The negative factors at home **cause** all **these** differences.
2.
  - i. My father **gave** me some money yesterday. He always **gives** some money whenever he is in a happy mood; but the trouble **is**, his happy mood does not last very long. I **am** waiting for his next happy mood now.
  - ii. What **guides** the wasp or the bee when it flies home? When young bees fly out **for the first** time, it makes short flights. The bees fly a yard or two, circle around, and then fly one. At last they know all the landmarks around the hive. Each flight is longer **than** the one before. These flights are not to test their wings but to get to know the country. They find their way home because they have **flown** over the country and seen it. They know their geography.