

Packing

GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

Packing is a story about three friends who are getting ready to go for a journey. It follows the packing session of three friends, Jerome, Harris, and George. Thus, it begins with them starting the most important thing of a journey, packing!

This story is an extract taken from *Three Men in a Boat* by Jerome K. Jerome. In here, Jerome is the narrator himself and writes about the experience he has while his friends decide to start packing. Further, it takes us on a hilarious ride about three adults who struggle to do a basic thing as packing. Packing summary will take you through the nuisances they experience in addition to their dog, Montmorency's contribution. Similarly, it also shows how his other two friends are not that great when it comes to packing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jerome K. Jerome, in full Jerome Klapka Jerome, (May 2, 1859- June 14, 1927) is an English novelist and playwright whose humour: warm, unsatirical, and unintellectual—won him wide following.

Jerome left school at the age of 14, working first as a railway clerk, then as a schoolteacher, an actor, and a journalist. His first book, *On the Stage—and Off*, was published in 1885, but it was with the publication of his next books, *The Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* (1886) and *Three Men in a Boat* (1889), that he achieved great success.

SUMMARY:

The narrator decides to pack:

Jerome, the narrator, felt pride in his packing. Three friends decided to go

on a holiday. He offered to do packing. George and Harris, his friends, were impressed by that. They relaxed by lighting a cigar and pipe respectively that the narrator would do the packing.

The narrator had thought it otherwise:

But the narrator had thought that George and Harris would pack. And he would boss over them. When they relaxed, he was irritated. People's not doing anything greatly irritated him. He couldn't sit still and see others working. He would enjoy getting up and overseeing others working. He hated seeing people doing nothing when he was working.

Packing done but many things forgotten:

The narrator started the packing. He had finished packing in a short time. Harris told him that he had forgotten to put the boots in. He opened the bag and packed the boots in. He was going to close it. Just then he had a confusion, had he packed his tooth-brush ? He had some wild memories with his tooth-brush.

Bag searched for tooth-brush:

He turned everything out. But he could not find the tooth-brush. He found brushes of George and Harris more than eighteen times over. But

he couldn't find his own. So he put the things back one by one. Then he found the tooth-brush inside a boot. He repacked the things once more.

Packing done and undone:

The narrator finished packing the bag. Soon George asked if the soap was in. But the narrator was in anger. He won't open the bag again. However, he found that he had packed his tobacco-pouch in it. So he had to re-open the bag. Then George and Harris undertook to do the rest of the packing.

Things become exciting:

Harris and George were not good packers. The narrator could see piles of plates, cups, kettles, cakes, tomatoes, etc. Soon the packing became exciting. Cups were broken. Harris packed the strawberry jam on top of a tomato and squashed it. George walked over the butter. The narrator sat and saw them packing.

This irritated George and Harris. They stepped on things. Then they didn't find what they wanted to find. They packed the pies at the bottom of the bag. They squashed them after putting heavy things on them.

Excitement over packing continues:

George and Harris upset everything. George trod on the butter, while

packing. George got the butter off his slipper. Then they tried to put it in the kettle. It won't go and what was in it won't come out. They at last got it. They put it down on a chair. Harris sat on it. It stuck to him. Then they went looking for it all over the room.

Montmorency adds to the confusion:

The dog, Montmorency, had an ambition in life. It was to get in the way and be a nuisance. He felt that his day was not wasted if he had made people mad. He had a high aim. It was to get somebody to stumble over him and curse him.

So Montmorency came. He sat down on things when these were to be packed. He put his leg into the jam. He pretended the lemons were rats and put them into the hamper. Harris said that the narrator only made the dog do all that. But it was natural for a dog to do that.

They decide to sleep after packing was done:

The packing was done. Harris said that he hoped nothing would be found broken. Then they decided to sleep. Harris asked the narrator if he preferred to sleep inside or outside the bed. George asked when he should wake them. They started to argue over time. Finally, they decided to wake up at 6.30.

पाठ का सारांश

कथाकार पैक करने का फैसला करता है:

वर्णनकर्ता जेरोम ने अपनी पैकिंग पर गर्व महसूस किया। तीन दोस्तों ने छुट्टी पर जाने का फैसला किया। उसने पैकिंग करने की पेशकश की। जॉर्ज और हैरिस, उनके दोस्त, इससे प्रभावित हुए। उन्होंने क्रमशः एक सिगार और पाइप जलाकर आराम किया कि वर्णनकर्ता पैकिंग करेगा।

कथाकार ने इसे अन्यथा सोचा था:

लेकिन वर्णनकर्ता ने सोचा था कि जॉर्ज और हैरिस पैक करेंगे। और वह उन पर अधिकार करेगा। जब उन्होंने आराम किया, तो वह चिढ़ गया। लोगों के कुछ नहीं करने से उन्हें बहुत जलन होती थी। वह स्थिर नहीं बैठ सकता था और दूसरों को काम करते नहीं देख सकता था। उसे उठना और दूसरों को काम करते हुए देखना अच्छा लगेगा। जब वह काम कर रहा था तो लोगों को कुछ नहीं करते देखकर उसे नफरत थी।

पैकिंग हो गई लेकिन कई चीजें भूल गईं:

कथावाचक ने पैकिंग शुरू की। उसने कुछ ही देर में पैकिंग कर ली थी। हैरिस ने उसे बताया कि वह जूते अंदर रखना भूल गया है। उसने बैग खोला और जूते अंदर पैक कर दिए। वह उसे बंद करने जा रहा था। तभी उसे भ्रम हुआ, क्या उसने अपना दूध-ब्रश पैक किया था? उनके दूध-ब्रश के साथ कुछ जंगली यादें थीं।

टूथ-ब्रश के लिए बैग खोजा गया:

उसने सब कुछ निकाला। लेकिन उसे टूथ-ब्रश नहीं मिला। उन्हें जॉर्ज और हैरिस के ब्रश अठारह से अधिक बार मिले। लेकिन उसे अपना नहीं मिला। इसलिए उसने एक-एक करके चीजों को वापस रख दिया। फिर उसे एक बूट के अंदर टूथ-ब्रश मिला। उसने चीजों को एक बार फिर से पैक किया।

पैकिंग की गई और पूर्ववत की गई:

वर्णनकर्ता ने बैग पैक करना समाप्त किया। जल्द ही जॉर्ज ने पूछा कि क्या साबुन अंदर है। लेकिन वर्णनकर्ता गुस्से में था। वह फिर से बैग नहीं खोलेगा। हालांकि, उसने पाया कि उसने उसमें अपना तंबाकू-पाउच पैक किया था। इसलिए उसे बैग फिर से खोलना पड़ा। फिर जॉर्ज और हैरिस ने बाकी पैकिंग करने का बीड़ा उठाया।

चीजें रोमांचक हो जाती हैं:

हैरिस और जॉर्ज अच्छे पैकर नहीं थे। वर्णनकर्ता को प्लेट, कप, केतली, केक, टमाटर आदि के ढेर दिखाई दे रहे थे। जल्द ही पैकिंग रोमांचक हो गई। कप टूट गए। हैरिस ने स्ट्रॉबेरी जैम को एक टमाटर के ऊपर पैक किया और उसे कुचल दिया। जॉर्ज मक्खन पर चला गया। वर्णनकर्ता ने बैठकर उन्हें पैकिंग करते देखा।

इससे जॉर्ज और हैरिस चिढ़ गए। उन्होंने चीजों पर कदम रखा। फिर उन्हें वह नहीं मिला जो वे खोजना चाहते थे। उन्होंने पाई

को बैग के नीचे पैक किया। उन पर भारी चीजें डालकर उन्हें कुचल दिया।

पैकिंग को लेकर उत्साह जारी :

जॉर्ज और हैरिस ने सब कुछ परेशान कर दिया। पैकिंग करते समय जॉर्ज ने मक्खन लगाया। जॉर्ज ने अपनी चप्पल से मक्खन निकाला। फिर उन्होंने केतली में डालने की कोशिश की। यह नहीं जाएगा और इसमें जो था वह बाहर नहीं आएगा। आखिर उन्हें मिल ही गया। उन्होंने इसे एक कुर्सी पर रख दिया। हरीश उस पर बैठ गया। यह उससे चिपक गया। फिर वे पूरे कमरे में उसकी तलाश करने लगे।

मॉंटमोरेन्सी भ्रम को बढ़ाता है:

कुत्ते, मॉंटमोरेन्सी, के जीवन में एक महत्वाकांक्षा थी। यह रास्ते में आना और एक उपद्रव होना था। उसे लगा कि अगर उसने लोगों को पागल कर दिया होता तो उसका दिन बर्बाद नहीं होता। उनका एक उच्च उद्देश्य था। यह किसी को उस पर ठोकर खाने और उसे शाप देने के लिए था।

तो मॉंटमोरेन्सी आया। जब सामान पैक किया जाना था तो वह उन चीजों पर बैठ गया। उसने अपना पैर जाम में डाल दिया। उसने दिखावा किया कि नींबू चूहे हैं और उन्हें हैम्पर में डाल दिया। हैरिस ने कहा कि वर्णनकर्ता ने केवल कुत्ते को ही वह सब कुछ कराया है। लेकिन कुत्ते के लिए ऐसा करना स्वाभाविक था।

पैकिंग हो जाने के बाद वे सोने का फैसला करते हैं:

पैकिंग हो चुकी थी। हैरिस ने कहा कि उन्हें उम्मीद है कि कुछ भी टूटा हुआ नहीं मिलेगा। फिर उन्होंने सोने का फैसला किया। हैरिस ने वर्णनकर्ता से पूछा कि क्या वह बिस्तर के अंदर या बाहर सोना पसंद करता है। जॉर्ज ने पूछा कि उन्हें कब जगाना चाहिए। वे समय के साथ बहस करने लगे। अंत में, उन्होंने 6.30 बजे उठने का फैसला किया।

CHARACTER SKETCH:

1. Jerome: Jerome or J is the narrator of the story. Being extremely proud of his packing skills, he decides to take charge of packing for the holiday. But his real intention was to only supervise his friends while they did the actual packing.
2. George: George is the second of the “three men” in the novel. He is a bank clerk who works on Saturdays and so joins the boarding trip up the river. It is George’s idea to take the river trip. His friends are surprised that he should come up with such a sensible idea.
3. Harris: Harris is a vain fellow who pretends to be extremely hard working but usually pushes off the burden on other people. He is outspoken and does not hesitate to tell his friends what he thinks about them even if it may not be pleasant.

4. Montmorency: Montmorency, one of the major characters, is the dog of the three friends – Jerome, George and Harris. His instinct to explore and be with them leads to troubles. Montmorency loves to join in on all the fun going on around the house. He also gets excited when his owners are packing things up. He does not mind being shouted at and he does not even respond when they try to move him away. He is highly energetic, but if you don’t give him enough food he gets in trouble for making destruction, he is loved by the readers as much as his masters. His presence in the story makes it more interesting and amusing’.

Trip = short journey, छोटी यात्रा ;

impressed = told with emphasis,

जोर देकर कहा ;

entirely completely, पूरी तरह ;

uncanny = strange, अजीब ;

cocked = raised, उठाया ;

intended = desired, इच्छा की ;

boss (verb) = to supervise, निरीक्षण करना;

potter = move about aimlessly, बिना उद्देश्य के इधर उधर घूमना ।

Irritate = make angry, नाराज करना ;

loll = sit or stand lazily, सुस्ती से बैठना या खड़े होना ;

superintend = supervise, निरीक्षण करना ;

energetic = full of energy, शक्ति से पूर्ण ;

strapped = tied with straps, पट्टों से बांधना ;

wild = (here) very angry, नाराज ;

haunt = come again and again, बार – बार जाना ;

perspiration = sweat, पसीना ;

hunt for = search for, खोजना ;

mortal = subject to death and decay, नश्वर ;

rummaged = searched thoroughly, पूरी तरह खोजना, Chaos = confusion, disorder, अव्यवस्था ;

reigned = ruled, शासन किया ;

slammed = shut, बंद किया ; pouch = a small bag, थैली ;

hampers = small boxes, छोटे डिब्बे ;

evidently = clearly, स्पष्टता | Piles = heaps, ढेर ;

pies = eating dishes, खाने का सामान ;

strawberry = a fruit, एक फल ;

trod = put foot on, पांव ऊपर रखा, **Nervous** = tense, घबराया हुआ ;

scrape = remove, हटाना ;

oath = vow, कसम, शपथ ;

extraordinary = uncommon, असाधारण ;

mysterious = full of mystery, रहस्यमय ;

indignantly = angrily, गुस्से से ;

spinning = moving round, घूमना ;

roared = shouted, चिल्लाया ;

ambition = aim, लक्ष्य ;

squirm = enter, come, प्रवेश करना ;

nuisance = trouble, मुसीबत, Stumble = fall over, लुढ़कना ;

steadily = continuously, लगातार ;

accomplishing = fulfilling, पूरा करना

conceit = pride, गर्व ;

damp = wet, गीला ;

reflection = thought, विचार ;

sin = पाप ;

hamper = basket, टोकरी | Comfort = ease, राहत ;

row = quarrel, झगड़ा ;

tumble = fall, गिरना |

KEY WORDS:

1. pride myself on: am proud of
2. fell into: here, accepted
3. Uncanny: strange, weird
4. Cocked his legs: bent the legs on the knee as he sat
5. Intended: planned, meant
6. Potter about: do some unimportant things

7. Loll on the sofa: to recline or lean in a relaxed manner
8. Messing about: to waste time doing something without a particular purpose
9. Sit still: sit without doing anything
10. Superintend: supervise, manage
11. Strapped it: closed it
12. Wild: mad with anger
13. Haunts: to repeatedly give trouble
14. Misery: sad
15. Cold perspiration: sweat
16. Hunt: search
17. Mortal thing: every ordinary thing
18. Rummaged: searched in a hurried or careless way
19. Chaos: confusion
20. Reigned: ruled
21. Didn't care a hang: show no concern or interest
22. Slammed: shut the lid forcefully and loudly
23. Hampers: baskets used to carry food, utensils, etc.
24. Light-hearted spirit: to be cheerful
25. Evidently: clearly, obviously
26. Exception: a person or thing that does not follow the general rule
27. Squashed: crush or squeeze something with force so that it becomes flat, soft, or out of shape
28. Trod on: stepped on
29. Upset: overturned
30. Scrape: drag or pull
31. Oath: to swear upon something
32. Indignantly: in a manner indicating anger or annoyance at something perceived as unfair
33. Sworn at: get scolded
34. Squirm: to wriggle or twist one's body
35. Nuisance: to cause inconvenience or annoyance
36. Stumble: to trip over a hurdle
37. Curse: scold
38. Conceit: here, his pride in himself
39. Worried: disturbed
40. Pretended: to behave as if something is true when you know that it is not
41. Land him: hit or punch someone
42. Reflection: thought
43. Tossed: throw something somewhere lightly or casually
44. A bit of a row: an argument
45. Split the difference: this means that they agreed on 6.30 because it was halfway between six and seven
46. Tumble: to fall quickly and without control

1. Jerome: Jerome or J is the **narrator of the story**. Being extremely proud of his packing skills, he decides to take charge of packing for the holiday. But his real intention was to only supervise his friends while they did

the actual packing.

2. George: He is a **bank clerk who works on Saturdays and so joins the boarding trip up the river**. It is George's idea to take the river trip. His friends are surprised

that he should come up with such a sensible idea.

3. Harris: Harris is a **vain fellow who pretends to be extremely hard working but usually pushes off the burden on other people**. He is outspoken and does not hesitate to tell his friends what

he thinks about them even if it may not be pleasant.

4. Montmorency: Montmorency is the dog of the three friends – Jerome, George and Harris. He is highly energetic, but if

you don't give him enough food
he gets in trouble for making
destruction.

5. □ Preparing for a journey.

- Collect necessary articles for Journey.
- Jerome prides himself on his packing
- Offers to pack the goods.
- Both his friends agreed
- Actually Jerome meant to boss the packing.
- His friends left the whole work to him and relaxed.
- He got irritated.
- But he however packed the bag and strapped it.
- Then Harris asked if he would put the boots in.
- He did not remember about boots while he was packing.
- George laughed at him which angered him.
- Recalled if he had packed his toothbrush which was very important for him.
- Unpacked the whole bag and searched for it
- Ultimately it was found inside a boot.
- Repacked the whole bag

again.

- George asked if soap was packed.
- Noticed that he had packed his tobacco-pouch in it.
- He finally packed it at 10:05 p.m.
- Harris was the worst packer according to Jerome.
- Many things like plates, cups, bottles, pies, tomatoes etc. were to be packed in hampers.
- With the packing of hampers by George and Harris an exciting scene started.
- Packing started with breaking of a cup, strawberry jam was packed on Tomato
- Harris squashed it
- Tomato picked out with a spoon
- Jerome didn't comment on this, just watched them, sitting on the edge of the table.
- It irritated them and made them nervous & excited.
- George trampled the butter, removed it from his slipper and tried to put it in the kettle, but couldn't. After scraping it, put it on a chair.

- Harris unknowingly sat on it.
- It stuck to him and they searched for it blaming each other.
- Arguing and staring at one another, they went round the room searching for it.
- At last George found it sticking at the back of Harris.
- They packed it in the teapot.
- Montmorency was their naughty pet dog.
- He was always ready for mischief.
- Was present where he was not wanted.
- Put his damp nose in the articles to be packed, put his leg into the jam.
- Thinking lemons as rats he killed (spoiled) three of them.
- Harris blamed Jerome for encouraging the dog for mischief.
- But it was his natural habit.
- At last packing was completed at 12:50.
- They asked George to wake them up at 6:30 but he didn't answer.
- Both the naughty friends put the bathtub where he could

tumble into it on getting out in the morning.

- Finally they went to bed after this.

MCQ:

1. Why did the author want to wake up at 6?

- (a) He wanted to write some letters
- (b) He wanted to pack again
- (c) He wanted to buy a handkerchief
- (d) He wanted to find his toothbrush

Answer: (a) He wanted to write some letters

2. What was the time when they were finally done with the packing?

- (a) 12:50 (b) 10:30
- (c) 11:30 (d) 11:50

Answer: (a) 12:50

3. Who put his leg into the jam?

- (a) Harris
- (b) Montmorency
- (c) George
- (d) Jerome

Answer: (b) Montmorency

4. When Montmorency could get his highest aim accomplished, his
- (a) Mood would get happiest
 - (b) His conceit becomes unbearable
 - (c) His anger becomes out of tolerance
 - (d) He becomes tired and sleepy

Answer: (b) His conceit becomes unbearable

5. Who is Montmorency?

- (a) A cat
- (b) A rat
- (c) A dog
- (d) A guinea pig

Answer: (c) A dog

6. When was the packing done ?

- (a) at 12.50 a.m
- (b) at 1.00 a.m
- (c) at 1.30 a.m
- (d) at 1.50 a.m

Answer: (a) at 12.50 a.m

7. Montmorency pretended that lemons were :

- (a) rats
- (b) rabbits
- (c) cats
- (d) all of the above

Answer: (a) rats

8. What did the three friends toss for?

- (a) packing
- (b) butter
- (c) beds
- (d) all of the above

Answer: (c) beds

9. What was the name of the dog?

- (a) Tommy
- (b) Jonny
- (c) Taffy
- (d) Montmorency

Answer: (d) Montmorency

10. What did George and Harris start the packing with?

- (a) breaking a cup
- (b) breaking a plate
- (c) breaking ajar
- (d) breaking a kettle

Answer: (a) breaking a cup

11. Who started packing the hampers ?

- (a) Jerome K. Jerome.
- (b) George
- (c) Harris
- (d) both (b) and (c)

Answer: (d) both (b) and (c)

12. Where did the author find the tooth-brush finally?

- (a) inside a book
- (b) inside a pocket
- (c) inside a boot
- (d) he did not find it

Answer: (c) inside a boot

13. What did the author forget to pack in the bag?

- (a) tooth-brush
- (b) tobacco box
- (c) tooth-paste
- (d) boots

Answer: (a) boots

14. What irritates Jerome K. Jerome the most?

- (a) seeing other people doing packing
- (b) seeing other people doing nothing
- (c) going on a journey
- (d) all of the above

Answer: (b) seeing other people doing nothing

15. Who is the author of the lesson 'Packing'?

- (a) Jerome K. Jerome
- (b) George
- (c) Harris
- (d) Montmorency

Answer: (a) Jerome K. Jerome

16. What horrible idea struck Jerome's mind after packing his bag?

- (a) whether his toothbrush is packed or not
- (b) boots are packed
- (c) tobacco pouch is kept or not
- (d) none

Answer: (a) whether his toothbrush is packed or not

17. What did Montmorency think the lemons to be?

- (a) rats
- (b) squirrels
- (c) balls
- (d) none

Answer: (a) rats

18. Who was Montmorency?

- (a) Jerome's friend
- (b) Jerome's neighbour
- (c) Jerome's cousin
- (d) Jerome's pet dog

Answer: (d) Jerome's pet dog

19. Who were Jerome's friends?

- (a) Montmorency
- (b) George and Harris
- (c) None
- (d) Can't say

Answer: (b) George and Harris

20. Why did Jerome feel the need to reopen his bag?

- (a) because he had packed his tobacco pouch in it
- (b) because he forgot to pack toothbrush
- (c) to find his boots
- (d) none

Answer: (c) to find his boots

21. What did Jerome often forget to pack?

- (a) his shirts
- (b) boots
- (c) toothbrush
- (d) all

Answer: (b) boots

22. Who packed the hampers?

- (a) Montmorency
- (b) Jerome
- (c) George and Harris
- (d) All

Answer: (c) George and Harris

23. Who offered to do packing first?

- (a) Montmorency
- (b) George
- (c) Harris
- (d) Jerome

Answer: (d) Jerome

24. What was the name of the dog?

- (a) Tommy
- (b) Montmorency
- (c) Tom
- (d) Romy

Answer: (b) Montmorency

25. Who trod on the butter?

- (a) George
- (b) Harris
- (c) Jerome
- (d) All

Answer: (a) George

26. What does uncanny mean?

- (a) strange
- (b) mysterious
- (c) difficult to explain
- (d) all

Answer: (d) all

27. What was Montmorency's contribution to the packing?

- (a) made packing easier
- (b) packing became quicker
- (c) packing was worsened
- (d) all

Answer: (c) packing was worsened

28. Who was irritating George and Harris?

- (a) Jerome
- (b) Montmorency
- (c) Packing
- (d) All

Answer: (b) Montmorency

29. Who was the worst packer according to Jerome?

- (a) George
- (b) Harris
- (c) Montmorency
- (d) All

Answer: (b) Harris

30. While packing things George and Harris did a few silly things, name them.

- (a) broke a cup and upset almost everything
- (b) squashed a tomato
- (c) trod on butter and stepped on a banana
- (d) all

Answer: (d) all

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

Thinking about the Text

- I. Discuss in pairs and answer each question below in a short paragraph (30 – 40 words).

1. How many characters are there in the narrative? Name them. (Don't forget the dog!).

Ans: Jerome (narrator), George, Harris and Montmorency (the dog) are the four characters in the narrative.

2. Why did the narrator (Jerome) volunteer to do the packing?

Ans: Jerome was confident that he was the best packer and volunteered for the task. He wanted to show off his skills.

3. How did George and Harris react to this? Did Jerome like their reaction?

Ans: Jerome's suggestion was readily accepted by George and Harris. Harris lit a cigar and George smoked a pipe while Jerome was packing, and he was irritated by their reaction.

4. What was Jerome's real intention when he offered to pack?

Ans: Jerome wanted to supervise the work instead of doing everything himself. George and Harris sat down to relax while all the work was shifted to his shoulders.

5. What did Harris say after the bag was shut and strapped? Why do

you think he waited till then to ask?

Ans: Harris mentioned that Jerome didn't pack the book after the bag was strapped. To make Jerome realize his mistake and ridicule his packing skills, he waited till then to ask.

6. What "horrible idea" occurred to Jerome a little later?

Ans: Whether he had packed his toothbrush or not was the "horrible idea" that occurred to Jerome a little later. It was his tendency while traveling to never remember if he had packed his toothbrush.

7. Where did Jerome finally find the toothbrush?

Ans: The toothbrush was found in the boot when he was putting things into place again, after unpacking and scattering the things everywhere.

8. Why did Jerome have to reopen the packed bag?

Ans: Jerome had a forgetful nature. He had to reopen the bag twice owing to that. First, he forgot to pack his boots and next time he had to unpack again because he packed his tobacco pouch in with other things.

9. What did George and Harris offer to pack and why?

Ans: Jerome took much of the time in packing and there was still some stuff left. George and Harris offered to pack the hampers and wanted to show their skills too to Jerome.

10. While packing the hamper, George and Harris do a number of foolish and funny things. Tick the statements that are true.

- (i) They started with breaking a cup.

Ans: True

- (ii) They also broke a plate.

Ans: False

- (iii) They squashed a tomato.

Ans: True

- (iv) They trod on the butter.

Ans: True

- (v) They stepped on a banana.

Ans: False

- (vi) They put things behind them, and couldn't find them.

Ans: True

- (vii) They stepped on things.

Ans: True

- (viii) They packed the pictures at the bottom and put heavy

things on top.

Ans: False

(ix) They upset almost everything.

Ans: False

(x) They were very good at packing.

Ans: False

Long Answer Questions:

II. What does Jerome say was Montmorency's ambition in life? What do you think of Montmorency and why?

Answer: Jerome says that Montmorency's ambition in life was to get in the way and get scolded. The poet says that Montmorency would feel that his day was not wasted if he could squirm anywhere where he was not wanted and make people mad at him. The narrator continues to say that Montmorency's highest aim and objective was to get somebody to stumble over him and curse him for an hour.

I think that Montmorency is just another dog who seeks love and attention from the people around him. He wants to irritate people so as to make his presence felt.

III. Discuss in groups and answer the

following questions in two or three paragraphs (100–150 words)

1. Of the three, Jerome, George and Harris, who do you think is the best or worst packer? Support your answer with details from the text.

Answer: Of the three, Jerome is the best packer as he knows how to arrange things properly. He is not a flawless packer as he forgets things outside. Later, he searches for spectacles and finds out that he packed them too in the bag. Also, he has an odd habit of forgetting if he had packed his toothbrush.

George and Harris are equally worse in packing. They stepped on things. They put things behind them and then couldn't find them when they wanted them. They packed the pies at the bottom, and put heavy things on top and smashed the pies in. They upset salt over everything and created chaos in the room.

2. How did Montmorency 'contribute' to the packing?

Answer: Montmorency's ambition in life was to get in the way and get scolded. The poet says that Montmorency would feel that his day was not wasted if he could

squirm anywhere where he was not wanted and make people mad at him.

Montmorency came and sat down on things, just when they had to be packed. He labored under the fixed belief that whenever George or Harris reached out their hand for anything, it was his cold damp nose they wanted!

He put his leg into the jam and disturbed the teaspoons. He pretended that the lemons were rats. So, he got into the hamper and killed three of them before Harris could beat him with the frying pan. In this way, he contributed to the packing.

3. Do you find this story funny? What are the humorous elements in it? (Pick out at least three, think about what happens, as well as how it is described.)

Answer: Yes, the story is very funny. All the characters in the story and the way the events are described are humorous. Here are three such elements:

– When Jerome proposes to do the packing, George and Harris readily accept the suggestion. They sit comfortably leaving the entire job to Jerome.

The real intention behind Jerome's suggestion was that he would boss over the job while George and Harris would follow his orders.

– George trod on the butter. He got it off his slipper and tried to put it in the kettle. Then they put it on a chair. Harris sat on it and it stuck to him. They went looking for it in the entire room. Finally, George saw it stuck on Harris' back.

– Montmorency's ambition in life was to get in the way and get scolded. He laboured under the belief that whenever George or Harris reached out their hand for anything, it was his cold damp nose they wanted! He pretended that the lemons were rats. So, he got into the hamper and spoiled three of them.