

The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

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The story The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse revolves around the characters Mourad, Aram, uncle Khosrove and John Byro. The story is a beautiful portrayal of the Garoghlanian tribe and their pride in the virtues of honesty and self respect. The incidents and the characters in the story relates to the reader hence makes them nostalgic about the pranks of childhood and eccentric characters in family and community.

Read and Do

The story raises the questions of ethics and more important about being ethical in everyday life. Living ethically requires a commitment to developing and practicing inner values in daily life. The essence of ethics lies in understanding and actively cultivating our positive behavior and inner values. It also involves genuinely and selflessly dedicating our lives to the welfare of others.

- The Garoghlanian tribesmen were very particular about values and maintaining an upright reputation, for example, *We had been famous for our honesty....*

Find out from the text more such instances of family values.

- On what basis is the following statement made?
No member of the Garoghlanian family could be thief.
- Mourad and Aram had taken the horse without the knowledge of John Byro. Would you consider it an act of stealing or not, why?

Let us Reflect

- Do you think poverty and riches have to do with developing positive values?
How does this apply to the Garoghlanian family? Read the viewpoint of Aram about his family.

One of the greatest values is not to harm others. All religions place great emphasis on the virtue of nonviolence, or *ahimsa*. We may not be harming any one directly but our actions may, indirectly, become the cause of harm for others which includes, nature, wild life , natural resources etc. Consider for example how rivers come to be polluted; perhaps industrial plants, mining companies, etc and users of these industrial products are partly responsible for pollution and contribute negatively to the lives of others.

- Find more such instances which involve producers and consumers as responsible for causing

health hazards and destruction of life.

- How can we inculcate values and live ethically in this age of technology and consumerism? Share your views with peers and teachers.
- Create a class magazine on the life, traits, festivals, art, craft, and culture of a tribe. You can work on the following to give a multicultural picture of the tribes in India:
Gond Bhil Khasi Munda Angami.
- Bisra Munda belonged to Munda tribe. He was freedom fighter and religious leader. Find more about him and create his profile.