

4. When a Giant Has a Haircut
(Poem)

— Kenn Nesbitt

I Answer the following questions with reference to the context

1. He'll ascend by helicopter
to the giant's lofty dome,
with a pair of swords for scissors,
and a pitchfork for a comb.

a. Who does 'he' refer to?

A: 'He' refers to the barber.

b. Where will he ascend?

A: He will ascend by a helicopter on the scaffold

c. What does the 'lofty dome' refer to?

A: The lofty dome refers to the giant's head.

2 To begin an undertaking
of such monumental scope
first the barber needs a scaffold
and a thousand yards of rope

a. What is the undertaking referred to in the above lines?

Ans - The undertaking referred to here is cutting the giant's hair.

b. Why does the barber need to scaffold?

Ans - The barber needs a scaffold for reaching the giant's head.

c. What will the barber do with the yards of rope?

Ans - The yards of rope will serve various purposes like securing the scaffold and potentially helping with controlling the giant's movements.

3. Then for weeks and weeks he'll labour;
he will cleave and slice and hack.
He will chop and saw and sever
like a raging lumberjack.

a. What laborious task is happening in the above lines?

Ans - The cutting of the giant's hair is the laborious task.

b. What will 'he' be hacking at?

A. He will be hacking at the giant's hair.

c. Can you think of something that you will compare the giant's hair to?

A. One could compare the giant's hair to a thick, unruly forest or a tangled mass of vines.

II
Q.1 Answer the following questions

From the poem, list four tools which the barber requires to cut the giant's hair.

A. Scaffold, thousand yards of rope, pair of swords and pitchfork are the tools the barber requires to cut the giant's hair.

Q.2 Give two qualities of the barber that show that he is good with ideas and willing to work.

A. The barber comes up with creative solutions like using a helicopter and swords for scissors. He is dedicated and willing to put in weeks of labour to complete the task.

Q3: Between the giant and the barber, who is more courageous? Give reasons for your answer.

1. The barber is more courageous because his life will be endangered. He needs a helicopter to reach the head of the giant and needs to stand on the scaffold: and if the giant so much as sneezes, he might fall and die

ii Answer in Detail

1. Why is the barber's heart filled with sorrow in the last stanza of the poem?

2. The barber's heart is filled with sorrow in the last line because the giant's hair grows fast and the giant says that he would come again the next day. This means that despite all the hardwork and effort put into cutting the giant's hair, the barber realizes that it will be an ongoing process and a never-ending task.

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