

## Chapter Review

- "The Book That Saved the Earth" is a humorous play by Claire Boiko, set in the future. It is a science-fiction comedy.
- In the twenty-fifth century, a Historian of the future tells how in the twenty-first century, Martians tried to invade the earth, but a book saved it. The twentieth century was called the 'Era of the Book'.
- The Martians' leader is Think-Tank, a Martian with a huge balloon-like brain, and his assistant is Noodle. The Martian ship lands on Earth and finds a book, the nursery-rhyme collection 'Mother Goose'.
- Think-Tank thinks the book is a sandwich. Noodle politely corrects him; it is for communication, first for the ear, then for the eye.
- Think-Tank reads the rhymes as threats. 'Mistress Mary' means earth people grow rare metals and explosives; 'Hey Diddle Diddle' means they teach animals space travel; 'Humpty Dumpty' looks like his own balloon head, so he fears they are after him.
- He decides to abandon the invasion and escape, leaving the 'dangerous' book behind. The Martians flee.
- The Historian ends by saying that the book saved the earth. The play is a comedy of misunderstanding and shows the value of books.

## Key Terms

**Era** – A long period in history.

**Invade** – To enter a country to take it by force.

**Martian** – A person from Mars.

**Think-Tank** – The Martian leader with a huge brain.

**Nursery rhyme** – A traditional children's poem.

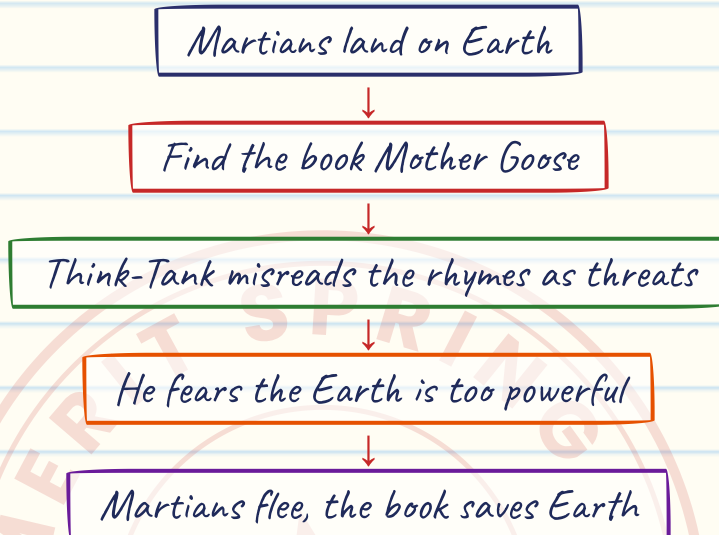
**Adulate** – To praise too much.

**Misinterpret** – To understand wrongly.

*Mother Goose* – A famous book of nursery rhymes.

## Diagrams / Flowcharts

### *Plot of the Play*



### *Think-Tank vs Noodle*

#### *Think-Tank*

- Leader with huge brain
- Proud, jumps to conclusions
- Misinterprets everything

#### *Noodle*

- Assistant, practical
- Polite, flatters first
- Corrects gently

## About the Author

- Claire Boiko is an American writer of plays for children and young people.

## Theme / Message

- Books are precious and teach us to think. Misunderstandings and arrogance can lead to wrong conclusions.
- Humour: the play makes fun of those who read too much into things.

### Misreadings by Think-Tank

- Mistress Mary: Earthlings grow rare metals and high explosives.
- Hey Diddle Diddle: they taught animals music and space travel; even dogs have a sense of humour.
- Humpty Dumpty: the picture looks like his own big brain, so he thinks they know him and plan to capture Mars Central Control.

### Textbook Exercise Questions

**Q.1** Why was the twentieth century called the 'Era of the Book'?

**Ans.** There were books on everything, from anteaters to Zulus. Books taught how, when, where and why, and were illustrated and decorated.

**Q.2** Who tried to invade the earth in the twenty-first century?

**Ans.** The Martians.

**Q.3** What guesses does Think-Tank make about the books?

**Ans.** First he thought they were sandwiches. Noodle suggested they were communication devices, then for ear communication, and finally for eye communication.

**Q.4** How does Noodle avoid offending Think-Tank but correct his mistakes?

**Ans.** He first praises him, then says his own thoughts are only insignificant bits of data, so that Think-Tank doesn't feel corrected.

**Q.5** How would you handle Think-Tank's mistakes?

**Ans.** I would politely suggest the right answer after giving him respect.

**Q.6** Are books being replaced by electronic media? Can we do away with books?

**Ans.** E-books and online classes are spreading, but books have their own importance. The feel of a book can't be replaced.

**Q.7** Why are books referred to as a man's best companion?

**Ans.** They guide, teach, entertain and never leave us; they give knowledge and wisdom.

**Q.8** How does Think-Tank misinterpret nursery rhymes?

**Ans.** He read 'Mistress Mary' as growing explosives, 'Hey Diddle Diddle' as animals trained for space and 'Humpty Dumpty' as a hint of his own capture.

**Q.9** Do the aliens speak English? What could their language be?

**Ans.** No. They cannot understand the book, calling the words 'squiggles and dots'. They would have a Martian language.

### Board Exam Questions (Important)

**Q.1** Write a character sketch of Think-Tank. (100 words)

**Ans.** Think-Tank is the Martian leader with a huge brain. He is proud and believes he knows everything. He misreads simple nursery rhymes as dangerous threats. He is fearful and decides to run away. His arrogance and misunderstanding save the earth, so he is the comic centre of the play.

**Q.2** How does the book save the earth?

**Ans.** The Martians misunderstand its innocent rhymes as signs of Earth's great power and withdraw from the invasion.

**Q.3** Reference to context: "Books are communication devices." Who says this and what does it show about the speaker?

**Ans.** Noodle says this. It shows he is more sensible than Think-Tank and tactfully corrects him.

*Q.4 Value-based: Why should we read books?*

*Ans. Books give knowledge, develop thinking and imagination, and keep us company. They can even save civilisations, as this play shows.*

