Class 11 English Snapshots (Older Edition): Ranga's Marriage - Notes, Summary, NCERT Answers and MCQs

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These Class 11 English Ranga's Marriage notes explain the story simply. You get a summary, characters, themes and NCERT answers. You also get 10 MCQs, a mistakes table and a revision box.

> Syllabus check: Ranga's Marriage is not in the current NCERT Snapshots (Reprint 2026-27). That book has five chapters only. Use these notes if your school, state board or older book still includes it. Always confirm with your teacher.

What is Ranga's Marriage about?

> Ranga's Marriage is a humorous short story by Masti Venkatesha Iyengar. It was Chapter 3 of the older Class 11 English Snapshots book. Ranga, an educated young man, refuses to marry a very young girl. The narrator, Shyama, tricks him into falling for eleven-year-old Ratna. They marry and name their son after the narrator.

The story is light, chatty and full of village humour. Use this table for quick facts.

Fact	Detail (from the NCERT text)
Chapter	Chapter 3, Snapshots (older NCERT edition, Class 11 English)
Syllabus status	Not in the 2026-27 Snapshots reprint
Author	Masti Venkatesha Iyengar (written originally in Kannada)
Type	Humorous short story, told in the first person
Narrator	Shyama, an elderly villager and matchmaker
Main characters	Shyama, Ranga, Ratna, Shastri, Rama Rao
Setting	Hosahalli, a village in Mysore State
Time	The events happened "ten years ago"
Central conflict	Ranga's modern ideas about marriage versus village tradition
Ending	Ranga and Ratna are married; their son Shyama turns three

The current Snapshots book is on the official NCERT textbook site. Older editions are not hosted there.

What happens in Ranga's Marriage? (Summary)

> In Ranga's Marriage, a Class 11 English Snapshots story, Ranga returns to Hosahalli from Bangalore. He says he will marry only a mature girl he admires. The narrator arranges for him to hear Ratna sing. Then he fools him with a lie and a tutored astrologer. Ranga falls in love and marries Ratna.

1. The narrator's beloved village

The narrator praises Hosahalli with great pride. He jokes that no map or geography book mentions it. He boasts of its sour mangoes and useful pond creepers.

2. English in the village

Ten years ago, few villagers knew English. The narrator dislikes how people now mix English words into Kannada. He tells how Rama Rao's son confused a woman by saying "change."

3. Ranga comes home

Ranga, the accountant's son, returns from studying in Bangalore. A crowd gathers to see if he has changed. He hasn't. An old lady checks that he still wears his sacred thread.

Ranga bows low and touches the narrator's feet. The narrator blesses him to marry soon.

4. Ranga's views on marriage

Ranga says he will not marry now. He wants a mature girl he admires. He gives the example of an officer who married a woman of twenty-five.

The narrator decides then and there to get Ranga married.

5. The song

Rama Rao's niece, Ratna, is eleven. She is an orphan who plays the veena and harmonium. The narrator invites her home and asks her to sing.

He then sends for Ranga. Ranga peeps in and the song stops. He is clearly charmed.

6. The first lie

Ranga asks who the girl is. The narrator says she was married a year ago. Ranga's face falls.

7. The astrologer's act

The narrator secretly tutors Shastri, the village astrologer. Next day, he takes Ranga to Shastri. Shastri "discovers" that Ranga is thinking about a girl.

He hints her name is something from the ocean. The narrator guesses Kamala, then Ratna. Shastri says the match will succeed.

8. The second "surprise"

Passing Rama Rao's house, the narrator goes in alone. He returns saying Ratna is not married after all. Ranga admits he loves her.

9. Ten years later

Ranga invites the narrator to his son's third birthday. The boy is named Shyama, after the narrator. Ratna is expecting again. The narrator gifts the boy a ring.

Who are the characters in Ranga's Marriage?

> Ranga's Marriage, from the Class 11 English Snapshots book, has five key characters. Shyama is the chatty narrator and matchmaker. Ranga is the educated accountant's son. Ratna is the eleven-year-old singer he marries. Shastri is the village astrologer. Rama Rao is Ratna's uncle and guardian.

Character	Who they are	Key traits (with proof)
Shyama (narrator)	Elderly villager, married	Talkative, witty, proud of Hosahalli. A clever matchmaker who tutors Shastri.
Ranga (Rangappa)	Village accountant's son	Educated in Bangalore yet respectful. Has modern views but falls for Ratna quickly.
Ratna	Rama Rao's niece, aged eleven	Orphan from a big town. Sings sweetly; plays veena and harmonium. Shy.
Shastri	Village astrologer	Plays his part well. Later claims he could have found it all in the stars.
Rama Rao	Ratna's uncle	Brought the orphaned Ratna home. The narrator visits him often.
Gundabhatta	Village doctor	Agrees that Hosahalli is special; well travelled, but not to England.

Character sketch of the narrator (Shyama)

The narrator is a lively, talkative villager. He loves to wander off the topic. He calls this rambling himself.

He is proud and a little old-fashioned. He dislikes English words in Kannada speech. He is also kind and clever. His plan to marry Ranga works perfectly.

Character sketch of Ranga

Ranga is the first village boy to study in Bangalore. City life has not spoiled him. He still bows low to elders.

He speaks of marrying only a mature girl. Yet one song from Ratna changes his mind. He shows that new ideas can sit lightly on old habits.

Character sketch of Ratna

Ratna is an eleven-year-old orphan living with her uncle. She is musical and has a sweet voice. She is shy and runs inside when she sees a stranger. She has almost no voice in the story's events.

Character sketch of Shastri

Shastri is the village astrologer. He repeats what the narrator taught him. Afterwards, he insists his science could have found it anyway. He represents blind faith in astrology.

What are the main themes of Ranga's Marriage?

> Ranga's Marriage, a Class 11 English Snapshots story, has four main themes. They are arranged marriage, the influence of English, faith in astrology, and village life. The story uses gentle humour to show how tradition wins over modern talk. It also shows how easily people can be guided by a clever elder.

Theme	Where you see it in the story
Arranged marriage	The narrator plans the match. Ranga marries a girl chosen by an elder.
Modern ideas vs tradition	Ranga wants a mature bride, then marries eleven-year-old Ratna.
Influence of English	The "change" episode. The narrator mocks English words in Kannada.
Astrology and belief	Shastri's "reading" is staged, yet Ranga trusts it fully.
Village pride	The narrator's long praise of Hosahalli's mangoes and pond.
Humour	Comparisons like a "roasted brinjal" face and the he-goat tale.

Is the title Ranga's Marriage suitable?

Yes. The narrator explains he chose a plain title on purpose. The whole story leads to one event: Ranga's marriage. The simple title also suits the story's homely, chatty style.

How does the narrator's plan work in Ranga's Marriage?

In Ranga's Marriage, Class 11 English Snapshots, the narrator's plan has five clever steps. He arranges a song, tells a lie and tutors an astrologer. Then he "discovers" the truth and gets Ranga to confess. Learn these steps in order. They answer most questions about the narrator's character.

Step	What the narrator does	What it achieves
1. The song	Asks Ratna to sing, then sends for Ranga	Ranga sees and hears Ratna at her best
2. The lie	Says Ratna married a year ago	Makes Ranga feel loss and want her more
3. The coaching	Tutors Shastri the next morning	Prepares a "proof" from the stars
4. The reading	Takes Ranga to Shastri for his stars	Ranga hears that the match will succeed
5. The reveal	Says Ratna is not married after all	Ranga openly admits his feelings

What do the difficult words in Ranga's Marriage mean?

Many words in Ranga's Marriage, Class 11 English Snapshots, come from Kannada and Indian culture. Karigadabu is a fried sweet. Janewara is the sacred thread. Annayya is a respectful word for an elder. Knowing about twenty of these words makes the story's humour much easier to enjoy.

Word	Simple meaning
Karigadabu	A South Indian fried sweet filled with coconut and sugar (NCERT footnote)
Annayya	A respectful Kannada word for an elder (NCERT footnote)
Brahmarandhra	The soft spot on a baby's head; used to show extreme sourness
Janewara	The sacred thread worn by Brahmins (NCERT footnote)
Cartographer	A person who draws maps
Rambling	Talking on and on, off the topic
Pice	A small coin used in the past
Namaskara	A respectful greeting, here by touching feet
Veena	A classical Indian string instrument
Threshold	The entrance of a room or doorway
Savouring	Enjoying slowly
Kaliyuga	In Hindu belief, the present age of decline
Shrivelled	Shrank and wrinkled
Paraphernalia	The tools needed for a task
Cowries	Small shells used in astrology
Palmyra leaves	Palm leaves once used to write on

Word	Simple meaning
Harikatha	A religious storytelling performance
Shastra	A traditional body of knowledge; here, astrology
Madhavacharya	A South Indian teacher of Vedantic philosophy (NCERT footnote)
Oil-cake	Dark cake left after pressing oil seeds

What are the NCERT answers for Ranga's Marriage?

> The NCERT exercise for Ranga's Marriage, Class 11 English Snapshots, has four questions. They ask about English's influence and the narrator's attitude to it. They also ask about astrologers and how marriage customs have changed. The last asks what kind of person the narrator is. Our model answers follow.

Questions are from the NCERT text. Answers are written by Nextoper.

Q1. Comment on the influence of English — the language and the way of life — on Indian life as reflected in the story. What is the narrator's attitude to English?

English was rare in Hosahalli ten years earlier. By the time of telling, educated youngsters mix English words into Kannada. The "change" episode shows how this confuses ordinary people.

English ideas also touch Ranga. He talks of marrying for admiration, not by arrangement. Naming a child after a friend is called an English custom.

The narrator mocks this mixing and calls it disgraceful. Yet he admits he learned the word "change" from Ranga. His attitude is mostly critical, but with humour.

Q2. Astrologers' perceptions are based more on hearsay and conjecture than what they learn from the study of the stars. Comment with reference to the story.

Shastri's reading is completely staged. The narrator tutors him in the morning. In the afternoon, Shastri repeats it as if from the stars.

He makes vague guesses, like a name "found in the ocean." The narrator fills in the rest. Later, Shastri even claims he could have found it himself.

So the story shows astrology working on hints and guesses, not on stars.

Q3. Indian society has moved a long way from the way the marriage is arranged in the story. Discuss.

In the story, Ratna is just eleven. She has no say in her own marriage. Elders and an astrologer decide everything.

Today, child marriage is illegal in India. Girls must be at least 18 to marry. Young people now often choose partners, or at least agree to them.

Education and careers matter more today. Horoscopes are still used by some families. But consent and age are now protected by law.

Q4. What kind of a person do you think the narrator is?

The narrator is talkative, witty and fond of his village. He rambles but tells a good story. He is proud and a little conservative about English.

What MCQs come from Ranga's Marriage?

Here are 10 practice MCQs on Ranga's Marriage, Class 11 English Snapshots, written by Nextoper. Each answer has a one-line reason from the NCERT text. They test facts, characters and meaning. Cover the answers, try each question yourself, and then check how you did.

1. What is the name of the narrator's village?
(a) Malgudi (b) Hosahalli (c) Kodagu (d) Bangalore
Answer: (b) Hosahalli, in Mysore State.

2. Where did Ranga go to study?
(a) Mysore (b) Madras (c) Bangalore (d) England
Answer: (c) Bangalore. He was the accountant's son.

3. How long had Ranga been away?
(a) Six months (b) One year (c) Two years (d) Ten years
Answer: (a) Six months. He seemed unchanged since he left.

4. Which English word confused the firewood seller?
(a) Money (b) Change (c) Tomorrow (d) Price
Answer: (b) "Change." She did not understand it.

5. How old was Ratna?
(a) Nine (b) Eleven (c) Fifteen (d) Eighteen
Answer: (b) Eleven. She was Rama Rao's niece.

6. Which instruments could Ratna play?
(a) Sitar and tabla (b) Veena and harmonium (c) Flute and violin (d) Mridangam
Answer: (b) Veena and harmonium.

7. What did the narrator first tell Ranga about Ratna?
(a) She was ill (b) She was leaving (c) She was married a year ago (d) She disliked him
Answer: (c) He falsely said she was married a year ago.

8. Shastri said the girl's name was something found in the
(a) sky (b) forest (c) ocean (d) temple
Answer: (c) Ocean. This led to the name Ratna.

9. "His face shrivelled like a roasted brinjal" shows Ranga's
(a) anger (b) disappointment (c) hunger (d) illness
Answer: (b) Disappointment, on hearing Ratna was married.

10. What did Ranga name his son?
(a) Ranga (b) Rama (c) Shyama (d) Shastri
Answer: (c) Shyama, after the narrator.

What should you revise the night before the exam?

To revise Ranga's Marriage fast, learn one number trail and one five-step plan. Then remember five names and one big idea. The big idea is gentle irony. Ranga talks like a modern man. Yet an elder arranges his marriage the old way.

Number trail: 10 - 6 - 11 - 1 - 3 - 8

- 10 - years ago the events took place
- 6 - months Ranga was away in Bangalore
- 11 - Ratna's age
- 1 - year ago, the narrator falsely says Ratna married
- 3 - age of Ranga's son Shyama at his birthday
- 8 - months pregnant: Ratna at the end

Five-step plan: "Song, Lie, Coach, Stars, Reveal"

Five names, five roles: Shyama plans. Ranga falls. Ratna sings. Shastri performs. Rama Rao hosts.

One big idea: Modern talk, traditional ending, all with a smile.

Self-check: can you answer these in one line?

Question	Tick when you can answer
Why was Ranga's homecoming a big event?	[ ]
What did the old lady check on Ranga?	[ ]
What kind of bride did Ranga want?	[ ]
How did the narrator bring Ranga and Ratna together?	[ ]
What did Shastri do that was dishonest?	[ ]
What does the he-goat story show?	[ ]
How does the story end?	[ ]

What practice questions can you try on Ranga's Marriage?

These are Nextoper practice questions for Ranga's Marriage, Class 11 English Snapshots. They are not previous-year board questions. They follow the usual short-answer, long-answer and extract formats. Write full answers first. Then compare them with the summary, characters and themes on this page.

Practice question These questions are written by Nextoper for practice.

Short answer (about 40-50 words)

1. Why does the narrator say Hosahalli is not on any map?
2. How did Ranga greet the narrator, and why did the narrator like it?
3. Why did Ranga say he would not marry a very young girl?
4. Why did the narrator compare himself to the he-goat?
5. Why did the narrator object to the name Shyama?

Long answer (about 120-150 words)

1. Humour is the soul of Ranga's Marriage. Discuss with examples.
2. Ranga's ideas about marriage did not survive his first sight of Ratna. Comment.
3. Write a short letter from Ranga to a city friend about his engagement.

Extract-based practice

Read: "There's greater truth in that shastra than we imagine."

a) Who says this, and to whom?
b) Why is this line ironic?
c) What does it show about the speaker at this moment?

What mistakes do students make in Ranga's Marriage?

> Many notes on Ranga's Marriage, Class 11 English Snapshots, contain errors. Students copy them and lose marks. Common slips include calling it a Hornbill chapter and placing it in "Karnataka." Others mix up who tutored whom. Check each fact below against the NCERT text before you write your answer.

We found each of these errors in notes that currently rank online. Every correction is checked against the NCERT chapter.

Common mistake	What the NCERT text actually says
Calling it a Hornbill chapter	It was in Snapshots, the supplementary reader.
"The story is set in Karnataka"	The text says Hosahalli is in Mysore State.
"Shastri is the astrologer's tutor"	Shastri is the astrologer. The narrator tutors him.
"Betray" means "cheat" in "His voice did not betray his excitement"	Here it means "show" or "reveal."
"Ranga had lost his sacred thread"	The old lady finds the janewara still there.
"Ratna really was married"	That was the narrator's lie to test Ranga.
"Ranga's son is named Ranga"	He is named Shyama, after the narrator.
"The chapter is in the 2026-27 Snapshots"	The 2026-27 Snapshots reprint has five chapters, without this one.

What is the short answer on Ranga's Marriage?

> Short answer: Ranga's Marriage is a humorous story by Masti Venkatesha Iyengar. It was Chapter 3 of the older Class 11 Snapshots book. Ranga returns to Hosahalli and refuses to marry a young girl. The narrator, Shyama, makes him hear Ratna sing. Then he tricks him with a lie and a tutored astrologer. Ranga marries Ratna and names his son Shyama.

What do students ask about Ranga's Marriage?

Students most often ask who wrote Ranga's Marriage and who the narrator is. They also ask how the narrator arranged the marriage. Two more common questions are about the theme and the chapter's

Who wrote Ranga's Marriage?

Masti Venkatesha Iyengar wrote Ranga's Marriage. He was a well-known Kannada writer. The story appeared in older editions of NCERT Snapshots for Class 11.

Who is the narrator of Ranga's Marriage?

The narrator is Shyama, an elderly villager from Hosahalli. He is talkative and clever. He arranges Ranga's marriage, and Ranga names his son after him.

How did the narrator arrange Ranga's marriage?

He let Ranga hear Ratna sing. Then he lied that she was married. Next, he tutored the astrologer Shastri. Finally, he "found" she was unmarried, and Ranga admitted he loved her.

What is the theme of Ranga's Marriage?

The main theme is the clash between modern ideas and tradition in marriage. The story also gently mocks blind faith in astrology. It shows the spread of English in village life.

Is Ranga's Marriage in the 2026-27 syllabus?

No. The current NCERT Snapshots reprint for 2026-27 does not include it. It has five chapters only. Check with your school if your book still lists it.

What is the key takeaway from Ranga's Marriage?

> Ranga's Marriage, from the Class 11 English Snapshots book, teaches through laughter. People often speak of new ideas but follow old ways. Ranga's talk of a mature bride ends with an arranged match. Enjoy the humour. Then notice how far society has changed since.

Revise the number trail, the five-step plan and the five characters. With those, you can answer almost any question on this chapter. Next, try the practice questions without looking back.

Related notes

- Class 11 English Snapshots Chapter 2: The Address notes
- Class 11 English Snapshots (older edition): Albert Einstein at School notes
- All Class 11 English Hornbill and Snapshots notes

Sources

1. NCERT, Snapshots (older edition), Chapter 3, "Ranga's Marriage" by Masti Venkatesha Iyengar. ncert.nic.in
2. CBSE Academic, Class 11 English Core (Code 301) curriculum. cbseacademic.nic.in

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