AUDITION

A short story by Mahim Bora

B.Com. First Semester

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Learning objectives

Identify Mahim Bora and his place in Assamese literature.

Understand the basic situation and development of “Audition”.

Discuss the characters, themes, and narrative technique.

Develop a reasoned interpretation supported by the prescribed text.

About the author: Mahim Bora

Mahim Bora (1924–2016) was an Assamese writer, poet, short-story writer and educator.

He made an important contribution to modern Assamese literature.

His writing often draws on ordinary people, everyday experiences and social life.

For an exam answer, connect biographical details to the story only where the text supports the link.

What does “audition” mean?

An audition is a trial performance or test used to assess a person’s suitability for a role or opportunity.

The word can suggest hope, competition, nervousness and the desire to be accepted.

In reading the story, ask: Who is being assessed, by whom, and what is really being judged?

The title may be interpreted through the events and ending of the prescribed text.

Reading the story: plot map

Beginning: identify the setting, the central character and the situation that leads to the audition.

Development: note the important encounters, choices or obstacles.

Turning point: identify the moment that changes the direction of the story.

Ending: explain what is resolved—or deliberately left unresolved—and why it matters.

Characters and relationships

Central character: identify the person whose experience or decisions shape the narrative.

Supporting characters: note who conducts, observes or influences the audition.

Motivation: what does each character want, fear or expect?

Characterisation: use actions, dialogue and reactions—not just labels—to support your view.

Major themes to explore

Aspiration and opportunity: the wish to prove oneself or gain recognition.

Performance and identity: the difference between presenting oneself and being oneself.

Judgement and power: who sets the standards, and are those standards fair?

Hope, anxiety and disappointment: how the experience affects the people involved.

Title and symbolism

The title focuses attention on a process of testing or selection.

An audition can be literal, but it can also invite questions about social approval and personal worth.

Ask whether the story confirms, complicates or challenges the reader’s first understanding of the title.

Support any symbolic reading with a concrete event from the story.

Narrative technique and language

Setting: how does the place shape the mood and the characters' behaviour?

Dialogue: what do the characters reveal directly—and what do they leave unsaid?

Tone and mood: identify words or moments that create humour, tension, sympathy or unease.

Structure: consider how the opening prepares us for the ending.

Why the story matters

It offers a starting point for discussing ambition, evaluation and human behaviour.

It encourages readers to look beyond first impressions.

It shows how a short story can use a focused situation to raise wider questions.

The strongest interpretation remains grounded in the actual wording and events of the text.

Questions for classroom discussion

What is the most important turning point in “Audition”? Why?

How does the title shape your expectations before and after reading?

Which character do you understand best? What evidence supports your answer?

Does the ending confirm or challenge your expectations?

What one passage best illustrates the story’s central concern?

Quick revision / exam preparation

Write a short note on Mahim Bora.

Explain the significance of the title “Audition”.

Discuss one major theme with evidence from the story.

Describe the central character and explain how the character changes or responds.

For every answer: make a point, cite an incident or phrase, and explain its significance.

References and text note

Primary source: Mahim Bora, “Audition” — use the edition prescribed by the Department of English.

Add the textbook/anthology title, editor, publisher, year and page range from the copy used in class.

Author biographical details should be checked against a reliable literary reference or institutional source.

Note: this teaching deck is a discussion framework; verify plot-specific points against the prescribed text.

Thank You

Questions • Reflections • Discussion