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Date : 02.02.22

"The Rivals"

Question : Write a short note on the character of Captain Absolute.

Answer : Jack Absolute is the hero of Sheridan's 'The Rivals', an anti-sentimental farcical comedy of situations and intrigue. He is hero without heroic qualities. He is the eldest son of a rich aristocrat Sir Anthony Absolute. He is a Captain in the army. Jack Absolute is a romantic lover. He is in love with Miss Lydia Languish the ward of a very strict middle-aged widow, Mrs. Malaprop. Miss Lydia is extremely rich but still a minor. She is very romantic.

Jack Absolute is not a dreamer like Lydia. He is a realist and as such he does not elope with her and lose a major portion of her wealth for nothing. He is very sincere in love and devises many ways of meeting and winning her. He is inventive, intelligent, shrewd and scheming. When his father

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wishes to thrust a girl of his choice on him as his wife, he has the courage of conviction to resist this injustice. His conversation with Faulkland shows his wisdom as a lover and a man of the world. His encounter with Sir Lucius reveals him a true gentleman and true brave lover. His ~~and~~ sense of wit and humour are in evidence throughout the play.

The end.

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