

CLASS NOTES

Class : X

Topic : THE THIEF'S STORY

Subject : ENGLISH

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Textual Questions

Think about It

1. What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time? What makes him return to Anil?

Ans. Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education change over time. When he started living with Anil he wanted to be literate so that he could become a more cunning cheat. Later on there is a change in his heart. He wants to earn respect in life. Probably he is influenced by the calm in Anil's life. Although, both of them depend on irregular sources of income, but Anil seems to be more satisfied. Hari Singh develops a desire to be part of the civilized society.

2. Why does not Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?

Ans. Anil does not hand the thief over to the police because he has put the money back at its place. It shows that he realized his fault. He wants to make amends for his ways. He must have felt guilty. Anil wants to give him one more chance and therefore forgives him.

No, in today's world most people would not have done so. Although it must be done but such sort of patience and compassion are rarely found now a days in this human world.

Talk about It

1. Do you think people like Anil and Hari Singh are found only in fiction, or are there such people in real life?

Ans. No, I don't think that people like Anil and Hari Singh are found only in fiction. There are such people in real life also. Although such people are rare in today's society. If one is caught stealing, people will first

beat him severely. Then he will be handed over to the police. It should be realized that a human being is bound to commit error. One chance for reforming oneself must be given. This is the only way to bring anyone to right path. Punishing severely is not the only solution. Strictness can make them absolute criminal.

2. Do you think it a significant detail in the story that Anil is a struggling writer? Does this explain his behaviour in any way?

Ans. Hari Singh's observation about Anil getting irregular income and Anil's statement about his sale of a book to a publisher indicates that he is a struggling writer. He lives life according to the flow of money he gets at a given time. When he gets the money he enjoys eating out with his friends. When he has less money then he even doesn't, rather manage with whatever he has.

Extract Based Questions

He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.

i) who is 'He' in the above extract refers to?

- a) Hari Singh
- b) Anil
- c) police
- d) Teacher

ii) Who is the author of the story 'The Thief's Story'?

- a) James Herriot
- b) Ruskin Bond
- c) Robert Arthur
- d) Victor Canning

iii) what did Hari do to earn his living?

- a) He was the beggar
- b) He was an awesome
- c) He was a rag picker

d) He was a thief

iv) why was the narrator grateful?

- a) As Anil gave him a job
- b) As Anil gave him money
- c) As Anil educated him
- d) All of these

v) what could he do as an educated man?

- a) He could write
- b) He could add numbers
- c) He could teach
- d) He could achieve anything in life

Short Answer Questions

What does Anil give Hari Singh in return for his work?

Ans. When Hari asked Anil if he could work for him, Anil said that he could not pay him. Finally, they agreed on if Hari would cook, then Anil would feed him. However, Anil soon found out that he did not know how to cook. Therefore, he taught him how to cook and later, how to write his name. He promised he would teach him how to write whole sentences and how to add numbers. Apart from this, when Hari went out to buy the day's supplies, he would make a profit of a rupee a day.

What was Hari's understanding of the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

Ans. In his short career as a thief, he has made a study of men's faces when they lose their goods. He says that the greedy men show fear; the rich men show anger and the poor men show acceptance.

LONG ANSWER QUESTION

Q 1. Money can't make a man as much as education can. Elucidate the statement.

Ans. The statement stands true in almost all the aspects of life. Money may buy us all the luxuries and fulfill our needs but it cannot buy us knowledge, civilized thinking, skills and abilities to achieve our dreams. Education lays a platform for all to act upon our goals according to our abilities. Education enables us to keep up with the fast moving world. It opens the doors to opportunities we do not even know that it exists. Money, on the other hand, can assist us to a certain level. It can buy us a plan but education gives us the knowledge of its execution. Just as in the story, 'A Thief's Story'.

Hari Singh befriends the struggling writer, author, 'Anil', in the plans of executing a robbery. Anil, the author, is a good fellow and wants to teach Hari Singh how to read and write. Gradually, he develops trust in Hari Singh. But Hari Singh has been waiting for the right moment to steal the valuables of Anil. After stealing money from Anil, Hari Singh tries to go away forever. But his conscience stops him from doing so. He returns to Anil because he wants to live a life of respect. This shows that Hari Singh prioritized the chance of being literate over a few hundred rupees, we must understand that education can help us to achieve whatever we desire.

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