

Ch 2 - The Thief's Story (Supplementary) - Ruskin Bond

Chapter Sketch

The Thief's Story is about a 15 year old ~~boy~~, boy, Hari Singh whose life changes when he meets Anil, a 25 year old writer, Anil's unspoken words and kind gestures leaves a very positive impact on Hari Singh's life.

Characters

Hari Singh - He is a 15 year old, fair handed thief. He is keen on learning how to read and write. He is so experienced robber that he knows how different people will react when they are robbed.

Anil - He is a 25 years old, tall and lean man. He earns his living by writing. He is a kind, simple and an easy-going person.

I 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?

A 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?

A The wetness of notes must have given the idea of Hari Singh's act to Anil. But Anil is pleased with the fact that Hari returned whatever he had stolen. This must have given him a hope for Hari Singh's desires to change. That is why he did not hand over Hari to police. Most people would have reacted in predictable ways by thrashing Hari Singh and calling police. Anil is different because he wants his servant to become literate. He wants his servant to lead a reasonable life in future.

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

A Both Anil and Hari Singh are rare in society. Especially, ~~the~~ Hari Singh changed after he decides to go back to Anil is difficult to find.

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

A Hari Singh's observation about Anil getting irregular income and Anil's statements about his sale of a book to a publisher indicates that he is a struggling writer. He lives life ~~also~~ 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 is having less money then he even doesn't accept paying salary to Hari Singh.

5. Have you met anyone like Hari Singh? Can you think and imagine the circumstances that can turn a fifteen-year-old boy into a thief?

A The story is set in Uttar Pradesh somewhere near Lucknow. The town is having an important railway station event as, express trains have

stoppage over there. There presence of ~~sweet~~ shop indicates towards presence of a decent market. The description of hotels nears railways stations indicates that it is an important centre where people come from afar off places for business related activities.

II 1. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

A In this story, "I" refers to the thief who introduces himself as Hari Singh.

2. What is he "a fairly successful hand" at?

A He was a "fairly successful hand" at robbing and duping people of their money.

3. What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

A When he asks Anil that he wants to work for him, Anil clearly says that he will; not be able to pay him. They mutually decide that if the ~~thief~~ thief would be able to cook food for him, then Anil would feed him. But soon, Anil comes to know that he can not cook. So Anil tells Hari, the Thief that he would teach him to cook food, teach ~~him~~ him to write his name and full sentences and also to add numbers. Apart from this, Hari also used to steal one rupee from the grocery money everyday.

4. How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?

A The thief thought that on discovering that he had been robbed, Anil would definitely be sad but he would be sad because of the loss of trust and not because of the loss of money.

5. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

A The thief says that according to his experience, upon being robbed the greedy man showed fear, the rich man showed anger and the poor man showed acceptance towards whatever had happened with him.

6. Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?

A Yes, probably Anil knew that he had been robbed because all the notes were wet and damp from last night. He still did not say anything to the thief and gave him 50 rupees and told him that from now on, Anil will be paying money as salary every month.

Theme

The story is about a 15-year-old thief who changes his ~~st~~ name every month to stay ahead of the police and old employers. This time he kept his name Hari Singh. The other person in the story is a 25-year-old writer named Anil. The thief meets Anil and asks him if he can work for him. The story unfolds on how the thief betrays Anil by committing a theft but retracts later on. The moral of the story is the human values and relations are important in life and such values can change a person too.