Jonathan Quang 11/10/2014  
Global - Mr.Badgley

Homework #26 ARTHA: Strategies for Survival, Success and Power!

1. The initial impression the sahib has of the shoe-shine boy is one of nagging. When the sahib leaves the house, he sees the shoe-shine boy and almost immediately says he does not need his services. The boy manages to shine the sahib's shoes by pestering the sahib to allow him to shine his shoe. The man only finally agreed after the boy persisted.  
2. The boy asks to borrow eight rupees because it is neither asking for too much or too little. Asking for too little rupees, such as five rupees, would suggest the boy is not completely intent on buying a box and footrest as the cheapest would cost six rupees. Asking for too many rupees, such as ten rupees, would imply that the boy is thinking about something else to do with the money as the most expensive of the boxes and footrests costs at most eight rupees. Asking for exactly eight rupees makes it believable that the boy intends on using the money to improve his service  
3. The sahib does not think the boy will ever return the rupees because the sahib originally suggested that the boy repay in one or five years. Very few people remember oral deals or promises that they made in even an year. The sahib lends the boy eight rupees out of kindness and pity. The sahib has no reason to disbelieve the boy's story that he uses the money to support his family, and as a result the boy cannot afford a footrest. From the point of view of the sahib, the tender knee of the boy only serves to reinforce the boy's story.   
4.The sahib originally thought that the boy was bad at managing his money, but by the end, the sahib acknowledges that the boy's goals were honorable after the boy tells his story. When the sahib converses with the boy, and the sahib asks if the boy has tried to save money for a footrest, the sahib expresses doubt about whether the boy knows how to save money properly. However, when the sahib hears the boy's story that most of his money goes to supporting his family, the sahib recognizes that the boy has good intentions and becomes nicer. The sahib even offers to lend money.  
5.The significance of the boy's smile when the sahib gave the boy give rupees is one of dramatic irony upon reading the last part of the story. From the perspective of the sahib, the boy's smile is a very thankful smile for lending eight rupees. Once the reader or viewer reads the last part of the story, he or she will recognize that the boy is actually smiling because his scam worked. The boy is honestly not as poor as he makes himself seem. The boy has earned sixty-four rupees the previous day. The sahib smiled when the boy reminded him about the 25 paise because the boy learned to do proper business. The sahib initially told the boy to stop charging half the market price. The sahib smiled that the boy learned to make the most money out of the encounter.  
6. The sahib walked away with a "pleased as Punch" smile because he has made what he thinks is a poor shoe-shining boy quite happy. From the perspective of the sahib, the boy is just asking to borrow some money for a footrest to improve the quality of his job and working to support his family. Supporting this cause and doing something good made the sahib pleased.  
7. The last paragraph tells us that the boy is actually a scammer. He earned sixty-four rupees the previous day, enough to at least afford the footrest the boy was talking about. The last paragraph was surprising because the boy's story seemed quite convincing. Having to scramble for money to support his family and not having enough money for a footrest (thus having a tender knee) all seemed to be believable things.