

The best investment in life is not money but values. Substantiate this view with the help of the story" The best investment I ever made "by AJ Cronin.

AJ Cronin, a well-known writer of novels, inspires us with a touching story "The best investment I ever made". Once while he was traveling in a ship he found a man watching him anxiously many times. At first he felt annoyed. Later the couple came to him and introduced themselves as Mr and Mrs John. They have been working among derelict youth for 15 years, rehabilitating them and bringing them back to life. He became interested in the story. Then they reminded him that he was the inspiration for them. Now he remembered an incident which happened years ago.

While he was sleeping at night a Sergeant came to him and informed him about a suicide case in a nearby lodging. He hurried to the spot. When he reached there the room was filled with the smell of a gas. He found a young man lying on a narrow bed. At first He thought he was dead. Any way with the sergeant's help he tried to revive him to consciousness. But he found it was useless. When they were about to return he heard a quick breath from him. After half an hour of redoubled efforts they succeeded in rescuing him. He told them that he was a clerk in an office. Lost in bad company and luxuries he had wasted all his wealth. Then once he took from the office some money for gambling which he couldn't replace. Being desperate he tried to commit suicide. Later A J Cronin learnt from him that he had taken only seven pounds and ten shillings. So he gave him that money, the Sergeant promised not to report the case and the landlady offered one month's free lodging till he got a new job. Thus the young man regained his life. He had given him only a small amount but the investment was more than that. He had given him a rebirth which the young man utilized for giving rebirth to many young men. Mr. John has realized from his own experience that life on earth is the most valuable of god's gifts.

This he imparts to thousands of youth. Here investment is also the values we imbibe in our lives that would remain the best forever. So A J Cronin's statement is so meaningful and valid.

Check how far the title is appropriate to the story?

The best investment I ever made is penned by the much celebrated Scottish writer A.J.Cronin. Cronin shares one of his personal experiences with the readers through this story. The title of the story is 'The Best Investment I Ever Made'. Usually we associate material gain with the word investment, obviously an underlying hope of profit lingers with the term investment and it may mean different things to different people. But the story by Cronin has a differently conceived meaning because it wasn't anything related with money or profit. The author's personal integrity and the values he had imbibed right from the beginning of his life made him what he was. A doctor by profession, he rescued a suicide survivor and took pity on him. He helped the victim with the money he needed to repay his debts. The doctor after sowing the seeds of virtue in the mind of the man leaves the scene and resumes his life's journey little knowing about the transformation he had made in the mind of the young man. The once wayward young man had undergone a drastic change in his attitude and lifestyle that he had really become a contributing member of the society. The money Cronin had put in was to repay the debts the young man had. But it had really opened his otherwise blind eyes. The man had become an active social worker specializing on maladjusted and delinquent youth.

The author was happy beyond words because this was an investment that he could never have won even if he had put lakhs of money into share markets. So the title is too apt.