

UPDAAN



2025

The Thief's Story (Footprints Without Feet)

English

Lecture – 02

By – Anurag Tyagi Sir



Topics

to be covered



- 1 Warm-up Game ✓
- 2 Prose: The Thief's Story ✓
- 3 NCERT Exercise and Quiz ✓



Recap *of previous Lecture*



1

Warm-up Game ✓

2

Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom ✓

3

NCERT Exercise and Quiz ✓





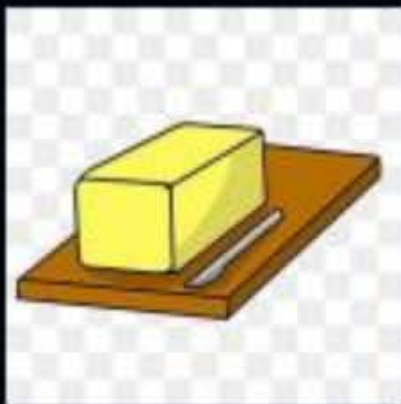
Warm-up



Game
Time

Guess the word!

1



+



→ Butterfly

2.



+



→ Starfish

3.



+



→ Toothbrush holder

Guess the word!

1.



2.



3.



Guess the word!

1.



milk

key

way

= Milky Way

2.



mic

crow

scope

= microscope

3.



elect

tree

city

= electricity

The Thief's Story



Topic : The Thief's Story



-By Ruskin Bond



- *It is a tale about a thief, his bonding with an employer, his changed life and ultimately the difficulty he faces breaking free from a life of crime.*
- *A young thief's conscience is awakened by his employer's complete trust on him.*
- *The story deals with the reformatory power of trust.*

Characters :

Hari Singh

15y

Thief

Smart

Anil

25y , employer

Easy-going

friendly

lean

Writer

Writer
↓
Ruskin Bond

Narrator
↓
Hari Singh

➤ Hari Singh (Narrator) Approaches Anil

- Narrator, Hari Singh, 15 years old-experienced/ fairly successful hand *thievery*
- Anil, tall and lean, easy-going, kind, simple, 25 years old *41m*
- Watching wrestling match
 - Narrator used flattering words to gain Anil's confidence
 - Lied about his name – changed it every month
 - Talked about Wrestlers – Anil walked away *grunting*



➤ Hari Follows Anil

- Told him – He wanted to work for Anil

Anil– ‘Can’t pay you.’

✓ Hari– ‘Can you feed me?’

✓ Anil– ‘Can you cook?’

✓ Hari said yes and Anil employed him



➤ Anil Brings Hari to His Room

- Located over Jamuna Sweet shop
- ✓ Told Hari to sleep in balcony
- Hari cooked – Terrible food
very bad
- Anil gave it to stray dogs
आवारा ; बिलर
 - Asked Hari to get off *leave*
 - Hari Smiled in his most appealing way



- Anil patted his head & said- 'He'd teach him to cook'

➤ Taught him to write his name

➤ Promised to teach -

○ Write whole sentences and add numbers

○ Hari happy and grateful for education *Thankful*

○ *He knew that there would be no limit to what he could achieve once he knew how to write like an educated man.*



Section A

#Q. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

#Q. What is he "a fairly successful hand" at?

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

#Q. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

A Anil

B A wrestler

C Hari Singh

D A stray dog

#Q. What is he “a fairly successful hand” at?

- ☐ A Wrestling
- ☐ B Cooking
- ☒ C Thievery
- ☐ D Teaching

#Q. The thief was grateful to Anil in many ways. Out of these, the greatest one was -

- ☒ **A** Giving him a job and teaching him
- ☐ **B** Giving him money
- ☐ **C** Watching wrestling match with him
- ☐ **D** Talking to him

#Q. Why did the narrator lie about his name?

- ☐ A To impress Anil
- ☒ B To avoid the police and former employers
- ☐ C To sound more educated
- ☐ D To hide his identity from his family

➤ Hari's Daily Routine

- / Quite pleasant working for Anil
- / Made tea in the morning
- / Then, buy day's supplies
 - Making a profit of 1 rupee
 - Anil knew– He didn't seem to mind



➤ Anil's Source of Earning

✓ Made money by fits and starts (irregular bursts of activities)

✓ उधार लेना उधार देना
 ▪ Borrow one week, lend the next

▪ Kept worrying about next cheque – celebrated as

✓ He Wrote for Magazines – A Queer way to earn a living

Strange



➤ The Stealing Opportunity

- Anil came home with a bundle of notes — tucked money under mattress
 - Sold a book to a publisher
- ✓ ○ Hari had been working for Anil for a month
 - ✓ ▪ Did nothing in his line of work — except cheating while shopping
 - Opportunity came — Anil gave key to door



➤ Reason Why It was Difficult to Rob Anil

- Most Trusting Man

to steal ✓
चोरपाई

- *"It's easy to rob a greedy man, because he can afford to be robbed; but it is difficult to rob a careless man – sometimes he doesn't even notice that he's been robbed and that takes away all the pleasure out of the work."*

मिथ्या

- ✓ Finally, Hari decided to rob Anil–

- ✓ Do some real work – Out of practice

- ✓ He'll waste it on friends – doesn't pay Hari



#Q. How did Anil make money?

- ☐ A By working at a bank
- ☒ B By writing for magazines
- ☐ C By running a sweet shop
- ☐ D By teaching wrestling

#Q. Why did the narrator find it difficult to rob Anil?

- ☐ A Because Anil was always watching him
- ☐ B Because Anil kept the money locked away
- ☒ C Because Anil was a careless and trusting person
- ☐ D Because the narrator had no opportunity

#Q. What did the narrator usually cheat on?

- ☐ A Writing stories
- ☒ B Shopping for daily supplies
- ☐ C Cooking meals
- ☐ D Cleaning the house

#Q. What was the narrator's justification for planning to steal the money?

- ☐ A He believed Anil didn't need it
- ☐ B He wanted to save it for Anil
- ☒ C He thought Anil would waste it on his friends
- ☐ D He wanted to buy gifts for Anil

➤ The Robbery Episode

unlined - stressed

Scare

- Thinking under moonlight – Lucknow Express – 10.30

रंगाना

- At night, Hari crawled up to Anil's bed
 - Slid his hand under the mattress
 - drew out the money quietly



- / Rushed out and began to run on the road
- Secured money with the string of Pyjama
- Rs 600 in 50s ¹²
- 'Live like a oil rich Arab for a week or two'



➤ Reached Station & Missed the Train

- Dashed straight to the platform – Didn't stop at ticket counter
 - Decided not to board the train – thinking how Anil would feel
- Didn't know where to go then – no friends – no hotel – robbed Anil
- Reached Bazaar

Deserted



- Reading faces of people when robbed

- Greedy - fear

- Rich- Anger

- Poor - acceptance

- Anil's face - touch of sadness - Why?

loss of trust



○ Reached Maidaan

drizzle

▪ Early November night, raining – Chilly

○ Clock tower – 12 o'clock – Notes wet

○ Anil's Money ↴

▪ 2-3 rupees for Cinema

▪ Couldn't cook his meals, run to bazaar, write sentence

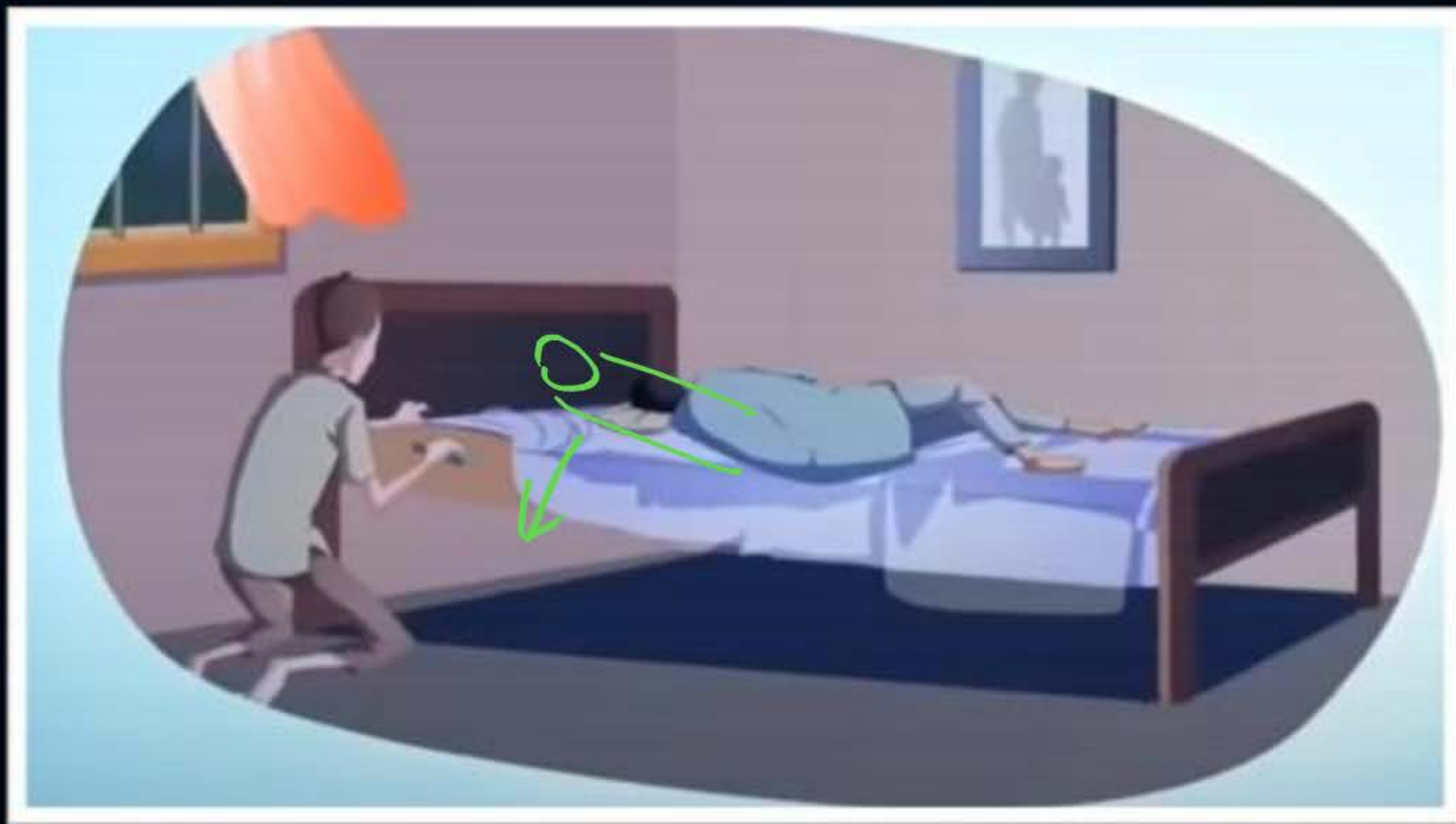


➤ Hari's Realisation and Final Decision

- Excitement of theft
- Whole sentences, one day could earn him more than few 100 rupees
- Simple to steal – simpler to get caught
 - But, something else to be a big, clever & respected man
- Thought – Go Back to Anil
 - If not for something else – to learn to read and write



- Decided to go back ✓
 - Went back to room – cautiously put back wet notes under mattress



➤ The Conclusion

Spirits rose

- ✓ Hari woke up late
- ✓ Anil already prepared Tea
- ✓ Walked up to him – gave 50 rupee note
- Told he had made some money and
Hari would be paid regularly now
- Note still wet



- *'Today we'll start writing sentences.'*
- Anil knew but didn't show
- Hari smiled in the most appealing way. It came without effort.



Message :

& Education

- ① Trust can transform a person.
↳ Never break anyone's trust.
- ② Be kind!



#Q. What does the narrator predict Anil's reaction will be to the theft?

- ☐ A Anger and disappointment
- ☐ B Fear and panic
- ☒ C Sadness for the loss of trust
- ☐ D Acceptance and indifference

#Q. What does the thief say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

- ☐ A Greedy men show anger, rich men show fear, and poor men show acceptance
- ☒ B Greedy men show fear, rich men show anger, and poor men show acceptance
- ☐ C Greedy men show acceptance, rich men show fear, and poor men show anger
- ☐ D Greedy men show fear, rich men show acceptance, and poor men show anger

#Q. What does the narrator realize about the money he stole?

- ☐ A It was fake
- ☐ B Anil would never notice it was missing
- ☐ C Anil would waste it on his friends
- ☒ D Learning to read and write could bring him more than the stolen money

#Q. How does Anil respond the next morning after realizing the theft?

- ☐ A He scolds the narrator
- ☐ B He reports the theft to the police
- ☒ C He gives the narrator a fifty-rupee note and says they will start writing sentences
- ☐ D He ignores the incident completely

Section C

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

✓ #Q. 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?



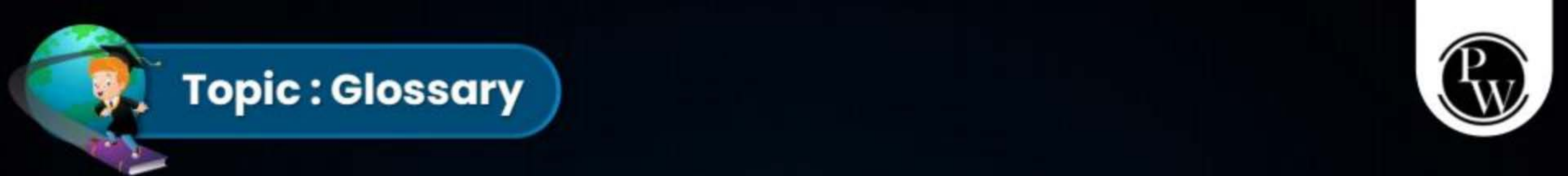
Section D

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

H.W.

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

#Q ✓ 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?



Topic : Glossary

- **Lean** – Thin in a healthy and attractive way
- **Easy-going** – relaxed and open-minded
- **Of Late** – recently
- **Get Into ... Confidence** – win the young man's trust
- **Flattery** – insincere praise
- **Put Me Off** – distracted me
- **Modestly** – without boasting; humbly
- **Ahead Of** – undetected by
- **Grunting** – making a short, low sound usually because of anger or pain

- **Appealing** – attractive
- **Hung Around** – did not leave
- **Cheque** – payment for work done
- **Queer** – strange, unusual or not expected
- **Crept** – moved in a quiet, careful way to avoid being noticed
- **Unlined** – showing no sign of worry or anxiety
- **Fifties** – 50-rupee notes
- **Heart Sank** – felt disappointed and discouraged
- **Spirits Rose** – mood became happy



THANK
YOU

