**Symbiosis School, Nasik.**

**Std: X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject: English Language & Literature - Worksheet – 44**

**Lesson : Chapter 1 – The Thief’s Story By Ruskin Bond**

**The Thief’s Story By Ruskin Bond**

The **story** is about a 15-year-old **thief** who changes his 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 **story** unfolds on how **the thief** betrays Anil by committing a theft but retracts later on.

**Introduction to the lesson**

*A young boy makes friends with Anil. Anil trusts him completely and employs him. Does the boy betray his trust?*

*The story is about a 15-year-old thief who changes his 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.*



About the Author

**Ruskin Bond** (born 19 May 1934) is an Indian author of British descent. He lives with his adopted family in Landour, Mussoorie, India. The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*, his novel in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

**The Thief’s Story Summary**

The story is about two different people. One is a thief of 15 years of age and the other is a man of approximately 25 years, watching a wrestling match somewhere. The name of the person watching the match is Anil. The thief approaches Anil and starts talking to him because he feels that he had not robbed anyone in the past few days and thought that it would be easy to rob a simple person like Anil. They both start talking and Anil asks the thief his name. The thief introduces himself as Hari Singh. This is not his real name as he changes his name every month to escape his ex employers or police. Then they started talking about the wrestlers and Anil was leaving when Hari called him again and asked him if he could work for Anil. Anil said that he won't be able to pay him but could feed him if he knew how to cook. Hari lied that he knew how to cook. Anil took Hari to his room which was above a sweet shop. Hari cooked a meal which was really bad because Anil did not eat it. Anil asked Hari to leave but he tried to please Anil. Hari smiled in his most attractive way and Anil could not stop laughing looking at him. Anil agreed to teach Hari how to cook, write full sentences and add numbers. Hari was grateful as he knew that there would be no limit to robbing people once he learnt how to read and write.

The narrator used to like working for Anil as he used to make him tea in the morning and then go out to buy the groceries for the day. He also used to steal 1 rupee from the money that was given to him to buy the groceries everyday. Anil knew that he used to steal but did not mind.

Anil used to make money by irregular works. Sometimes he used to borrow money and the other day, when he had money, he would be lending it to other people. Whenever he used to get money, he would go out with his friends to celebrate.  
One day, Anil came in with a bundle of notes and told Hari that he had sold a book to a publisher. At night he kept the money safely under the mattress of his bed. Hari realized that he had been working for Anil for more than a month and had not stolen anything apart from the 1 rupee that he kept everyday from the grocery money. Hari had many chances to steal as he had the key to the room as well. But he was surprised with the amount of trust Anil had on him as he had never seen such a trusting person in his life. This trust thing was preventing him from robbing Anil as Hari thought that robbing a careless person like Anil didn't make much difference because he might not even notice that he had been robbed and that took out all the fun from the work. Then he thought of stealing Anil’s money and justified himself that if he didn't steal money from Anil then also he would waste it on his friends and also, Anil didn't pay him for the work that he did.

Hari then woke up at night and quietly crawled to Anil’s bed. He steals the money and decides to leave the city by Lucknow Express that departed at 10:30. When he reached the station, the train had slowly started moving from the platform. He could have easily caught the train, but he hesitated and he himself did not know the reason for it. Before he had reached the station he counted the money and it was 600 rupees in 50 rupee notes. He could live a lavish life for 2 - 3 weeks with so much money. After the train had left, Hari was all alone at the train station. He was left with no place to sleep at night. The only person he knew was Anil and he had looted him as well. He sat on a bench in a park and as it started to rain, he sat down under the clock tower. Then he realized that the notes had got wet. He realized that learning how to read and write would help him to get a much more respectable and honest job which would pay him much more than these few hundred rupees. Then he decided to go back to Anil’s house.

He reached the room and placed the money back. Next morning, he woke up a bit late and Anil had already made his tea. Anil gave a 50 rupee note to Hari as he had got paid for some work and he would be paid regularly. Hari took the note in his hand and realized that the note was still wet from the rain last night. Hari realized that Anil had come to know about his misdeed but there was no sadness, anger or guilt in his mind. The narrator smiled in a beautiful way and it was genuine happiness as he knew that he had saved himself from the wrong road.

**Word Meanings**

Lean- thin  
Flattery- excessive and insincere praise  
Modestly- in an unassuming manner; without vanity or arrogance.  
Employers- a person or organization that employs people.  
Grunting- make a low, short guttural sound.  
Appealing- attractive or interesting.

Misjudged- form a wrong opinion or conclusion about.  
Balcony-a platform enclosed by a wall or balustrade on the outside of a building, with access from an upper-floor window or door.  
Terrible- extremely bad or serious.  
Patted- touch quickly and gently with the flat of the hand.  
Pleasant- giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment.  
Supplies- a stock or amount of something supplied or available for use.

Fits and Starts- not working on something consistently  
Borrow- take and use (something belonging to someone else) with the intention of returning it.  
Lend- grant to (someone) the use of (something) on the understanding that it will be returned.  
Queer- strange; odd.  
Bundle- a collection of things or quantity of material tied or wrapped up together.  
Tuck- push, fold, or turn (the edges or ends of something, especially a garment or bedclothes) so as to hide or secure them.  
Line of work-  the principal activity in your life that you do to earn money  
Beam- a ray or shaft of light.  
Crept- move slowly and carefully in order to avoid being heard or noticed.  
Drew- pull or drag  
Sighed- emit a long, deep audible breath expressing sadness, relief, tiredness.  
Startled- feeling or showing sudden shock or alarm.

Dashed- Quickly ran towards something  
Carriages- any of the separate sections of a train that carry passengers.  
Hesitated- pause in indecision before saying or doing something.  
Deserted- (of a place) empty of people.  
Curious- eager to know or learn something.  
Robbed- take property unlawfully from (a person or place) by force or threat of force.  
Bazaar- market  
Maidan- a park  
Drizzle- light rain falling in very fine drops.

Shelter- a place giving temporary protection from bad weather or danger.  
Clock Tower- a tower, typically forming part of a church or civic building, with a large clock at the top.  
Midnight- twelve o'clock at night.  
Damp- slightly wet.  
Cinema- a theatre where films are shown for public entertainment.  
Hurried- done in a hurry; rushed.- make or become less clear or transparent.

**Character Sketch of Hari Singh**

Hari Singh was a small time thief. Hari Singh was not his actual name and he kept changing names so that the police could not get hold of him. He was a liar as well because he even lied to Anil that he could cook. His main job was to befriend people and then deceive them and rob them and run away. He was staying with Anil, a kind hearted man who trusted Hari Singh but Hari took the advantage of his trust and at night when Anil was asleep he robbed him. He ran off but as he was about to escape he stopped and remembered the promise made by Anil to teach him. So his urge to receive an education compelled him to return to Anil. He quietly kept the money back at its place and he learnt the value of trust and friendship...

**Character Sketch of Anil**

Anil was a kind , simple and easy going young man. He was tall and lean stature and interested in sports like Wrestling . He was not very rich and could not afford to employ Hari as a cook.

He had the patience and goodness to not only teach Hari to cook but also to read , write and add numbers. Though he knew that Hari was stealing little bits of money from him, he ignored this fact.

Anil was a writer who wrote for magazines and made money in fits and starts. He was a very trusting person. Even when he earned a large amount of money , he kept the money under his mattress and not under lock and key.  
He was generous and paid Hari when he got some money. Hari had tried to steal the money from him. He was forgiving and he forgave Hari - the theft and continued to be good to him.

**Concept Based Questions**

**Question 1.**

Why did Hari Singh approach Anil?

**Question 2.**

Anil walked away. I followed casually’. Why do you think the narrator followed Anil?

**Question 3.**

Was Hari Singh successful in robbing Anil? Was Anil the only one who was robbed or did Hari also rob himself of something?

**Question 4.**  
What did Anil and Hari agree upon to be the mode of payment?

**Question 5.**

What made Hari Singh go back to Anil’s house?

**Question 6.**  
Did Hari like working for Anil? Give reasons in support of your answer.

**Question 7.**

Why was it difficult for Hari to rob Anil?

**Question 8.**

State the events that took place on the night of the theft.

**Question 9.**

How was the morning after the night of the theft?

**Question 10.**

How do you think Anil may have come to know about the theft?

**Question 11.**

Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh? Support your answer with evidence.