

1. What are the things the child sees on his way to the fair? Why does he lag behind?

Answer: The child sees many things which fascinate him on his way to the fair. He saw many toy shops on road sides. To distract him from toys, his mother shows him a flowering mustard field nearby. In the fields, the child sees dragon flies, butterflies fluttering around the flowers. Then, while walking on the footpath he was amazed by the insects and worms. After entering the grove where his parents were resting, he saw cooing doves. As he neared the village with his parents, he saw huge crowds of people going to the fair. As the distance to the fair gets closer, he sees many shops converging to fair. A sweetmeat seller selling sweets like burfi and Gulab-jamun and a little further he comes across a flower seller who was selling a garland of Gulmohar. Walking ahead, he sees a man selling rainbow coloured balloons. He also saw a snake charmer who stood playing a flute to a snake. Finally, before losing track of his parents he saw a roundabout swing.

The child keeps lagging on the way because the child is fascinated by all the things he sees on his way. At times, he stops to buy toys and at other times he stops to admire the beauty of the nature – collecting flowers, catching butterflies.

2. In the fair he wants many things. What are they? Why does he move on without waiting for an Answer?

Answer: Some of the things child wants in the fair are:

- Toys and Balloons
- Burfi from the sweetmeat seller
- Garland of Gulmohar
- Watching the snake charmer play flute to a snake
- A ride in the roundabout

The boy moved on without waiting for an answer because he knew that his request would be refused every time.

3. When does he realize that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?

Answer: He realises that he has lost his way when on reaching the roundabout; he stopped to observe it moving in full swing, with men, women and children enjoying themselves on it. Watching them intently he turned to his parents to ask for permission to go on the rounds

but there was no reply from them. He turned to look for them, but they were not there. He looked all around but there was no sign of them. His anxiety and insecurity has been worded beautifully. The description of his anxious moments is follows:

A full, deep cry rose within his dry throat and with a sudden jerk of his body he ran from where he stood, crying out in real fear "Mother, Father." Tears rolled down from his eyes, his flushed face was convulsed with fear. Panic-stricken, he ran from one side to the other, in all directions, knowing not where to go. His yellow turban came untied and his clothes became muddy.

The author has captured the anxiety and fear a child faces in such situations in minutest of the details of his body language. This helps the reader to connect to the child's situations at an emotional level.

4. Why does the lost child lose interest in the things that he had wanted earlier?

Answer: The lost child loses interest in the things that he had wanted earlier because he was panic stricken on being separated from his parents. All he wanted was to be united with them. All the things that attracted him in the fair no longer appeal to him as he realizes being with parents is more important.

5. What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents?

Answer: In the end the parents, who continuously kept checking to see that he was with them right from the beginning of their journey may have suddenly realized that he was missing and come looking for the lost child. The kind and understanding man who tried to console the little boy by offering him various things at the fair may have also asked him for some description of his parents and helped him to reunite with them.

1. How does Toto come to grandfather's private zoo?

Answer: Toto was in the captivity of a tonga owner. The grandfather gets sympathetic with the monkey and thinks that his private zoo would be a better place for Toto. So he purchased Toto from the tongawallah for five rupees.

2. "Toto was a pretty monkey." In what sense is Toto pretty?

Answer: Toto was a pretty monkey. His bright eyes sparkled with mischief beneath the deep-set eyebrows, and his teeth, which were a pearly white, were very often displayed in a smile that frightened the life out of elderly Anglo-Indian ladies. But his hands looked dried-up as though they had been pickled in the sun for many years. Yet his fingers were quick and wicked and his tail, while adding to his good looks served as a third hand. He could use it to hang from a branch and it was capable of scooping up any delicacy that might be out of reach of his hands.

3. Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how? Why does the ticket collector insist on calling Toto a dog?

Answer: Toto was a real menace for every living soul in the household. Other animals in grandfather's zoo were at Toto's mercy even during night. So, grandfather decided to provide some relief to other animals in the zoo and thought of taking Toto to Saharanpur. The ticket collector was following his rulebooks. As there seems to be no rule for fixing a monkey's fare so he equated Toto with dog. Ticket collector's ingenuity tried to categorize all pets of a certain size as dogs.

4. How does Toto take a bath? Where has he learnt to do this? How does Toto almost boil himself alive?

Answer: Toto takes bath in a tub of warm water. It puts its legs in the water one by one and applies soap as well. As monkeys are good at aping others, so Toto has learnt proper steps of bathing while watching the narrator doing same. Toto is fond of bathing with warm water. So once having tested the warmth of water in the kettle Toto sits in the kettle. Probably he is not intelligent enough to understand the risk boiling water so he pops his head up and down in the kettle.

5. Why does the author say, "Toto was not the sort of pet we could keep for long"?

Answer: Though Toto was pretty and clever, he was very mischievous. He brought a lot of damage to the house by breaking dishes, tearing clothes and curtains. He also scared the visitors by tearing holes in their dresses. Furthermore, he didn't get along well with other animals in the house too. One day Toto crossed the limits by picking up a dish of pullao and running on a branch to eat it. When scolded he threw off the plate and broke it. That's when

grandfather decided he had had enough of Toto because he couldn't bear the losses that he incurred because of Toto's mischief.

1. In what way is Iswaran an asset to Mahendra?

Answer: Iswaran was a good domestic assistant for Mahendra. Apart from cooking and doing household chores he was a great entertainer for his master. He was good at managing resources as he could find vegetables out of nowhere also never had complain while accompanying his master.

2. How does Iswaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway? What effect does he want to create in his listeners?

Answer: Iswaran describes the uprooted tree on the highway with eyebrows suitably arched and hands held out in a dramatic way. He would begin by saying that the road was deserted and he was all alone. Suddenly he spotted something that looked like an enormous bushy beast lying sprawled across the road. He was half inclined to turn and go back. But as he came closer he saw that it was a fallen tree, with its dry branches spread out.

The effect he wants to create is suspense and a surprise ending to every small incident that he narrates to his readers.

3. How does he narrate the story of the tusker? Does it appear to be plausible?

Answer: He started the story of the elephant by giving a prologue in which he called elephants 'huge well-fed beasts.' He said that after escaping from the timber yard, the elephant started roaming about, stamped on bushes and tore up wild creepers. It then came to the main road of the town and smashed all the stalls selling fruits, mud pots, and clothes. It then entered a school ground where the children were playing. It pulled out the football goal-post, tore down the volleyball net, flattened the drum kept for water and uprooted the shrubs. All the teachers and students were so afraid that they climbed up to the terrace of the school building. According to Iswaran, he was studying in the junior class at that time. He grabbed a cane from the hands of one of the teachers and ran into the open. The elephant continued grunting and stamping its feet. It looked frightening. However, he moved slowly towards it. When the elephant was ready to rush towards him, he moved forward and whacked its third toe nail. It looked stunned and then collapsed. This story does not appear to be plausible.

4. Why does the author say that Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters?

Answer: The author says so because Iswaran provided a great company to Mahendra. He would chat with Mahendra at night when he returned from his work. Iswaran would also entertain Mahendra by telling stories. Thus, with Iswaran around Mahendra never felt bored and never felt the necessity of having a TV for entertainment.

5. Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of the imagination. What happens to him on a full-moon night?

Answer: Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of the imagination because Iswaran informed him that they were living on a burial site and kept narrating to him stories of various ghosts he himself had encountered.

On one full moon night, Mahendra was woken up from his sleep by a low moan close to his window. At first he thought that it was a cat prowling around for mice. But the sound was too deep and guttural for a cat. He resisted looking outside as he did not want to witness a sight that might stop his heartbeat. But the crying became louder and less subtle. He could not resist the temptation any more. Lowering himself to the level of the windowsill he looked out at the white sheet of moonlight outside. There, not too far away, was a dark cloudy form clutching a bundle. He broke into a cold sweat and fell back on the pillow, panting.

6. Can you think of some other ending for the story?

Answer: The story could have ended on a more positive note. Instead of resigning from his job, Mahendra could have been shown as a real courageous man and proving the ghost theory wrong.

Another ending can be of both Mahendra and Iswaran leaving the place together and in turn continuing their bond which is depicted earlier in the story. Iswaran has been explained as a man of all seasons for Mahendra.

1. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple find in the Kingdom of Fools?

Answer: The two strange things that the guru and his disciple observe in the kingdom of fools are:

- Every sleeps during the day and carry out their work at night
- The cost to purchase anything from the market was the same, one duddu (one rupee).

Whether it was a measure of rice or a bunch of banana it cost the same

2. Why does the disciple's decide to stay in the Kingdom of Fools? Is it a good idea?

Answer: The disciple decided to stay in the Kingdom of Fools because he was delighted that everything cost a single duddu and everything was very cheap. All that he wanted was good and very cheap food. According to the Guru, staying there was not a good idea as they were all fools and so he felt this situation would not last long and was not sure about what they would do in the future.

3. Name all the people who are tried in the king's court, and give the reasons for their trial.

Answer: Following people were tried in the king's court:

- The merchant whose house was burgled: Because his house's wall was weak and it fell upon the burglar and killed him
- The bricklayer who built the wall: Because he built a wall which was weak and which collapsed killing the burglar
- The dancing girl: Because she distracted the bricklayer with her jingling anklets by walking up and down the road where bricklayer was laying the wall
- The goldsmith: Because he didn't complete the dancing girl's order on time and so she had to go to the goldsmith a dozen times.
- The merchant whose house was burgled (second time): because his father persuaded the goldsmith to finish his order first thereby delaying the dancing girl's order. Since the merchant's father died, the merchant had to be executed in his father's place
- The disciple: Because the merchant was too thin to be executed by the newly made stake and a fat man was required to fit the stake. The disciple was very fat, hence he was caught

4. Who is the real culprit according to the king? Why does he escape punishment?

Answer: The real culprit according to the king is the merchant because although his old father was the real murderer he was dead and someone had to be punishment in his place. He escapes the punishment because he is too thin to be properly executed on the stake.

5. What are the Guru's words of wisdom? When does the disciple remember them?

Answer: The *guru's* words of wisdom were that it was the city of fools. He advised the disciple to leave the city because he would not know what they would do next. The disciple remembers this when he was going to be executed.

6. How does the guru manage to save his disciple's life?

Answer: The guru tries to confuse the king by expressing his desire to be killed first. Then to further confuse the king he tells the story of becoming the king in the next incarnation. Apparently it may sound like a case of pure lie to save your dear one's life. But if we go deeper consciously or unconsciously the sage is trying to save everybody's life in the kingdom. Ultimately he is able to pull everybody out of the misery of living in the kingdom of fools.

1. Why do the courtiers call the prince ‘the Happy Prince’? Is he really happy? What does he see all around him?

Answer: The courtiers called the prince ‘the Happy Prince’ because he was always happy. When he was alive, he did not know what tears were for he lived in a palace where sorrow was not allowed to enter. However, when he died and was made into a statue, he was not happy and tears flowed down his eyes on seeing the state of his city. He could see all the misery and ugliness of the city around him.

2. Why does the Happy Prince send a ruby for the seamstress? What does the swallow do in the seamstress’ house?

Answer: The Happy Prince sent a ruby for the seamstress as she was extremely poor and could not feed her child who was suffering from fever.

The swallow, on being persuaded by the prince, went to the seamstress’s house. She had fallen asleep so the swallow kept the ruby on the table where the woman worked. He then flew round the bed fanning the boy’s forehead with his wings. This made the boy feel relaxed and he went to sleep.

3. For whom does the prince send the sapphires and why?

Answer: The Happy Prince sent the sapphires for two people: the young writer across the city and the match girl.

The young writer was trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre. However, he was too cold to write anymore, there was no fire in the grate and hunger had made him faint. He sent the sapphire to the young playwright so that he could sell it to the jeweller, buy firewood, and finish his play. On seeing the sapphire, the young man felt appreciated and believed that he could finish his play.

The Happy Prince then saw a little match girl who was standing in the square just below him. She had let her matches fall in the gutter because of which they were all spoiled. The prince knew that her father would beat her if she did not bring home some money. When the swallow slipped the jewel into the palm of the little girl’s hand, she ran home happy and laughing.

4. What does the swallow see when it flies over the city?

Answer: When the swallow flew over the city it saw the stark contrast of plenty and poverty. It saw rich men making merry oblivious to the plight of the poor down the lane. It saw the nadir of condition of poor when they are denied even a sound sleep by police patrolling the street.

5. Why did the swallow not leave the prince and go to Egypt?

Answer: Since the prince had given away the two sapphires of his eyes, he had become blind. Therefore, the swallow decided to stay with the prince always. It can be inferred that the swallow was so touched by prince's kindness that he decided to stay back rather than flying to Egypt and be with his friends. What this suggests is that kind hearted people always attract friends who will stay with them forever.

6. What are the precious things mentioned in the story? Why are they precious?

Answer: The precious things mentioned in the story are the leaden heart of the happy prince and the dead bird. They are precious because both the happy prince and the swallow were very kind, generous and selfless. The prince could not bear to see the ugliness, misery and suffering in his city and so gave away all his precious stones and gold to make his people happy.

Similarly the swallow sacrificed his trip to Egypt and acted as the prince's messenger carrying the precious stones and gold to the needy spreading happiness around. When the prince was blind he still loved him so much that he never left him even though it kept getting colder and colder with winter approaching. Finally when he could no longer bear the cold he died at the feet of the statue and the statue loved him so much that its leaden heart broke into two.

That is why when God asked one of the angels to bring him the two precious things in the garden the angel took the leaden heart and the dead bird and God said that in his garden of Paradise the little bird shall sing for ever more and in the city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise God.

1. What havoc has the super cyclone wreaked in the life of the people of Orissa?

Answer: The cyclone brought heavy rains and strong winds. As a result, majority of the houses had blown away and only the strong cement houses were spared. Dirty water covered the land as far as the eye could see. Many people lost their lives. There were floating human bodies and bloated animal carcasses all around. Even the strongest of the trees had been uprooted. The scenes were gruesome. Many people lost their relatives and many children had become orphans. There was shortage of food. People were sad and helpless and a pall of gloom had descended on the people all around.

2. How has Prashant, a teenager, been able to help the people of his village?

Answer: Prashant helped the people of his village by first getting a grip over himself because he was initially shocked on witnessing the after effects of the cyclone. He decided to step in as the leader of his village. He organized a group of youths and elders to jointly pressurize the merchant to give rice for the people living in the shelter. He was successful in this task. His next task was to organize a team of youth volunteers to clean the shelter and to tend to the wounds of the people who had been injured because of the cyclone. Prashant also brought a number of orphaned children together and constructed a polythene shelter for them. While women were mobilized to look after them, the men secured food and other essentials for the shelter. When he realised that the women were becoming too grief-stricken, he persuaded them to start working in the food-for-work programme, which was initiated by an NGO. He also organized sports events for children.

3. How have the people of the community helped one another? What role do the women of Kalikuda play during these days?

Answer: The people of the community got together and began to help one another under the leadership of young Prashant. Together they pressurised the merchant to part with his rice for the people in the shelter. They gathered branches from fallen trees and lit a fire, on which they cooked rice for all to eat.

When the military helicopter dropped some food parcels but did not return, the youth task force gathered empty utensils from the shelter and made the children lie in the sand with the utensils on their stomachs to communicate to the passing helicopters that they were hungry. The message went through and the helicopter made regular rounds of the shelter, airdropping food and other basic needs.

Women were mobilized to look after the orphans, while the men secured food and materials for the shelter. In spite of being grief-stricken the women started working in the food-for-work programme started by an NGO.

4. What do Prashant and other volunteers resist the plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows? Why alternatives do they consider?

Answer: The plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows was resisted because it was believed that in such institutions children will grow up without love and affection and widows would suffer from stigma and loneliness. Instead, Prashant and his group suggested that the children and widows should be resettled in their own community where they can get a homely environment. They suggested setting up of foster families made up of childless widows and children without adult care.

5. Do you think Prashant is good leader? Do you think young people can get together to help people during natural calamities?

Answer: Yes, Prashant is a very good leader. Though he himself was too grief-stricken, he got a hold of himself and decided to step in as the leader of the village. He carried out his role effectively and helped the people of his village in every possible manner.

Yes. Young people can definitely get together to help people during natural calamities and otherwise. They can use their strength and vigour to help people.

1. What is Johnsy's illness? What can cure her, the medicine or the willingness to live?

Answer: Johnsy was suffering from pneumonia. Only the willingness to live could cure her. She had made up her mind that she was not going to get well. The doctor said that if she did not want to live, then medicines would not help her.

2. Do you think the feeling of depression Johnsy has is common among teenagers?

Answer: Yes, I think the feeling of depression Johnsy is very common among teenagers. Because of the present lifestyle, teenagers are under constant pressure to outperform in every field. They are burdened with studies and the anxiety of future. They are also subjected to a lot of parental and peer pressure. Along with all this, they are also expected to behave in a certain manner as deemed appropriate by the society. Most of the times, they are unable to bear so much of stress and end up being depressed.

3. Behrman has a dream. What is it? Does it come true?

Answer: Behrman was a sixty year old painter. His lifelong dream was to paint a masterpiece. It does come true when he paints a leaf such that it looks extremely natural. He painted the last leaf left on a creeper.

4. What is Behrman's masterpiece? What makes Sue say so?

Answer: Behrman's masterpiece was the last leaf on the ivy creeper. Sue calls it masterpiece because this painting rekindled the willingness to survive in Johnsy's heart and she was able to recover from her illness. Johnsy thought that she would die when the last leaf fell from the ivy creeper. But Behrman spent an entire night in a heavy storm to paint a fresh green leaf. Behrman suffered from pneumonia because of getting drenched while painting and eventually died. However, on seeing that leaf Johnsy thought it was real and got a feeling of self-belief. She realized she could get well if she wanted to and came out of her illness.

1. What does the author notice one Sunday afternoon? What is his mother's reaction? What does she do?

Answer: One Sunday afternoon, the author noticed a strange smell. Then he saw smoke pouring in through the seams of the ceiling and filling the room very quickly. They could barely see anything. By the time they ran out into the front yard, the roof was already engulfed in flames and was spreading very quickly.

His mother ran back into the house. She had brought out a small metal box full of important documents. She wanted to bring out important things from the house one by one. She was in a 'crazed state'.

2. Why does he break down in tears after the fire?

Answer: After the fire, he broke down into tears because it suddenly struck him that he was suffering a big loss. He realized that his cat could not be seen anywhere. Then, everything hit him at once – the new school, the fire, and his cat. That was when he broke down and cried.

3. Why is the author deeply embarrassed the next day in school? Which words show his fear and insecurity?

Answer: The author is deeply embarrassed the next day in school because when the fire broke out, he was still wearing the dress he had worn to church that morning but he had no shoes as he had lost them in the fire. So he had to borrow some tennis shoes from his aunt. He was totally embarrassed by everything. The clothes he was wearing looked weird, he had no books or homework, and his backpack was gone.

Words used in the lesson that show his fear and insecurity are "...outcast and geek..." , "...like a zombie.", "...wanted to curl up and die." , "Everything felt surreal", "All the security...had all been ripped away".

4. The cat and the author are very fond of each other. How has this been shown in the story? Where was the cat after the fire? Who brings it back and how?

Answer: The author had great affection towards his cat. He cried inconsolably when he couldn't find his cat after the fire. He would regularly go to the site of his house in the hope of finding the cat. He remembered how the cat would crawl into his pocket and fall asleep and missed her terribly.

The cat was so freaked by the fire and ran a mile away from the house. One woman found her and took her in. She located the author's number on the cat's collar. However, she couldn't reach them as the phone had been disconnected because of the fire. The woman then made personal efforts to find the author and returned back the cat.

5. What actions of the schoolmates change the author's understanding of life and people, and comfort him emotionally? How does his loneliness vanish and how does he start participating in life?

Answer: The schoolmates showed genuine concern for the author in spite of not knowing him well. They helped him by collecting supplies, books and clothes for him. People whom he had never spoken to before started coming to him and befriending him. They also called him to their houses. The author made new friends. He was overwhelmed by their love and cooperation. He realized that his new school and new people around him were good. He stopped focusing on his feeling of fear and insecurity and became confident that everything will be alright.

6. What is the meaning of "My cat was back and so was I"? Had the author gone anywhere? Why does he say that he is also back?

Answer: After the fire the author loses interest in life. He feels that he has lost everything. After he gets books and other items from his schoolmates he feels a sense of newfound security. The recovery of his cat is like the icing on the cake. He gets back his best mate. Now both he and his cat are back to normalcy. His statement is indicating that he has begun picking up fragments of life.

1. Bill Bryson says, "I am, in short, easily confused." What examples has he given to justify this?

Answer: Bill Bryson cannot do a simple day to day activity without creating a mess. He often forgets the way to lavatory. He finds it difficult to remember his hotel room number. He can forget almost everything which is required to carry out our routine activity. Most of us never ponder how effortlessly we carry out our routine activity. It is all wired up in our brains. But some people, like Bill Bryson find it difficult and almost impossible.

2. What happens when the zip on his carry-on bag gives way?

Answer: His fingers get hurt by the zip. He is bleeding profusely. All belongings in his bag are flying across the floor of the waiting hall of the airport. He seems to be making a mockery of himself and of civilized way of behaving at a particular place.

3. Why is his finger bleeding? What is his wife's reaction?

Answer: His finger is hurt by getting stuck in the zip of his bag. His wife is astonished by the way he has created a mess all around himself.

4. How does Bill Bryson end up in a "crash position" in the aircraft?

Answer: Bill Bryson leans down to tie his shoelaces. In the meantime the person on the seat ahead of him pushes back his seat. As a result he gets stuck in the kneel down position. Certain people have this strange affinity with always getting stuck in an awkward position.

5. Why are his teeth and gums navy blue?

Answer: While pondering over his writing he was chewing on his pen. He was so careless that he did not notice the ink getting into his mouth. It took longer for him to impress the lady sitting next to him. For ink also it was enough time to show the bizarre effect in his mouth.

6. Bill Bryson "ached to be suave". Is he successful in his mission? List his 'unsuave' ways.

Answer: Certain unwritten rules dictate the way we should behave in public places. For example you should know proper manners while at dining table. It is considered uncivilized if you burp publicly. You should not make chomping noise while eating. The list is endless. Bill Bryson always met with some sort of accidents while following these rules. He would always make chicken pieces fly after his fork's stroke. If he would open the lid of some edible chances are he would splatter it all over his clothes.

7. Why do you think Bill Bryson's wife says to the children, "Take the lids off the food for Daddy"?

Answer: His wife knew his knack of creating misery for himself. As a precautionary measure she asked her children to do normal chores for their father.

8. What is the significance of the title?

Answer: The main character here is prone to create small mishaps. Especially during tour this can lead to discomfort of fellow passengers. Think for a while, you are sitting on a window seat in the train enjoying the beautiful scenery outside. Then somebody sitting on the upper berth spills his favourite curry and spoils your new shirt and your mood too. Those sort of persons are better at their homes. The way he creates accidents justifies the title, "The Accidental Tourist".

1. Has Lushkoff become a beggar by circumstance or by choice?

Answer: Lushkoff becomes a beggar by circumstances. He was a singer who used to sing in the choir. Choir is sung in the church. He lost his job because of alcohol abuse. After he was out of rehabilitation centre the social stigma of being a drunkard prevented him from getting a job. To make ends meet he had resort to begging.

2. What reasons does he give to Sergei for his telling lies?

Answer: He says that if he would tell the truth people would not give alms. We can correlate it with the way beggars dress and crib about being hungry for days. In some bigger cities there are criminal gangs keeping an army of beggars. They do the required cosmetic make up and drop off beggars at strategic traffic points. They train those beggars to cry properly so that people would show mercy on them. At the end of the day the gang lord gets a hefty commission out of day's booty.

3. Is Lushkoff a willing worker? Why, then, does he agree to chop wood for Sergei?

Answer: Lushkoff is weak out of malnourishment and alcoholism. He knows he is not strong enough to work. But once Sergei detects his lies then he is feeling ashamed. His conscience pushes him to agree for chopping wood.

4. Sergei says, "I am happy that my words have taken effect." Why does he say so? Is he right in saying this?

Answer: Sergei thinks that because of his timely advice Lushkoff could get rid of begging and is financially independent. He is right from his perspective because he doesn't know that it was Olga who chopped woods for Lushkoff. Anyway, the end result is Lushkoff's life is back on the right track. And there is a saying, "all is well that ends well."

5. Lushkoff is earning thirty five roubles a month. How is he obliged to Sergei for this?

Answer: Had there been no encounter with Sergei Lushkoff would have continued begging. It was because of Sergei that he could get an opportunity to be helped by Olga. The whole incident changes the way Lushkoff thinks about his future. Earlier he had no confidence of getting a job. His stint with Sergei and Olga gives him a new confidence which helps him land a decent job.

6. During their conversation Lushkoff reveals that Sergei's cook, Olga, is responsible for the positive change in him. How has Olga saved Lushkoff?

Answer: Olga takes pity on Lushkoff. She knows that such a weak man can't chop wood. She helped him by chopping wood in his place. No matter how much abusive Olga was in her words, deep inside she had a helping attitude. The very act of Olga changes Lushkoff's heart. Had Olga not helped Lushkoff in chopping wood he would not have got the money he needed. He would not have got the chance to listen to Olga's moral lessons.