



5. Complete the flow chart in the correct sequence as it happens in the story.

Hint: it begins from the time John Pescud first saw Jessie till the time they marry.

- (1) Jessie takes a sleeper to Louisville.
- (2) Pescud sees a girl (Jessie) reading a book in the train.
- (3) Pescud speaks to the girl (Jessie) for the first time.
- (4) Pescud follows her but finds it difficult to keep up.
- (5) Pescud goes to the village to find out about the mansion.
- (6) Jessie arrives at Virginia.
- (7) Pescud meets Jessie's father.
- (8) They get married a year later.
- (9) Pescud instantly gets attracted to the girl (Jessie)
- (10) Jessie informs Pescud that her father would not approve of them meeting.
- (11) They meet alone two days later.

Answer:

- (2) Pescud sees a girl (Jessie) reading a book in the train.
- (9) Pescud instantly gets attracted to the girl (Jessie)
- (1) Jessie takes a sleeper to Louisville.
- (4) Pescud follows her but finds it difficult to keep up
- (6) Jessie arrives at Virginia.
- (5) Pescud goes to the village to find out about the mansion
- (3) Pescud speaks to the girl (Jessie) for the first time.
- (10) Jessie informs Pescud that her father would not approve of them meeting.
- (7) Pescud meets Jessie's father.
- (11) They meet alone two days later
- (8) They get married a year later.

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6. Irony refers to the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of their literal meaning. Working in pairs, bring out the irony in the following:

(a) The title of the story, "The Best seller".

Answer:

The Best Seller is supposed to be most popular and likeable. But John Pescud throws the best seller "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan" to the floor of the chair car. He later says that all bestsellers have the same unrealistic romantic stories.

(b) Pescud's claim, "When people in real life marry, they generally hunt up somebody in their own station. A fellow usually picks out a girl who went to the same high-school and belonged to the same singing-society that he did."

Answer:

Pescud told the author that unlike the stories of the bestsellers, in real life people marry somebody in their own place. Someone who has been educated in a similar type of school and has grown up in a similar background. Yet the irony behind his claim is seen in his own life history. The moment he saw the unknown girl on the train, he fell in love with her, without much knowledge about her. He

followed her to her destination and even after finding out that she lived in Elmcroft, Virginia, in a 50 room mansion, belonged to the oldest family in the state and her father was a descendent of the belted Earls he did not give up his pursuit. In spite of coming from totally different walks of life-he being an ordinary travelling salesman, their paths met and he went on to marry her.

(c) The name Trevelyan.

Answer:

Trevelyan is the hero of the bestseller novel "The Rose Lady and Trevelyan." Pescud condemns such best sellers and makes fun of its unrealistic characters. But at the end of the story, the author calls Pescud a Trevelyan because he had behaved almost like the hero of the bestseller.

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