



By O. Henry

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3. Based on your reading of the story, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.

(a) The narrator says that John was "\_\_\_\_\_ of the suff that heroes are not often lucky enough to be made of." His tone is sarcastic because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) he hated John
- (ii) he felt that John was a threat to him
- (iii) John was not particularly good-looking
- (iv) nobody liked John

Answer:

(iii) John was not particularly good-looking

(b) Pescud felt that best-sellers were not realistic as \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) American farmers had nothing in common with European princesses
- (ii) men generally married girls from a similar background
- (iii) American men married girls who studied in America
- (iv) American men did not know fencing and were beaten by the Swiss guards

Answer:

(ii) men generally married girls from a similar background

(c) "Bully", said Pescud brightening at once. He means to say that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) he is a bully
- (ii) his manager was a bully
- (iii) he was being bullied by his co-workers
- (iv) he was doing very well at his job

Answer:

(iv) he was doing very well at his job

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(d) The narrator says that life has no geographical bounds implying that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) human beings are essentially the same everywhere
- (ii) boundaries exist only on maps
- (iii) one should work towards the good of mankind
- (iv) he was happy to travel to other countries

Answer:

(i) human beings are essentially the same everywhere

4. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) One day last summer the author was travelling to Pittsburg by chair car. What does he say about his co-passengers?

Answer:

The compartment was full of affluent people, men and women, sitting in their chair-cars. Women were fashionably dressed in brown silk dresses with laces and veils. Men appeared to be travelling on account of

business.

(b) Who was the passenger of chair No.9? What did he suddenly do?

Answer:

The passenger of Chair No. 9 was a man from Pittsburgh named John, an old friend of writer.

He suddenly threw his book between his chair and window. The name of book was the 'The Rose Lady and Trevelyan', one of the bestselling novels of the present day.

(c) What was John A. Pescud's opinion about best sellers? Why?

Answer:

Pescud believed that the stories about best-sellers were not realistic. The themes revolved around romances between royals and commoners, fencing, imaginative encounters and all the stuff that never happens in real life. In real life, one would always select a prospective bride from a similar background.

(d) What does John say about himself since his last meeting with the author?

Answer:

John, since his last meeting with the author was on the line of general prosperity. He had his salary doubled twice and had bought "a neat slice of real estate." His company was to sell him some shares of stock the coming year. Much settled in life, he had even taken some time off to experience some romance of which he tells the author next.

(e) How did John's first meeting with Jessie's father go? What did the author tell him?

Answer:

John's first meeting with Jessie's father was successful, since it set the tone for a possible alliance in future. John not only made his proposal, stated his intentions in clear terms, but also made Jessie's father laugh with his anecdotes and stories.

(f) Why did John get off at Coketown?

Answer:

Jessie had fancied some petunias in one of the windows and she wanted to plant them in her new house. So Pescud thought of dropping at Coketown to dig or get some cuttings of flowers for her.

(g) John is a hypocrite. Do you agree with this statement?

Substantiate your answer.

Answer:

Yes, I believe that John is a hypocrite. The word hypocrite means the person tries to show what he is not. John is such type of man. He said that he did not believe in the romance portrayed in best sellers. He believed the stories too good to be true. However, his own story was fantastical. His wife, the only daughter of the oldest family in Virginia, met him, an ordinary travel salesman of a plate glass company, in a journey where he would have least expected to find his life partner. Their courtship also was too fantastical, and even after all the episode, the fashion in which Pescud criticised love stories of best sellers proves him to be a hypocrite.

(h) Describe John A. Pescud with reference to the following points:

Physical appearance .....

His philosophy on behaviour .....

His profession .....

His first impression of his wife .....

His success .....

Answer:

Physical appearance: John was not particularly good looking  
His philosophy on behaviour: A man should be decent and law  
abiding in her/his hometown  
His profession: A travelling salesman for a plate glass company  
His first impression of his wife: A very fine girl, whose job was to  
make this world prettier just by residing in it  
His success: Much successful John had had his salary raised twice in  
the previous year and his company was to give him a few shares as  
well.

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