



6. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Why didn't Luigi, the driver, approve of the two boys?

Answer:

Luigi, the driver, didn't approve of the shabby appearance of Nicola and Jacopo. They were wearing old and worn out clothes.

(b) Why were the narrator and his companion impressed by the two boys?

Answer:

They were very impressed by the boys because they were highly committed and devoted towards work at such a young age. They were ready to do all sorts of odd jobs to earn money. They exhibited dedication, determination and sincerity while working.

(c) Why was the author surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoeshine boys?

Answer:

The narrator was surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo shining shoes because he thought that selling fruits was their only occupancy.

(d) How were the boys useful to the author?

Answer:

The boys were useful to the author in many ways. They showed them the city as guide, helped them in getting a pack of American cigarettes, bought tickets for the opera for them, told them about good restaurants and ran all their errands.

(e) Why were the boys in the deserted square at night? What character traits do they exhibit?

Answer:

The two boys were selling newspapers in the windy, deserted square at night. They were waiting for the last bus from Padua. They would sell their newspapers when it came in. It shows their sense of hard work and patience. They could work till midnight.

(f) The narrator asks the boys, "Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired."

The boys reply, "We are not complaining, sir." What do you learn about the boys from their reply?

Answer:

When the narrator saw them selling newspapers till midnight, he asked them if they must do work so hard as they both looked tired. At this, Nicola replied that they were not complaining about it. It means that both the boys had a lot of courage and patience of working hard. It shows their willingness and readiness to work.

(g) When the narrator asks the boys about their plans, they are evasive. Why don't they disclose their problems?

Answer:

The boys don't disclose their problems to the narrator when he asked them about their plans because they did not want to lose their dignity and self-respect by asking anyone for sympathy or financial help.

7. Discuss the following questions and write the answers in your

notebook.

(a) Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys.

Answer:

'Appearances are deceptive'. It is very much true in the case of two boys but in the positive sense. In spite of their appearance, the narrator bought fruit from them. In the following days, the narrator discovered that the boys did a lot of other things apart from selling fruit, they sold newspapers, they were shoeshine boys, tourist guides and ran errands. All this made the narrator think that the boys were working so hard to save money to emigrate to America. However, it is revealed during the course of the story that their only motive was to be able to pay for their sister's treatment. War had destroyed most of their family and yet it had not filled them with despair. The boys were working day and night to save whatever was left. Behind their shabby appearances were hidden two noble souls whose dedication and selflessness promises a new hope for mankind.

(b) Do you think the boys looked after Lucia willingly? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

The boys loved their sister. She was the only family left after the war was over. When they realized that their sister had tuberculosis of the spine, they got her admitted to a hospital. The ultimate mission of the boys' life centered on the welfare of their sister Lucia. Day and night, they slogged and starved only to provide for medical expenses for Lucia. This couldn't have been done without their will and desire.

(c) How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promise hope for society?

Answer:

Both Nicola and Jacopo show selflessness and reflect great dignity in their behaviour. They are deeply devoted to save their sister. In their earnest endeavour they become role models, epitomes of sacrifice who can enlighten the path for rest of the humanity to follow.

8. Look at the Italic words in the following examples.

(a) We bought their biggest basket, then set off toward town.

(b) One night we came upon them in the windy and deserted square.

(c) He bit his lip, then in a rather put out tone he said, 'Very well.'

(d) I shook my head and turned away.

Here are a few more. Match the phrases to their meanings.

Phrases	Meanings
set up	to start on a journey
break down	to tolerate a situation or a person
set off	to lose control of your feelings and start crying
put up	with to enter

put off	to be faced with or opposed by
put on	to start/ establish a company
come in	to refuse/ reject
come across	to postpone
come up against	to try to get help/advice/ sympathy from someone
turn down	to wear
turn in to	meet or find by chance
turn to	to inform on or deliver up

Now use the phrases given above to complete the following sentences.

1. The landlord was suspicious of the two men staying in his flat so he called the police and _____ them
_____.
2. Early in the morning we packed our bags and _____ for a hike over the mountain.
3. Janvi _____ some photographs of her grandfather in the old trunk.
4. My father _____ his own business 10 years ago.
5. The Bank _____ Paul's request for a loan.
6. The Corporation's decision to reduce the leave of the employees _____ a lot of opposition.

Answer:

Phrases	Meanings
Set up	to start / establish a company.
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Set off	to start on a journey.
Put up	to tolerate a situation or a person
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1. The landlord was suspicious of the two men staying in his flat so he called the police and turned them in.
2. Early in the morning we packed our bags and set off for a hike over the mountain.
3. Janvi came across some photographs of her grandfather in the old trunk.
4. My father set up his own business 10 years ago.
5. The Bank turned down Paul's request for a loan.
6. The Corporation's decision to reduce the leave of the employees come up against a lot of opposition.

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10. The narrator realises why Nicola and Jacopo work so hard. Yet he does not go in to meet their sister nor does he speak to them about what he learns from the nurse. Working in groups, discuss the following aspects of the story and share your views with the class.

(a) The love and devotion, and the family values Nicola and Jacopo display.

Answer:

Nicola is only 13 years old and Jacopo is 12. Yet, they have a man's heart each. They work hard day and night, never mind doing petty jobs like vending strawberries, hawking newspapers, polishing shoes. They show tourists round the town and run errands. They do all this to earn money which is used for the treatment of their sister who has been suffering from tuberculosis of spine. It vividly depicts their love, devotion and the family values.

(b) Their pride in themselves and their family

Answer:

Nicola and Jacopo are not ashamed of doing petty jobs to earn money for the treatment of their sister, Lucia who is afflicted with tuberculosis. War has not broken their spirits. They are proud of themselves and their family. Though children, they do not want any help or favour from anyone. It shows their pride in themselves and their family.

(c) The trust they place in the narrator

Answer:

Before leaving, the narrator asks if he would be of any help to them, Jacopo requests the narrator to send them to Poleta in their car which they might not have asked anybody. After initial disagreement between the brothers and reassurance from the narrator they agree to go with him. They are very comfortable and trust him completely.

(d) The reason the narrator does not disclose to them that he knows their secret.

Answer:

Nicola initially is not comfortable with the narrator driving them to Poleta. After some thinking they agree. The moment they reach their destination they jump out of the car and do not ask the narrator to come with them. On the other hand, they suggest him to spend time at a café in the village. The narrator understands their reluctance to share their purpose of visit with him and, therefore, does not disclose to them that he knows their secret.

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