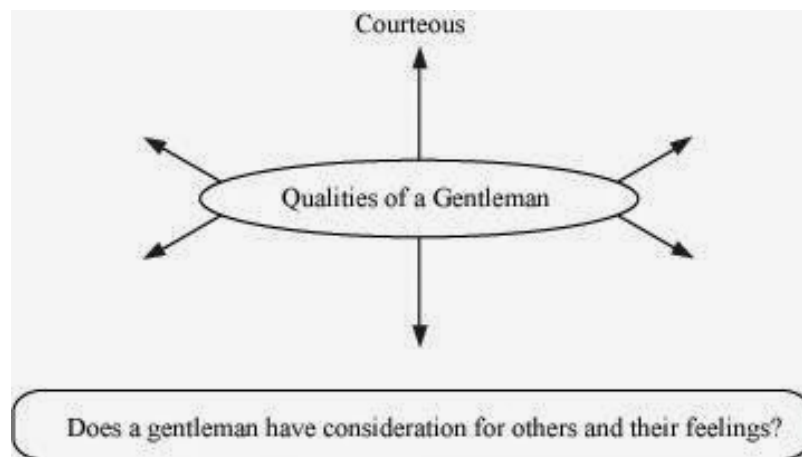




By A.J. Cronin

Page No: 3

1. What are the qualities of a "gentleman"? Work with your partner and complete the following web-chart by listing the qualities of a gentleman.



Answer:



2. Based on your discussion above, what do you think the story is about?

Answer:

I think the story is about a person who bears amiable nature. The story is based on the theme of human ethics.

Page No: 8

4. Based on reading of the story answer the following questions by ticking the correct options.

1. The driver did not approve of the narrator buying fruit from the two boys because

- (a) the boys were untidy and poorly dressed
- (b) the strawberries were not fresh
- (c) they were asking for a heavy price
- (d) the driver did not approve of small boys who worked

Answer:

- (a) the boys were untidy and poorly dressed

2. The narrator was most impressed by the boys'

- (a) desire to earn money
- (b) willingness to work
- (c) ability to perform many tasks
- (d) sense of fun

Answer:

- (b) willingness to work

3. Nicola was not pleased when Jacopo asked the narrator to drive them to Poleta as he

- (a) did not want a stranger to become involved with their plans
- (b) preferred going to Poleta by train so that he could enjoy the scenery
- (c) did not want to ask anyone for favours
- (d) did not want to take help from someone he did not know well

Answer:

- (a) did not want a stranger to become involved with their plans

4. The narrator did not go inside Lucia's room as

- (a) he did not want to intrude into their privacy
- (b) he thought that the boys would object
- (c) Lucia would not welcome a stranger
- (d) the boys would feel he was spying on them

Answer:

- (a) he did not want to intrude into their privacy

5. The boys were the first to join the resistance movement against the Germans because

- (a) the Germans had hurt their sister
- (b) the Germans ruled the city
- (c) the Germans had ruined their family
- (d) the Germans had destroyed their home

Answer:

- (c) the Germans had ruined their family

6. The author did not speak to the boys on their return journey because

- (a) he thought the boys would prefer to keep their secret
- (b) he thought the boys were ashamed of their sister's condition
- (c) he thought they wouldn't tell him the truth
- (d) he thought the boys might ask him for money for their sister

Answer:

- (a) he thought the boys would prefer to keep their secret

Page No: 9

5. What do you understand by the following statements?

- (a) "We do many things, sir," Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully.

Answer:

This statements shows that the two boys were not ashamed of doing menial jobs such as shoe polish or fruit-vending. When the narrator saw them working as shoe shine boys he was surprised as he had seen them selling wild strawberries the previous day. He asked them about it. Then Nicola, the elder brother spoke that they did many things. Nicola said that they also did a lot of other things for a living. The boys hoped that the narrator would ask for their services and in return would earn some good money.

- (b) He coloured deeply under his sunburn, then grew pale

Answer:

This statement shows the uneasiness of the speaker, Nicola. The narrator was astonished to see that boys worked hard day and night and yet lived meagerly. He wanted to know what the boys did with the money they earned. When he questioned Nicola, he appeared uncomfortable. Perhaps the boys were not used to

anybody questioning them regarding their earnings, and the narrator's question embarrassed them.

(c) He smiled uncomfortably. "Just plans, sir," he answered in a low voice.

Answer:

When the narrator suggested that the boys were saving to emigrate to the States.

Nicola responded that how much ever they wished to do that, currently they had other plans, which he was unwilling to and uncomfortable sharing with the narrator.

(d) Yet in both these boyish faces there was a seriousness which was far beyond their years.

Answer:

This statement reflects that both the boys Nicola and Jacopo were mature enough to face the hardships of life. They were only 13 and 12 years yet they looked and behaved wonderfully remarkable.

They were childish and innocent yet they were wise, responsible and mature.

***** END *****