



মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সি)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS IX
ADDITIONAL ENGLISH
CHAPTER 7 – THE THIEF’S STORY
(RUSKIN BOND)

SOLUTIONS

EXERCISES
COMPREHENSION

1. Why did Hari Singh describe Anil as a wrestler?

Ans: Hari Singh wanted to get acquainted with Anil. So, there is nothing like a little flattery to get close to Anil. So, he described him as a wrestler.

2. Why was he eager to learn to write?

Ans: Hari was eager to learn to write because he knew that once he could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what he could achieve.

3. What made him grateful to Anil?

Ans: Anil taught Hari how to write his name and also promised to teach him to write whole-sentences and to add numbers.

4. What did Anil do for a living?

Ans: Anil wrote for magazines for a living.

5. What quality of Anil’s appealed to Hari Singh?

Ans: Anil is a kind, simple and easy going person. These qualities appealed to Hari Singh.

6. Why, according to Hari Singh, is it difficult to rob a careless man?

Ans: It is because a careless man doesn’t even notice that he has been robbed and that takes all the spice out of the undertaking.

7. Why did Hari Singh think of doing some real work?

Ans: One day Hari Singh saw that Anil came home with a small bundle of notes and tucked the money under the mattress. Being a thief, he thought of stealing it.

8. What made him think he could live like an oil-rich Arab for some time?

Ans: Hari had stolen Anil’s money. So, he thought he could live like a rich Arab for some time.

9. Why should he find friends to be more trouble than help?

Ans: It might be because he himself is a thief and could hardly trust people. So, keeping friends might bring him trouble than help.



10. What had he observed about the faces of people who had lost their possessions?

Ans: The greedy men show panic; the rich show anger; the poor show resignation and careless man like Anil would show only a touch of sadness when they lost their possessions.

11. What did he think Anil's face would show? Why?

Ans: Anil's face would only show a touch of sadness. It is because Anil trusted Hari but in return, he betrayed his master.

12. What exactly made him go back to Anil?

Ans: Anil promised that he would teach Hari how to read and write. This made him go back to Anil.

13. Why did he feel nervous about going back to Anil's room?

Ans: Hari felt very nervous because he had to return the stolen money undetected.

14. How was Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' in the end different from similar smiles of his on earlier occasions?

Ans: The smile Hari Singh wore in the end was in its most natural way unlike the fake ones of earlier occasions.

APPLICATION

1. Reconstruct 'the thief's story' in your own words.

Ans: The story is about a fifteen-year old thief, who changes his name every month to stay ahead of the police and old employers. He called himself Hari Singh when he met Anil, who was a 25 years old writer, very careless but warm-hearted, who earned his living by fits and starts. Hari offered himself to work for Anil and in return he was given food. Besides that, Anil taught him how to write his name and promised him to write whole sentences and to do sums. But one day Hari saw that Anil had brought a bundle of notes. He saw him keeping the money under the mattress. And his old desire or tendency aroused in his mind and he robbed Anil that night and ran away. But he felt guilty and could not just runaway because somehow he did not want to betray the trust of his master. He imagined how Anil would react, only a touch of sadness, not at the loss of money, but for the loss of trust. Suddenly, he realized that stealing is a crime and remembered Anil's promise to educate him. His urge to receive education changed his mind and so he returned to Anil's place and put back the stolen money.



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2. Describe the circumstances leading to Hari Singh's change of heart.

Ans: Hari Singh found it quite pleasant working for Anil because he is easy going and he could easily make a little profit from the money that Anil gave him for buying things. Moreover, Anil trusted him. But the day he saw Anil with a bundle of notes, temptation got the better of him. He stole the money and rushed to a Railway station to run away. But somehow he could not just run away. Conflicting thoughts bothered him. He knew that Anil would be so sad as he betrayed him. If he hadn't, Anil might give him some money to go to a cinema the following morning. Then he suddenly remembered the education that Anil promised him. He quite forgot it in the excitement of theft. And he knew he needed the education to lead a respectable life. This realization brought a change of heart and Hari returned the stolen money.

EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What is the moral of the thief's story?

Ans: The reformation of a habitual criminal is best effected through love and understanding rather than sermons and punishments.

2. Where is the story 'The Thief's story' set?

Ans: The story is set somewhere in Uttar Pradesh near Lucknow as it is mentioned that there is a railway station for Express train to Lucknow.

3. Why did he steal Anil's money?

Ans: Since Hari is a thief, when he saw a bundle of notes, the tendency to steal got the better of him. Moreover, Anil did not pay him for the service he rendered.

4. How did Hari justify his stealing money from Anil?

Ans: Anil did not pay him for the service he rendered though he made a profit of one rupee a day while going to market. Over and above Anil would only waste the money on his friends. So he justified his stealing.



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