



## Chapter 2: *The Thief's Story*


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### Full Story Explanation (in simple words)


This chapter is about a **young thief** who goes through a **big change** in his life — from being selfish and dishonest to **valuing trust and education**.


 The thief, who calls himself **Hari Singh**, is only **15 years old**. He has no real name — he **changes his identity often** so that he can avoid being caught by the police. He is clever and experienced in stealing, but **his heart is not completely hardened**.


 One day, at a wrestling match, Hari meets a **simple and kind man named Anil**, who is in his mid-twenties. Anil is a **writer**, who earns little money by writing articles and does odd jobs. Hari cleverly approaches him and **wins his trust**, pretending to be a good cook (even though he doesn't know how to cook at all!).


 Anil takes him home, gives him food and shelter. At first, Hari **burns the food** he tries to cook, but Anil doesn't scold him — he just **teaches him how to cook**. Slowly, Anil even starts **teaching Hari to read and write**, do basic math, and promises to teach him how to write sentences.



 Hari thinks that if he learns to read and write, he can earn **honest money**, maybe even more than what he steals. But the **old habit of stealing tempts him**. One day, when Anil brings home a **bundle of ₹600**, Hari can't resist. He **steals the money** at night while Anil is sleeping.


 He runs away to the **railway station**, planning to catch a train and disappear. But standing there, with the money in his pocket, **something changes inside him**. He thinks about how much **Anil trusted him**, how he was learning something valuable — **education**. And he realizes, if he runs away now, he'll **lose the chance to become a better person**.









 It starts to rain, and Hari feels cold and wet — but also **guilty and ashamed**. So he returns to Anil's house and **puts the money back under the mattress** silently.

 The next morning, Anil gives him a **50-rupee note**, and Hari sees that it is still dry — which means **Anil knew** about the theft. But he **says nothing**, and simply tells Hari that **they will start learning to write full sentences now**.





 Hari feels happy and proud. It's the **first time in his life** he wants to **earn money honestly** and **respect himself**.

## Main Characters




 Hari Singh (The Thief)

-  A **15-year-old boy** who is clever, sharp, and used to stealing.
-  **Cunning at first**, but later becomes **guilty and emotional**.
-  Wants to change and learn.
-  **Character Arc:**
  -  Begins as a dishonest thief.
  -  Experiences guilt and inner conflict.
  -  Chooses honesty and education over theft.
  -  **Becomes a better person** by the end.

 Anil

-  A **simple, kind-hearted writer**.
-  Trusts Hari completely.
-  Never scolds or punishes him, even after knowing about the theft.
-  **Believes in changing people through love and trust**.

## Themes

-  **Trust and Kindness** — Trust can bring change in even the worst people.
-  **Power of Education** — Learning is more powerful than stealing.
-  **Transformation** — People can change if they are given love and support.

## Important Points for Exam

- ✓ Hari Singh was a young thief who kept changing his name to stay ahead of the law.
- ✓ He targeted Anil for money but received **kindness and trust instead**.
- ✓ He stole ₹600 but felt **guilt and emotional conflict**.
- ✓ He returned the money and decided to **change his life**.
- ✓ Anil **forgave him silently** and encouraged him to continue learning.
- ✓ The story ends with hope and transformation.

## Moral of the Story

**“It is better to be honest and educated than dishonest and rich.”**

- ★ *Kindness and trust can transform a person.*
- ★ *Education gives self-respect and long-term success.*

