

## A Question of Trust

**1. Write a character sketch of Horace Danby.**

**Or Who is Horace Danby? What type of a man is he?**

**Or "Horace Danby was good and respectable, but not completely honest." Why is this description apt for Horace? Why can't he be categorized as a typical thief?**

**Ans:-**Horace Danby was a fifty-year-old man who lived alone and made locks for a living. He was usually honest, but once a year, he stole to buy rare books. He was not a professional criminal, but a thief with a love for books. Unlike typical thieves, he planned carefully and disliked violence.

**2. Why was Horace Danby imprisoned? Describe his life in jail.**

**Or How did Horace Danby become an assistant librarian in the prison?**

**Ans:** Horace was imprisoned because he was caught stealing from a house where a clever lady tricked him. In jail, he behaved well and used his knowledge of books to help others. Due to his reading habit and good behavior, he became the assistant librarian in the prison.

**3. How did the young lady trap Horace Danby?**

**Or How did the charming lady trick Horace?**

**Or Provide a pen picture of the charming lady in A Question of Trust.**

**Or What are the subtle ways in which the lady managed to deceive Horace Danby into believing that she was the lady of the house?**

**Ans:-**The young lady, dressed elegantly and acting confidently, pretended to be the owner of the house. She acted calm and friendly, convincing Horace to open the safe for her by saying she forgot the code. Horace believed her and got tricked, later realizing she was a thief like him.

**4. Horace Danby was a meticulous planner but still he faltered. Where did he go wrong and why?**

**Ans:-**Horace went wrong by trusting the charming lady without verifying her identity. Though he planned the robbery carefully, he let his guard down when she appeared. He didn't suspect her story and obeyed her, which led to his arrest. His one mistake was trusting a fellow thief.

**5. "Honor among thieves" is considered a popular code. Examine A Question of Trust as a story woven around this theme.**

**Ans:-**The story shows that even thieves may not trust or help each other. Horace, a thief himself, was tricked by another thief—the charming lady. She used him and got away, breaking the so-called "honor among thieves." The story proves that in the world of crime, trust is risky.

**6. What does Horace Danby like to collect? Why does he steal every year?**

**Or How often did Horace Danby commit a robbery? What did he do with the stolen money?**

**Or Why was it not difficult for Horace Danby to open the safe at Shotover Grange?**

**Ans:-** Horace Danby loved collecting rare and expensive books. He stole once every year to buy them. He studied the target house carefully before stealing. At Shotover Grange, he found the safe and its code easily written in a drawer, so opening it was not difficult for him.

**7. How and why was Horace Danby sure that his robbery at Shotover Grange would be a successful one?**

**Ans:** Horace studied the house for two weeks and knew when it would be empty. He had all the tools and wore gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints. He was confident because he planned every detail, but he didn't expect someone else—a clever thief—to be there and trick him.

**8. Do you think Horace Danby was unfairly punished? Did he deserve what he got?  
Or Why do you think Horace Danby deserved his punishment?**

**Ans:-** Horace Danby broke the law, even though he thought his reason was harmless. He was tricked, but he still entered a house and stole. His punishment was fair because stealing is a crime. Also, it shows that trusting another thief can be dangerous.