

g) What made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans?

The boys joined the resistance movement against the Germans to show their strong dislike and disapproval of the Germans as they had destroyed their town and killed their father.

h) What made the boys work so hard?

They worked so hard to pay the hospital bills of their sister who was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine.

i) Why didn't the boys disclose their problem to the author?

The boys did not disclose their problems to the author because they did not want to seek sympathy and charity. They accepted their responsibilities of life and also they were determined to work hard to earn their living and for their sister's treatment.

3m.....

f) Recount the untold sufferings undergone by the siblings after they were rendered homeless.

After they were rendered homeless, they had suffered horribly from near starvation and exposure to the cold winter. Lucia had to give up her singing lessons. For months they had barely kept themselves alive in a sort of shelter they built with their own hands amidst the rubble. They participated in the war against the Germans. When the war was over, they found their sister was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine and she was admitted in the hospital. The boys were eating very little and doing odd jobs from dawn to midnight to pay the weekly medical bill.

g) The narrator did not utter a word and preferred to keep the secret to himself. Why? Substantiate the statement with reference to the story.

The narrator observed that the boys preferred to keep their sister's illness and their family's misfortune secret. He understood that the boys did not want anybody's charity. He simply did not want to interrupt the earnestness displayed by the two boys and hurt their pride by intruding upon their privacy. So he did not utter a word and preferred to keep the secret to himself. It depicted the narrator's generosity.

3. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN A PARAGRAPH OF 100-150 WORDS EACH

- a) What message is conveyed through the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'?
- b) Justify the title of the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.
- c) Adversity brings out the best as well as the worst in people. Elucidate this statement with reference to the story.

Two Gentlemen of Verona

—By A.J. Cronin

"Brothers and sisters separated by distance but joined by love"

-Chuck Danes

'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is a beautiful and heart-touching story of two small boys who worked really hard in the city of Verona. One day, the narrator met these boys in Verona. They were selling wild strawberries. Nicola, the elder was 13 whereas Jacopo, the younger, was 12 years old. Next day, the narrator found them doing 'brisk business' in shoe-shining. When the narrator asked them the reason for changing their business, they told him that they did many things. It is said in the reader as,

" "I thought you picked fruit for a living", I said. (-A J Cronin)

"We do many things, Sir", Nicola answered seriously."

For the next few days, the narrator found them shining shoes, selling fruits, hawking newspaper, conducting tourists round the town and so on. The narrator became eager to know why these small children worked so hard. He even realised that despite their hard work, they never spent money on themselves. Their clothes were dirty and they usually ate black bread and figs. He teased them by asking if they had plans to emigrate to America. To this they replied in negative saying that they had other plans. Then Jacopo requested the narrator to help them reach Poleta, which was 30 km. away from Verona. The narrator agreed and took them there, the next afternoon. In Poleta, they drew up at a large villa and rushed inside. He later came to know that it was a hospital where their sister, Lucia, was under treatment for tuberculosis of the spine. He asked the nurse about Lucia. She told the narrator that a bomb had destroyed their family and these boys grew to hate the Germans. After the war was over, there was peace all around. But not in the lives of these children as it was at this moment that they discovered Lucia suffering from the deadly disease. But after the treatment, she was recovering. He was further informed that her brothers made the payments every week for the smooth going of treatment. She added simply,

"I don't know what they do, I do not ask. Work is scarce in

Verona. But, whatever it is, I know they do it well."- Nurse

The narrator was touched by the devotion of the two boys. He could see the ray of hope for human society. Then all the three came back to Verona. The two boys behaved in a gentlemanly way in the story. They were kind and caring towards their sister and very polite

*towards others. They never wanted to exploit other's pity or kindness to achieve their end.
War did not spoil their gentle nature. Hence, the title 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' is justified.*

"Only a brother can love like a father;

Annoy like a sister, care like a mother,

and support like a friend".

– Ademson

ALL THE BEST