

**NCERT Solutions:**

**Q1. Who does 'I' refer to in this Story?**

**Ans-** 'I' in 'The Thief's Story' refers to the narrator of the story Hari Singh, who was a fifteen-year old experienced thief.

**Q2. What is he " a fairly successful hand" at?**

**Ans-** He has "a fairly successful hand" at stealing and robbing people by winning their confidence.

**Q3. What does he get from Anil in return for his work ?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh gets education and good will in return for his work from Anil. He tried to make him a liberated and good person. Anil gives him food and shelter as well.

**Q4. How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?**

**Ans-** The thief thought that Anil would be sad to know of the theft done by him not because of the loss of money but because of the loss of trust he had in Hari.

**Q5. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?**

**Ans-** He says with his experience that a greedy man shows fear; the rich, anger and a poor man acceptance when they are robbed.

**Q6. Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?**

**Ans-** Yes. Anil realised that he had been robbed, as he gave a fifty rupee note to Hari which was still damp due to the over night's rain.

**Q7. Why does Anil not hand the thief over to the police ?**

**Ans-** Anil does not hand over the thief to the police because he realised that Hari had learnt his lesson and had changed himself. Otherwise he would never have come back and kept the money at the same place from where he had stolen it. He even knew how Hari cheated him of a rupee a day while

buying the day supplies. He was glad that Hari had realised his mistake and the importance of education in life. Anil wanted Hari to become a literate man and lead a respectful life.

**Q8. In what ways is Anil different from such employers?**

**Ans-** According to the story Anil was different from such employers because he was a modest and trusting man. He trained Hari to cook and also to educate him. When he found out that Hari had stolen the money, but had kept it back, he became assured that he had ultimately changed the conscience of Hari Singh. Otherwise Hari could have easily run off with the money but he did not. This made Anil give him another chance and build him into a better person that he could see him becoming.

**Short Answer Questions:-**

**Q1. Why did Hari Singh not make many friends ?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh did not make many friends because he believed that friends created more trouble than help.

**Q2. Why did Hari Singh decide to come back to Anil?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh decided to come back to Anil's house because he did not want to lose his trust. As he knew that when Anil would come to know about the theft, he would feel sad, not for the loss of money but for the loss of trust.

**Q3. Why did Hari Singh choose Anil to be his next victim ?**

**Ans-** Hari, who was an experienced thief chose Anil as his next victim because he found him kind, simple and straight forward. In this way Anil seemed to be the right person for his purpose and an easy target to win confidence.

**Q4. Why was it difficult for Hari Singh to rob Anil ?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh found it difficult to rob Anil because he was the most trusting person that Hari Singh has ever met. According to Hari Singh, it's easy to rob a greedy man but not a simple man.

**Q5. Why did Anil hire Hari Singh ?**

**Ans-** Anil hired Hari Singh because he himself expressed his desire to work for him. When Anil told him that he could not pay him. Hari Singh asked him if he could feed him. So Anil replied that If he knew how to cook, then he may work for him.

**Q6. What was Anil's job? What did he usually do with the money he earned ?**

**Ans.** Anil was a writer. He wrote articles for magazines. He had no regular source of income. He was a spendthrift and used to spend money on his friends.

**Q7. Why did Hari Singh change his name every month?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh was a fifteen years old boy who introduced himself to Anil as Hari Singh. He was an experienced thief. He changed his name every month for his own safety from the police and his former employers.

**Q8. How did Hari Singh know that Anil had forgiven him ?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh knew about the theft but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything. He gave him fifty rupees and told him that he would be paid regularly. He informed him that he would teach him to write sentences; it shows that Anil had forgiven him.

**Q9. Why did Hari Singh not board the train?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh did not board the train because he did not want to betray Anil who gave him shelter and food. He also taught him how to cook food and to write his own name. Anil also knew that he made a profit of a rupee a day with the money he gave him to buy the day's supplies. So, such kindness and good nature of Anil made Hari Singh not board the train and run away.

### **Long Answer questions :-**

**Q1. Write down the character sketch of Anil?**

**Ans-** Anil was a kind, simple and easy-going young man. He was tall and of lean stature and interested in sports like wrestling. He was not very rich and could not offer to employ Hari as a cook. He had the patience and goodness to not only teach Hari to cook but also to read and write. Though he knew that Hari was stealing bits of money from him, he ignored this fact. Anil was a writer who wrote articles for magazines. He was a trusting person. Even when he earned a large amount of money, he kept the money under his mattress and not safe. He was generous and paid Hari when He got some money. Hari had tried to steal the money from him. But he forgave Hari - the thief and continued to be good to him.

**Q2. Write down the character sketch of Hari Singh.**

**Ans-** Hari Singh was a 15 years old boy who was an experienced and successful thief. He was successful because of his cleverness and intelligence. He carefully planned everything before choosing his victims. He went to places where people would not suspect him and win their confidence to get a job. After some time he would run away stealing money from there. Thus he used to change his name to fool the police and his former employers. Thus he was a liar. He was cruel enough to rob a simple and trusting man like Anil. He tried to rob Anil. But he realized his fault and came back to Anil and kept his trust alive. This shows that there is a good in every bad person. He wanted to become an educated person in the future and earn his livelihood honestly without stealing.

**Q3. Money cannot make a man as much as education can'. Elucidate this statement.**

**Ans-** The statement has every ingredient of facts. Money may buy us all the luxuries and fulfill our needs but it cannot buy us knowledge and character. Hari Singh had all the sharp wickedness to rob people. He was witty by nature who can easily make his prey. So, he chose Anil for his purpose because he found that Anil is a man of modest nature. When he came to stay with Anil, he started

teaching him how to write words and then sentences and adding numbers. Hari Singh started dreaming of a life full of honesty and dignity. He wanted to rob Anil but the good education and company didn't allow him to do so. Therefore, he returned to be educated from the railway platform.

### Comprehension Questions:-

Read the given passage and answers the questions that follow:

I was still a thief when I met Anil. And though only 15, I was an experienced and fairly successful hand. Anil was watching a wrestling match when I approached him. He was about 25 -a tall, lean fellow and he looked easy-going, kind and simple enough for my purpose. I hadn't had much luck of late and thought I might be able to get into the young man's confidence. "You look a bit of a wrestler yourself." I said. A little flattery helps in making friends.

**Q1. Who said these above lines?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh

**Q2. Who is the writer of 'The Thief's Story'?**

**Ans-** Ruskin Bond

**Q3. Who is being referred to as fifteen years old in the passage?**

**Ans-** Hari Singh (thief)

**Q4. Who is Anil?**

**Ans-** Anil is a tall, lean fellow of 25 years old.

**Q5. Pick out a word from the passage which is opposite to the word 'kind'.**

**Ans-** Cruel

### MCQ

**Q1. How old was Anil?**

- a. 20 years                      b. 22 years
- c. 23 years                      d. 25 years

**Q2. How old was the thief boy?**

- a. 10 years                      b. 16 years
- c. 15 years                      d. 18 years

**Q3. Anil lived in a room in a shop named:**

- a. Jumna Sweet shop.
- b. Ganesh Sweet shop
- c. Ganga Sweet shop
- d. Shankar Sweet shop

**Q4. What did the boy ask Anil?**

- a. to give him some money
- b. to employ him
- c. to give him some food.
- d. to tell him the way.

**Q5. Who hires Hari Singh as a helping hand in his house?**

- a. Anil                              b. Ganesh
- c. Gaurav                      d. Ankit

**Q6. What was Anil doing when the thief boy met him?**

- a. watching a wrestling match
- b. playing badminton
- c. writing on article
- d. walking on the street

**Q7. What kind of jobs did Hari Singh do for Anil ?**

- a. making tea                      b. cooking food
- c. doing odd jobs                      d. all of these.

**Q8. What was Anil's profession as mentioned?**

- a. writer                              b. wrestler
- c. engineer                      d. shopkeeper

**Q9. Where did Anil come across with Hari Singh ?**

- a. at the market
- b. at a wrestling match
- c. in a mall.
- d. at an exhibition match.

**Q10. Who is the author of "The Thief's Story"?**

- a. James Herriot                      b. Robert Arthur
- c. Ruskin Bond                      d. Victor Canning

### Answer Key

- 1 (d). 25 years
- 2 (c). 15 years
- 3 (a). Jumna Sweet shop.
- 4 (b). to employ him.
- 5 (a). Anil
- 6 (a). watching a wrestling match
- 7 (d). all of these
- 8 (a). writer
- 9 (b). at a wrestling match
- 10 (c). Ruskin Bond.