

CHAPTER

4

THE RATTRAP

—Selma Lagerlof

Chapter Analysis

Question Type & Marks	Year					
	2016		2017		2018	
	D	OD	D	OD	D	OD
SA	2	2	-	-	-	-
LA	-	-	1	1	-	-

Introduction :

The Rattrap is written by a Swedish writer Selma Lagerlof. The story is an interesting one. It is like a fairy tale. There are many interesting incidents and dialogues. The rattrap seller is a homeless tramp. He stays for a night in the cottage of a crofter. The lonely crofter entertains him like a guest and trusted friend. He tells him everything. But in the morning the peddler comes back, smashes a window pane, and steals the crofter's money. Later, there is a turn in his fortune. The ironmaster mistakes him for an old comrade. The peddler is the ironmaster's guest for about two days. But he, once again, leaves to pursue his usual profession of selling rattrap, theft and begging.

There is a twist at the end of the story. The ironmaster mistook him for his old comrade Captain von Stahle.

There is a philosophical angle too in the story. The lonely tramp is a philosopher too. Not only does he make rattraps to sell, he thinks that the world too is a rattrap. As rats are lured by pork and cheese to enter the trap, so are men lured by lands, food, shelter, clothing etc. These are different baits. Those who touch them are trapped. He knew a few persons who were already trapped and others who were trying to bite the bait and get trapped.

Summary :

A rattrap peddler went around selling small rattraps. His clothes were in rags. His cheeks were hollow. He had the looks of a starved man. He made wiretaps. Sometimes, he resorted to begging and a little stealing to survive. The world had never been kind to him. He had no home, no shelter.

The peddler led a lonely life and was given to meditation. One day, while he was thinking about his rattraps, an idea struck him. He thought that the world itself was a rattrap. As pork and cheese serve as baits to trap rats, the world offered land, clothes, foods, joys and riches to trap people. As soon as anybody touched them, the trap closed on them. He was amused to think of some people who were already trapped and some others who were trying to reach the bait.

It was a cold evening in December. He saw a grey cottage on the roadside. He knocked at the door and asked for a night's shelter. The owner of the cottage was a lonely old crofter. He wanted someone to talk to. He welcomed the peddler. He gave the peddler hot porridge to eat and tobacco to smoke. Then, they played cards. The crofter was generous as well as trustful. He told the peddler that he had a cow and that he sold milk and cream. He also told him that he received thirty kroner as payment of the previous month. Then, he took down a pouch and showed him the money. Then, he put the money back in the pouch and hung it on a nail in the window frame. Next morning, the peddler left. The crofter locked his cottage and went away.

The peddler came back to the cottage. He had been tempted to steal the money that hung like a bait in the window frame. He smashed the pane and stole the money. Now he thought that it was not safe to walk along the public highway. So he went into the woods. There he walked and walked, but could not get out. He was tired. He looked upon the forest as a rattrap in which he was caught. He thought his end was near. He laid down to die.

After a while he heard the regular thumping of a hammer's strokes. He knew the sound was coming from some iron mill. He stood up and walked in the direction of the sound. He opened the gate of the works and went into the forge. The blacksmith and his apprentice were there waiting for pig iron to be ready to be put on the anvil. It was the Ramsjo Ironworks.

The blacksmith hardly took any notice of his presence. It was not unusual for a vagabond to come in for shelter and warmth. The owner of the work was very particular about the quality of the iron he produced. On one of his visits he came into the forge, he looked intently at the peddler's face. He felt sure that the peddler was one of his old regimental comrades Captain von Stahle, who had fallen on evil days. He invited the peddler to come home with him for Christmas. But the peddler was alarmed. He refused and the ironmaster went home.

The ironmaster sent his daughter Edla to persuade the peddler to come home. She came in a carriage with a large fur coat. She could see that the peddler was unwilling to accept the invitation because he was afraid. Perhaps she thought, he had stolen something or had escaped from jail. She spoke gently to him. She assured him that he would be free to leave when he pleased. They wanted his company only over Christmas Eve. The peddler felt confidence in her. He agreed to go with her. On the way, he was sorry to have stolen the crofter's money that had put him in a trap.

The ironmaster was happy to have his old regimental comrade under his roof. He planned to feed him well and give him some respectable work. The servant cut the peddler's hair and bathed him. The peddler appeared wearing one of ironmaster's fine suits. But when the ironmaster looked at him in the daylight, he felt he had made a mistake. The peddler was not Captain von Stahle. He thought that the man had deceived him. He even thought of handing him over to the sheriff.

The peddler said that he had not pretended to be what he was not. He had not been willing to go to the iron-master's house. Even then, he was willing to put on his rags and leave. He also told iron master that the world was a rattrap and he too might be tempted by a big bait while getting caught in the trap. The iron master told him to leave at once.

Edla did not like her father's asking the poor peddler to leave. She thought it was unfair to turn away the man whom they had invited. She wanted to have the joy of entertaining a homeless wanderer on Christmas. She stopped the peddler and her father gave in.

Edla served food to the peddler. In the evening, during Christmas party, he was given Christmas presents which he thankfully received. Edla told him that her father's coat that the peddler was wearing was also a Christmas present. She assured him that he would be welcomed again if he liked to spend the next Christmas Eve with them.

Next morning, the ironmaster and his daughter went to Church. There they learned that the peddler was a thief. He had robbed the crofter. The ironmaster was sure that the peddler must have made away with their silver. Edla was dejected. But when they reached home, they learned that the peddler had left. But he did not take away anything. On the other hand, he had left a Christmas present for Edla. Edla opened the present. It was a tiny rattrap. Edla was happy to see that the peddler had left the crofter's money behind. There was a letter also. It was addressed to Edla. He had thanked her for the kindness. He wanted to do a good turn to her, so he had left the crofter's money and had requested her to return it to the crofter. He said that he was brought up as a real captain. That was why he could come out of the rattrap in which he had been caught. He had signed the letter as Captain von Stahle.

Short Answer Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

(Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each)

Q. 1. What did the peddler do to keep his body and soul together ?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-III, 2013]

Ans. The peddler sold rattraps to earn his living. However, it was not enough so he had to depend on begging and petty thievery as well. 2

Q. 2. In what sense was the world a big rattrap according to the peddler ?

[Comptt., Delhi Set-III & Outside Delhi Set-I, 2014]

Ans. Value Points :

- world full of temptations like a rattrap
- offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing; when someone was tempted to touch them it would close on him and then everything came to an end.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 2

Detailed Answer : According to the peddler, the world was a big rattrap because it was full of temptations. Like a rattrap, it offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing. When someone was tempted to touch them, it would close on him and everything came to an end.

Q. 3. Why was the peddler amused at the idea of the world being a rattrap ? [Delhi Set II, 2016] (TBQ)

OR

Why did the peddler derive pleasure from his idea of the world as a rattrap ?

[Comptt., Delhi Set-I, 2014]

Ans. Value Points :

- others got entrapped whereas he was not lured by temptation / free from the rattrap
- gave him joy to think ill of the world in this way

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2

OR

Value Points : According to the peddler, the world had never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwanted joy to think ill of it. In this way, the world was a trap and it gave him great pleasure to know that he had escaped being trapped so far. The whole world was a big rattrap as it had existed for only one purpose - to set baits for people. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork and as soon as anyone felt tempted to touch the bait, it closed on him and then everything came to an end. (Any one)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 2

Detailed Answer : The peddler was amused at the idea of the world being a rattrap as the world

had never accepted him. Everyone had always been unkind to him. He was amused with the idea because he himself had never led a good life and envied others who led a better life than him. He thought that others got entrapped whereas he was not lured by the temptations and was free from them. It gave him joy to think ill of the world in this way. 2

Q. 4. How was the peddler received in the cottage?

[Comptt., Delhi Set II, 2015]

OR

Why did the peddler knock at the cottage by the roadside? How was he treated by the owner of the cottage? [Comptt., Delhi-II, 2014]

Ans. Value Points : to ask for shelter for the night; the crofter treated him kindly; offered him shelter in his cottage; gave him food; also played cards with him and smoked tobacco.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 2

Detailed Answer : The peddler knocked at the cottage to ask for shelter for the night. The crofter treated him kindly; offered him shelter in his cottage and gave him food. He also played cards with him and smoked tobacco.

Q. 5. Why was the crofter happy when the peddler knocked at the door?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-I, 2013]

Ans. The crofter was happy when the peddler knocked at the door because he used to stay there alone. He was happy to have some company and someone to share his things and achievements with. 2

Q. 6. What hospitality did the peddler receive from the crofter? [Delhi Set III, 2016]

OR

At the crofter's home, why did the peddler feel very happy?

OR

How was the peddler treated at the crofter's cottage?

Ans. Value Points :

- received warm welcome / place to stay
- porridge for supper
- big slice of tobacco roll
- played mjoles / cards
- crofter confided in him

(Any two) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2

Detailed Answer : The crofter treated him kindly. He offered him shelter in his cottage, gave him porridge for supper. Then he cut a big slice from the tobacco roll which was sufficient for both of them and offered it to him. The crofter played mjoles, a card game with him. He also confided in him and shared his secret with him.

Q. 7. How was the crofter generous with his confidence when he spoke to the peddler?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi Set-II, 2013]

Ans. The crofter was generous with his confidence as he told the peddler about thirty Kroners. Not only that, he even showed them to him. 2

Q. 8. Why did the crofter show the thirty kroners to the peddler? [Outside Delhi Set II, 2016] (TBQ)

Ans. Value Points :

- the crofter felt proud of the cow that gave him enough milk to support him
- to convince the peddler
- was lonely / happy to share his confidence generously with the peddler
- trusting

(Any two)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2

Detailed Answer : The crofter had a cow which he was proud of because it gave him enough milk to support him. Since he never had any guests and lived alone in his house, he was happy to share his confidence of getting thirty kroners by selling the milk of his cow. But he saw that the peddler was not convinced, he got up and took out the three ten-kroner bills and showed them to the peddler.

Q. 9. Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?

[Outside Delhi Set III, 2016]

Ans. Value Points :

- mistook peddler for an old comrade
- ironmaster was happy, he found his comrade with whom he could spend the Christmas eve
- loneliness of ironmaster made him desperate to invite the man home
- because of the condition in which he had found the peddler

(Any two) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 2

Detailed Answer : The ironmaster spoke kindly to the peddler and invited him home because he thought that he was an old acquaintance of his. Due to the dim light and the peddler's unkempt appearance, he mistook him for Nils Olof, someone he had known a long time back. He thought he could spend Christmas Eve with him. Moreover he felt that his comrade had not been keeping well, after resigning, so he invited him to his home.

Q. 10. Why did Edla plead with her father not to send the vagabond away? [Outside Delhi Set-I, 2014]

OR

How did Edla persuade her father to let the peddler stay in their home till Christmas?

(CBSE SQP, 2016)

Ans. Value Points : walks the whole year long/chased away/no home that makes him feel welcome/ afraid of being arrested/wants him to enjoy at least one day of peace/morally they ought not to turn away a human whom they have invited for Christmas and promised Christmas cheer. 2

(Any two) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016]

OR

Value Points : It was the Christmas eve and Edla wanted to keep the spirit of Christmas/wanted to provide him with a day of comfort and solace/justified that they had invited him against his will/was lonely and wanted to do something special on the Christmas eve.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] (Any two) 2

Detailed Answer : Edla pleaded with her father not to send the vagabond away because she wanted him to stay there for the Christmas celebration. She understood how hard it must have been for him to wander from place to place and being homeless, she wanted him to stay and enjoy at least one day of peace, comfort and solace. Moreover, it was Christmas Eve and Edla wanted to keep the spirit of the Christmas alive. She told her father that they had invited him as a guest for Christmas, so they must keep their promise and not turn him away.

Q. 11. Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him ?

[CBSE, SQP, 2014-15]

Ans. Value Points :

Basically kind :

- trusting and compassionate
- wanted peddler to enjoy
- be at peace
- did not want to turn away a guest on the Christmas eve
- kind gesture to reform the peddler.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014-15] 2

Detailed Answer : Edla was basically trusting and compassionate. She wanted the peddler to enjoy and be at peace. She did not want to turn away the guest on a Christmas Eve. It was her kind gesture to reform the peddler.

Commonly Made Error

- Most of the students did not know the reason and gave vague answers like to make her father happy.

Answering Tips

- Students must read the chapter with a deep insight and then answer the questions.

Q. 12 Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?

[HOTS] [SQP 2018-19]

Ans. Suggested Value Points :

- it showed that Edla's trust was not broken by peddler
- her goodness had paid off and peddler had transformed
- she will not have to suffer criticism for trying to help a thief.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2018-19]

Detailed Answer: The peddler had left a gift for Edla. This showed Edla that her care and kind gesture had transformed the peddler. Her trust was not broken by the peddler and her goodness had been paid off. This also saved Edla from her father's criticism of trying to help a thief. Rather, she would have a high image of transforming a thief into a compassionate person.

Q. 15. What were the contents of the package left by the peddler as a Christmas gift for Edla Williamson ?

[Comptt., Outside Delhi-III, 2014]

Ans. Value Points : a rattrap, three ten-kroner notes and a letter, regret for robbing the crofter; his gratitude to Ms. Willmansson for treating him like a captain. [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 2

Detailed Answer :

The peddler left a rattrap with three ten-kroner notes and a letter of regret for robbing the crofter. He signed himself as Captain von Stahle to show his gratitude to Ms. Wilmansson for treating him like a captain.

Q. 16. What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla ?

[Foreign, 2014]

Ans. Value Points : Thanked her for the kindness and for treating him as a captain/raised him to the status of a captain/helped in bringing about a change in him/reforming him/offering him true friendship and high regard/gifted Edla a rattrap as a Christmas present and returned the stolen money. [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2014] 2

Detailed Answer : The peddler thanked Edla for all her kindness and for treating him as a captain, which raised him to the status of a captain. He thanked her for bringing about a change in him, reforming him, offering him true friendship and high regard. He also gifted a rattrap as a Christmas present to Edla and returned the money stolen by him.

Long Answer Type Questions

[6 Marks each]

(Answer the following questions in about 125-150 words)

Q. 1. How did the peddler respond to the hospitality shown to him by the crofter ?

OR

How did the crofter repose confidence in the peddler ?

[Comptt., Delhi Set-I, 2013]

Ans. The peddler was ungrateful for the hospitality shown by the crofter. The crofter welcomed him in his house when he had asked for the shelter.

He took good care of him. He immediately put the porridge pot on the fire and gave him supper; then, he carved off a big slice from his tobacco roll and gave it to him. Finally, he brought out an old pack of cards and played 'mjolis' with him until bedtime. Not only this, the old man was just as generous with his 'confidence' as with his porridge and tobacco. He told him at once that in his days

of prosperity, his host had been a crofter at Ramsjö Ironworks and had worked on the land. And now he had thirty kroners, which he had earned by selling the milk of his cow. He did all this because he was alone and felt happy to have his company. But the peddler betrayed the crofter's trust. After they both had left in the morning, the peddler came back to the crofter's house, broke open the window and stole the thirty kroners, which he had earned by selling the milk of his cow.

Q.2. How did the seller of rattraps realize that he himself was caught up in a rattrap after he left the crofter's cottage ?

[Comptt., Delhi Set-II, 2013] (TBQ)

OR

Very soon after stealing the crofter's money, how did the peddler realise that he was himself caught in a rattrap ? [Foreign Set-I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points :

- after stealing, he avoided public highway-went to the woods
- got confused
- paths seem to twist back and forth
- the thirty kroners was the bait
- felt the forest closing upon him like a prison

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer: After the peddler stole thirty kroners from the crofter's house, he realized that he not continue on the public highway, but must turn off the road into the woods. During the first few hours, this caused him no difficulty. Later in the day, it became worse, for it was a big and confusing forest which he had gotten into. He tried to be sure to walk in a definite direction, but the paths twisted back and forth so strangely. He walked on, without coming to the end of the wood and finally, he realized that he had only been walking around in the same part of the forest. All at once, he recalled his thoughts about the world and the rattrap. Now his own turn had come. He had let himself be fooled by a bait and had been caught. The whole forest, with its trunks and branches, its thickets and fallen logs, closed on him like an impenetrable prison from which he could never escape.

Commonly Made Error

- Most of the students are not able to understand the analytic situation asked in the question.

Answering Tips

- Such questions need to cover the whole story and emphasize on the crux of the question.

Q.3. Describe the peddler's interaction with the ironmaster's daughter. To what extent was he influenced by her ?

[Comptt., Delhi Set-I & II, 2012]

OR

How did Edla bring about a change in the peddler ?

[Comptt. Delhi/ Outside Delhi 2018]

Ans. Suggested Value Points :

- kind to peddler
- treated him with respect
- persuaded him to accompany her
- fed him/ got him bathed / shaved
- saw to his comforts
- persuaded her father to let the tramp stay on
- invited him for the next Christmas eve
- gifted her father's old clothes

[any 4]

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2018]

Detailed Answer: The peddler met the ironmaster's daughter for the first time at the forge. She had come to request him to come over their house as her father had mistaken him to be an old acquaintance, a captain. She was able to convince him and took him home. At home, when her father realized that they had made a mistake and he was not the captain, the daughter was very polite and kept him at home as it was Christmas.

The rattrap seller was greatly influenced by the ironmaster's daughter. In fact, it was because of her that he had turned over a new leaf and returned the money that he had stolen from an old man. It was the kind nature of the girl that changed him.

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Q.4. There is a saying, 'Kindness pays, rudeness never'. In the story, 'The Rattrap' Edla's attitude towards men and matters is different from her father's attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in the story, 'The Rattrap'?

[Outside Delhi Set-I, II & III, 2013]

OR

How are the attitudes of the ironmaster and his daughter different ? Support your answer with instances from the text. [HOTS] [Delhi Set-I, 2012]

OR

Compare and contrast the character of the ironmaster with that of his daughter ? (TBQ)

Ans. Ironmaster

- Commits judgemental error, mistakes the stranger as his old regimental friend, requests him to come home.
- Shows friendliness by sending his daughter when the stranger declines invitation.
- Attitude changes when the truth is revealed that the stranger is not his friend.
- Calls him dishonest and threatens to hand him over to the sheriff.

Daughter

- More sedate, understanding and affectionate.
- Intervenes to stop her father from ill-treating the stranger.
- Treats him like a captain and gifts him a suit.
- Provides him with peaceful atmosphere.
- Is able to bring about a change in the peddler's attitude.

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013] 6

Detailed Answer : The ironmaster, father of Edla Wilmansson is completely different from his daughter. When the ironmaster, who owned the Ramsjö Iron works goes for inspection there in the night, he sees the tall, ragged rattrap peddler and considers him as his old comrade. The ironmaster insists on taking the peddler to his home for the Christmas Eve, but the rattrap peddler emphatically refuses to go to his house. He does so when Edla Wilmansson, the daughter of the ironmaster, comes to take him. Edla Wilmansson, the daughter of the ironmaster is a very kind-hearted, compassionate and noble young woman. Though she is not pretty yet she seems modest and shy. It is only due to her compassionate and friendly manner that she is successful in persuading the peddler to go to their home to celebrate Christmas Eve. But when the rattrap peddler is bathed, shaved and dressed in the ironmaster's suit, the ironmaster realises that he is not his regimental comrade Captain von Stahle.

Although, the ironmaster wants him to leave immediately, Edla requests the peddler to stay-back just to enjoy one day of peace with them. She asks the peddler to sit down and eat. She tells him to keep her father's suit, which he is wearing as 'a Christmas gift'. Her behaviour towards him transforms the rattrap peddler and he returns the thirty kroners stolen by him requesting her to give the money back to the old crofter.

Q. 5. The peddler thinks that the whole world is a rattrap. This view of life is true only of himself and of no one else in the story. Comment

[Delhi Set-I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points :

- world is a rattrap- offers baits
- peddler deprived of food, shelter and money, easily trapped
- others- Crofter, Edla and Ironmaster not tempted
- in his own opinion only he suffers

(Any other relevant point)

(Any three) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer : This view of life was true for the peddler because when he was offered food and shelter at the crofter's house, which is like 'bait' for a rat, he took it and stole the crofter's money. He then tried to run away from being caught and but got lost in the forest as it was big and confusing. Thus he considered the world as a big rattrap in which he had fallen and the crofter's money was the bait.

Now his own turn had come as he had let himself be fooled by the bait and had been caught in the trap. He knew that ironmaster had mistaken him for someone else, yet he went with him. The peddler was thus deprived of food and shelter; got easily trapped by the temptations.

The other characters in the story, the crofter, the ironmaster and his daughter, have human bonds of love, and for them the world is not a rattrap.

They looked upon the world as a happy place to live and share the happiness with others. Thus,

the Peddler's view about the world as a rattrap is true for him only as he got caught into the traps for food, shelter and money whereas the others were not tempted.

Q. 6. The peddler believed that the whole world is a rattrap. How did he himself get caught in the same?

[Outside Delhi Set I/II/III, 2017]

Ans. Value Points :

- peddler gets tempted and trapped when he gets easy access to crofter's money
- realizes that he is in the trap when loses his way in the forest with the few kroners in his pocket
- again gets caught into the trap with Edla's assurance of Christmas cheer
- repeatedly surrenders to worldly temptations
- realises, the world is a rattrap with all its worldly temptations like riches, joys, shelter etc.

(Any other relevant point)

(Any three) [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 6

Detailed Answer : The rattrap peddler came up with a theory that the whole world is a rattrap and that all the luxuries, are merely baits. It gave him great pleasure to think of the world this way. One night, he took shelter in the house of an old and lonely crofter who was very generous. He gave the peddler a meal, talked to him and even shows him, the thirty kroners he had earned because of his cow. Tempted by the money, the peddler stole the money from the crofter and headed towards a forest. The dense forest was like a maze and he soon got lost, realising that the money was a bait and now he himself was trapped in a rattrap. The peddler soon found refuge at an iron mill, where he was mistaken by the ironmaster for an old friend. Even though, he refused to come to the ironmaster's house, for fear of being caught, he was ultimately persuaded by Edla, the ironmaster's daughter.

The peddler once again regretted being caught, in a trap and wished he hadn't stolen the money. By not trying to clear his identity, in hope of some more money, he was further trapped when his identity was uncovered the next day, he was still allowed to stay because of Edla's intervention. Her kindness and faith in him ultimately allowed him to free himself from the trap in which he had been caught.

Q. 7. The story also focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Describe.

[Delhi Set, 2010] (TBQ)

Ans. Value Points :

- poorly dressed, starving, lonely, tramp, wandered from place to place making small rattraps with material begged from stores or big firms, begged and committed petty thievery, scared of the police meeting with the old crofter
- the crofter's loneliness and hospitality meeting with the ironmaster and his daughter (Edla)

- father - ready to turn him out when his real identity was known
- daughter treated him like a guest, offered him good food, clothes and shelter/treated him like the regimental officer as initially assumed by her father
- this treatment brought about a total transformation in the peddler - resolved to pull himself up, to live a life of respect and dignity

(Any six)

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2010] 6

Detailed Answer : The themes of human loneliness and the need to have someone to share one's joys and sorrows with, runs throughout the story. To begin with, the reader's attention is drawn to the peddler who is lonely and in his loneliness, he makes rattraps and is left to his own meditation. When he knocks at the cottage, the crofter welcomes him and entertains him. It is because the crofter is lonely. He wants someone to talk to. He finds in peddler a good companion and tells him a lot about himself and his cow, even though the peddler is a complete stranger to him.

Then, we find that the ironmaster and his daughter are also lonely. They live in a big house and have nobody else for company. So, they insist that the peddler should spend the Christmas Eve with them.

They take him have but when the peddler gets dressed in the ironmaster's clothes after shaving and bathing, his real identity is revealed. The ironmaster is ready to turn him out. But his daughter Edla intervenes and closes the door. She is not ready to turn a man out whom they have invited as a guest, she treats him like a regimental officer as initially assumed by the her father.

The peddler finds it strange. He had never expected this kind of hospitality. It brings out a change in him. There is a total transformation in him. He is resolved to pull himself up and live a life of respect and dignity.

Commonly Made Error

- Though students are able to understand the question but cover loneliness of only one character and not all the characters of the story.
- The students do not generalise the answer to relate this with the entire human race as well.

Answering Tips

- The answer must generalise and convey the loneliness of the peddler, the crofter, the iron master and his daughter.

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