

MIND MAP

SUMMARY OF THE STORY

The story "Evans Tries An O-Level", written by Colin Dexter is an interesting story depicting how a prisoner called James Evans fools all the officers of the prison to escape under a well-laid out plan.

Evans a kleptomaniac was imprisoned thrice and was able to escape every time, therefore he was nicknamed 'Evans the Break'. Now he was in the prison for the fourth time and all of a sudden expressed the wish to appear in the O-Level German Examination which was actually an effort to break the prison. Thinking that Evans may have a genuine interest in O-level German, the Governor wanted to give him a chance. For this, a German teacher would come to teach him for ten months in the prison. But he doesn't want Evans to disgrace him by escaping his premises and so he gets involved in the security arrangements himself.

Evans was placed in the heavily guarded Recreational Block, just across D wing. There were two locked doors between his cell and the yard which boasted of a high wall. Moreover, all the prison officers were also on the alert. The Governor got a microphone installed in Evans' cell while Stephens kept a hawk's eye on Evans.

Two prison officers, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Stephens, thoroughly checked his cell for any sign of a possible escape. Even his razor, nail-file and nail scissors were taken away. But hitting on a tiny emotional cord hidden in the stern looking Jackson, Evans managed to retain his filthy bobble hat by claiming it to be his "lucky charm."

Evans cell was bugged so that the Governor could himself listen to each and every conversation in the cell. The invigilator Rev. S. McLeery left his house at 8:45 am as the exam was to begin at 9:15 am. McLerry came with a brown suitcase, having semi-inflated rubber ring, needed for hemorrhoids. Stephen sitting outside the cell every now and then peeped into the cell.

The exam went on smoothly. Stephen escorted the invigilator to the main gate and looked into Evan's cell and found the invigilator McLeery (actually Evans) wounded and informed the Governor. The latter informed that he was alright and asked them to let him to follow Evans. Who had left Thus he escaped the prison. When the invigilator was not found in the hospital they went to the residence of Rev. S. Mc Leery only to find him 'bound and gagged in his study in Broad Street'. He had been there, since 8.15 a.m. Now everything was clear to the Governor. Evan escaped the prison the fourth time. But by taking the hint from the correction slip the Governor reached the hotel where Evans was staying. He captured him and came to know how he planned his escape. The Governor said that his game was over. Evans surrendered himself to the Governor. Evans was handcuffed and sent away with a prison officer in the prison van. But here again he befooled the Governor. Both the prison officer and the prison van were part of the plan devised by Evan's friends.

Once again he was a free bird.

5. EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL

by Colin Dexter

CHARACTER SKETCH: James Roderick Evans

James Roderick Evans was a very cunning, smart and a deceitful prisoner. He was imprisoned in H.M. Oxford prison under the careful vigil of the Governor and other prison officials. Originally a non-violent kleptomaniac, he was arrested multiple times which made him a thief in the end. However, he was shrewd enough to be able to escape from the prison as many as three times. Therefore, he was famous by the name of "Evans the Break".

He was very amusing and good at making friends. Though he did not have an attractive appearance, he had a cheerful smile. He had the ability to get people to do whatever he wanted. He also had a way with deception. He took special care while disguising himself as others, especially in the case where he disguised himself as the invigilator. We never see him losing his cool which tells us that he is supremely confident of himself and always has a backup plan at hand. With his charm and his expertise, he is almost like a negative hero.

CHARACTER SKETCH: The Governor

The Governor of the H.M. prison, Oxford appears to be considerate and kind-hearted fellow at the start as he arranges for an O-Level examination for a prisoner notorious for his ability to escape from the prison. However, he is quite skeptical of Evans and makes every arrangement to make sure that Evans doesn't escape.

He is the primary antagonist of the main character Evans. He has been characterised as an intelligent and able prison officer but in the end, he turns out to be 'good-for-a-giggle-Governor'. The Governor tries to exert all caution but Evans eventually manages to escape. This was mainly due to the lapse in communication and flawless execution of work.