

'A Question of Trust'

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. A small dog was lying in the kitchen. It stirred, made a noise, and moved its tail in a friendly way.
- What is the name of the dog mentioned in the above extract?
 - In which house is the kitchen referred to located?
 - Find a word from the passage that means the same as 'cordial'.
 - What is the opposite of 'friendly'?

Ans:

- The name of the dog mentioned in the above extract is Sherry.
- The kitchen referred to is located in Shot over Grange.
- The word is 'friendly'.
- Its opposite is 'hostile'.

2. Whom did Horace Danby see in the kitchen? How did they greet each other? What tact did Horace apply there?

Ans. Horace Danby saw the family dog, Sherry, in the kitchen. The dog greeted Horace by stirring, making a noise and wagging its tail in a friendly way. Horace greeted the dog by tactfully calming it down, calling it by its name and showing love to it.

3. How did Danby prepare for the robbery at Shot over Grange?

OR

How did Horace Danby plan his robberies?

Ans: Danby always planned his robberies meticulously. He prepared for the robbery at Shot over Grange by studying the house, the electric wiring, paths and garden. He knew that the family normally lived in the city and knew about the movement of the servants, who had gone out that afternoon. He had kept his tools ready, packed in a bag.

4. What was the passion of Horace Danby and how did he satisfy it?

Ans: The passion of Horace Danby was collecting rare and expensive books. To satisfy this passion, he needed money and arranged it by robbing one safe every year and then secretly buying the books through an agent.

5. Describe the safe at Shot over Grange.

OR

Where was the safe at Shot over Grange? What was there inside it? What did Horace expect to get if he sold them one by one?

Ans: The safe at Shot over Grange was kept in the drawing room behind a poor painting and had jewels worth about 15000 pounds kept in it. It had a poorly built burglar alarm, but could be opened only through a specific code. Horace expected to get 5000 pounds if he sold the jewels one by one.

6. How did flowers hinder Horace in his work?

Ans: Flowers hindered Horace in his work because he had hay fever, a disorder affecting the nose and throat, caused by allergy to pollen or dust. Due to this problem, whenever he came close to flowers, he began to sneeze and could be caught. He had to cover his face.

7. Why was Horace Danby sure that his robbery at Shot over Grange would be a successful one?

Ans: Horace Danby was sure that his robbery at Shot over Grange would be a successful one because he had studied the house, the drawing room where the safe was kept, the wiring and its garden. He had also studied the movement of the servants, so he had planned well, thus ensuring that nothing could go wrong.

8. What did Horace Danby wonder about for a moment? What did he think and decide?

Ans: On seeing the poor painting in front of the safe, Horace Danby wondered for a moment whether to collect pictures instead of books.

But then, he thought that books were better in a small house like his, as paintings took up too much room.

9. Would you do something wrong (i.e. commit a crime) if you thought that the ends justify the means? Do you think that there are certain situations you can be excused for acting dishonestly?

Ans: Yes, intentions do justify actions. If something wrong is done unintentionally, it may be pardoned. However, it cannot be excused if it is carried out even when knowing it is wrong. As Horace had the intention to rob the safe by breaking it open, his crime is intentional. Although he had good intentions in helping the lady (who he thought was the mistress of the house), his crime cannot be excused. Breaking open the safe cannot be justified at all. There may be

certain situations when you can be excused for acting dishonestly, but this is not so in Horace's case.

10. Horace was a successful thief because he carefully planned his robberies. Should we call him a successful thief and still appreciate his work? Why or why not?

Ans: Yes, as a thief, Horace is successful because he carefully planned his robberies and completes them well. He was living his life as a good and honest citizen. However, the wealth he gathered due from his successful robberies did not belong to him. By stealing other people's valuables, he may have become successful but he is actually a criminal. He may be efficient in – conducting his-crimes so that he is successful, but we still cannot appreciate his work.

