

The Thief's Story

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. What was the thief's reaction when he took Anil's money?

Ans: As the thief got the money he quickly crawled out of the room. When he was on the road, he began to run. He had the notes at his waist, held them by the string of his pyjamas. Later on he slowed down to walk and counted the notes. He thought that with those 600 rupees he could lead a luxurious life like an oil-rich Arab at least for a week.

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

Ans: In his short career as a thief, he has studied reactions of so many people when they are robbed off their belongings. He has observed that the greedy people showed fear; the rich showed anger and the poor people showed acceptance.

3. How did Hari Singh justify to himself his stealing Anil's money?

Ans: Hari Singh justified stealing from Anil by saying that if he did not steal, Anil would waste the money on his friends. Moreover, Hari believed that since Anil had not been paying him any salary, it was another reason for him to rob Anil.

4. Trust and compassion can reform a person. Justify this statement in the light of the lesson 'The Thief's Story'.

Ans: Trust and compassion can indeed reform a person, as demonstrated in the story 'The Thief's Story'. Anil, the young man who hired Hari Singh as a domestic help, was the epitome of generosity and trust. He gave Hari Singh a key to his room, allowing him the freedom to come and go as he pleased. One

day, Hari Singh stole six-hundred rupees while Anil was sleeping and went to the railway station to catch a train and escape after the robbery. However, his conscience pricked him for robbing a man like Anil, who had trusted him and always treated him with kindness. He realized that Anil would be saddened not by the loss of money, but by the loss of trust and faith he had in Hari Singh. Hari did not want to lose the chance of getting an education and leading a respectable life, so he made the decision to return. In this way, the trust, love, and compassion shown by Anil ultimately reformed a thief.

5. Why does Anil not hand over Hari Singh to the police? (Answer the following questions in 40-50 words).

Ans: Anil didn't hand over Hari to the police because if Anil had done it, Hari would have never reformed. He would have gone back to his old ways of cheating and stealing from people, which Anil didn't want. Thus, by doing so, he gave Hari another chance to reform.

6. Fiction writers prefer creating grey characters rather than black and white. Analyse this in detail, with reference to both the characters of The Thief's Story.

Ans: Both the characters in 'The Thief's Story' are neither completely black or white. They have their own qualities out of which some need improvement. We may consider both the personas as grey. The narrator of the story was a thief of 15 years. He had worked for different employees. He used to change his place after cheating his owner. Now he made Anil, who was an easy going person and

writer by profession, his friend. He keeps faith in Hari Singh giving him shelter in his own house, although he does not have any clear information about him. On the other hand, Hari Singh was artful and smart for his age. He didn't have shame in lying and stealing. One day he stole Anil's money and went out of the room but came back. His conscience stopped him from doing so. Even he made no effort to confess that he had given in to the temptation of stealing the notes. His heart had been changed due to love, affection and faith Anil had shown. In this way, we



may conclude that grey characters are unpredictable and present a moral challenge to the readers.

7. What made Hari Singh come back to Anil? (Answer the following questions in 40-50 words)

Ans: Hari Singh returned to Anil because he realised that he had robbed the most trustworthy person that he had ever met. Anil's kindness, love, and help that he provided him made him repent of his mistake and brought him back to him.