

**Objective Type Questions**

**I. Extract Based Questions**

I. 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.

1. According to the extract, the young boy was watching the Wrestling Match because he:
  - a. Had been invited there by the Wrestlers.
  - b. Was supposed to meet someone there.
  - c. Was looking for simple people to dupe.
  - d. Loved wrestling and followed it very closely.
2. 'I hadn't had much luck of late' means that the boy hadn't:
  - a. Ever conned people successfully.
  - b. Been successful in duping people lately.
  - c. Understood the consequences of Thievery till date.
  - d. Considered the role of fate in deceiving others.
3. 'I might be able to get into the young man's confidence.' Choose the option that DOES NOT display what the statement means.
  - a. He wanted to win his trust.
  - b. He wanted him to share his thoughts without caution.
  - c. He wanted him to feel comfortable revealing more details about himself.
  - d. He wanted to be able to spend quality time with him.
4. Anil looked easy-going, kind and simple to the Narrator.  
Which of the given characteristics would NOT fit in with this description?
  - a. Compassionate
  - b. Suave
  - c. Uncomplicated
  - d. Carefree

5. Based on the line, "A little flattery helps in making friends.", choose the option that displays the quote closest in meaning.

- a. Imitation is the best form of flattery; people generally understand that my comedy is not intended to hurt anybody.
- b. I know imitation is the highest form of flattery, but stealing one's identity is totally different.
- c. Nothing is so great an example of bad manners as flattery. If you flatter all the company, you please none; if you flatter only one or two, you offend the rest.
- d. One may define flattery as a base companionship which is most advantageous to the flatterer.

## II. Extract Based Questions

I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines—a queer way to make a living!

1. Anil made money 'by fits and starts' means that he:

- a. Deemed it fit to start investing money.
- b. Started earning money in the recent past.
- c. Received money intermittently.
- d. Put his money to use frequently.

2. The information in the extract suggests that Anil could be a:

- a. Salaried professional
- b. Freelancer
- c. Business man
- d. Volunteer

3. If borrow - lend, then pick the ODD pair from the options below:

- a. Give - take
- b. Lose - find
- c. Hop - skip
- d. Buy - sell

4. The reference to making a little money 'this way' refers to a way that is viewed by most people as:

- a. Sensible
- b. Inappropriate
- c. Charitable
- d. Aggressive

5. Based on your understanding of Anil in the extract, choose the option that synchronises with his thinking.

- a. So what if I don't have much money? Giving it to that person is important as they could do with a helping hand.
- b. I better learn how to protect my money. I think I'm being looted.
- c. I earn money with such tremendous effort. Where does it all go?
- d. When I become rich, I can begin to help friends then. Right now, I will spend only on myself.

### III. Multiple choice questions

1. Why did the thief take on a new name every month?

- i. to keep himself ahead of the police
- ii. he did not want to reveal his true name
- iii. to keep himself ahead of his former employees.
- iv. **both (i) and (iii)**

2. How did Hari Singh know the meal he had cooked was terrible?

- i. Anil told him never to cook again
- ii. **Anil gave it to a stray dog**
- iii. Anil cooked another meal for himself
- iv. Anil refused to pay him

3. Anil did not hand over Hari Singh to the police because:

- i. He realised that Hari Singh had learnt his lesson
- ii. Anil wanted to give him another chance
- iii. Anil hoped that he would become a better person
- iv. **All of the above**

4. Anil talked about the well - oiled \_\_\_\_\_ who were grunting lifting and throwing each other about.

- i. the boys on the street
- ii. The street urchins
- iii. **the wrestlers**
- iv. The thieves

5. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve . Whose thoughts are these?

- i. Anil
- ii. **Hari Singh**
- iii. Jumna
- iv. Ruskin Bond

6. What is Hari Singh 'a fairly successful hand' at?

- i. **stealing**
- ii. Cooking
- iii. wrestling
- iv. Writing

7. I had been working for Anil for almost a month and had not done anything in my line of work.

What work is being mentioned?

- i. wrestling      ii. Cooking      iii. making tea      iv. **Stealing**

8. The only person Hari Singh knew well in the town is \_\_\_\_\_?

- i. Ruskin Bond      ii. The wrestler  
iii. the coolie at the station      iv. **Anil**

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. It's not easy to be mean to people who are very nice to you. Do you think that the young thief had to work on giving himself valid reasons to be able to commit the theft? Or Did the thieving come as naturally to him this time, too? Write a brief analysis of his mood before the theft.

No doubt, Hari Singh was experienced and clever enough to justify his actions. He justified the robbing of careless and unsuspecting man like Anil. He told himself that he was out of practice.

He must rob. If he didn't take the money, Anil would waste it on his friends, Moreover Anil didn't pay him.

2. Why do you think the narrator used to feel that 'friends were more trouble than help'? What could have led him to believe this?

Hari Singh was a robber. If he and his friend went to rob something and one of his friends would be caught then he could reveal their secrets in such case the whole gang would be handed over to police for robbery. Moreover he did not want anybody to know about his secrets and where about. So he felt friends were more trouble than help.

3. At the end of the story, we realise that Anil knew about the incident of the previous night, yet he chose to overlook such a breach of trust. Explain.

Anil was careless and unsuspecting but not a fool. He knew all about the theft of his six hundred rupees. He could have easily handed him over to police. However, he did not want to ruin Hari Singh's life. He wants to educate the unfortunate boy. So, he gave a fifty rupee note and promised to pay him regularly. Also he chose to overlook such a breach of trust.

#### **4. What made Hari Singh come back to Anil.**

Hari Singh came back to Anil because he remembered the good times he had spent with Anil. His inner conscience stopped him from breaking Anil's trust. Hari Singh stole six hundred rupees while Anil was sleeping. He went to the railway station after stealing the money, but did not board the train. His conscience pricked him for robbing a man like Anil who had trusted him. He roamed around aimlessly and remembered the good times he had spent with Anil. He felt lonely and sad at the thought of leaving Anil. So, he immediately decided to go back to Anil. Hari Singh knew that one day he will be able to earn more money by becoming a really big, clever and respected man which was much more than stealing a few hundred rupees at that time. So he returned home, back to Anil.

#### **5. Why did not Anil hand Hari Singh over to the police?**

Anil forgave Hari Singh to give him an opportunity to reform himself.

Anil was a very kind person. He knew that Hari Singh was not bad at heart. If he had handed him over to the police, Hari Singh would have become a hardened criminal and his mind would be filled with bitterness. So, Anil did not hand over Hari Singh to the police. Instead, he forgave him and gave him an opportunity to reform himself.

#### **6. In which queer way did Anil make a living?**

Anil made a living in a queer way by borrowing money but repaid the loan whenever he earned money through his writings for magazines. He lived life according to the flow of money. When he got money, he enjoyed out with his friends. When he was having less money, he used to reduce his expenses.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

#### **1. Why did Hari Singh think that Anil's job was queer?**

Anil contributed to magazines. He wrote for a living. He didn't earn much. Nor did he have a regular income. He couldn't afford to have a servant. So it was difficult for Hari Singh to understand his profession.

#### **2. How and when did Hari Singh meet Anil?**

Hari Singh met Anil when he was watching wrestling match. He found Anil easy going, kind and simple enough to suit his purpose. Anil's trusting nature could help him in stealing or robbing him. Therefore, he offered himself to work for Anil. Anil had no regular income and



couldn't afford to pay him. But still Hari Singh exploited. Anil's generosity and he forced Anil to keep him in his house.

**3. Anil couldn't afford to pay Hari Singh. Why did then, he allow Hari Singh to stay with him?**

Hari Singh offered himself to work for Anil. Anil didn't have a regular income and couldn't afford to pay him regularly. Actually, he couldn't afford to keep in servant. Hari Singh wanted to exploit such a kind-hearted and simple man like Anil. He lied that he knew how to cook. Generous Anil was forced to allow Hari Singh to stay with him in his house.

**4. Why was it so difficult for Hari Singh to rob a trusting and unsuspecting person like Anil?**

The fifteen-year-old thief, Hari Singh was an experienced and a fairly successful hand. It was easy to rob a greedy man because he could afford to be robbed. That could take all the pleasure out of the work of theft. Actually there was no thrill in robbing such a man.

**5. Why did Hari Singh justify himself to rob Anil?**

No doubt, Hari Singh was experienced and clever enough to justify his act. He justified the robbing of a careless and unsuspecting man like Anil. Hari Singh told himself that he was out of practice. Anil was a spendthrift. He must rob. If he didn't take the money, Anil would waste it on his friends. Moreover, Anil didn't pay him.

**6. Why did Hari Singh lie that he knew how to cook? Why did Anil have to throw the food cooked by Hari to the stray dogs?**

Hari Singh had carefully chosen a kind careless and unsuspecting target in Anil. When Anil asked if he knew how to cook, Hari Singh replied that he did. He deliberately told a lie. The food he prepared was really terrible. Anil had to throw it away to the stray dogs.

**7. How did Hari Singh feel working for Anil? Did Anil know that Hari Singh was making a little money from purchases?**

Hari Singh felt quite pleasant working for Anil. He would make tea for him in the morning. He would take his time for the day's supplies. Usually, Hari would make profit of about a rupee a day. Anil knew about the stealing. But he allowed Hari to do so because he couldn't afford to pay him regularly. He didn't mind it.

**8. How did Anil get that substantial money that he brought home in a bundle? How did it tempt Hari Singh?**

Anil had no regular income. He wrote for magazines. One day he came home with a small bundle of notes. He had just sold a book to a publisher. Hari saw Anil tuck the money under the mattress of his bed. Such a large amount of money and his unsuspecting master made Hari Singh to steal it.

**9. How did Hari Singh steal the money that Anil got from selling his book to a publisher?**

Hari Singh saw with his own eyes how Anil tucked the bundle of money under the mattress of his bed. When Anil was asleep, Hari Singh crept up to the bed. He slid his hand under the mattress and drew the money out of the bundle without making a sound. Anil sighed in his sleep and turned on his side, towards him. Hari Singh got startled and quickly came out of the room.

**10. Describe Hari Singh's dilemma at the station. Why didn't he jump into a compartment of the Lucknow Express when he could?**

When he reached the station, Hari Singh did not stop at the ticket office because he never bought a ticket earlier. The Lucknow Express was just moving out. He could have jumped into one of the carriages. But he hesitated. Perhaps, he had not made a final decision in this regard. He wanted to go back to Anil.

**11. What did Hari Singh think when he was standing alone on the deserted platform?**

The train had gone. Hari Singh was in a dilemma. He was standing alone on the deserted platform. He had no idea where to spend the night. He had no friends. Nor did he want to go to hotel. The only person whom he knew and who could perhaps help him was the man whom he had robbed a few hours ago.

**12. What did Hari Singh do in the 'maidan' and how did the notes become damp?**

From the station, Hari Singh found himself in the 'maidan'. He sat down on a bench. The November night was chilly. The heavy rain added to Hari Singh's discomfort. His shirt and pyjamas stuck to his skin. He sat down in the shelter of the clock tower. He felt for the notes. They were damp from the rain.

**13. How did Hari Singh forget about his education in the excitement of his theft? What did he think about it in the end?**

Anil taught Hari Singh to write his name. He also promised to teach him making complete sentences and adding numbers. In his excitement of the theft, he forgot all about his

education. But good sense prevailed and in the end, he realised that education could give him respect and much more money.

**14. Why does Anil not hand Hari Singh over to the police?**

Anil is a kind man. He wants to reform Hari Singh's life. Although he knows about theft which Hari Singh has committed still he forgives Hari Singh. He does not hand him over to the police. It can stop his plan to give him basic education.

**15. How and when did Hari Singh put the stolen money back at the same place from where he had stolen? Did Anil know it?**

Hari Singh came back to Anil's room. He didn't want to breach Anil's trust in him. He was feeling quite nervous. He crept to the head of the bed. His hand found the edge of the mattress. He slipped the notes under the mattress.

Yes Anil was aware of everything that was taking place in the room.

**16. Why didn't Anil hand Hari Singh over to the police even when he knew all about the theft?**

Anil was careless and unsuspecting but not a fool. He knew how the boy stole money out of the daily shopping. He also knew all about the theft of his 600 rupees. He could have easily handed him over to the police. However he didn't want to ruin Hari Singh's life. He wanted to give an education to the unfortunate boy. So he gave a fifty rupee note and promised to pay him regularly. Neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything about the theft.

**Long Answer Type Questions**

**1. Based on the given context, write a diary entry, as the narrator, on what you experienced and the possible reason for it. I should have been able to jump into one of the carriages, but I hesitated — for some reason I can't explain — and I lost the chance to get away.**

I should have been able to jump into one of the carriages, but I hesitated— for some reason I can't explain — and I lost the chance to get away perhaps God has some good plans for me this time. That's why I can't feel the pleasure of stealing six hundreds rupees. Instead, I'm feeling guilty of having violated the trust that Anil had reposed on me. That's why I could not board the train.



Anil always treated me like his friend. I too, valued Anil's friendship feelings for me. But after discovering the theft, I'm sure, Anil would not be sad for the loss of money, but for loss of trust. The only person I knew and who could help me was Anil whom I had robbed a few hours ago. I robbed that person who was so large-hearted and the one who wanted me to get educated so that I, too, could earn respect, name and money. Alas! God, forbid me and my sins.

**2. Education means different things to different people. Evaluate how it impacted the young thief in the story.**

Hari Singh, ultimately, realised the significance of education in life. He understood the robbing would only provide him money temporarily. Also there was the risk of being caught. Education provides one with respectability. Education can heal a wrongly talented soul. Educated people may see the difference between right and wrong and enables them to choose the right path. It leads them on the path of truth and rational thinking. Education could bring one's respect and money.

After robbing Anil, the boy thief realised the value of education that could give him respect and more money than he could get by stealing. He realised where he should go. Large hearted Anil not only forgave him but also gave him a fifty rupee note, and promised to pay him regularly. Thus, education is an essential aspect of any child's life and can help enable an honourable way of living.

**3. Education, love and sympathy can transform even a thief. How is it true in the case of Hari Singh?**

For some people, deception is a way to lead life easily, i.e., by changing name, by making excuses, by making new way of making money etc. Anil was the most trusting person. Hari Singh had ever met. But he took undue advantage of his trust. He was a thief and couldn't be expected to be honest with Anil. He came to Anil with a false identity. Anil had a blind faith in human nature. He employed him just out of sympathy and compassion for him. He trusted him and ignored his misdeed. He handed over all the financial transactions without any verification. In a way, he gave him a chance to improve. Hari stole money and then came back with a change of mind. Anil knew even this fact also, but said nothing. It made Hari Singh to decide to leave the style of deception as a way of life. Living a simple and straight life over-powered Hari's deceptive life. Finally, he opted for the simple life by educating himself and becoming a clever, big and respectable man in future. It was very good decision of Hari Singh.

**4. Hari Singh says- "He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything."**

**Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of The Thief's Story.**

Anil was a large-hearted person he realised, from the dampness of notes, that Hari Singh had tried to steal the money but since he came back and kept the money back at its place, made Anil realise that Hari Singh was sorry for his act. So, he decided to remain quiet about the matter. He knew that the discussion of the theft would be counterproductive. He pretended that all was normal and nothing had happened. Anil decided to give him another chance as it dawned upon him that Hari Singh's honesty had prevailed over his temptation. He didn't hand him over to the police and 'neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything'.

**5. Give a character-sketch of the thief, Hari Singh, Highlight the gradual changes that come in him.**

The narrator of 'The Thief's Story' is a thief. He is just fifteen but an experienced and fairly successful hand. He used to change his name every month. This he did to avoid being arrested by the police. He worked for many employers. He used to run away after cheating them. This time he introduced himself as Hari Singh was a clever thief. He knew how to humour a person like Anil. He knew how to cook. He was a good judge of men and situation. He exploited Anil's generosity and made money by keeping aside a rupee for him from buying the day's supplies.

In the heat and excitement, Hari Singh forgot his love for education. He knew that if he were educated, he could earn respect, name and No doubt, he breached Anil's trust by stealing his money. Soon he realised that he had no friends and well wishers. The only person who knew and could help him was Anil whom he had robbed a few hours ago. Anil's large-heartedness and his love for education transformed him in the end. He came back to Anil's large heartedness and his love for education transformed him in the end.

**6. Give a character-sketch of Anil. Did he know all about the theft? If so, why did he keep Hari Singh again to work for him?**

Anil is a thorough gentleman. He is generous, large-hearted and understanding. He is twenty-five years old and unmarried. He doesn't have a regular income. He writes for magazines. When he receives a cheque, he goes out and celebrates. Anil is a simple man who is ever-ready to help even a worthless boy like Hari Singh. He knows that Hari Singh lied that he

knew how to cook. Still he allows him to work for him. Anil is a progressive young man. Being a writer himself, he knows the value of education. He teaches Hari Singh to write his name. He promises to teach him to write whole sentences and to add numbers.

Anil knew all about the theft. He knew how and when Hari Singh stole the money and put it back under the mattress. Neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything about it. He didn't want to hand Hari Singh over to the police. It would have ruined him. The thief had no option but to return to such a generous and large-hearted person. The reformer, Anil rewarded the boy-thief by giving him a fifty-rupee note. He also promised to pay him regularly.

**7. How did Hari Singh come into contact with Anil? He breached Anil's trust in him but why did Anil not only forgive him but also promised to pay him regularly?**

Hari Singh was still a thief when he met Anil. He was just fifteen but was an experienced and fairly successful hand. Hari humoured Anil and wished to work for him. Anil had no regular income and couldn't afford to pay him. He asked Hari Singh if he knew how to cook. Hari Singh if he knew it. The boy was totally worthless and Anil asked him to go away. But the boy didn't budge and Anil retained him and also promised to teach him writing sentences and adding numbers.

They say old habits die hard. After all, Hari was a thief. He made a rupee everyday from buying the day's supplies. Trusting Anil gave him a key to the door. Trusting Anil gave him a key to the door. The boy-thief saw him tuck the money under the mattress. Hari Singh stole the money and went away. He counted them and found that they were 600 in fifties.

Anil knew everything about the theft. He even knew how the money was placed back under the mattress by Hari Singh. But the reformer, Anil prevailed over him. He didn't hand the boy-thief over to the police. Nor did he punish him by throwing him out of the job. Love for education transformed Hari Singh from thief to a reformed young man. Anil rewarded him by giving a fifty-rupee-note and promising to pay him regularly.

**8. 'He was the most trusting person I had ever met.' Justify this statement of Hari Singh about his benefactor Anil. Did he breach Anil's trust?**

After his first introduction, Hari Singh understood Anil's nature and his character rather well. He lied that he knew how to cook. Still Anil allowed Hari to work for him. Even at the age of 15, Hari Singh was an experienced and successful hand. He knew all the tricks of his trade. He made one rupee every day from buying the day's supplies. Anil knew it but ignored. Anil was really a trusting person. He had given Hari a key to the door and he could come and go as he

pleased. But it was 'so difficult to rob him'. It is easy to rob a greedy man. It was difficult to rob a careless and trusting man like Anil. Sometimes, he didn't even notice that he had been robbed. That took all the pleasure out of Hari Singh's work.

Anil was no fool. He knew all about the theft, when and how it was committed. Neither his lips nor eyes showed that he saw Hari placing the money back under the mattress.

Trust begets trust. Ultimately, the boy-thief realised that the only person who could help him was the man whom he had robbed a few hours ago. Naturally, Anil was the most trusting man Hari Singh had ever met in his life. Anil forgot the breach of his trust but rewarded Hari by giving a fifty-rupee -note and promising to pay him regularly.

**9. Describe the sequence of events that took place after Hari Singh stole the money.**

**Evaluate Hari Singh as a thief and as a human being.**

Hari Singh was a seasoned thief even at the age of fifteen. He knew all the tricks of his trade. As a thief, he knew how to hoodwink his master and make one rupee everyday out of buying of the day's supplies. And he, a seasoned thief, stole 600 rupees from under the mattress. With that money he could live like a rich Arab for a week or two. He came to the station but deliberately missed the Lucknow Express. He was struggling with himself. He came to the 'maidan' and was drenched in the rain on a chilly November night. He had no friends and did not like to go to a hotel either. He was in a dilemma. Then good sense prevailed on him. He decided to go back to the man whom he had robbed a few hours earlier. His love for education was the motivating force that led him to this decision.

So, as a thief he was quite an experienced and fairly a successful hand. But love, generosity and human compassion of Anil helped in transforming him into a better human being. He realised the value of education. Only education could give him respect status and money.

**10. Hari Singh could have lived like a rich Arab for a week or two. Why did he choose to go back to Anil in the end?**

Hari Singh definitely had a bumper catch. The money he stole from under Anil's bedroom's mattress was perhaps the largest amount he had ever stolen in life. When he was on the road, he counted the money. It was a sum of rupees six hundred, in fifties. With that money Hari Singh could live in luxury like a rich Arab, at least for a week or two. He decided to run away with the two. Money and came to the station. He found that the Lucknow Express had just moved. He could have jumped into one of the compartments but couldn't do so. Perhaps

something troubled him. He hesitated and remained standing alone on a deserted platform. He had no friends. The only man he knew was Anil whom he had robbed only a few hours ago.

The thing that motivated Hari Singh to go back to Anil was his love for getting an education. He realised that education could give him respect, status and much more money than he could get from stealing. Anil had promised him to teach writing and adding numbers. Hari Singh's urge to get an education brought him back to Anil.

