

Class X - English

A Question of Trust

CBSE NOTES

A Question of Trust - Mastery Worksheet

Advance your understanding through integrative and tricky questions.



Visit [Edzy.ai](https://edzy.ai) for more resources

Practice concepts, test understanding, and improve performance.

Mastery Questions

1. Compare and contrast Horace Danby's character before and after his encounter with the lady in red. How does this encounter change him?

Hint: Focus on Horace's motivations, his perception of himself, and the aftermath of the encounter.

Solution: Before the encounter, Horace Danby is a meticulous planner who steals to satisfy his love for rare books, believing he is not harming society. After the encounter, he realizes he was deceived and ends up in prison, where he reflects on his actions and the concept of 'honour among thieves'. This change highlights his naivety and the consequences of his actions.

2. Analyze the role of irony in 'A Question of Trust'. How does it contribute to the story's theme?

Hint: Consider the situations where expectations are subverted and the outcomes are opposite of what the characters anticipate.

Solution: Irony plays a significant role in the story, especially in how Horace, a thief, is tricked by another thief. This irony underscores the theme that there is no honour among thieves, challenging Horace's initial belief. The situation where Horace is outsmarted by the lady in red, who he thinks is the lady of the house, adds depth to the narrative and its moral lesson.

3. Discuss the significance of the title 'A Question of Trust'. How does it reflect the story's central conflict?

Hint: Think about the interactions between Horace and the lady in red and the outcomes of their encounter.

Solution: The title reflects the central conflict of trust versus deception. Horace trusts the lady in red, believing her to be the lady of the house, which leads to his downfall. The story questions the reliability of trust, especially among those who live outside the law, and highlights the consequences of misplaced trust.

4. Evaluate Horace Danby's planning and execution of the robbery. What were his strengths and weaknesses?

Hint: List Horace's preparations and identify where his plan fell apart.

Solution: Horace's strengths include his meticulous planning, knowledge of locks, and ability to blend in, as seen in his careful study of the house and his interaction with the dog. However, his weakness lies in his overconfidence and inability to foresee deception, leading to his capture. His failure to verify the lady's identity and removing his gloves were critical mistakes.

5. How does the author use Horace Danby's love for books to develop his character?

Hint: Consider how Horace's hobby influences his decisions and how others perceive him.

Solution: Horace's love for books is central to his character, motivating his crimes and making him a sympathetic figure. It contrasts with his criminal actions, showing a complex character who is not entirely bad. This passion also blinds him to the risks, as seen when he decides to steal again despite his promise, leading to his arrest.

6. What does the story suggest about the concept of 'honour among thieves'? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Hint: Look at the interactions between Horace and the lady in red and the outcome of their encounter.

Solution: The story debunks the myth of 'honour among thieves' through Horace's experience. Despite his belief in this code, he is deceived by the lady in red, who is also a thief. This betrayal highlights that in the criminal world, trust is fragile, and self-interest often prevails over mutual respect or honour.

7. Describe the lady in red's character and her role in the story. How does she manipulate Horace?

Hint: Focus on her actions, dialogue, and how she gains Horace's trust.

Solution: The lady in red is clever and manipulative, posing as the lady of the house to deceive Horace. She uses her charm, knowledge of the house, and Horace's desperation to her advantage, convincing him to open the safe for her. Her role is pivotal in turning the tables on Horace, leading to his arrest.

8. How does the setting contribute to the mood and plot of 'A Question of Trust'?

Hint: Consider how the physical environment influences the characters' actions and the story's outcome.

Solution: The setting of a wealthy house with a poorly secured safe and the presence of a dog create a realistic and tense atmosphere. It provides the perfect backdrop for the robbery and the subsequent deception, enhancing the story's suspense and irony.

9. What moral lessons can be derived from 'A Question of Trust'? Discuss with reference to the story.

Hint: Reflect on the consequences of Horace's actions and the story's ending.

Solution: The story teaches that crime does not pay and that trust can be easily exploited. Horace's initial belief that he is not harming anyone is proven wrong when he is betrayed. The moral is clear: dishonest actions lead to negative consequences, and there is no honour among thieves.

10. Imagine you are Horace Danby. Write a diary entry reflecting on the events of the story and what you have learned.

Hint: Consider Horace's feelings, his thoughts on the lady in red, and his future in prison.

Solution: In the diary entry, Horace would express regret for his actions, realization of his naivety, and anger at being deceived. He might reflect on the irony of his situation and the lesson that crime ultimately leads to punishment, regardless of one's intentions.

Revise smarter with Edzy!

For Students

- Use flashcards to test yourself before sleeping
- Study with a timer to stay focused
- Practice past papers to get exam-ready

For Teachers

- Assign practice worksheets in just a click
- Plan lessons faster with curriculum-mapped material
- Celebrate milestones to encourage consistent effort

Speed Tip:

Use bullet points when writing long answers to save time.

Shine Bright!

You're capable of more than you know. Let it show!



Visit [Edzy.ai](https://edzy.ai) for more resources

Made with ❤️ for School Students