

Class X - English

**A Question of Trust**

# CBSE NOTES

## **A Question of Trust - Quick Look Revision Guide**

*Your 1-page summary of the most exam-relevant takeaways from Foot Prints Without feet.*



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# Key Points

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## 1. Horace Danby's dual nature: honest locksmith by day, thief by passion.

Horace Danby is a respected locksmith with a secret life as a thief, stealing only to buy rare books, showing his complex character.

## 2. The irony of 'honour among thieves' in the story.

The story debunks the myth of honour among thieves through Horace's betrayal by the lady thief, highlighting the lack of trust in the criminal world.

## 3. Horace's meticulous planning for the robbery.

Horace spends weeks studying Shotover Grange, showcasing his careful planning, yet his overconfidence leads to his downfall.

## 4. The significance of Horace's hay fever.

Horace's hay fever acts as a recurring motif, humanizing him and leading to his eventual capture by betraying his presence.

## 5. The lady thief's deception tactics.

The lady thief uses her appearance, knowledge of the house, and manipulation to convince Horace she's the homeowner, exploiting his trust.

## 6. Horace's failure to wear gloves: a critical mistake.

Forgetting to wear gloves while opening the safe leaves fingerprints, directly leading to his arrest, underscoring the importance of attention to detail.

## **7. The theme of trust and betrayal.**

The story explores how trust can be manipulated, as Horace trusts the lady thief, only to be betrayed and arrested.

## **8. The role of Sherry, the dog, in the story.**

Sherry's friendly behavior towards the lady thief subtly hints at her familiarity with the house, a clue Horace misses.

## **9. Horace's moral ambiguity.**

Horace isn't a typical thief; he steals for a 'noble' cause (buying books), blurring moral lines and making him a complex character.

## **10. The twist: the lady's true identity.**

The revelation that the lady is a thief herself adds irony, as Horace, a thief, is outsmarted by a fellow criminal.

## **11. Horace's arrest and its irony.**

Arrested for a robbery he didn't commit (the jewels were taken by the lady), Horace's fate is a twist of irony, emphasizing karma.

## **12. The story's message on crime and punishment.**

Despite his intentions, Horace's criminal actions lead to his punishment, conveying that crime doesn't pay, regardless of the motive.

## **13. The use of suspense in the narrative.**

The story builds suspense by slowly revealing the lady's true intentions, engaging the reader until the climax.

#### **14. Horace's final realization and anger.**

In prison, Horace reflects on his naivety and the betrayal, showing his growth and the harsh lesson learned about trust.

#### **15. The contrast between appearance and reality.**

The story contrasts Horace's respectable appearance with his criminal side and the lady's deceptive appearance, highlighting themes of deception.

#### **16. The significance of the title 'A Question of Trust'.**

The title encapsulates the central theme: the reliability of trust, especially among those with questionable morals.

#### **17. Horace's love for books as a redeeming quality.**

His passion for books adds depth to his character, making him somewhat sympathetic despite his criminal actions.

#### **18. The story's setting and its role.**

The affluent setting of Shotover Grange underscores the targets of Horace's thefts: the wealthy, justifying his actions in his mind.

#### **19. The moral dilemma presented to the reader.**

The story poses questions about morality, asking readers to consider if Horace's actions are justifiable, engaging them in ethical reflection.

#### **20. The ending's lesson on consequences.**

Horace's arrest serves as a cautionary tale about the inevitable consequences of criminal behavior, regardless of one's intentions.



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