

Class X - English

## The Thief's Story

# CBSE NOTES

## The Thief's Story - Practice Worksheet

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# Practice Questions

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## 1. Describe the relationship between Hari Singh and Anil. How does this relationship evolve throughout the story?

*Hint: Focus on the moments where Hari's feelings towards Anil change, especially after the theft.*

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**Solution:** Initially, Hari Singh approaches Anil with the intention of deceiving him, seeing Anil as an easy target due to his kind and trusting nature. However, as Anil teaches Hari to cook and write, a bond forms between them. Hari begins to appreciate the value of education and the trust Anil places in him. Despite his initial plan to steal from Anil, Hari's conscience leads him to return the money, showing his internal conflict and growth. Anil's non-judgmental and forgiving nature plays a crucial role in this transformation, highlighting the power of trust and kindness in changing a person's life.

## 2. Why does Hari Singh decide to return the stolen money to Anil? Discuss the internal conflict he faces.

*Hint: Consider Hari's thoughts about education and his future before and after the theft.*

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**Solution:** Hari Singh decides to return the stolen money after realizing the value of the education and trust Anil has offered him. He experiences an internal conflict between his life as a thief and the possibility of a better future through education. The thought of losing Anil's trust and the opportunity to learn weighs heavily on him, making him understand that the money is not as valuable as the chance to change his life. This moment of realization signifies Hari's desire for self-improvement and his struggle between right and wrong.

## 3. How does Anil's character influence Hari Singh's transformation?

*Hint: Analyze Anil's actions and how they affect Hari's decisions and feelings.*

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**Solution:** Anil's kindness, trust, and willingness to educate Hari Singh without any ulterior motives play a pivotal role in Hari's transformation. Unlike others, Anil does not judge Hari by his past but sees potential in him. This unconditional support makes Hari reflect on his actions and the possibility of a respectable life. Anil's behavior demonstrates that trust and compassion can lead to positive changes in individuals, even those who seem lost.

#### 4. Discuss the significance of the title 'The Thief's Story'. How does it reflect the theme of the story?

*Hint: Think about how the title encapsulates the essence of Hari's journey and the story's moral.*

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**Solution:** The title 'The Thief's Story' is significant as it highlights the protagonist's journey from being a thief to someone who values trust and education. It reflects the theme of redemption and the possibility of change, emphasizing that one's past does not define their future. The story showcases the internal and external conflicts faced by Hari Singh, making it a tale of transformation rather than just a narrative about theft.

#### 5. What role does education play in Hari Singh's life? How does his perspective on education change?

*Hint: Compare Hari's initial and final thoughts about education in the story.*

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**Solution:** Initially, Hari Singh views education as a tool to enhance his thieving skills, believing that being literate would allow him to cheat more effectively. However, as Anil teaches him, Hari begins to see education as a means to achieve respect and a better life. This shift in perspective is crucial to his character development, showing how education can open new pathways and change one's outlook on life.

#### 6. How does the setting contribute to the story's plot and themes?

*Hint: Consider how the environment influences Hari's life choices and the story's outcome.*

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**Solution:** The story is set in a small town in India, where the socio-economic conditions might push a young boy like Hari Singh into theft. The setting adds realism to the story, making Hari's circumstances and subsequent transformation believable. The cultural and social backdrop also highlights the importance of trust and human connections in overcoming adversity.

#### 7. Analyze the moment Hari Singh steals the money. What does this reveal about his character?

*Hint: Focus on Hari's emotions and thoughts during and immediately after the theft.*

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**Solution:** When Hari Singh steals the money, it reveals his internal conflict between his habitual thievery and his growing conscience. Despite his initial excitement, he quickly feels guilt and fear,

indicating his moral dilemma. This moment is pivotal as it sets the stage for his eventual decision to return the money, showcasing his capacity for change and the impact of Anil's trust on him.

## 8. What does the story suggest about the nature of trust and betrayal?

*Hint: Reflect on the outcomes of trust and betrayal in the relationship between Hari and Anil.*

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**Solution:** The story suggests that trust is a powerful force that can lead to redemption, while betrayal can lead to guilt and remorse. Anil's unwavering trust in Hari Singh, despite knowing his flaws, ultimately inspires Hari to change. The narrative illustrates how trust can foster positive transformations, whereas betrayal, even when not acted upon, can cause inner turmoil and a desire for redemption.

## 9. How does Hari Singh's decision to return the money impact his relationship with Anil?

*Hint: Consider Anil's reaction (or lack thereof) to the returned money and what it signifies.*

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**Solution:** Hari Singh's decision to return the money strengthens his relationship with Anil, as it demonstrates his honesty and the value he places on their bond. Anil's silent acknowledgment of Hari's action, without any confrontation, shows his understanding and forgiveness. This moment deepens the mutual respect between them, highlighting the story's theme of redemption through trust and kindness.

## 10. Discuss the ending of the story. Is it hopeful or ambiguous? Justify your answer.

*Hint: Analyze the last few paragraphs, focusing on Anil's actions and Hari's feelings.*

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**Solution:** The ending of the story is hopeful, as it implies a new beginning for Hari Singh under Anil's guidance. Despite the theft, Anil chooses to continue teaching Hari, indicating his belief in Hari's potential for change. This open-ended conclusion suggests that Hari has the opportunity to leave his past behind and build a better future, emphasizing the themes of trust, redemption, and the transformative power of education.

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