



QUESTION BANK – THE THIEF’S STORY- by Ruskin Bond

Class: X

Sub: ENGLISH

**I. SUMMARY**

Anil, a young man of 25, was a writer. He earned his living by writing books or articles for various magazines. He was a kind and simple man. Once, when he was watching a wrestling match, a young boy named Hari Singh approached him and expressed his desire to serve him. He said that he would cook for him. Anil believed him and gave him the job. Hari Singh was an expert thief and used to change his name and place to avoid the police and his old employers. He used to make money while buying supplies for Anil but he did not seem to mind.

One day, he got a chance to steal Anil’s money, from under the mattress. He ran away to go to another place by train. But his inner voice made him hesitate and he decided to return. He did not want to cheat a kind-hearted and simple man like Anil, who had trusted him. He also wanted Anil to teach him to write simple sentences. He immediately came back to Anil’s house and placed the money as it was.

Next morning, Anil gave him fifty rupees and told him that he would pay him regularly. Anil forgave him as he wanted to give him another chance to improve.

**II. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: Read the questions and choose the most appropriate answer.**

1. Who is the narrator of the story?

- (i) Ruskin Bond      **(ii) Hari Singh**      (iii) Anil      (iv) Police

2. How old was the thief?

- (i) 25 yrs.      **(ii) 15yrs.**      (iii) not given      (iv) 18yrs

3. ‘*Flattery*’ in the story means \_\_\_\_\_

- (i) sincere praise      (ii) boasting      **(iii) insincere praise**      (iv) appealing

4. What was the name of the shop above which Anil lived?

- (i) Laddu Sweet Shop      (ii) Rasgulla Sweet Shop  
(iii) Jamun Sweet Shop      **(iv) Jumna Sweet Shop**

5. How was the meal Hari Singh cooked first night?

- (i) delicious      (ii) mouth-watering      (iii) finger-licking good      **(iv) terrible**

6. What did Anil do for a living?

- (i) Wrestling      **(ii) Wrote for magazines**      (iii) Sports Correspondent      (iv) Teacher

7. What was Anil doing when the thief boy met him?

- (i) wrestling with opponent      (ii) watching a cricket match

(iii) watching a wrestling match      (iv) writing a report

8. Who is easier to rob according to Hari Singh?

- (i) a careless man      (ii) a greedy man  
(iii) a trusting man      (iv) Anil

9. 'His face was clear and unlined...'. What do you mean by the word "unlined"?

- (i) in a line      (ii) not covered  
(iii) showing no sign of worry or anxiety      (iv) none of the above

### **III. REFERENCE TO CONTEXT:**

**1. "You look a bit of a wrestler yourself". I said A little flattery helps in making friends.**

(a) Who was the speaker? Who was he trying to flatter?

Hari Singh was the speaker and he was trying to flatter Anil.

(b) Why did the speaker want to be friends with the listener?

The speaker wanted to be friends with the listener because he wanted to rob him after gaining his trust.

(c) Find the antonym of 'criticism' in the extract.

The antonym is 'flattery'.

(d) What is the opposite of 'friends'?

'Enemies' is its opposite.

**2. "He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything".**

(a) Who is 'he' in the extract? What did he know?

'He' refers to Anil in the extract. He knew about the theft of his money.

(b) Why did his lips nor his eyes showed anything?

Anil did not show any change because he understood the situation and Hari's return gave him the hope of a change in him.

(c) Which word in the extract means the same as 'reveal'?

'Showed' means the same as 'reveal'.

(d) What is the antonym of 'showed'?

'Hide' is its antonym.

**3. Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice.**

(a) What 'real work' is the speaker talking about?

The 'real work' in the extract refers to stealing.

(b) Why does the speaker say 'I'm out of practice'?

The speaker says so because he is a thief and he has not robbed anyone recently.

(c) Give a synonym of 'practice'.

Here, habit is a synonym of 'practice'.

(d) What part of speech is the word 'real' in the extract?

The word 'real' is an adjective

**4. When the train had gone, I found myself standing alone on the deserted platform. I had no idea where to spend the night. I had no friends.**

(a) Why was the speaker standing alone on the platform?

The speaker was standing alone on the platform because a train had just left.

(b) Why did he not have any friends?

The speaker did not have any friends because he thought that friends were more trouble than help.

(c) Which word in the extract is an antonym of the word 'crowded'?

The word is 'deserted'.

(d) What does 'deserted' mean?

It means empty.

#### **IV.SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

**1. Anil walked away. I followed casually'. Why do you think the narrator followed Anil?**

**Answer:** The narrator's purpose of robbing Anil had not yet been served. He followed Anil to gain his trust and look for an opportunity that may help him give shape to his plans.

**2. What are the different reactions of the people when they are robbed?**

**Answer:** According to Hari Singh, different people react differently on being robbed. The greedy man displays fear, the rich man shows anger, and the poor man shows acceptance. However, a trusting man like Anil would be sad due to the loss of trust.

**3. Why was it difficult for Hari Singh to rob Anil?**

**Answer:** It was difficult to rob Anil because he was the most trusting person Hari Singh had ever met. According to Hari Singh, it's easy to rob a greedy man because he can afford to be robbed but it's difficult to rob a careless man because he doesn't even notice that he's been robbed and that takes all the pleasure out of the work.

**4. State the events that took place on the night of the theft.**

**Answer:** The night of robbery was quite eventful for Hari Singh. After stealing Anil's money and leaving Anil's house, Hari went to the railway station but didn't board the train to Lucknow. He walked slowly through the bazaar as he did not know anyone who would provide him shelter except Anil, for he didn't have any friends. He was forced to take shelter under the clock tower later when it started raining heavily. That is where he realised the importance of education and decided to go back to Anil.

**5.How was the morning after the night of the theft?**

**Answer:** The morning after the night of the theft was just like a normal one. Hari woke up late and Anil had made tea by then. Anil gave a fifty rupee note to Hari and told him that he will now be paid regularly. Hari was aware that Anil knew about the theft but he didn't show anything.

**6.Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh? Support your answer with evidence.**

**Answer:** Yes, Anil had forgiven Hari Singh. It is evident because Anil handed over to Hari a fifty rupee note as soon as Hari woke up. Though he knew that Hari had robbed the money at first but his subsequent actions gave him hope of change in Hari's character.

#### **V. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

**1. Hari Singh didn't board the express train and return to Anil. Why did he return? What values does this incident highlight?**

**Answer:** Hari Singh was a thief and he had stolen Anil's money. After the theft, he realised that he had robbed not only Anil but also himself of the chance of being literate and having a bright future. His conscience pricked him to think what all he could have gained had he not done this. It was difficult for him to rob Anil but it was tougher for him not to go back. He realised that he could not make tea, buy daily supplies and learn how to read and write then. His inner self did not agree to forget this and forced him to return.

Hari's return to Anil shows that despite indulging in criminal acts, he still had a practical and positive attitude towards life. It is the awakening of Hari's conscience and Anil's love, trust and care that reformed Hari's character. It teaches us that love and trust can change a person. Anil understanding nature and care changed Hari's behaviour and helped him mend his ways for the good.

**2. Anil plays a major role in the transformation of Hari Singh. Comment on the statement by highlighting the values possessed by Anil which touched Hari's heart and made him return to his honest ways of earning his livelihood. Write in about 100-120 words.**

**Answer:** Anil was a struggling writer whom Hari Singh befriended. Hari Singh was an experienced, 15-year-old thief. He found Anil an easy target to steal. Anil agreed to allow him to stay with him and volunteered to teach to read and write. Gradually, Anil develops trust in Hari Singh. But Hari Singh was waiting for the right opportunity to do what he was best at. After stealing money, he tried to go away forever but some inner voice stopped him from doing so. He returned to Anil because he wanted to live a life of respect. Anil did not reveal that he knew about the theft and accepted Hari back. Thus, the well-intentioned person, Anil changed Hari Singh and brought him on the right path. The story shows that trust and spirit to forgiveness can bring big changes in one's life.

**3. Money can't make a man as much as education can. Elucidate the statement.**

**Answer:** The statement stands true in almost all the aspects of life. In 'The Thief's Story' Hari Singh the thief had stolen Anil's money. After the theft, he realised that he had robbed not only Anil of the 600 rupees but also himself of the chance of being literate and having a bright future. Money may buy us all the luxuries and fulfil our needs but it cannot buy us knowledge, civilized thinking, skills and abilities to achieve our dreams. Education lays the foundation for all of us to act upon our goals according to our abilities. Education enables us to keep up with the fast moving world. It opens the door to opportunities we do not know even exist. Money, on the other hand, can assist us to a certain level. It can buy us a plan but education gives us the knowledge of its execution. Just as in the story, Hari Singh prioritized the chance of being literate over a few hundred rupees; we must understand that education can help us to achieve whatever we desire.