

STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS-X

TOPIC: [FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET] CHAPTER-2 (THE THIEF'S STORY) **-RUSKIN BOND.**

DAY-1

❖ TEACHING MATERIAL: - INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

The story is about a 15-year-old thief who changes his name every month to stay ahead of the police and old employers. This time he kept his name Hari Singh. The other person in the story is a 25-year-old writer named Anil. The thief meets Anil and asks him if he can work for him. The story unfolds on how the thief betrays Anil by committing a theft but retracts later on.

Word meaning: -

1. **Lean** - thin
2. **Flattery** - excessive and insincere praise
3. **Modestly** - in an unassuming manner; without vanity or arrogance.
4. **Employers** - a person or organization that employs people.
5. **Grunting** - make a low, short guttural sound.
6. **Appealing** - attractive or interesting.
7. **Misjudged** - form a wrong opinion or conclusion about.
8. **Balcony** -a platform enclosed by a wall or balustrade on the outside of a building, with access from an upper-floor window or door.
9. **Terrible** - extremely bad or serious.
10. **Patted** - touch quickly and gently with the flat of the hand.
11. **Pleasant** - giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment.
12. **Supplies** - a stock or amount of something supplied or available for use.

DAY-2

❖ **TEACHING MATERIAL: - THE THIEF'S STORY EXPLANATION**

- ✚ The story is about two different people. One is a thief of 15 years of age and the other is a man of approximately 25 years, watching a wrestling match somewhere. The name of the person watching the match is Anil. The thief approaches Anil and starts talking to him because he feels that he had not robbed anyone in the past few days and thought that it would be easy to rob a simple person like Anil. They both start talking and Anil asks the thief his name. The thief introduces himself as Hari Singh. This is not his real name as he changes his name every month to escape his ex employers or police. Then they started talking about the wrestlers and Anil was leaving when Hari called him again and asked him if he could work for Anil. Anil said that he won't be able to pay him but could feed him if he knew how to cook. Hari lied that he knew how to cook. Anil took Hari to his room which was above a sweet shop. Hari cooked a meal which was really bad because Anil did not eat it. Anil asked Hari to leave but he tried to please Anil. Hari smiled in his most attractive way and Anil could not stop laughing looking at him. Anil agreed to teach Hari how to cook, write full sentences and add numbers. Hari was grateful as he knew that there would be no limit to robbing people once he learnt how to read and write.
- ✚ The narrator used to like working for Anil as he used to make him tea in the morning and then go out to buy the groceries for the day. He also used to steal 1 rupee from the money that was given to him to buy the groceries everyday. Anil knew that he used to steal but did not mind.
- ✚ Anil used to make money by irregular works. Sometimes he used to borrow money and the other day, when he had money, he would be lending it to other people. Whenever he used to get money, he would go out with his friends to celebrate.
- ✚ One day, Anil came in with a bundle of notes and told Hari that he had sold a book to a publisher. At night he kept the money safely under the mattress of his bed. Hari realized that he had been working for Anil for more than a month and had not stolen anything apart from the 1 rupee that he kept everyday from the grocery money. Hari had many chances to steal as he had the key to the room as well. But he was surprised with the amount of trust Anil had on him as he had never seen such a trusting person in his life. This trust thing was preventing him from robbing Anil as Hari thought that robbing a careless person like Anil didn't make much difference because he might not even notice that he had been robbed and that took out all the fun from the work. Then he thought of stealing Anil's money and justified himself that if he didn't steal money from Anil then also he would waste it on his friends and also, Anil didn't pay him for the work that he did.
- ✚ Hari then woke up at night and quietly crawled to Anil's bed. He steals the money and decides to leave the city by Lucknow Express that departed at 10:30. When he reached the station, the train had slowly started moving from the platform. He could have easily caught the train, but he hesitated and he himself did not know the reason for it. Before he had reached the station he counted the money and it was 600 rupees in 50 rupee notes. He could live a lavish life for 2 - 3 weeks with so much money. After the train had left, Hari was all

alone at the train station. He was left with no place to sleep at night. The only person he knew was Anil and he had looted him as well. He sat on a bench in a park and as it started to rain, he sat down under the clock tower. Then he realized that the notes had got wet. He realized that learning how to read and write would help him to get a much more respectable and honest job which would pay him much more than these few hundred rupees. Then he decided to go back to Anil's house.

✚ He reached the room and placed the money back. Next morning, he woke up a bit late and Anil had already made his tea. Anil gave a 50 rupee note to Hari as he had got paid for some work and he would be paid regularly. Hari took the note in his hand and realized that the note was still wet from the rain last night. Hari realized that Anil had come to know about his misdeed but there was no sadness, anger or guilt in his mind. The narrator smiled in a beautiful way and it was genuine happiness as he knew that he had saved himself from the wrong road.

❖ VIDEO-LINKS

<https://youtu.be/X6xgsUhO6Q0>

DAY-3

❖ TEACHING MATERIAL: - LITERARY ANALYSIS

✚ Ruskin Bond's 'The Thief's Story' is more than a thief's story. The story deals with basic human values and relationships. It is easier for a thief to rob a greedy man. It is difficult even for a thief to rob a careless and honest person. Hari Singh did steal Anil's money but he couldn't run away with it. He had no friends because he regarded them to be trouble than help. The only person he really knew was the man he had robbed. Moreover, Anil was ready to educate Hari Singh. The thief's conscience pricked him. He came back to Anil and crept to his bed. He slipped the money under the mattress from where he had stolen it a few hours ago.



❖ Overview.

1. The narrator was a thief.
2. Although only 15, he was experienced and successful in his work.
3. Luck was against him and he thought of targeting Anil, a young man of 25 years.
4. The narrator introduced himself to Anil as Hari Singh.
5. He changed his name every month to escape arrest.

6. Hari Singh wanted to work for Anil but Anil had no money to pay him regularly.
7. Anil had no regular income and used to write for magazines.
8. Anil asked if he could cook, and Hari Singh lied that he knew how to cook.
9. Hari Singh cooked the food so terribly that it had to be thrown away to the stray dogs.
10. Anil asked him to go away but the narrator didn't leave his company.
11. Later on, Anil softened and told him that he would teach Hari Singh how to cook.
12. He also taught Hari Singh to write his name and promised to teach him to write whole sentences and to add numbers.
13. It was quite pleasant for Hari Singh to work for Anil, and he made a rupee a day from buying the day's supplies.
14. One evening, Anil came home with a small bundle of notes as he had just sold a book to a publisher.
15. Hari Singh saw Anil tuck the money under the mattress.
16. Hari crept up to the bed, slid his hand under the mattress and took the money out.
17. Anil sighed in sleep and Hari Singh startled and quickly left the room.
18. When the narrator (the thief) was on the road, he counted the notes: 600 rupees in fifties.
19. With that money, he could live like a rich Arab for a week or two.
20. He could easily jump into the Lucknow Express but hesitated and remained standing at the platform.
21. He had no friends to go and the only person he knew was Anil whom he had robbed a few hours ago.
22. It was a chilly night and a light drizzle added to his problem.
23. Hari Singh had forgotten about his education in the excitement of theft and realised that education could bring him Character Sketch more money than a few hundred rupees.
24. Hari Singh went back to the room and put the wet notes under the mattress from where he had stolen it.
25. Next morning, Anil stretched out his hand towards the narrator (Hari Singh) holding a fifty-rupee note.
26. Anil told that he had made some money and he would pay Hari Singh regularly.
27. Actually, Anil knew everything about the theft but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.

DAY-4

❖ TEACHING MATERIAL: - QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Q1. What are Hari Singh's reactions to the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change over time? (Hint: Compare, for example, the thought: "I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve" with these later thoughts: "Whole sentences, I knew, could one day bring me more than a few hundred rupees. It was a simple matter to steal – and sometimes just as simple to be caught. But to be a really big man, a clever and respected man, was something else.") What makes him return to Anil?

Ans. Hari Singh feels that education can make him earn a lot of money in an honest way. His prospect on receiving an education does not change over time. He feels that he can earn much more if he gets education. He returns to Anil because Anil trusts him, feeds him, treats him well and even teaches him.

Q2. Why does not Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?

Ans. Anil did not hand over the thief to the police maybe because he knew that Hari Singh had realized his mistake. He was feeling guilty for what he had done and wanted to mend his ways. This was the reason why he had come back and put the money back to its place. Anil wanted to give him a chance to become a better person. No, I don't think that anybody in today's world would have done so because to do so, a person needs to have a lot of patience and compassion which is missing in most of the people today. In today's world a thief is considered a criminal even if he realizes his mistake. It takes a lot of courage to trust someone who has broken your trust once. Although I feel that if a person realizes his mistake he must be given another chance to win back your trust.

Q3. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Ans. In this story, "I" refers to the thief who introduces himself as Hari Singh.

Q4. What is he "a fairly successful hand" at?

Ans. He was a "fairly successful hand" at robbing and duping people of their money.

Q5. What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

Ans. When he asks Anil that he wants to work for him, Anil clearly says that he will; not be able to pay him. They mutually decide that if the thief would be able to cook food for him, then Anil would feed him. But soon, Anil comes to know that he cannot cook. So Anil tells Hari, the thief that he would teach him to cook food, teach him to write his name and full sentences and also to add numbers. Apart from this, Hari also used to steal one rupee from the grocery money every day.

Q6. How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?

Ans. The thief thought that on discovering that he had been robbed, Anil would definitely be sad but he would be sad because of the loss of trust and not because of the loss of money.

Q7. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

Ans. The thief says that according to his experience, upon being robbed the greedy man showed fear, the rich man showed anger and the poor man showed acceptance towards whatever had happened with him.

Q8. Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?

Ans. Yes, probably Anil knew that he had been robbed because all the notes were wet and damp from last night. He still did not say anything to the thief and gave him 50 rupees and told him that from now on, Anil will be paying him money as salary every month.

DAY-5

❖ TEACHING MATERIAL: - ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

❖ Structure of Active and Passive voice:

Active voice: Subject + Verb + Object
Passive voice: Object + Verb + Subject

✚ **Active voice** means that a sentence has a subject that acts upon its verb. When the subject of a sentence performs the verb's action, we say that the sentence is in the active voice. Sentences in the active voice have a strong, direct, and clear tone. Here are some short and straightforward examples of active voice.

✚ Active voice examples

1. **I swim in the ocean.** – I is the subject, swim is the verb, and ocean is the object.
2. **My mom plays violin.** – My mom is the subject, plays is the verb, and violin is the object.

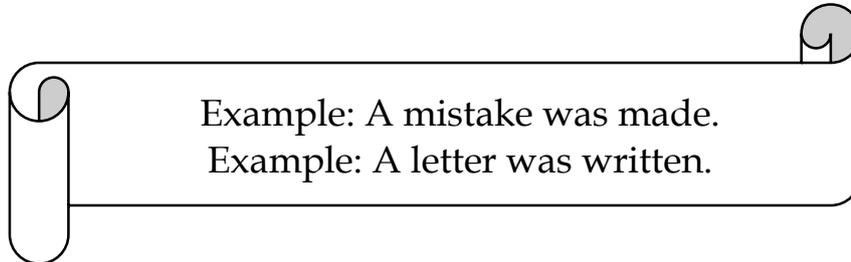
✚ **Passive voice** is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action.

✚ Passive voice Example:

1. My bike was stolen.

In the example above, the focus is on the fact that my bike was stolen. I do not know, however, who did it.

✚ Sometimes a statement in passive is more polite than active voice, as the following example shows:



✚ **When rewriting active sentences in passive voice, note the following:**

1. the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence
2. the finite form of the verb is changed (to be + past participle)
3. the subject of the active sentence becomes the object of the passive sentence (or is dropped).

Conversion.

Active Voice

I ate the strawberry pie.
I bought a Honda car.
The sun rises from the east
Reema can do skydiving

Passive Voice

The strawberry pie was eaten by me
A Honda car was bought by me
East is where the sun rises from
Skydiving can be done by Reema