

Chapter Review

- "The Thief's Story" is by Ruskin Bond. It is told by Hari Singh, a fifteen-year-old thief, who meets Anil, a kind writer.
- Hari is a fairly successful hand at stealing. He meets Anil, a young writer, and sees that he is trusting and easy-going. He offers to work for him as a cook.
- Anil cannot pay a regular salary, but gives him food and a place to stay. He teaches Hari to cook, to write his name and promises to teach whole sentences and numbers.
- Hari sees Anil's money. One day Anil gets paid for a story and keeps the money. Hari steals it at night.
- He goes towards the railway station to leave town. But he is troubled and does not take the train. He thinks of the trust Anil had in him and of the value of education.
- He walks back and returns to Anil's place. Anil guesses the theft from the damp notes but says nothing.
- In the morning Anil gives him a fifty-rupee note and says he will give him a salary from now on. Hari is moved and decides to change his ways.
- The story shows how kindness and trust can reform a person.

Key Terms

Hand – Skilled worker at a job.

Fairly successful hand – An experienced person at a job.

Struggling writer – A writer who earns little.

Conscience – Inner feeling of right and wrong.

Trust – Firm belief in someone's honesty.

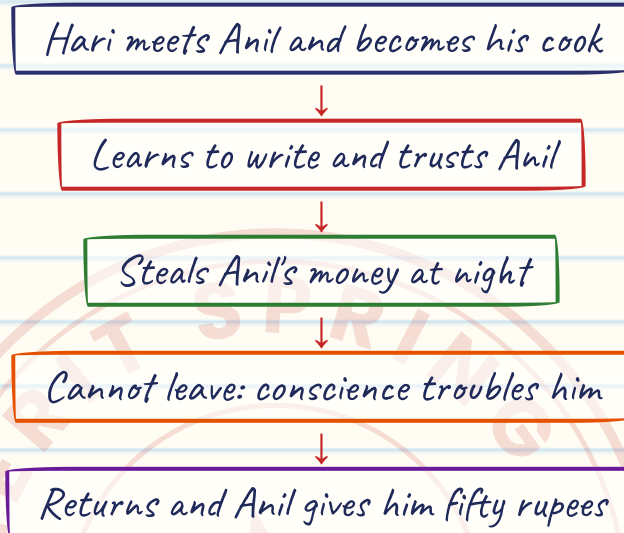
Reform – To change for the better.

Pickpocket – One who steals from pockets.

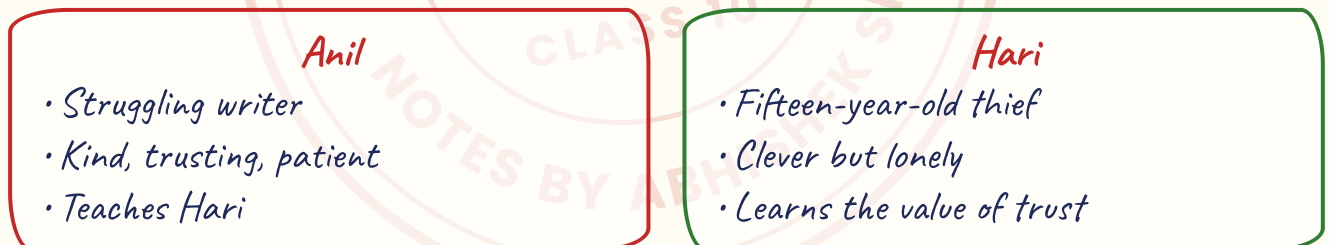
Compassionate – Feeling sympathy and care.

Diagrams / Flowcharts

Hari's Journey



Anil vs Hari



About the Author

- Ruskin Bond (born 1934) is a famous Indian writer of English fiction for children and adults, who lives in Mussoorie. His stories often have simple settings and a deep moral.

Theme / Message

- Trust and kindness can change a bad person. Education leads to respect, not stealing.

- People are not born criminals; circumstances make them so.

Reactions of People When Robbed (Hari's view)

- A greedy man shows fear. A rich man shows anger. A poor man shows acceptance.

Textbook Exercise Questions

Q.1 Who does 'I' refer to? What is he 'a fairly successful hand' at?

Ans. 'I' is Hari Singh, a fifteen-year-old thief. He is an experienced thief, swift in robbing people without getting caught.

Q.2 What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

Ans. Anil cannot pay him, but gives him food and shelter, teaches him to cook and write his name, and promises to teach whole sentences and numbers. Hari also made a rupee profit a day from the daily supplies.

Q.3 How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?

Ans. He thinks Anil would be sad, not due to the money but because he lost trust.

Q.4 What does he say about different reactions of people when robbed?

Ans. A greedy man shows fear, a rich man shows anger, and a poor man shows acceptance.

Q.5 Does Anil realise he has been robbed?

Ans. Yes. He guessed it from the damp notes wet in the rain. But he said nothing and gave Hari a fifty rupee note.

Q.6 Hari's reactions to education. Do they change? What makes him return to Anil?

Ans. First he is excited that educated men can achieve a lot. After stealing, he realises that being educated brings respect and that stealing is a crime. Guilt for cheating a noble man and his wish to get education make him return.

Q.7 Why does Anil not hand the thief over to the police? How is he different from other employers?

Ans. He understood Hari's mistake and hoped he would improve. Most people would have called the police. Anil was patient, considerate and hopeful that Hari would become an educated, respectful man.

Q.8 Do people like Anil and Hari exist in real life?

Ans. They are rare but may exist. Anil's kindness and Hari's conscience are possible in real life.

Q.9 Is it significant that Anil is a struggling writer?

Ans. Yes. Because of his irregular income, he could not pay a salary, and he knew what hardship is. He was sympathetic.

Q.10 Where is the story set? Which language did the characters speak?

Ans. Near Lucknow, in Uttar Pradesh. Probably they spoke Hindi, not English.

Board Exam Questions (Important)

Q.1 Write a character sketch of Hari Singh. (100 words)

Ans. Hari Singh is a clever fifteen-year-old thief, lonely and eager to learn. He is attracted by Anil's trust. He steals but feels guilty and returns. He is also proud, as he wants to be a 'big man, a clever and respected man'. He is capable of change, and the story ends with his hope of reform.

Q.2 How does Anil show his kindness and trust? Give two examples.

Ans. He lets a stranger stay and cook for him, and teaches him to write. He also ignores the theft and gives him fifty rupees.

Q.3 Reference to context: "I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve." (a) Who? (b) What does it show?

Ans. (a) Hari Singh. (b) It shows his ambition and his belief that education can bring status and success.

Q.4 Value-based: What does the story teach about trust and second chances?

Ans. Trust can reform even a thief. We should give people a chance to improve instead of punishing them immediately.

