



ENGLISH

BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH (HINGLISH)

THE THIEF'S STORY

PASSAGES FOR COMPREHENSION

1. He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the

balcony. But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing.

Who was 'he' and who did he take to his room ?



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2. He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the

balcony. But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing.

How was the meal Hari cooked that night ?



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3. I had been working for Anil for almost a month and, apart from cheating on the shopping, had not done anything in my line of

work. I had every opportunity for doing so. Anil had given me a key to the door, and I could come and go as I pleased. He was the most trusting person I had ever met.

How did Hari cheat Anil on the shopping ?



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4. I had been working for Anil for almost a month and, apart from cheating on the shopping, had not done anything in my line of work. I had every opportunity for doing so. Anil

had given me a key to the door, and I could come and go as I pleased. He was the most trusting person I had ever met.

Who was the most trusting person and how ?



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5. Anil was asleep. A beam of moonlight stepped over the balcony and fell on the bed. I sat up on the floor, considering the situation. If I took the money, I could catch the 10.30 Express to Lucknow. Slipping out of the

blanket, I crept up to the bed. Anil was sleeping peacefully. His face was clear and unlined, even I had more marks on my face, though mine were mostly scars.

Who was considering the situation and why?



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6. Anil was asleep. A beam of moonlight stepped over the balcony and fell on the bed. I sat up on the floor, considering the situation. If I took the money, I could catch the 10.30

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What was Anil doing when Hari crept up to his bed?



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7. In my short career as a thief, I had made a study of men's faces when they had lost their

goods. The greedy man showed fear, the rich man showed anger, the poor man showed acceptance. But I knew that Anil's face, when he discovered the theft, would show only a touch of sadness. Not for the loss of money, but for the loss of trust.

What was Hari's study about men's faces when they had lost their goods?



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8. In my short career as a thief, I had made a study of men's faces when they had lost their goods. The greedy man showed fear, the rich man showed anger, the poor man showed acceptance. But I knew that Anil's face, when he discovered the theft, would show only a touch of sadness. Not for the loss of money, but for the loss of trust.

What did Anil's face show when he discovered the theft?



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9. He stretched out his hand towards me. There was a fifty-rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered.

"I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain.

Why did Hari Singh feel that he had been discovered?



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10. He stretched out his hand towards me. There was a fifty-rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered.

"I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain.

Why did Hari's spirit rise?



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



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2. What is he 'a fairly successful hand' at?



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



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



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



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6. Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?



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7. 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 matter to be caught. But to be a really big man, a clever and respected man, was something else.")

What makes him return to Anil?



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8. Why does Anil not 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?



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9. Do you think people like Anil and Hari Singh are found only in fiction, or are there such people in real life?



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10. Do you think it a significant detail in the story that Anil is a struggling writer? Does this explain his behaviour in any way?



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11. Have you met anyone like Hari Singh? Can you think and imagine the circumstances that can turn a fifteen year-old boy into a thief?



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12. Where is the story set? (You can get clues from the names of the persons and places mentioned in it.) Which language or languages are spoken in these places? Do you think the characters in the story spoke to each other in English?



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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SOLVED (SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS)

1. Why did Hari Singh think that Anil's job was queer?



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2. How and when did Hari Singh meet Anil?



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3. Anil couldn't afford to pay Hari Singh. Why did then, he allow Hari Singh to stay with him?



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4. Why was it so difficult for Hari Singh to rob a trusting and unsuspecting person like Anil?



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5. Why did Hari Singh justify himself to rob Anil?



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6. Why did Hari Singh lie that he knew how to cook? Why did Anil have to throw the food cooked by Hari to the stray dogs?



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7. How did Hari Singh feel working for Anil? Did Anil know that Hari Singh was making a little money from purchases?



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8. How did Anil get that substantial money that he brought home in a bundle? How did it tempt Hari Singh?



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9. How did Hari Singh steal the money that Anil got from selling his book to a publisher?



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10. Describe Hari Singh's dilemma at the station. Why didn't he jump into a compartment of the Lucknow Express when he could?



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11. What did Hari Singh think when he was standing alone on the deserted platform?



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12. What did Hari Singh do in the 'maidan' and how did the notes become damp?



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13. How did Hari Singh forget about his education in the excitement of his theft? What did he think about it in the end?



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14. Why does Anil not hand Hari Singh over to the police?



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15. How and when did Hari Singh put the stolen money back at the same place from where he had stolen? Did Anil know it?



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16. Why didn't Anil hand Hari Singh over to the police even when he knew all about the theft?



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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SOLVED (LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS)

1. Give a character-sketch of the thief, Hari Singh. Highlight the gradual changes that come in him.



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2. Give a character-sketch of Anil. Did he know all about the theft? If so, why did he keep Hari Singh again to work for him?



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3. How did Hari Singh come into contact with Anil? He breached Anil's trust in him but why did Anil not only forgive him but also promised to pay him regularly?

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4. Love, human sympathy and education can transform even a thief. How could Anil bring such a change in Hari Singh?

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5. 'He was the most trusting person I had ever met.' Justify this statement of Hari Singh about his benefactor, Anil. Did he breach Anil's trust?





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6. Describe the sequence of events that took place after Hari Singh stole the money. Evaluate Hari Singh as a thief and as a human being.



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7. Hari Singh could have lived like a rich Arab for a week or two. Why did he choose to go back to Anil in the end?



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