

## A TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

James Herriott

Is the title apt?

Even though the title is a triumph of surgery, but there is no surgery which takes place rather the story is a vignette of animal woe and human frailty. Dr Herriott uses surgery as an excuse to remove Tricki from Mrs Pumphrey's care who pampered her pet thoroughly which led to Tricki's ill health. He also knew that Tricki would face the same problems in the future as it would again be overfed by the rich and foolish Mrs Pumphrey. Her indulgent attitude towards her companion dog made him bloat up like a sausage and caused him panting and listlessness. She did not realise that dogs needed a special diet and not the one consumed by humans. She fed the dog cream cakes, chocolates, Horlicks apart from his meals as she thought his listlessness and lack of energy was due to malnutrition. All Tricki needed to regain his health was some exercise and dietary control. So, Dr Herriott thought of restricting Tricki's diet and to keep it under his care and observation. Tricki soon became an accepted member of the gang of dogs under Dr Herriott's care. Tricki and his shaggy playmates indulged in friendly scrimmages and hunted rats which soon put him on the path of recovery. It regained its lost energy and Tricki turned into a lithe, hard muscled animal within a fortnight.

Why did the other dogs consider Tricki to be an uninteresting object?

When Dr Herriott entered his surgery area with Tricki in his arms, the other dogs were excited at the prospect of a new dog to their pack. When they sniffed him, Tricki showed no interest to interact with them. When the kind doctor put Tricki on the carpet, it lay motionless as Tricki's overfed, bloated body could not indulge in play. The other dogs realized that Tricki won't be a good playmate for them and hence they decided to leave Tricki alone as it became an uninteresting object for them.

How did Ms Pumphrey pamper Tricki?

Ms Pumphrey was a rich, lonely lady who pampered and indulged her dog Tricki with luxurious food not realizing that dogs do not need calorie laden food. While Tricki was under Dr Herriott's care she sent two dozen eggs at a time to build his strength, bottles of wine to enrich Tricki's blood and brandy to strengthen his constitution. On the contrary, Tricki needed to stay away from rich food like eggs, chocolate and cream cakes to regain its health. Hence, the bottles of wine, brandy and the eggs were

consumed by Dr Herriott and his partners who feasted on the food sent for the supposed convalescing Tricki.

Write a character sketch of Ms Pumphrey.

Ms Pumphrey was a rich and foolish woman who considered her pet Tricki as a family member and lavished love on him by pampering and indulging him with calorie rich food apart from his regular meals. This made the dog put on excess weight resulting in his remaining listless and in poor health. This concern and love for her dog in fact was the cause of all his miseries. She could not understand that her indulgence could lead to his death. She could not distinguish between a dog and a human child and lavished the same attention and love on Tricki as a parent would on a human baby. She bought him cushions, toys, rubber rings to play and different bowls for the three meals of the day and many coats to protect him from cold and rain. When she heard that Tricki was convalescing, she sent bottles of wine, brandy and eggs to strengthen his constitution.

Write a character sketch of Dr. Herriott.

Dr Herriott is a compassionate, tactful, sensible, hard working and capable veterinary surgeon who treated Mrs Pumphrey's obese and lazy pet dog Tricki back to health. He was a kind and sympathetic doctor who could not bear to see Tricki suffer and knew that Tricki's main problem was his rich owner's over indulgent pampering and that Tricki would never lose his excess weight while in Mrs Pumphrey's care. Using his wisdom and diagnostic capabilities, he made a plan to remove Tricki from his owner and get him to his residence and put it on a strict diet. He knew that Ms Pumphrey would never part with her pet, hence he uses the excuse of surgery to remove Tricki from her residence. Dr Herriott does not operate Tricki rather he used his practical approach to restrict the diet and introduce it to play mates to treat and reinvigorate it. He knew that the extra diet supplied by Mrs Pumphrey for his recuperation would only worsen Tricki's health, hence he did not mind eating the eggs, wine and brandy sent by Mrs Pumphrey for Tricki. With a heavy heart, Dr. Herriott sent Tricki back to its owner as he knew that whatever progress had been made by Tricki would soon be reversed but neither could the kind doctor keep the mistress and the dog separated for a long time.

**What kind of treatment was given to Tricki? Did it help in his recovery?**

Tricki had been overfed by his rich and over indulgent owner Ms Pumphrey. Lack of physical activity coupled with rich food soon turned

Tricki, dull and listless as it couldn't carry its weight. Dr Herriott suggested to Mrs Pumphrey that he needs to be hospitalized and remain under his observation. Dr. Herriott's firmness saved Tricki and he was kept on a strict diet. He also played with other dogs which made him lose some of his excess weight, energised it and turned his body lithe and hard muscled.

"I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he should be hospitalized for about a fortnight to be kept under observation."

- a) Identify I in the above extract. Dr Herriott
- b) What was his concern? Dr Herriott was concerned about Tricki's health.
- c) Who did the speaker suggest to? Ms Pumphrey.
- d) What kind of the person do you think the narrator is? The narrator displays qualities of understanding, tactfulness and wisdom.

**Why was Dr. Herriott confident that Tricki will be in hospital soon?**

Dr. Herriott was confident that Tricki would be in hospital soon because Tricki had become hugely fat like a bloated sausage, its tongue lolled, it was listless as it was not exercising. Mrs Pumphrey was still giving it sweet treats and her pampering had deteriorated Tricki's condition.

**Why did Dr Herriot decide to take Tricki to hospital?**

Dr Herriot asked Mrs Pumphrey to admit Tricki in hospital because the kind doctor understood that instead of cutting down upon his food and make him exercise, she was still pampering him excessively. Keeping Tricki away from Mrs. Pumphrey was the doctor's only chance to help Tricki recover from his ill -health.

**Why did Mrs Pumphrey call up Dr Herriot?**

A distraught Mrs. Pumphrey had rung up Dr. Herriot to inform that Tricki had not eaten for the past few days. He had even refused to eat his favourite items of food and had bouts of vomiting. Moreover, he had begun panting, spent his time lying on the rug and could not go for his walks. All of these symptoms forced Mrs. Pumphrey to call up the doctor.

VALUE POINTS

- ❖ The story is a vignette of human frailty and animal woe.
- ❖ Mrs Pumphrey was a rich, lonely lady who pampered and indulged Tricki with luxurious food not realizing that dogs do not require calorie laden food.
- ❖ She lavished love on Tricki by feeding him eggs, cream cakes and chocolates apart from his regular meals. While he was convalescing, she sent two dozen eggs, wine and brandy to aid his recovery.
- ❖ This overfeeding led greedy Tricki to bloat up like a sausage. He also became listless which resulted in his poor health. She thought that his listlessness and lack of energy was due to malnutrition. She fed him malt, cod liver oil and Horlicks to remove his malnutrition.
- ❖ She lived a comfortable and lavish life and also wanted her dog to enjoy a life. Coats, beds etc
- ❖ Dr. Herriot is a tactful, compassionate, sensible, hardworking and capable veterinary surgeon who treated Mrs Pumphrey's obese and lazy pet dog back to health using his wisdom and diagnostic ability.
- ❖ He was a kind and empathetic doctor who could not bear to see Tricki suffer. He knew that Tricki's main problem was his rich owner's over indulgent pampering and that Tricki would never lose his excess weight while in Mrs Pumphrey's care.
- ❖ He knew Mrs Pumphrey would never part with Tricki so he uses the excuse of surgery to remove Tricki from her residence and keep him under his care and supervision.
- ❖ Tricki was kept on a strict diet and played with other dogs which made him lose his excess weight and energized him into playing with the other dogs. Tricki soon lost weight, gained energy and transformed into a lithe, hard-muscled animal.

#### List of Words

Mrs Pumphrey

Distraught

Tricki

Dr. Herriot

Two dozen eggs

Scrimmage

Brandy

Bloated sausage

Tongue

Yes, parents like Mrs Pumphrey do exist. Such parents spoil their children by pandering to all their demands. They feel that they are showering love and care on the child but in fact their indulgence spoils their children. They feed them junk food and spoil their health as well as mar their social habits. This kind of overprotective parental behaviour is harmful for the children as it hinders their growth, turns them into stubborn individuals, makes them selfish and forever dependent on their parents. This attitude makes them not value life and hard work as they feel that their parents will provide for them as well as protect them from all hardships and challenges of life. Pampering children in moderation is good and healthy to make a child feel emotionally and materially secure. But parents should know where to draw the line. Pampering for humans as well as animals is bad as we have seen in the story.

## THE THIEF'S STORY

RUSKIN BOND

**Give a character sketch of Hari Singh in 200 words.**

Hari Singh, the narrator, was 15 years old when he met Anil at a wrestling match. of Necessity had forced him to take up the profession of thievery in order to sustain himself. He also knew that sooner or later, he would be caught by the police so he assumed many aliases(names). Hari Singh's scars on the face were a testimony to him being friendless and without a mentor and saviour in this harsh, cruel world.

As he was a thief by profession, he had trained himself to read a person's character and narrowed down on Anil who he felt could easily be deceived. In order to gain Anil's trust, he complimented Anil about his muscled body because he knew that Anil was interested in wrestling. He also concocted( told) a lie of being a good cook in order to gain access to Anil's house as well as promised to look after him in return for food and shelter. Each day when Anil taught Hari to read and write, Hari realized that he can save himself from a life on the run by educating himself and leading a respectable life. This desire to rise above his present situation was the turning point in Hari's life.

Hari also realised that he cannot afford to break the trust Anil had reposed in him as he had no one in this world whom he could turn to. This realization made him return home from the railway station where he had gone after robbing Anil of his six hundred rupees. Anil's love, immense faith and trust in him put this thief on the path of goodness and he turned a new leaf. Hari was glad that his studies would resume as he wanted to give up the life of crime and get educated.

**Give a character sketch of Anil in 200 – 250 words.**

Anil was a tall and lean fellow, 25 years of age who liked wrestling and lived in a small room over Jumna Sweet Shop. A struggling writer with a kind nature, he did not wish Hari Singh to be left on the streets and become a criminal. Even though he had no steady source of income, he agreed to take Hari under his care. On the first night itself, he realized that Hari had lied to him about being a cook but even then he did not turn him out instead he volunteered to teach him to read and write and learn to cook. Anil knew that if Hari is taught to read and write then he would not have to beg or steal or be at anyone's mercy for his food and shelter. He knew that Hari was taking money from daily rations but he overlooked that misdemeanor as he wanted Hari to walk on the path of righteousness on his own. Handing over Hari to Police would have turned him into a hardened criminal and Anil wanted to save this child from that fate.

It is Anil's implicit trust in Hari's inherent goodness and his belief that love can win over a fifteen-year-old and put him on the path of goodness, which transformed Hari. When he touched the wet notes, he knew that Hari had turned a new leaf. It can also be said that this was a test for Hari in which Hari passed with flying colours.

### Why did Hari not board the train?

Hari was an orphan who had become a thief to survive and lived on the streets. Anil's magnanimity, caring nature and kind heartedness had slowly transformed him and awakened a desire for learning in order to earn an education.

Hari's basic instinct was to run away with money after robbing Anil of six hundred rupees which he had received from a book publisher. Hari tried to give himself reasons such as that he was a thief and that Anil would squander it away on his friends. But his conscience which had been dormant for a long time, was awakened by Anil's kind hearted gesture of providing him shelter at a time when he was wandering on the streets. He realized that he had no friends and he would lose his only chance of having a bright future and make a mark in this world. Hari knew that more than the loss of money, Anil would be hurt that Hari had broken his trust. Hari learnt the lesson that trust, care and dedication of friends cannot be bought.

### Did Anil forgive Hari? How do you know?

Anil was a magnanimous and kind person who wanted to make Hari a self-reliant person, be a father figure to Hari and save him from the hard life of living on the streets. Even though he was a struggling writer, he did not shy away from taking Hari under his wings. We know that Anil had forgiven Hari as he did not mention anything about the notes being wet the next morning. Instead Anil paid him fifty rupees as his share of the advance he received from the book publisher.

Anil knew that if Hari has returned then it means that Hari has had a change of heart and he wanted to make an honest living. Anil did not want to turn him out on the streets and make him a vagrant once again. Anil had awakened a desire for learning in Hari's heart and to rise above his present station in order to become a clever and respected man.

**Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me.**

- a) Who is the speaker of these words?      Hari
- b) Whom does the word 'he' refer to?      Anil
- c) Why does he say these words?

Anil had provided shelter to Hari and he was indebted to Anil for his magnanimity and kindness. Hari was trying to give himself reasons to rob Anil. Also, Anil was the most trusting person who would feel betrayed not for the loss of money but because Hari broke his trust and he would return to a world of crime.

**Why did Hari take on a new name every month?**

Hari took on a new name every month as he was a thief and he was scared of being caught by the police or being identified by the former employers.

**What according to Hari Singh deprives a thief from attaining a sense of satisfaction?**

According to Hari Singh, a thief gets pleasure when he robs his victims. Hari Singh says that a greedy man can afford to be robbed, whereas a careless man may never come to know that he has been robbed. This carelessness on the part of the victim does not give / deprives the thief of the pleasure which he gets out of theft.

**In which queer way did Anil make a living?**

Anil made a living by writing for magazines. It seemed queer to Hari Singh as he earned money in fits and starts and not on a regular basis

**"I could live like an oil- rich Arab for a week or two."**

- a) Who is the speaker of these words? Hari
- b) How much money did he steal? Six Hundred Rupees
- c) Whom did he steal from? He stole from his benefactor Anil.
- d) Why would he live like an oil rich Arab?

Hari felt that with the six hundred rupees he had stolen, he could live lavishly for some days. For a person who made his living by petty theivery, six hundred rupees was a big amount to enjoy and spend.

**Why didn't Hari stop at the ticket office?**

Hari didn't stop at the ticket office as he had never bought a ticket in his life.

**How did Anil earn a living?**

Anil was a writer who wrote articles for magazines and earned by fits and starts. He had no steady source of income yet he celebrated each time he received a cheque.

**Why did Hari Singh smile at Anil in his most appealing way at the wrestling match?**

Hari was a thief who had narrowed down on Anil as he felt that it would be very easy to rob Anil. In order to gain access to Anil's house, Hari gave him his most appealing smile.

**Why did Hari Singh smile by himself without any effort at the end of the story?**

Hari Singh was tense that Anil might realise that he had stolen the money and ask him to leave the house. But Anil did not express any anger rather paid him a fifty rupee note. Anil also told him that he would teach Hari to write sentences. Hari was glad that his studies would resume as he wanted to give up the life of crime and get educated.

**How were the two smiles different?**

At the beginning of the story, Hari Singh's smile was fake to gain access to Anil's house with an intention to rob Anil. But by the end of the story, Hari Singh had transformed and he was glad to continue living with Anil and his smile was of happiness, gratitude and the joy of being forgiven for his misdemeanour.

**What was the condition of the note which Hari put back under Anil's mattress? Why was the note in that condition?**

The notes were damp as Hari had got caught in heavy rain even though he took shelter under the clock tower. Hari had stolen money from his benefactor Anil while he lay sleeping and planned to run away to another city. Hari had a change of heart at the railway station as he did not wish to betray Anil's trust and desired to get educated in order to become a big man. While he was battling with his conscience, he got caught in the rain.

## FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

**Why were the two boys in London surprised and fascinated?**

The boys were surprised and fascinated to see fresh muddy footprints on the steps of a house in the middle of London. They couldn't see the invisible scientist Griffin who was making these footprints as he walked into the street ahead of the boys.

### How did Griffin become invisible?

Griffin turned invisible by taking certain rare drugs. Even though he had become invisible, his body was solid. He had dis

### Why did Griffin set fire to his landlord's house?

Griffin's first act after becoming invisible was to set fire to his landlord's house as the landlord did not like him and tried to remove him from his house. Griffin took revenge and punished his landlord by burning his house down.

### How did Griffin become a homeless wanderer?

Griffin set his landlord's house on fire out of revenge and anger. He did not want anyone to know that he had burned the house, so he removed his clothes to escape unnoticed. He became a homeless wanderer as he had no clothes and no money.

### Why did Griffin decide to slip into a big London store?

Griffin burnt his landlord's house and became a homeless wanderer as he had to leave that place without clothes and money. As it was cold in London in January, he needed food, warm clothes and a place to sleep. Hence, he decided to enter a big London store.

### Which food items did Griffin take from the London store?

Griffin took cold meat, coffee, sweets and wine from the grocery section of the London store.

### Why did the employees of the London store chase Griffin?

Griffin took warm clothes from the London store and slept in the store itself as he was homeless now. In the morning, he did not wake up before the employees arrived at the store. Thinking him to be a thief, they chased him as he was wearing clothes and had become visible. He managed to give them a slip by removing his clothes.

### Why did Griffin enter Drury Lane? What did he do there?

Griffin entered Drury Lane as he needed clothes to protect himself from the extreme cold and cover the empty space above his shoulders. He covered his face with bandages, dark glasses, big bushy side whiskers, false nose and a large hat. As needed to leave without being seen after his misadventure in the big London store, he attacked the shopkeeper and robbed him of all his money.

### Why did the tongues wag at Iping?

The village of Iping did not receive any visitors during winter and to see the stranger covered in bandages set the tongues wagging.

### What reasons did Griffin give to be left alone at Iping?

Griffin informed Mrs Hall the owner of the inn at Iping that he desired to be left alone as he did not wish to be disturbed. He also said that as his face has been affected by an accident, he did not wish to talk to people of Iping.

### Why did Mrs Hall not bother Griffin?

Mrs Hall was a courteous and friendly hostess to the occupants of her inn. But she did not bother Griffin as he had paid her the rent in advance and she thought him to be an eccentric scientist with strange habits and irritable temper. Furthermore, he had told her that he did not wish to talk and desired solitude.

### How did the clergyman lose his money?

Once Griffin had used up the cash he had stolen from the shop at Drury Lane, he needed money to pay his rent hence he decided to rob the clergyman's house. While Griffin was in the study looking for the money in drawers, the clergyman and his wife were awakened by noises in the study. The clergyman thought that a thief had entered his home so he held a poker in his hand as he entered his study. To his amazement, there was no one in the study whereas they had heard the chink of money being taken from the clergyman's desk and their housekeeping money too was missing. They looked under the desk, behind the curtains and even up the chimney, but the thief seemed to have vanished into the thin air. The clergyman referred to this episode as the most extraordinary affair in the entire day.

### Describe the curious episode at Mrs Hall's residence.

Mr and Mrs Hall found Griffin's door open one morning and they were curious to see his room as the door usually remained shut. They touched the bedclothes and finding them to be cold, knew that Griffin had left quite a while earlier. Also his clothes and bandages were lying about the room. Just at that time, Mrs Hall heard a sniff close to her ear and then to her horror the hat kept on the bedpost flew and dashed itself into her face. Thereafter, the bedroom chair came alive and sprang into the air and charged at her legs first. The old couple were terrified further when the chair pushed them out of the room and slammed and locked the door behind them. Mrs Hall was convinced that it was the handiwork of the eccentric and strange scientist who had made spirits enter the furniture pieces kept in the room.

### What happened when Griffin removed his bandages?

When Griffin removed his bandages, the horrified villagers found themselves staring at a headless man.

### Why could Jaffers not arrest Griffin?

Constable Jaffers couldn't arrest Griffin as Griffin quickly removed his clothes and started becoming invisible. In the end, Jaffers was knocked unconscious by an invisible Griffin and hence he could not arrest him.

### "Griffin was a rather lawless person". Comment.

Griffin was a brilliant scientist who discovered a rare drug which could make his body transparent as a sheet of glass. He made himself invisible by taking this drug. Instead of using his discovery for the betterment of mankind, he turned malevolent and attacked people, stole their money and terrified kind people. His quest for becoming invisible was for his personal gain and to settle personal grudges.

- Landlord house burning episode
- Drury Lane and London store episode
- Clergyman episode
- Mrs Hall episode
- Jaffers episode (PI elaborate these five incidents)

**DID THE RARE DRUGS MAKE HIS BODY AND CLOTHES INVISIBLE?**

The rare drugs made his body invisible but not his clothes. He had to remove his clothes in order to be invisible.

## THE NECKLACE

GUY DE MAUPASSANT

Give two hints that the author provides which makes us realize that the diamond necklace was a fake one.

Madame Forestier does not open the jewel box to check the diamond necklace when Matilda returns it. She does not give any instruction to Matilda to keep the necklace safe.

How did Loiseles' life change after the loss of the necklace?

Loiseles' life changed for the worse after they took a loan of Eighteen thousand francs to buy the necklace set to replace the one lost by Matilda. Matilda removed the maid and did all the household chores herself. The Loiseles changed their home and rented some rooms in an attic. She took the garbage to the street every morning and carried water to the attic. She bargained for every sou with the grocer, butcher and the fruiterer. She slowly transformed into a strong, hard and crude woman from a poor household. Loisel worked in the evenings for a merchant and

tallied accounts. He also copied documents at the rate of five sou a page apart from his regular job.

### Where had Matilda lost the necklace?

Most probably, Matilda had lost the necklace in the cab. She had felt the necklace after she had left the ball and if it had fallen on the street, then they would have heard the sound of its dropping on the street.

### What is the reality of Matilda's life?

The reality of Matilda's life is that she is neither wealthy nor part of the wealthy social class. But Matilda feels that she is a deserving member of the rich class. She lives in an illusory world where her actual life does not match the ideal life she creates in her dreams. She firmly believed that her beauty and charm make her worthy of luxurious things in life but her birth in a middle class family was a mistake of destiny.

### Why does Matilda constantly remain unhappy?

Beautiful Matilda Loisel was born into a family of clerks and her utter conviction that her station in life is a mistake of destiny leads her to live her life in a constant rebellion against her circumstances. She incessantly dreams of beautiful gowns, jewels and a life of opulence. Instead of acknowledging and appreciating her reality, she tries to turn her dreams into reality and this causes her unhappiness.

Although she has a comfortable home and a loving husband but Matilda is so unsatisfied, that she is oblivious (unaware) of everything but the wealth she does not possess. Her desire for wealth is the reason for her pain, unhappiness and constant turmoil.

### Why is Matilda Loisel always unhappy? Easy language

Mathilde constantly lives in a world of daydreams that she is a beautiful woman with refined taste but by some mistake of destiny has been born in a middle-class family of clerks. She feels that as her appearance befits the privileged class, she incessantly dreams of beautiful gowns, jewels and a life of opulence. Instead of acknowledging and appreciating her reality, she tries to turn her dreams into reality and this causes her unhappiness.

Although she has a comfortable home and a loving husband but Matilda is so unsatisfied, that she is unaware of everything but the wealth she

does not possess. Her desire for wealth is the reason for her pain, unhappiness and constant turmoil.

**Who comes across as a martyr of the story? Loisel or Matilda?**

Loisel comes across as the martyr of the story as he uncomplainingly forsakes his future to replace the necklace lost by Matilda. He gives up his desire to buy a gun so that she could buy a dress for the ball. He is forced to sacrifice his happiness and many years of his life to satisfy pretentious Matilda's selfish desires.

**Give one instance when Matilda is happy?**

Matilda is happy at only one point in the story i.e on the night of the Ball, when her new dress and borrowed jewels give her the appearance of the wealthy world she aspires to. Matilda was very happy among the wealthy people at the party as she feels that this was where she was meant to be if it had not been for the mistake of destiny. She forgets her old life completely and immerses herself in the illusion of a wealthy life. But her moment of happiness is very short and she must spend the next years paying for the pleasure of this night. Yet her joy and satisfaction was so complete/ fulfilling that ten years of hard life does not dull the Ball's memory.

**How did Loisel's life change after the loss of the necklace?**

The loss of the necklace abruptly changed their life for the worse. Matilda removed the maid and did all the household chores herself. The Loisels changed their home and rented some rooms in the attic. She took the garbage to the street every morning and carried water to the attic. She bargained for every sou with the grocer, butcher and fruiterer. She slowly transformed into a strong, hard and crude woman from a poor household.

Loisel worked in the evenings for a merchant and tallied his accounts. He also copied documents at the rate of five sou a page apart from his regular job.

**Why is the Ball a triumph for Matilda?**

The ball is a triumph for Matilda because her appearance matches the dreams and illusory world that she had created for herself. She is prettier than the other women, sought after by the men for a dance, admired and flattered by all. She forgets her old life completely and immerses herself in the illusion of a wealthy life. She had worked hard for her glamorous

look at the party and succeeded in her plan to portray herself as a member of the wealthy class.

### What kind of person is her husband Loisel?

Matilda's husband Loisel is a petty clerk in the Ministry but he is content with the small pleasures of life and does his best to satisfy her demands. He loves Matilda immensely but cannot understand the reason and depth of her unhappiness. He comes across as a loving husband who fulfils all desires of his wife. His desires become meaningless if he can keep her happy. He gets the invitation for the Ball so that she would be happy. He also gives her 400 francs to buy a dress for the Ball sacrificing his desire to buy a gun for himself. He sleeps in another room in a chair while she danced and enjoyed in the Ball. When Matilda loses the diamond necklace, he goes out into the cold night to search for the necklace. He also contributes the rich sum of 18000 francs given to him by his father. But he never complains about the turn life took for the worse. Loisel's eagerness to please his wife becomes his downfall as he pays dearly for something, he never wanted his wife to wear in the first place.

### Describe the character of Madame Forestier?

Matilda's wealthy friend Madame Forestier treats Matilda kindly but she is bitterly jealous of Madame Forestier's wealth. She comes across as a truthful person who reveals at the end of the story that the necklace was a fake one and her pain is genuine when she comes to know how hard the Loisels have suffered to return her diamond necklace which was actually a fake one. She allows Matilda to choose any jewellery she wants and does not inspect the necklace when it is returned.

### Why did Matilda leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character?

Matilda left the ball in a hurry so that she was not seen by the other women who had wrapped themselves in rich furs that she had a modest wrap which clashed with the richness of her ball costume. She did not wish the rich women to know that she did not belong to their social class. Matilda had taken great pains to portray herself as a person belonging to the rich class. This incident tells us that that Matilda was a pretentious lady who lived in an illusory make – believe world.

### How did Matilda Loisel bring about her ruin?

Mathilde loved to live in daydreams and borrowed a necklace from her friend Madame Forestier to wear to the Ball to portray that she was a rich woman. When she lost the necklace, she does not tell the truth to Madame Forestier as she would have to face reality. She bought a real diamond necklace to replace a fake diamond one which caused her ten years of misery.

**Why couldn't Mme Forestier not recognize Matilda at the end of the story?**

Mme Forestier could not recognize Matilda at the end of the story because the horrible life of necessity had turned Matilda into an old, strong, hard and crude woman of a poor household. She dressed like the poor people and her hair were not neatly combed, her hands had turned red due to the hard work and she spoke in a loud tone.

#### EXTRA QUESTIONS

Matilda was born into a family of \_\_\_\_\_

She married a \_\_\_\_\_ name Mr \_\_\_\_\_

Name the three things that tortured and angered her.

How long do the Loisels wait before seeking to buy a new necklace?

What is the cost of the replacement necklace?

What would Matilda think of while having dinner with her husband?

To whom does Matilda go to borrow jewellery for the Ball?

Which things did Matilda love to possess?

Why did Loisel think that the invitation would delight Matilda?

How much money did Loisel inherit from his father?

Where did Loisel work and what is his profession?

What reason did Matilda give to Loisel, to hand over the invitation to his colleague? OR

Why is Matilda still upset as the Ball night approaches?

What reason did Matilda give for her unhappiness a few days before the Ball?

Was Loisel a loving husband?

What was Madame Forestier shocked to know at the end of the story?

How did Loisel and Matilda arrange money to replace the necklace?

Why did Matilda always cry after paying a visit to Madame Forestier?

Could Matilda have avoided her ruin?

## THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST

ROBERT W PETERSON

### Q1. Who was Mr. Weiherer? Why does Richard admire him?

Mr. Weiherer was Ebright's social studies teacher and adviser to Debating and Model United Nations Club. He opened Ebright's mind to new ideas and helped him to develop a holistic personality.

### Q2. What did Richard discover about cell function while looking at the X-ray photos of the chemical structure of a hormone?

Ebright had already proved how hormones from gold spots were essential for the development of an adult butterfly from the pupa stage. When Ebright saw the X-ray photos of the chemical structure of hormone, he got the idea for his new theory about cell life. These photos gave him the answer to the question how a cell can read the blueprint of its DNA. This path breaking discovery by college students was published in a distinguished scientific journal which earned him fame at a very young age.

### Q.3 How did a book become a turning point in Ebright's life?

The gift of the children's book 'The Travels of Monarch X' by his mother became a turning point in Ebright's life. It inspired him to know the fact how butterflies migrated to Central America which opened the world of Science to him.

At the end of the book, readers were invited to help study butterfly migration. They were also asked to tag butterflies for research by Dr. Urquhart. Richard's mother wrote to Dr. Urquhart and Ebright attached

light adhesive tags to the wings of monarch. The finder had to send the tag to Dr. Urquhart. Later on, he raised butterflies in the basement of his house and this helped him to choose the study of butterflies as his profession.

**Q.4 What lesson did Ebright learn when he does not win anything at a science fair?**

Failure to win any prize for neat mounted displays of frog tissues at the county science fair made him learn the lesson that only real experiments will earn him prizes.

**Q.5 What experiments and projects does he then undertake?**

Ebright took up the experiment to find the cause of a viral disease that killed many monarch butterflies every few years. Later he experimented on the theory that viceroy butterflies copy monarchs so that they are not eaten by the birds and the purpose of twelve gold spots on a monarch pupa. The research into the gold spots led him to discover the chemical structure of the hormone and how cell can read the blueprint of DNA.

**Q.6 Who were the influencers in Richard Ebright's life?**

Richard's mother, Dr. Urquhart and Richard Weiherer were the three persons who mentored him to perform to his potential.

**Q.7 Richard was shaped by his mother. Explain.**

Richard had lost his father when he was in the third grade which made his mother a big influence in his life. She recognised that Richard had a driving curiosity along with a bright mind, thus she encouraged his interest in learning by taking him on trips and buying him equipment like telescopes, microscopes, cameras etc. She bought him books to help him identify an area of interest and the world of butterflies caught his attention. She never let him sit idle and found work for him to occupy his evening time. She motivated him by letting him collect and raise butterflies for many years in the basement of the house and also wrote to Dr. Urquhart to volunteer him as a tagger of butterflies.

**Q.8 What are the qualities that go into the making of a scientist?**

(A bright and inquisitive mind- perseverance- Not let failure to deter from the chosen path-Never to quit-To learn lessons from failures and change the direction of the experiment-to have a holistic personality)

Q.9 When did Ebright learn what real science is? How did it help him to become a successful scientist?

When Ebright did not win any prize at the science fair, he learnt the lesson that real science is not neat display of frog mounts rather it is the conduct of experiments which enriches science. Hence, he wrote to Dr. Urquhart for ideas and Dr. Urquhart sent him many suggestions for experiments. These experiments and suggestions from Dr. Urquhart motivated him to perform numerous experiments and he embarked on the career path of a scientist who specialized in the study of butterflies.

Q 10 Why did Richard raise a flock of butterflies?

Richard raised a flock of butterflies because it was difficult for him to catch a large number of butterflies for research as the butterfly collection season lasts only for six weeks in summer

Mrs Ebright's support and motivation helped Richard hone his talent. Elucidate.

Describe the six qualities of Richard which helped him to become a scientist.

What did Richard display in the County Science Fair when he was in the seventh grade? Why did Richard not win any prize?

Describe the project which won Richard a first place in the zoology division and third in county science fair.

Describe the project which won him a prize in the eighth grade.

## **THE HACK DRIVER**

SINCLAIR LEWIS

- The narrator is a lawyer who even after graduating with honours joined as a junior assistant clerk in a magnificent law firm.
- He was generally sent by the law firm to serve summons.
- He did not get a chance to make legal briefs. Moreover, he hated this training period and considered it unpleasant.
- He reaches New Mullion to serve summons to a man named Oliver Lutkins.

- He meets a delivery man at the station who was about forty, red faced, cheerful and slightly plump and who introduced himself as Bill Magnuson.
- Together they start looking for the slippery Oliver. The first shop they visit is Fritz's.
- Next they go to Gustaffs where Fritz had informed that they would most likely find Oliver.
- Afterwards they travel to Gray's barber shop.
- Subsequently, they tried to catch him at the pool room but missed him once again.
- They take a lunch break and resume their search for Oliver.
- Thereafter, they learn that Oliver has gone to visit his mother who lives three miles away.
- Oliver's mother chases them out of the house and as the narrator had to catch his return train, he gives up his search.
- The next day when the narrator visits New Mullion accompanied by another lawyer, he realizes that Bill Magnuson was none other than Oliver Lutkins. Oliver had pretended to be Bill and fooled the lawyer and also escaped from receiving the summons

## BHOLI

K.A. ABBAS

- Ramlal did not send any of his daughters to school as he felt that their beauty was enough to get them married. But Bholi was an exception as she stammered, had little intelligence and had pock marks all over her body. All these drawbacks made Bholi unattractive for prospective grooms.
- Ramlal decided to enroll Bholi in school at the insistence of the Tehsildar who wanted Ramlal to set an example to other villagers by sending his daughter to school to obtain education.
- The teacher is the agent of transformation who instilled confidence in Bholi and empowered her.
- Bholi an educated girl agreed to marry an old and lame widower as her father's honour was at stake and she placed her family's honour above her own happiness. Later, she refused to marry Bishamber as he had demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees during the garland ceremony which was an insult to her self- respect and

demeaning for her family's honour. Her father was unaware of her transformation from a dumb cow to a confident educated girl.

- By refusing to marry the rich, greedy, mean and contemptible grocer, she proved that education had given her confidence to stand on her feet and she was also capable of supporting her parents in their old age. With her courageous step, she silenced the people who had labelled her shameless. She had transformed from Bholi to Sulekha.
  
- **Bholi's difference makes her an object of neglect and laughter. Elaborate.**
- (Hints:- Bholi hit by two strokes of misfortune-fall which led to slow mental growth – physically disfigured with pock marks – stammered – children made fun of her stammering and mimicked her- also ill - treated at home - wore hand me downs and torn clothes- no new clothes- dry and matted hair)
  
- **Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. How did Bholi, an educated girl face the challenge posed by Bishamber?**
- Ramlal did not send any of his daughters to school as he felt that their beauty was enough to get them married but Bholi stammered, had pock marks, little intelligence and these were nil prospects for Bholi to be accepted in marriage by any young bridegroom. The village did not send its daughters to school and as Bholi had nil chances of getting married hence, Ramlal did not hesitate to admit her in school.
- Bholi, an educated girl, agreed to marry an old and lame widower Bishamber when Ramlal received the marriage proposal as her father's honour was at stake and she placed her family's honour at a higher pedestal than her own happiness. Later, she refuses to marry him because he had asked for five thousand rupees as dowry which she felt was quite insulting to her self-respect. His greed to take advantage of her father as she did not have good looks make him seem contemptible to her. She did not want her father to show his desperation as her father was not aware of her other strengths and transformation. She refused to marry a greedy man and informed her parents that she would take care of them in their old age. Bholi had transformed into Sulekha and she was able to speak up against the evil of dowry. Education helped her to take this bold step and this incident emphasises that education is an asset in the

life of a woman as she can have independent ideas, become empowered and gain financial strength.

- **Education turned Bholi from a dumb cow to a bold girl. Elucidate.**
- (Hints:- Her shortcomings- Tehsildar and no prospect of marriage- Girls not educated in the village- school was a boon for her – Teacher and education empowered her- from a shy & fearful person turned confident and bold– courage to fight social norm of dowry- refused to marry Bishamber- tells her desire to support and care for parents when old- a role model for all girls. Teacher's masterpiece was complete as she turned from Bholi to Sulekha)
- Write a character sketch of Bishamber.
- Why was Sulekha called Bholi by everyone?
- What unusual reason is given by Bholi's mother to admit her in school?
- Why did Bishambar refuse to marry Bholi?

