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ई-पाठशाला कार्यक्रम

Class 12th ENGLISH

THE RATTRAP + A ROADSIDE STAND



RAPID REVISION

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CLASS - 12

Flamingo

Chapter – 4

THE RATTRAP

Arpita Sharma



The Rattrap

Questions – Answer

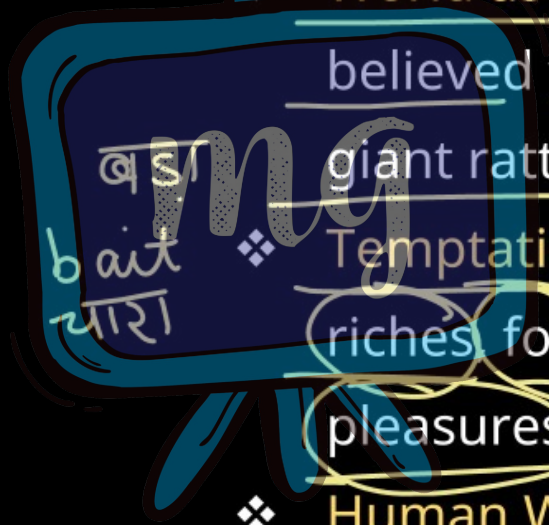
1. From where did the peddler get the idea of the world being a rattrap?

OR

What was the idea of the peddler about the world being a rattrap?

The Rattrap

Answer :



- World as a Trap : The peddler believed that the whole world was a giant rattrap.
- Temptations : The world offered riches, food, shelter, clothes and pleasures as bait.
- Human Weakness : People became trapped when they were attracted to these temptations.

The Rattrap

- Personal Experience : The peddler himself was trapped by his greed for 30 kronor.
- Realisation : When he got lost in the forest, he felt that he had been caught in the world's rattrap.

Conclusion : The story shows how greed and temptation can trap human beings.

The Rattrap

2. How did the rattrap peddler (seller) lead his life?



The Rattrap

Answer :

The rattrap peddler led a miserable and lonely life, wandering from place to place selling rattraps. He barely earned enough to survive and often resorted to begging or petty theft. His hardships made him bitter and cynical about the world, which he viewed as a giant rattrap that ensnared people through materialistic temptations.

The Rattrap

3. How did the crofter behave with the peddler after opening the door?



The Rattrap

Answer :

The crofter welcomed him warmly, offering food, shelter, and conversation, despite knowing nothing about him.

The Rattrap

4. What made the peddler think that he had indeed fallen into a rattrap?



The Rattrap

Answer :

The peddler realised that he must not walk on the public highway with the stolen money in his pocket. He went into the woods. He kept walking without coming to an end of the wood. Then he realised that he had fallen into the rattrap. He had let himself befooled by a bait and had been caught in.

The Rattrap

5. Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?



The Rattrap

Answer :

The ironmaster walked closely up to the peddler, in the reflection from the furnace, he mistook the man as his old regimental comrade. He addressed the stranger as Nils Olof, spoke very kindly and invited him home for Christmas celebration.

The Rattrap

6. What made the peddler accept Edla Willmansson's invitation?



The Rattrap

Answer :

Miss Edla Willmansson looked at the peddler quite compassionately. She noticed that the man was afraid. She assured him that he would be allowed to leave just as freely as he came. She requested him to stay with them over Christmas Eve. Her friendly manner made the peddler feel confidence in her and accept her invitation.

The Rattrap

7. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?

OR

Why did Miss Edla Willmansson give a little cry of joy on opening the package left for her by the peddler?



The Rattrap

Answer :

Edla was happy to see the gift left by the peddler because her kind and humble behaviour changed a thief into a good man. He even returned the money (thirty kronor) of the old man. This made her glad that he did not break her trust.

The Rattrap

8. Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Von ~~Stable~~?

Stahle



The Rattrap

Answer :

- Edla treated him with kindness and respect, as if he were a real captain.
- He signed as Captain von Stahle to express his gratitude and transformed character.

The Rattrap

9. Attempt a character sketch of the peddler.



The Rattrap

Answer :



The Rattrap

- Poor and Homeless: The peddler was a wandering man who sold small wire rattraps to survive.
- Hardworking: He made rattraps from wire collected by begging at stores and farms.
- Dishonest: Due to poverty, he resorted to begging and petty theft.
- Untrustworthy: He stole 30 kronor from the old crofter who had offered him food and shelter.
- Imaginative: He compared the whole world to a giant rattrap filled with temptations.

The Rattrap

- Clever: He initially allowed the ironmaster to mistake him for an old regimental acquaintance, hoping to gain money.
- Fearful: After stealing the money, he became afraid of being caught and punished.
- Sensitive: Edla's kindness and sympathy deeply affected his heart.
- Grateful: He appreciated Edla's respectful and compassionate treatment.

The Rattrap

- Honest in the End: He returned the stolen 30 kronor and left a letter for Edla.
- Transformed Personality: He signed himself “Captain von Stahle”, showing his desire to act honourably.
- Conclusion: The peddler changes from a poor, dishonest thief into a grateful and honourable man through Edla's kindness and compassion.

The Rattrap

MCQ

1. Why does the man resort to begging and petty thievery?

(a) To support his family.

(b) To buy more rattraps.

(c) To survive as his rattrap business is not profitable.

(d) To travel to a new place.

The Rattrap

2. What thought strikes the peddler about the world?

(a) The world is full of opportunities.

(b) The world is a big rattrap that catches people.

(c) The world is kind and welcoming.

(d) The world is a beautiful place.

The Rattrap

3. What does the peddler steal from the old man's cottage?

(a) A coat.

(b) A pouch with thirty kronor.

(c) A loaf of bread.

(d) A set of cards.

The Rattrap

4. What happens when the peddler gets lost in the forest?

(a) He finds a shortcut.

(b) He feels trapped, thinking the world is a rattrap.

(c) He meets a group of travelers.

(d) He escapes the forest without any trouble.

The Rattrap

5. Where does the peddler seek refuge after getting lost in the forest?

(a) In a church.

(b) In a blacksmith's forge.

(c) In a nearby village.

(d) In a cave.

The Rattrap

6. How does the ironmaster initially mistake the peddler?

(a) He thinks he is a famous artist.

(b) He thinks he is an old acquaintance, Captain von Stahle.

(c) He thinks he is a royal messenger.

(d) He thinks he is a rich businessman.

The Rattrap

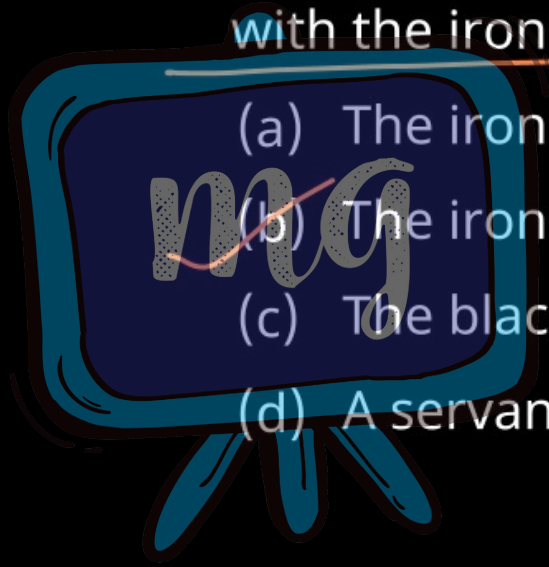
7. Who tries to persuade the peddler to go with the ironmaster?

(a) The ironmaster's wife.

(b) The ironmaster's daughter, Edla.

(c) The blacksmith.

(d) A servant.



The Rattrap

8. What does the peddler leave behind as a gift for Edla?

(a) A gold coin.

(b) A rattrap with ~~three~~ thirty ~~ten~~-kronor bills.

(c) A letter.

(d) A piece of jewelery.

The Rattrap

Homework

9. What does the letter left by the peddler in the rattrap say?

(a) A warning about the world being a rattrap.

(b) A thank-you note for the kindness.

(c) An invitation to visit him.

(d) None.

10. What happens when the ironmaster finds out that the man is not who he thought he was?

(a) He is angry and orders the peddler to leave.

(b) He laughs and forgives him.

(c) He calls the sheriff to arrest him.

(d) He is disappointed but allows him to stay.

The Rattrap

11. What is the primary theme of the story "The Rattrap"?

(a) The power of kindness.

(b) The nature of human greed.

(c) The idea of life as a trap that catches people through temptations.

(d) The importance of Christmas traditions.

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CLASS - 12

ENGLISH

Flamingo

Poem – 4

A ROADSIDE STAND



Arpita Sharma

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- Robert Frost
- poor condition of Villagers
- Difference between urban citizens and rular citizens



A ROADSIDE STAND

Questions – Answer

1. What is the 'childish longing' that the poet refers to? Why is it 'vain'?

व्यर्थ



A ROADSIDE STAND

Answer :

The poet thinks that the persons who are running the roadside stand, suffer from a childish longing. They are always expecting customers. They keep their windows open to attract them. They become sad when no one turns up.

A ROADSIDE STAND

They are always waiting to hear the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car, but all their efforts go in vain as the city folk do not care and bother to stop there and buy something from their roadside stand.

A ROADSIDE STAND

2. What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand?



A ROADSIDE STAND

Answer :

The folk who had put up the roadside stand pleaded pathetically for some customers to come as they wanted to earn money from the city folk used to pass that way. They wanted some of them to stop and buy something from them. It was with this intention that the roadside stand had been put up.

A ROADSIDE STAND

3. What were the owners of the roadside stand selling?



A ROADSIDE STAND

Answer :

- The owners were selling wild berries in wooden quarts.
- They also offered crook-necked golden squash.
- Their roadside sign advertised beautiful mountain scenery and rest.

A ROADSIDE STAND

4. Write the theme of the poem ‘A Roadside Stand’.



A ROADSIDE STAND

Answer :

- Poverty: The poem portrays the economic struggles of rural people.
- Inequality: It exposes the gap between the rich and the poor.
- Neglect: Wealthy motorists show little concern for villagers.
- Exploitation: The poor suffer from false promises and selfish policies.

A ROADSIDE STAND

- Hope: The villagers want financial independence and a better life.

Conclusion: The poem highlights rural suffering, social inequality and the need for compassion.

A ROADSIDE STAND

MCQs

1. What does the roadside stand sell?

(a) Flowers

(b) Wild berries and squash

(c) Paintings

(d) Furniture

A ROADSIDE STAND

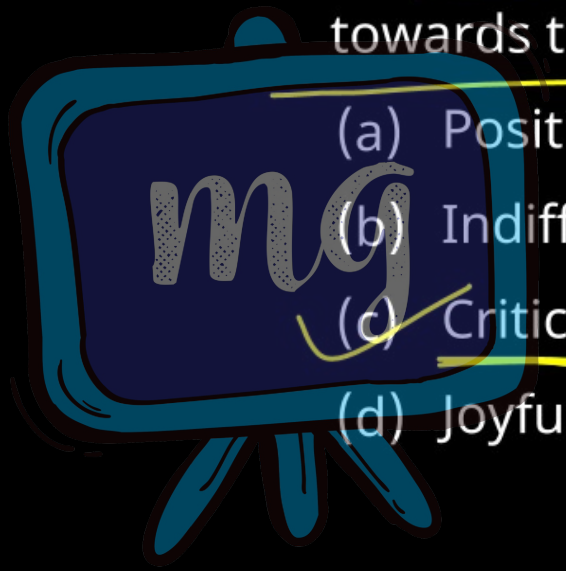
2. What is the tone of the poem towards the traffic? Urban people The rich

(a) Positive

(b) Indifferent उदासीन

(c) Critical (negative)

(d) Joyful



A ROADSIDE STAND

3. What do the "greedy good-doers" do?

(a) Help people without expecting anything.

(b) Take advantage of others and control their lives.

(c) Share everything equally.

(d) Leave people alone.

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Ques. Which poetic device is used in 'greedy good-doers'?

गि
गु

noble
beast

a) Alliteration ×

b) Hyperbole ×

c) Oxymoron – opposite words

d) Personification ×

A ROADSIDE STAND

4. How does the speaker feel about the "party in power"?

(a) Happy with their actions

(b) Indifferent to them

(c) They feel the party is not keeping its promise

(d) They support the party's actions

A ROADSIDE STAND

5. What is the "ancient way" mentioned in the poem?

(a) Sleeping during the day

(b) The way people used to live and think

(c) The way people used to drive

(d) Sleeping peacefully at night

A ROADSIDE STAND

6. What happens when a car stops at the roadside stand?

(a) It buys something from the stand

(b) It asks the way, gallon gas, or turns around

(c) It helps the farmer

(d) It offers to give money

7. What does the phrase "The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint" mean?

(a) The speaker doesn't mind the damage to the view.

(b) The speaker is complaining about the damage to the view.

(c) The speaker feels sad about the view being destroyed.

(d) The speaker wants to protect the scenery at all costs.

A ROADSIDE STAND

8. What does the line "We make our roadside stand and ask for some city money" mean?

(a) The people want help from city workers.

(b) The people want to get rich by selling things.

(c) The people are asking for money to improve their lives.

(d) The people are offering money to the city.

A ROADSIDE STAND

9. What is meant by the phrase "to feel in hand" in the line "And ask for some city money to feel in hand"?

(a) To keep the money in their hand

(b) To feel secure and hopeful with the money

(c) To count the money carefully

(d) To give the money to others

A ROADSIDE STAND

10. What does the line "And one did stop, but only to plow up grass" mean?

(a) A car stopped to help the farmer.

(b) A car stopped to make the place worse.

(c) A car stopped to ask for directions.

(d) A car stopped to buy something from the stand.

A ROADSIDE STAND

Sinking : डुबना
Withering : खराब होना
Faint : नष्ट होना
Mind ahead : सीधा आगे जाना
Out of sorts : नाराज होना
Marred : खराब होना

But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.
The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint



A ROADSIDE STAND

Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

Offered for sale wild berries in wooden quarts,

Or crook-necked golden squash with silver warts,

Or beauty rest in a beautiful mountain scene,

Crook : मुड़ी हुई





A ROADSIDE STAND



You have the money, but if you want to be mean,
Why keep your money (this crossly) and go along.
The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint
So much as the trusting sorrow of what is unsaid:
Here far from the city we make our roadside stand

A ROADSIDE STAND



And ask for some city money to feel in hand
To try if it will not make our being expand,
And give us the life of the moving-pictures' promise
That the party in power is said to be keeping from us.

A ROADSIDE STAND



It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,

Mercifully : दया के साथ

A ROADSIDE STAND



While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

Beneficent : फायदा लेने वाले
Beasts : जानवर
Prey : शिकार
Swarm : मंड़राना
Out of their wits : मूर्ख
Ancient : पुराना

A ROADSIDE STAND



Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,

Bear : सहन करना

Longing : इच्छा करना

In vain : व्यर्थ

Lurks : छुपना

Squeal : तेज अवाज

A ROADSIDE STAND



Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass,
Just one to inquire what a farmer's prices are.
And one did stop, but only to plow up grass
In using the yard to back and turn around;
And another to ask the way to where it was bound;

Plow : खराब करना

A ROADSIDE STAND



And another to ask could they sell it a gallon of gas
They couldn't (this crossly); they had none, didn't it see?
No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,

Requisite : आवश्यक

A ROADSIDE STAND



I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
And then next day as I come back into the sane,
I wonder how I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.

Sane : समझदार

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A ROADSIDE STAND

Summary

- Through this poem, the poet, Robert Frost expresses his anger at the indifferent behaviour of the rich towards the poor.
- A poor farmer builds a vegetable stand along the highway outsides his house.

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- He builds this stand in the hope that people of passing cars would buy his products.
- He says that the selfish politicians befool these poor people with false promises.
- The poet feels the helplessness of the people who are running the roadside stand.

A ROADSIDE STAND

- When no one turns up, they feel sad. They want to hear the loud noise of the brakes and the sound of a stopping car.
- The poet feels an unbearable pain at the plight of the rural poor.

- He will feel greatly relieved if they are put out of their pain "at one stroke". The poet feels that he alone is not able to help these poeple so he expects every reader to help him.

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The Rattrap



Selma Lagerlöf's The Rattrap revolves around a poor, homeless peddler who makes and sells small rattraps. His life is lonely, monotonous (आरोचक), and filled with struggles, forcing him to beg and steal to survive.

The Rattrap



1. One day, while wandering, he reflects on the world as a giant rattrap. He believes that the world offers riches and joys as bait, similar to a rattrap, and anyone tempted by them gets trapped.

The Rattrap



2. On a dark evening, the peddler seeks shelter at a crofter’s cottage. The crofter, a lonely man, welcomes him warmly, offering food, tobacco, and conversation. The crofter shares that he recently earned 30 kronor by selling milk from his cow and shows the money to the peddler, storing it in a leather pouch by the window.

The Rattrap



3. The next morning, after leaving the crofter’s cottage, the peddler returns, steals the money, and flees into the forest. Initially pleased with his theft, he soon finds himself lost in the thick, confusing woods, feeling trapped like a rat in a rattrap.

The Rattrap



4. As despair (निराश) sets in, the peddler hears hammer strokes from Ramsjö Ironworks and follows the sound to seek refuge (शरण). The blacksmiths (लोहार), used to such vagabonds (आवारा), allow him to warm himself by the forge (लोहारखाना).

The Rattrap



5. The ironmaster, owner of the mill, mistakes the peddler for an old regimental comrade (साथी), Captain von Stahle. Hoping to help his "friend," he invites the peddler to his manor house. Fearing exposure (खुलासा) because of the stolen money, the peddler refuses, but the ironmaster insists.

The Rattrap



6. The ironmaster's daughter, Edla Willmansson, is sent to persuade the peddler. Her kind and gentle nature makes him trust her, and he agrees to accompany her home. However, during the carriage ride, the peddler feels uneasy, haunted by his guilt (पाप/अपराध).

The Rattrap



7. At the manor, Edla treats the peddler with respect and ensures he is bathed, fed, and given clean clothes. The next morning, the ironmaster realizes his mistake when the peddler appears clean-shaven. Angry at being deceived, he threatens to involve the sheriff (अफ़सर).

The Rattrap



8. The peddler defends himself, admitting he never pretended to be anyone else. He compares the world to a rattrap and insists that the ironmaster, too, might one day fall for its bait. Amused, the ironmaster decides to let him go, but Edla intervenes, insisting that he be allowed to stay and enjoy Christmas in peace.

The Rattrap



9. Edla's kindness touches the peddler, who spends the day quietly, sleeping and eating. The next morning, after the family returns from church, they learn that the crofter has been robbed. Expecting the worst, they are relieved to find the peddler gone, leaving behind a small package.

The Rattrap



10. In the package is a small rattrap, the stolen 30 kronor, and a letter addressed to Edla. The peddler thanks her for her compassion, which made him feel like a real captain, and explains that her kindness saved him from falling into the world's rattrap. He signs the letter as Captain von Stahle.

The Rattrap



Conclusion

The story highlights the power of understanding and love to awaken the inherent goodness in every individual.

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