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Samagra Shiksha
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CLASS - X

ENGLISH

Footprints without Feet

CHAPTER - 2

A QUESTION OF TRUST

Part – 3

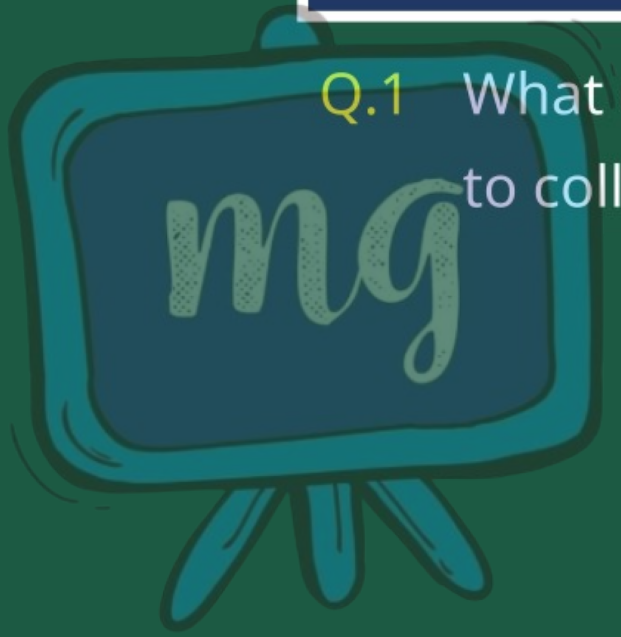
Comprehension

Nipa Das

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READ AND FIND OUT

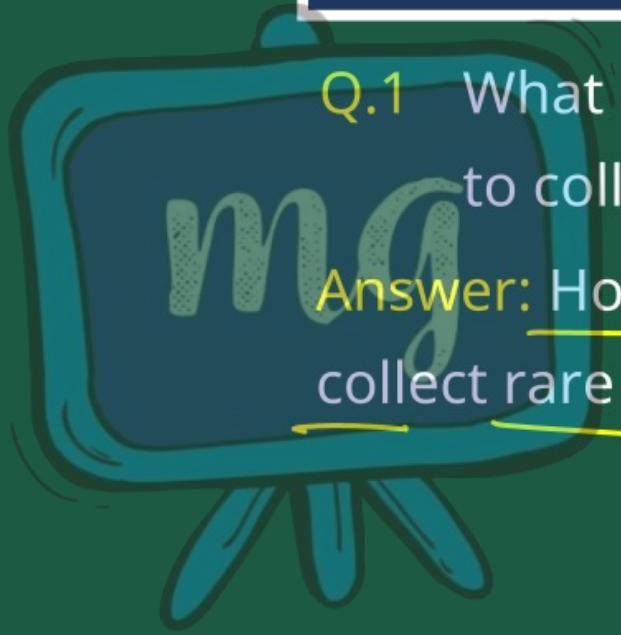


Q.1 What does Horace Danby like to collect?

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READ AND FIND OUT



Q.1 What does Horace Danby like to collect?

Answer: Horace Danby likes to collect rare and expensive books.

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Q.2 Why does he steal every year?

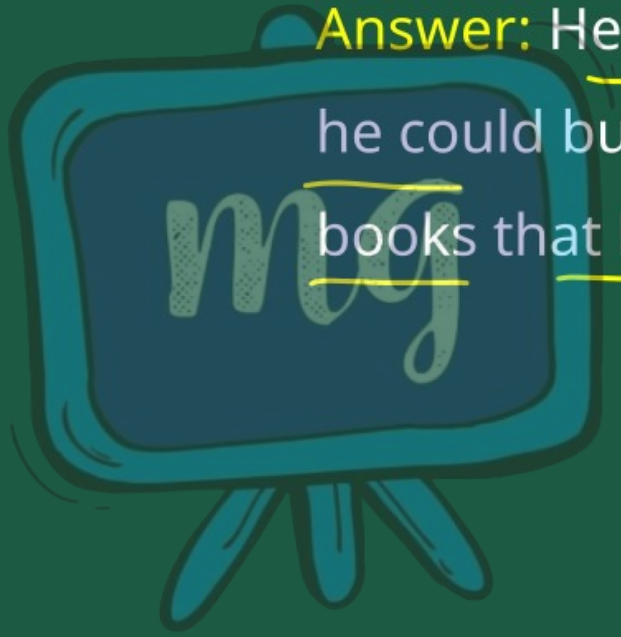


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Q.2 Why does he steal every year?

Answer: He steals every year so that he could buy the rare and expensive books that he loves to collect.



Q.3 Who is speaking to Horace Danby?



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Q.3 Who is speaking to Horace Danby?

Answer: A young and attractive woman who is dressed in red is speaking to Horace Danby. Horace thinks that she is the mistress of the house. But she is a thief like him who pretends to be the landlady.

Q.4 Who is the real culprit in the story?



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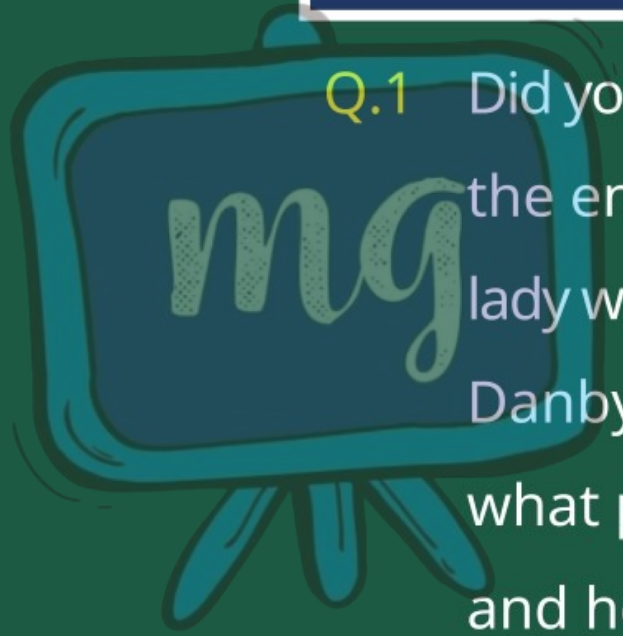
Q.4 Who is the real culprit in the story?

Answer: The real culprit in the story is the woman who pretended to be a member of the family living at Shotover Grange. She tricked Horace into believing her and cleverly took away all the jewels that were kept in the safe.

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THINK ABOUT IT



Q.1 Did you begin to suspect, before the end of the story, that the lady was not the person Horace Danby took her to be? If so, at what point did you realise this, and how?

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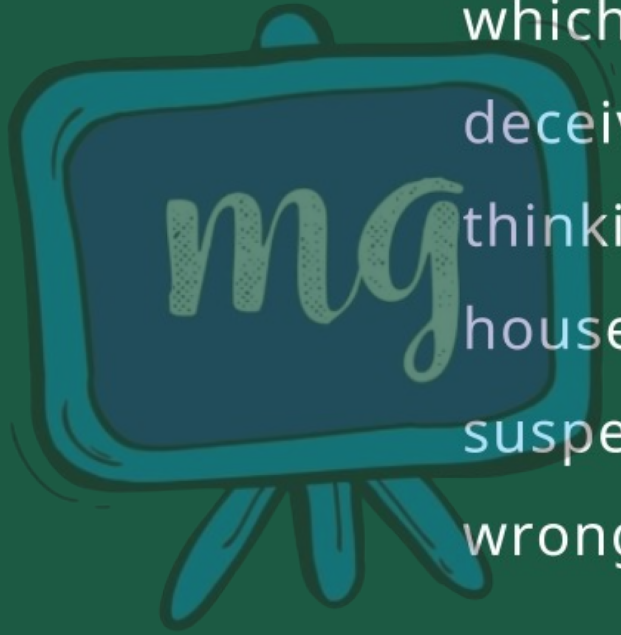
Answer: Yes one does begin to suspect before the end of the story that the lady was not the person Horace Danby took her to be. She was unusually calm on seeing Horace (a thief). This seems strange enough. When she did not call the police, and instead asked Horace to take out all the jewels from the safe,

even if it meant breaking it open, it seemed suspicious. Moreover, her story of forgetting the numbers of the safe is not at all convincing. That's why we suspected her before the end of the story.

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Q.2 What are the subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into thinking she is the lady of the house? Why doesn't Horace suspect that something is wrong?



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Answer: First, the lady speaks with confidence to deceive Horace.

She has firmness in her voice and smiles at him while talking.

There is sharpness also in her voice as she continues talking. She then threatens him with the idea of 'prison'.

She also manages to cool down the dog, Sherry.

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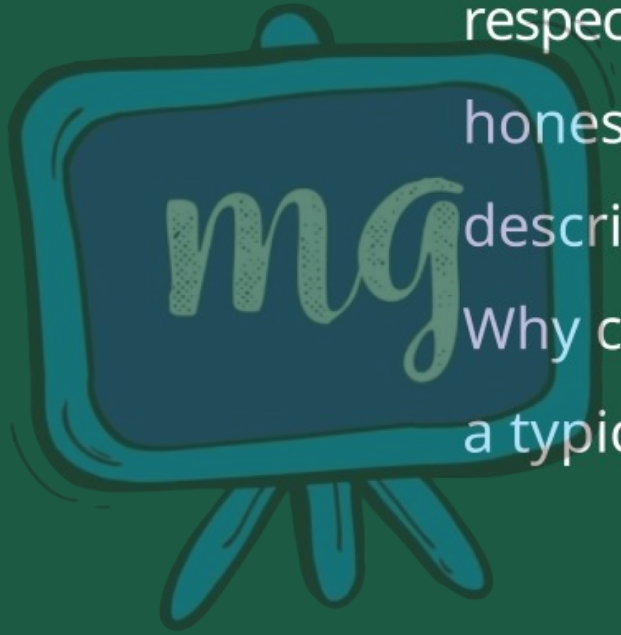
In this way, she impresses him to be the landlady.

Horace frightens after seeing her. He thinks that if he will be nice to her, he might be able to get out of the serious problem.

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Q.3 "Horace Danby was good and respectable–but not completely honest". Why do you think this description is apt for Horace? Why can't he be categorised as a typical thief?



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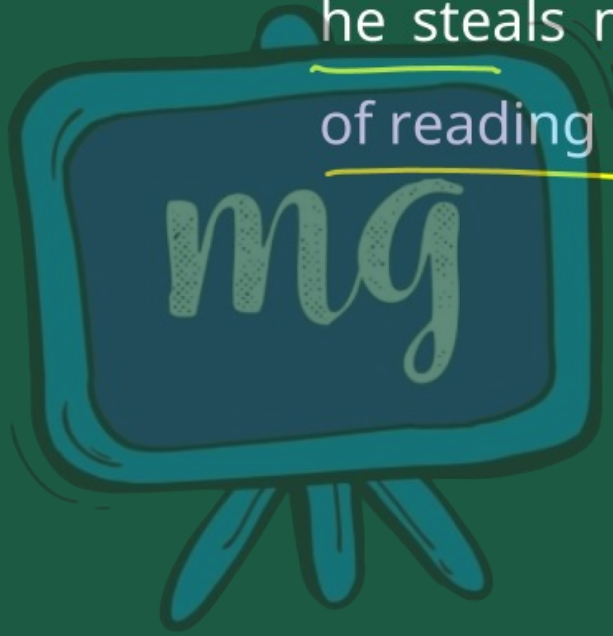
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Answer: This description fits well on Horace Danby. Horace enjoys a good reputation as 'a good, honest citizen'. Then he steals only once a year. He covers his stealing under his profession of making locks. He also loves reading books. So due to these reasons he can't be categorised as a typical thief.

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But he was not completely honest as he steals money to fulfill his desire of reading books.



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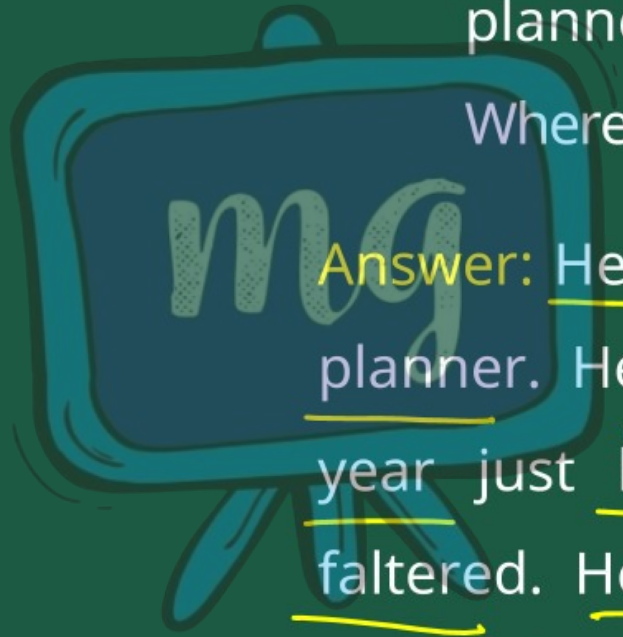
Q.4 Horace Danby was a meticulous planner but still he faltered. Where did he go wrong and why?



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Q.4 Horace Danby was a meticulous planner but still he faltered. Where did he go wrong and why?



Answer: He was rightly a meticulous planner. He planned carefully each year just before stealing. But he faltered. He didn't see into the lady's sweet, clever and crafty talks.

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It may be fear of prison that have blocked his mind to see through the lady's tricks.

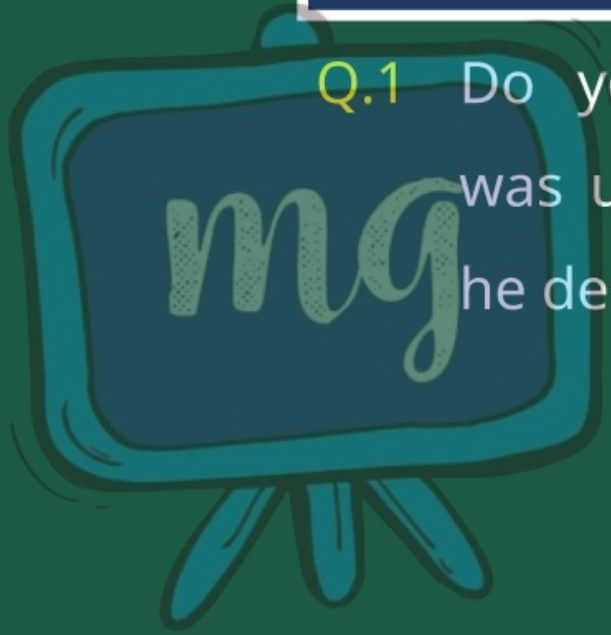
He trusted the lady so blindly that he was tricked easily in her story and he opened the safe without his gloves.

His fear of prison and the lady's excellent performance were the reasons that made him go wrong.

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TALK ABOUT IT



Q.1 Do you think Horace Danby was unfairly punished, or that he deserved what he got?

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TALK ABOUT IT

Q.1 Do you think Horace Danby was unfairly punished, or that he deserved what he got?

Answer: I think Horace Danby was unfairly punished in this case. Because he was not having the jewels. The lady was the real culprit. She tricked him and made him open the safe.

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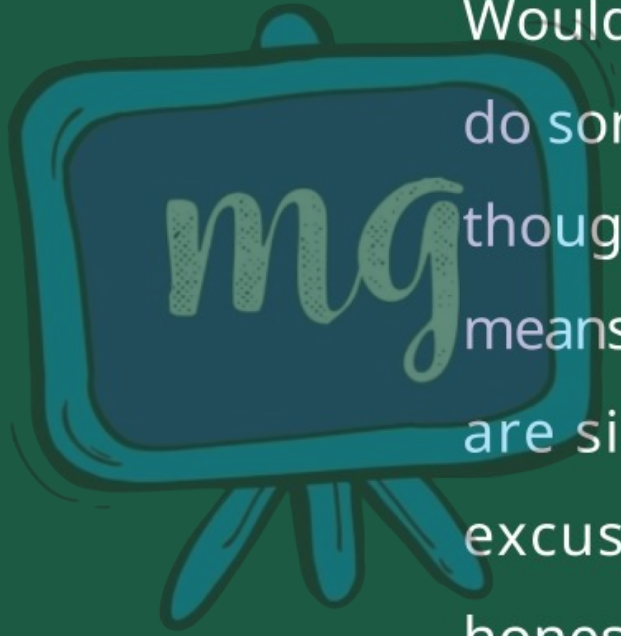
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But at the same time it is true that he deserved what he got because if not in this case, he was a thief. He used to steal every year. So he must be punished for his crime.

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Q.2 Do intentions justify actions? Would you, like Horace Danby, do something wrong if you thought your ends justified the means? Do you think that there are situations in which it is excusable to act less than honestly?



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Answer: Intentions do not justify action. A crime is a crime, no matter if it is committed for some good reason. Nobody should harm others to satisfy their interests.

I would not do something wrong if my ends justified the means. We should not depend on any excuse to act less than honestly.