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CLASS~12, SUBJECT~ENGLISH

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“Evans Tries O-Level”

~~Colin Dexter

Summary:--

The story, “Evans Tries O-Level” is an interesting story that depicts how a prisoner, named James Evans befools all the officers of the prison to escape under a well-laid out plan.

Evans was a young clever prisoner who was used to having a last laugh. After breaking out of the prison thrice, he was in prison a fourth time. As far as Evans was concerned, he was not violent but a pleasant person and a popular star at the Christmas concert. The only vice possessed

by him was a congenital kleptomaniac. When he was prisoned fourth time, he again decided to break away and became successful. For this he desired to have some sort of academic qualifications while serving his imprisonment.

Evans desired to take the O-level exam in German. A German teacher was engaged to teach him in the cell. The Governor of Oxford Prison took all the precautions for the smooth conduct of examination. He himself supervised all security arrangements. McLeery, the invigilator was frisked thoroughly before the beginning of the examination. Stephens was positioned at the doorcell and two prison officers were deputed to keep an eye on him. But it happened a matter of utter shocking when he was declared escaped in the guise of the parson after the exam was over. The parson was found badly injured behind the

prison cell. The parson guided the police to catch Evans where he might be. The wounded parson was taken to the hospital as he was bleeding profusely but later they were informed that no wounded parson had ever come to the hospital. Now, it became clear that Evans had not escaped in the guise of the parson McLeery. Evans stayed in and befooled the entire prison staff. Finally, it was accepted that the falsely wounded McLeery was not the real parson. The real McLeery was kept tied by some men in his room since morning.

Towards the end of the story, the Governor caught hold of Evans in a hotel-room. Handcuffed Evans was sent away with a prison officer in the prison van. Once again Evans got the better of the Governor. Both the prison officer and the prison van had been the part of the plan mastered by

Evan's friends. Evans again escaped and became a free bird. From then on the prison officers used to call him 'Evans The Break' for his escaping skill.

