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CLASS – X SUBJECT – ENGLISH (Footprints without Feet)

Lesson : 4 A Question of Trust

Study Materials

A QUESTION OF TRUST

DETAILED SUMMARY

Horace Danby was a good man. He was about fifty years old but he was unmarried. He was a locksmith. He was very successful in his business. He had engaged two assistants to help him. Being good and respectable, he was not completely honest.

He loved rare and expensive books. He bought them at any cost. For this purpose, he robbed a safe in one year. He bought these books secretly through an agent.

Before making a theft, he planned his work well. This time he had studied the house at Shotover Grange for two weeks. He studied even the minutest thing about the house. The family was in London. The two servants who looked after the house had gone to the movies. He came out from behind the garden wall and entered the house.

He took the key from the kitchen door hook. He put on a pair of gloves and opened the door. He was always careful enough to leave any fingerprints. He spoke politely to the little dog. He cut-off the wires of the burglar alarm. He arranged his tools carefully.

There was a big pot of flowers on the table. The scent of flowers tickled his nose. He sneezed repeatedly. He thought that this disease would hinder his work. He buried his face in his handkerchief.

Then, he heard the voice of a young lady behind him. She spoke kindly to him. She pretended to be the wife of the owner of that house. She said that she had come there suddenly because she needed her jewels to wear them at the party that night.

Danby begged the lady to let him go home. He hated going to prison. He promised her that he would never

rob again in his life. The young lady asked him to do one work for her, then she would let him go. The burglar said that he would do anything gladly for her.

The young lady said that she needed The jewels but she had forgotten the number. She asked him to open the safe. Danby opened the safe without gloves. The young lady got the jewels and Horace Danby went away happy because he had escaped from a difficult situation.

For two days, Horace kept his promise to the young lady. But on the third day, he decided to rob some other safe. But he never got the chance to put his plan into practice. By noon a policeman had arrested him for the jewel robbery at Shotover Grange.

His fingerprints were found all over the room. He admitted that he had opened the safe for the young wife of the owner of the house. But the owner's wife was about sixty years old. She said that the story was nonsense. No one believed Danby. He was sent to jail. Now he was the assistant librarian in the prison. He often thought of the charming, young lady who was in the same profession as he was. Now he did not like the thought of 'honour among thieves.'

Main character – Horace Danby

Read the extracts given below carefully and answer the questions that follow :

1. “Then he heard a voice say from the doorway, what is it? A cold or hay fever?”

(a) Who heard whose voice and where?

(b) What is the significance of this question asked by somebody?

(c) What did Horace suffer from?

(d) How did it result in his failure in his robbery attempt at the house at Shot over Grange?

2.”Horace saw them go, and he felt happy in spite of a little tickle of hay fever in his nose.

(a) Who did Horace see ‘go’ that made him happy? How many were there?

(b) Why did Horace forget his discomfort and was pleased?

(c) Why was Horace in discomfort?

(d) How did it herald his presence in the house at Shotover Grange?
