

Introduction

Some people get into bad habits and find it difficult to quit on their own. Compassion, concern and care from fellow humans go a long way in reforming such people. There is always hope for a renewed and better life if one gets kindness from others.

Theme / Central Idea of the Lesson/ Analysis of ‘THE BEGGAR’

Theme (1)

The story is based on the theme of transformation of a depraved alcoholic through kindness, compassion and selflessness. Olga’s words and noble deeds changed Lushkoff’s heart. He gave up drinking and mended his truant ways. Another theme that runs through the story is gratitude. Lushkoff had become weak because of alcoholism and was no longer able to work. He resorted to telling lies and begging in order to survive. But when he received kindness, he acknowledged it with gratitude and remained indebted to Olga for life.

Theme (2)

Very often we find that lazy person who is not ready to work take to begging so as to make an easy life. But this should not be condoned. Every person should try to earn his livelihood. Every person should work to earn his bread. Here we find Sergei giving an opportunity to Lushkoff to work. Lushkoff, because of Olga’s help and concern for him, makes use of it and quits begging and starts leading a decent life.

JUSTIFICATION of the title ‘THE BEGGAR’

(1)

The story is about the reformation of a beggar, Lushkoff who is helped by two different people in two different ways. The beggar is poor because he does not have any money and also because he does not have any integrity of character. He requires alms to feed himself and also genuine help to feed his impoverished soul. A prosperous advocate, Sergei, and his noble cook, Olga, help the beggar, Lushkoff, to come out of his miserable life and live respectably. The title “The Beggar” is apt in that it highlights the plight of a beggar to the readers and makes them understand that beggars are unfortunate people who need more than money.

(2)

Lushkoff is a beggar who is harmless and spends his life on the streets. His habit is to tell lies and beg from the people. He asks for alms from Sergie, an advocate, who admonishes him but also helps him out. Since the story revolves around the beggar Lushkoff, the title is justified.