

## READING MATERIAL: The Thief's story

Anil was a young writer. He was living his life very carelessly. He was writing for the magazines and earning the money to run his life. One day Anil was watching the wrestling match. Hari knew how to make an unknown person a friend. He used an old formula to flatter the person. Hari stayed with Anil. Anil promised him that he would teach him how to write and add numbers. He also taught him how to cook tasty food. Hari Singh was going to buy daily needs and had profit of one rupee daily. Anil knew it but he did not mind it. Both were living together happily.

One month passed, Hari Singh did not perform his business. One day he saw Anil had brought a bundle of notes. He saw him to put them under the mattress. As Hari saw the bundle of notes, his evil spirit awakened in his mind and he decided to rob Anil that night. After taking dinner Anil slept peacefully. Hari could not sleep, he woke up. He crept to the bed and slipped his hand under the mattress. He found the notes and ran away on the road. Hari Singh made up his mind that he would directly go to the railway station and would catch the Lucknow Express. He thought that Anil would not catch him if he ran away from the city. Hari Singh reached the railway station, Lucknow Express was about to go.

Suddenly the good spirit called him. The inner voice told him not to betray the faith of Anil. The train was moving but Hari did not dare to catch it. He was remembering the innocent face of Anil. When Hari Singh thought that what would Anil think about him? Anil would not worry about the money but he might feel bad that a man had broken his faith. There was conflict in the mind of Hari Singh. He did not want to lose faith of Anil. Because he knew that Anil was a simple man. Moreover Anil was teaching him how to write and add numbers which

could change his life. He could become a respected person in the society.

He left the railway station. He came to the maidan and sat on the bench. Just then heavy rain started. It was the month of November. Chill wind started blowing. He felt more uncomfortable as he had cheated an innocent person. His shirt and pyjamas stuck to his body because it were wet due to the rain.

Then he went to the Clock Tower to save from the rain. He sat there under the tower. Suddenly he remembered his notes. He searched for it and found that all the notes were wet. He crept again and secretly put back money under the mattress. The next day Anil woke up, prepared tea for Hari and himself. He handed over fifty rupees note to Hari and told him that he would be regularly paid now. Hari took the note and found that it was still wet. He understood that Anil knew about the last night's episode.

“The Thief’s Story “is based on the theme of love, kindness, human values and relationships which can transform even the minds of criminals.

## Glossary

- Betray : deceive
- Lean : weak and thin
- Flattery : false praise
- Modestly : humbly
- Grunting : roaring
- Appealing: attractive
- Fairly : enough

- Startled : feeling or showing sudden shock
- Crept : move slowly
- Maidan : a park
- Drizzle : light rain falling in a very fine drops
- Damp : slightly wet

### Questions.

1. Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

**Ans:** In this story, 'I' refers to the thief.

2. What is he "a fairly successful hand" at?

**Ans:** He was "a fairly successful hand" at stealing and robbing people.

3. What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

**Ans:** When Hari asked Anil if he could work for him, Anil said that he could not pay him. Finally, the agreement was that if he would cook, then Anil would feed him. However, Anil soon found out that he did not know how to cook. Therefore, he taught him how to cook and later, how to write his name. He promised he would teach him how to write whole sentences and how to add numbers. Apart from this, when Hari went out to buy the day's supplies, he would make a profit of a rupee a day.

4. How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?

**Ans:** The thief thought that on discovering the theft, Anil's face would show a touch of sadness. The sadness would not be for the loss of money, but for the loss of trust.

5. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

**Ans:** In his short career as a thief, he had made a study of men's faces when they lost their goods. He said that the greedy men showed fear; the rich men showed anger and the poor men showed acceptance.





