



Grade VI

Lesson 4. The Old - Clock Shop

Summary of the chapter

It was Christmas Eve

Ray, an old and deaf owner of shop, was still working on a clock. He stopped up to close the shop. Suddenly, he saw two men, one in his twenties and the other closer to fifty, coming towards his shop. He understood that the men were not shoppers. The younger man stayed at the door while the older man came in with no sign of friendliness in his eyes. Ray was trying to hide his fear and smiled at the unfriendly face. Ray took a notepad and a pencil. He wrote that he was ready to help him. Ray closely looked at the man, paying attention to his gun. The older man looked directly at Ray and smiled for the first time. The two men looked as if they were in a difficult situation and can do anything to come out of it.

Ray Pointed towards a Board with Clocks and Watches

Ray asked the old man whether he wanted to pick up a clock or a watch. Ray was not a person who lends money at interest on the security of an article. But Ray helped people who were in need. People place their old watches or clocks before Ray for anything they could get. Ray loaned more than he should and without interest.

The Older Man Took out his Wrist Watch

The older man felt a little easier. He asked Ray how much will he give for the wrist watch. He was in a difficult situation and and Ray understood it. The watch was nothing special but can bring the older man out of the bad situation. Ray asked him how much he needed in exchange of the watch. The older man said he wanted money according to the worth of the watch. Ray gave a fifty-dollar note to the older man in exchange of the watch. They shook their hands. They both knew the watch was not worth that much. The man before walking out of the shop wrote that he would be back to take away his watch soon. He also wrote, 'Merry Christmas!' Soon the clock struck at the midnight, giving timeless message of peace, hope and goodwill in the world.

NCERT Corner



1. What made Ray think the visitor was not really a shopper?

Ray's rich experience told him that the visitor was not a shopper. One man stood at the door and the other man, with no sign of friendliness in his eyes, came towards him.

2. Why do you think he had come to the shop?

The visitor did not come to buy anything from the shop. Perhaps, his intention was to rob the owner of the shop. He was in dire need of money.

3. How did Ray communicate with him?

Ray was deaf and communicated with his customers by writing messages on a notepad. His customers also write their replies on the notepad.

4. What do you think the man said to his friend who waited at the door?

The older man pointed to his ears and shook his head from side to side. Probably, he conveyed to his friend who waited at the door that the shopkeeper could neither hear nor speak.

5. Ray was not a pawnbroker. Why then did he lend money to people in exchange for their old watches and clocks?

Ray was not a pawnbroker, a person who lends money at interest on the security of an article. He did not lend money on interest. However, he was kind and helpful. He could not say 'no' to the needy people who place their watches or clocks before him.

6. "The watch was nothing special and yet had great powers." In what sense did it have 'great powers'?

The watch was very ordinary. But it had the power to pull out a person from a difficult situation. The two men got money without committing any crime in the shop. The shopkeeper also saved himself from any untoward incident. Therefore, the watch had great powers.

7. Do you think the man would ever come back to pick up the watch?

No, the older man would never come back to pick up his watch because he got a price much higher than the cost of the watch.

8. When did, 'the unfriendly face' of the visitor turned truly friendly?

The unfriendly face of the visitor turned truly friendly, when he got a fifty-dollar note for his ordinary watch. He was happy.



Chapter Practice

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Ray?

Ray was the owner of an old-clock shop in USA. He was deaf and kind-hearted man. He communicated with his customers by writing on a notepad.

2. Who came to Ray's shop after he finished his work?

Two last-minute shoppers came to Ray's shop after he finished working on a clock and about to close the shop.

3. Why did the older man smile for the first time?

The man smiled for the first time because Ray wrote on his notepad whether he can help him. Both of them knew why he and his friend came to the shop.

4. Why did the older man take out his wrist watch?

The older man seemed to feel a little easier and took out his wrist watch to exchange it for money.

5. When did Ray get angry?

Ray felt angry when the visitor kept one of his hands restlessly in his right coat-pocket. He felt that the man had a gun.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the appearance of the two men who came to Ray's shop?

The two last-minute shoppers were looking in dire need of money. One appeared to be in his twenties while the other was closer to fifty.

The younger man stayed at the door while the older man came in with no sign of friendliness in his eyes.



2. What role the notepad played between the older man and Ray?

The notepad played an important role between the older man and Ray. Ray was deaf so he communicated by writing message on his notepad. The older man also replied to Ray by writing answer and queries on the notepad.

Long Answer Type Questions

How did Ray manage to please the two last-minute shoppers?

Ray was able to hide his fear after noticing the two last-minute shoppers. He understood that they were unfriendly and carrying a gun. Ray knew that they were in dire need of money and could do anything to get money. Ray kept his cool and acted patiently.

He started interaction with the older man by writing messages on his notepad. He was ready to help them. Ray read their evil minds and knew why the older man entered the shop and the younger stayed at the door.

Ray gave him a fifty-dollar note in exchange of an ordinary wrist watch. The older man became happy as he knew the amount is much higher than the cost of the watch.

Value Based Questions

How did clocks give a timeless message by striking together?

The clocks in the shop gave a message of humanity by striking together at the midnight. Their sweet musical message was filled with hope and joy. No matter how evil a mind is, it can be changed with kindness and love.

The two men came to the shop with an intention to rob the shopkeeper that night as they were in dire need of money.

The shopkeeper understood their motive but behaved in a gentle way. Ray's warm behaviour changed their evil mind and they took a fifty-dollar note and went away peacefully. The message of peace and goodwill towards all was felt by three men in the old-clock shops.