

Short-Answer Questions

Q.1. “Edla sat and hung her head even more dejectedly than usual.” Which two reasons forced her to behave in that manner?

[CBSE (F) 2010]

Ans. Edla was sad and upset as she had heard that a crofter of ironworks had been robbed. This led her to think that the peddler to whom she gave shelter was responsible for this misdeed. Her father also added to her doubts by saying that he had heard the peddler was a thief.

Q.2. Why was the peddler surprised when he knocked on the door of the cottage?

[CBSE (AI) 2011]

Ans. The peddler was surprised as he was not only welcomed at the night time but was also provided food and shelter. He was treated like a guest and not as a beggar. The crofter was a lonely man, he also needed company.

Q.3. What made the peddler finally change his ways?

[CBSE (AI) 2011]

Ans. The peddler changed his way of living because of the love and hospitality shown by Edla, daughter of the ironmaster. He lived a pathetic life but when he was respected and cared, he changed his way of life. He began to live with dignity and respect.

Q.4. Why did the peddler keep to the woods after leaving the crofter’s cottage? How did he feel?

[CBSE (AI) 2011]

Ans. The peddler kept to the woods after leaving the crofter’s cottage because he wanted to avoid police. He was afraid as he had stolen the crofter’s money. If he took to the road he might be caught or seen by policemen or the crofter.

Q.5. Who was the owner of Ramsjö iron mills? Why did he visit the mills at night?

[CBSE (AI) 2012]

Ans. The owner of that mill was a very prominent ironmaster. His greatest ambition was to ship out good iron to the market. He insisted on quality and kept a watch on the work round the clock. He came to the forge on one of his night rounds of inspection.

Q.6. How did the ironmaster react on seeing the stranger lying close to the furnace?

[CBSE (AI) 2012, 2013]

Ans. The ironmaster adjusted his hat to see the stranger very carefully. He seemed to him as one of his acquaintances. He offered to take him home.

Q.7. Why didn't the stranger tell the ironmaster that he was not Nils Olof?

[CBSE (AI) 2012]

OR

How did the peddler react when he saw that the ironmaster had recognised him as Nils Olof, an old regimental comrade?

[CBSE (AI) 2008]

Ans. The peddler was mistaken by the iron master to be an old acquaintance from the regiment. He assumed that the ironmaster would hand him a few kronors and therefore made no attempts to deny the reference being made. He replies by saying that things had gone down hill for him. However, when the ironmaster said that he should not have resigned and suggested that "Nils Olof ", accompany him to the manor, he flatly refused to do so, for fear of being recognised.

Q.8. Why did Edla invite the peddler to stay with her family?

[CBSE (F) 2013]

Ans. Edla was a kind and compassionate young lady. It was Christmas and she wanted the peddler to be a guest for the occasion and share all the goodies that were prepared for Christmas. She had also sensed his fear but she wanted him to spend some time in her house without any fear and relax in comfortable security.

Q.9. Why did the peddler think that the world was a rattrap?

[CBSE (AI) 2009]

Ans. The peddler was a very poor man. He earned his living by selling rattraps made out of material bought by begging. Suddenly he realised that the whole world was a rattrap. The riches and luxuries and comforts are the baits. Like rats, people allow themselves to be tempted by these baits. Once caught, everything is lost and even struggles would not let anyone escape.

Q.10. What did the gift of the rat trap signify?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2016]

Ans. In the story 'The Rattrap' the peddler leaves a small rat trap with thirty kronors and a note for Edla. He confesses his mistake and asks Edla to return the money to the crofter. He admits that he got caught in his own rattrap. He also thanks her for treating him as a real captain and for giving him another chance. Life is one big rat trap, one

gets trapped by own deeds. The gift of the rattrap signified that the peddler was releasing himself from the trap he had very nearly got into. It was an expression of gratitude to Edla, for enabling him get out if it became of her behaviour towards him. It is important that everyone gets a second chance to improve oneself, and Edla had given him his chance.

Q.11. Why was the peddler amused at the idea of the world being a rattrap?

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. The peddler believed that the world with all its riches and joys, food and shelter appears as a rattrap to tempt people. He was amused to think of many other people he knew, who were already caught in the trap, and some others who were circling around the bait.

Q.12. What hospitality did the peddler receive from the crofter?

[CBSE Delhi 2016]

Ans. The peddler was surprised as he was not only welcomed at the night time but was also provided food and shelter. He was treated like a guest and not as a beggar. The crofter was a lonely man, he also needed company.

Q.13. What do we learn about the crofter's nature from the story, 'The Rattrap'?

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. The crofter was lonely and trusting. He was hospitable and gullible. Without any doubt on the peddler, he invites the peddler inside his house at night and shares not only his food but also the whereabouts of his hard earned money. He was friendly and talkative. He felt proud of his cow that gave him enough milk to support him and talks a lot about it.

Q.14. Why did the Crofter show the thirty kroner to the peddler?

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. The crofter felt proud of the cow that gave him enough milk to support him. So he told the peddler that he had got thirty kronors from the creamery as the payment of previous month's supply. However, he felt that the peddler did not believe him. Thus, he showed the money to convince him.

Q.15. Why did the ironmaster speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home?

[CBSE (AI) 2016]

Ans. The iron master mistook the peddler to be "Nils olaf", his old regimental comrade. He goes on to tell him that he would not have allowed him to resign if he had been in service. As if to make amends for what had happened, the ironmaster tells the

peddler to accompany him to the manor, so that he can be received honourably like an old regimental comrade.