

**CBSE TEST PAPER-02**  
**Class 12 English Core (The Rattrap)**

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**General Instructions:-**

- All questions are compulsory.
  - Question No.1 to 6 carries 3 marks each.
  - Question No.7 and 8 carries 6 marks each.
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1. What were the contents of the package left by the peddler as Christmas gift for Edla Willmansson?
  2. Why did the peddler decline the invitation of the ironmaster?
  3. Who was the owner of Ramsjo iron mills? Why did he visit the mills at night?
  4. How did the ironmaster react on seeing the stranger lying close to the furnace?
  5. Why did the stranger not tell the ironmaster that he was not Nils Olof?
  6. Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler?
  7. Why was the peddler surprised when he knocked on the door of the cottage?
  8. The story focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Explain.

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**Answers**

1. The package left by the peddler as a Christmas gift for Edla Willmanson comprised a small rattrap with three wrinkled ten kronor notes in it, which the peddler had robbed from the crofter. It also contained a brief letter for Edla explaining the peddler's conduct.
2. The ironmaster has mistaken the peddler for an old regimental comrade and invited him home. The peddler declined the invitation because he was carrying the money he had stolen from the crofter. He knew that if the ironmaster discovered his identity, he would hand him over to the police. Therefore, for him, going to the manor house was like walking into a lion's den.
3. The owner of the Ramsjo iron mills was an ex-army man and an ambitious and prominent ironmaster. He was very particular about the quality of his products, and visited the mills even at night to make sure that good iron was shipped out from his mills.
4. When the ironmaster saw a stranger in rags lying close to the furnace, he went near him and removed his slouch hat to get a better view of his face. Due to dim light in the forge and the peddler's dirty appearance, he mistook him to be Nils Olof, an old acquaintance of his regiment. He was delighted to see him and invited him home for Christmas.
5. The stranger did not tell the ironmaster that he was not Nils Olof because he thought that if the gentleman believed that he was an old friend or acquaintance of his, then he might take pity on him and help him with some money.
6. The old crofter was lonely and leading a dreary existence as he had no wife or children. He was happy to get someone to talk to and share his thoughts with, even though it was a tramp. So he welcomed the peddler who was quite a patient listener, and extended his hospitality to him.
7. When the peddler knocked on the door of the cottage he was received by the old crofter who invited him inside, served the peddler hot porridge for supper and also gave tobacco for his pipe. He played cards with the stranger and told him the story of his prosperous past life and how his cow supported him in his old age now. The peddler had never been treated kindly by the world. He always received cold treatment wherever he went. He was pleasantly surprised when the crofter greeted him with warmth and hospitality. Generally, he always met 'sour faces' when he knocked for shelter and food, and was usually turned away.

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8. All the characters in the story suffer from loneliness and are depressing souls. The tramp appears to lead a sad, monotonous life, left to his own musings. He is always greeted by sour faces and cold words while on business. Then there's an old crofter whose fate has been somewhat kinder to him. Bereft of his wife and children, he lives all alone in a cottage by the roadside, and is rather happy to have visitors around. We also have the ironmaster and his daughter, Edla, who have no company for Christmas. The ironmaster's wife is dead and his sons are settled abroad. He, with his daughter, is happy to play hosts for his friend. Thus, all of them have a strong desire for bonding and comradeship. The crofter is happy to be friends with the peddler, although only for a night. It is the bonding with the ironmaster's daughter that transforms the peddler. The love, understanding and dignity that he gets from the girl makes him leave his dishonest ways and redeem him.