

## 1.3 The Cop and the Anthem -O ' Henry

### ICE BREAKERS

(1) Suppose you have gone to a place where the winter season is very severe. Discuss with your partner the ways in which you would protect yourself in the cold climate.

(The answer is given and underlined.)

Ans.

Ways to protect from cold climate.
Wear warm clothes in layers.
Keep moving around.
Wear gloves, thick socks, mufflers, boots, etc.
Drink lots of fluids.
Taking shelter in warm place.
Sitting near the fireplace.

(2) When you see a cop approaching, you feel either 'relieved' or 'scared'. Discuss with your partner and write down the situations when you feel 'relieved' or 'scared'.

(\*Note: Most of the textual 'Wh' questions are converted to Activity Format.)

Ans. Relieved :

- (a) You are walking alone in a dark street.
- (b) There is a fight taking place near you.
- (c) A group of rough-looking people are coming towards you on a lonely road.

Scared :

- (a) You are riding a bike without a valid driving licence.
- (b) You have broken a traffic signal.

(c) You have been involved in a fight.

**(3) Discuss some of the motivating things that can change a person's life :**

**Ans.** (a) Listening to an inspiring speech.

(b) Reading motivating books and biographies of great people.

(c) Reading epics and religious books.

(d) Observing successful/happy people or watching biopics of their lives.

### **BRAINSTORMING**

**Q. (A1) (i) Discuss with your partner and find out the different ways in which Soapy tried to get arrested. The first one is given.**

**Ans.**

(a) Tried to enter a luxurious cafe.

(b) Threw a stone and broke a shop window.

(c) Ate heartily at a restaurant and then said he had no money.

(d) Shouted and howled and raved and danced on the sidewalk.

(e) Stole an umbrella.

**(ii) Describe the atmosphere when Soapy reached near the Church.**

**Ans.** (a) A soft light glowed through the violet stained window.

(b) Sweet music drifted out of the quaint, old church.

(c) There was a full, radiant moon, and few vehicles and pedestrians.

(d) Sparrows twittered sleepily in the eaves.

**(A2) (i) Read the story and match the incidents given in Column A with the consequences given in Column B.**

Column A	Column B
(1) Soapy tried to enter a cafe.	The cop ran after another man.
(2) Soapy broke a glass window.	Suddenly a wonderful change came in his heart.
3) Two waiters pitched Soapy on the callous pavement.	Dream of turning around in life was shattered.
(4) Soapy heard the anthem being played in the Church.	He stood up slowly beating the dust from his clothes.
(5) Cop arrests Soapy for hanging around.	Strong and ready hands of the head waiter turned him around.

**Ans.**

(1) Soapy tried to enter a café - Strong and ready hands of the head waiter turned him around.

(2) Soapy broke a glass window - The cop ran after another man.

(3) Two waiters pitched Soapy on the callous pavement - He stood up slowly beating the dust from his clothes.

(4) Soapy heard the anthem being played in the Church - Suddenly a wonderful change came in his heart.

(5) Cop arrests Soapy for hanging around. - Dream of turning around in life was shattered.

**(ii) Give reasons and complete the following:  
(The answers are given directly and underlined.)**

(a) Soapy had confidence in himself because he was shaven, his coat was trim and he had a neat, black bow. The portion of him that showed above the table looked respectable and would raise no doubt in the waiter's mind.

(b) The head waiter of the luxurious cafe did not allow Soapy to enter because he saw Soapy's tattered trousers and old, worn out shoes, and knew that Soapy would not have money to pay for a meal.

(c) The cop did not arrest Soapy for breaking the glass window because Soapy was standing calmly and talking to him. The policeman felt that men who smash glass windows do not remain to chat with the police.

(d) The cop did not arrest Soapy for shouting and dancing because it was the time of celebrations for the local college boys. They were generally noisy but harmless, and he had been told by his superiors to let them be.

**(iii) Pick out the lines from the text which show that:**

(a) Soapy wants to enter the cafe for two reasons.

**Ans.** (1) A roasted mallard duck, thought Soapy, would be about the thing with a bottle of wine and then some cheese, a cup of coffee and a cigar.

(2) The meat would leave him filled and happy for the journey to his winter island.

(b) Soapy was afraid that he won't be able to enter the prison.

**Ans.** It seemed that his route to the coveted island was not to be an easy one. Some other way of entering the limbo must be devised.

(c) Soapy was not caught by the cop for throwing stones at the glass.

**Ans.** (1) The policeman refused to accept Soapy even as a clue.

(2) The policeman saw a man half-way down the block running to catch a car. With drawn club he joined in the pursuit.

(d) Soapy actually did not want the umbrella.

**Ans.** He hurled the umbrella angrily into the excavation.

(e) Listening to the anthem, Soapy remembered his good old days.

**Ans.** He had known it well in the days when his life contained such things as mothers and roses and ambitions and friends and immaculate thoughts and collars.

**(iv) Complete the following:**

**(The answer is given directly and underlined.)**

**'He would make a man of himself again' - The word man' in the sentence means a responsible and worthy human being.**

**(v) Soapy's earlier life was much different from his present life. Complete the table to show this contrast. One is done for you.**

**Ans.**

Earlier Life	Present Life
(a) contained friends and roses	(a) unworthy desires
(b) <u>eager ambitions</u>	(b) <u>dead hopes, degraded days</u>
(c) <u>clean thoughts and clothes</u>	(c) <u>wrecked faculties and base motives.</u>

**(vi) After listening to the sweet and solemn organ notes, Soapy decides to : .....**

**Ans.** (1) pull himself out of the mire, conquer the evil that had enslaved him and make a man of himself again

(2) resurrect his old eager ambitions and pursue them without faltering

(3) go into the roaring downtown district and find work.

**(vii) Write an incident in which you did something wrong and repented for it later. Give reasons.**

**Ans.** A lady who stayed in my building used to shout at me for playing noisily under her window. One day, she shouted at me as usual from her window and went inside. I suddenly got angry and threw a stone at her window. The stone hit the glass which broke. I heard a loud shout of pain and ran away. I later came to know that she had been badly injured by the shattered glass. I repented for what I had done. Though I did not tell her that I was the culprit, I was very good to her after that.

**(A3) (i) O'Henry has used different words to indicate prison where Soapy wants to reach. Make a list of those words from the extract.**

**Ans.** (1) The island.

(2) Arcadia.

(3) Winter island.

(4) Coveted island.

(5) Limbo.

**(ii) Find out the words used for the 'degraded state of Soapy'.**

**Ans.** (1) the pit into which he had tumbled

(2) the degraded days

(3) unworthy desires

- (4) dead hopes
- (5) wrecked faculties
- (6) base motives
- (7) mire
- (8) evil that had enslaved him.

**(iii) The specific meaning of word 'anthem' in the content of the story is :**

**Ans.** Anthem - a rousing or uplifting song.

**(A4) (i) Convert the following sentences into the negative without changing their meanings:**

(a) The policeman refused to accept Soapy even as a clue.

**Ans.** The policeman did not accept Soapy even as a clue.

(b) Soapy drifted along, twice unsuccessful.

**Ans.** Soapy drifted along, twice not successful.

(c) The island seemed very far away.

**Ans.** The island seemed not at all near.

(d) Soapy stopped his unavailing racket.

**Ans.** Soapy stopped his racket which was not successful.

(e) The island seemed an unattainable Arcadia.

**Ans.** The island seemed an Arcadia which was not attainable.

**(ii) Convert the following sentences into the affirmative without changing their meanings.**

(a) Men who smash windows do not remain to chat with the police.

**Ans.** Men who smash windows refrain from remaining to chat with the police.

(b) Why don't you call a cop?

**Ans.** Please call a cop.

(c) On the opposite side of the street was a restaurant of no great pretensions.

**Ans.** On the opposite side of the street was a very ordinary restaurant.

(d) Noisy, but no harm.

**Ans.** Noisy; but harmless.

(e) They seemed to regard him as a King who could do no wrong.

**Ans.** They seemed to regard him as a King who was always right.

**(A5) (i) Forgiveness is often better than punishment'. Write two paragraphs - one for and another against this notion.**

**Ans. (1) To err is human, to forgive is divine.**

We all make mistakes. Nobody is perfect. That is why we are human. However, mistakes should be forgiven if there is sufficient repentance, Forgiveness will make the guilty person feel ashamed of his conduct and he will not repeat it. It is easy to punish but very difficult to forgive someone. It needs a big heart and a lot of kindness. If we punish the guilty person we will only make him more defiant. If punishing someone could have solved the problem, criminals who have been jailed would never have repeated the crime. But this is not found to be so. Just as God forgives us our mistakes, we should forgive others their mistakes too.

**(2) Punishment is the only answer.**

Forgiveness may work in certain cases, but there are hardened criminals who will not respond to forgiveness. They will only be stopped by punishment. If a person has murdered another in cold blood, will he improve by forgiveness? Never. He has to be punished severely so that he does not repeat it and society feels safe. People only fear punishment. It can be easily seen at traffic signals if there is no policeman to punish you, most people will break the signal. Then there will be chaos. If there is no punishment and no prisons, people will do whatever they want rob, kill, etc. - and go off freely. No, in a society where it is not possible to expect everyone to have high values, punishment for misdeeds is the only solution.

**(ii) You are the class representative and you have been asked by the Principal to conduct an interview of a cop. Frame 8-10 questions with the help of the following points, give introduction and conclusion.**

☺ reasons for joining the department

☺ special trainings

☺ developing the skill to identify and locate criminals

- ☺ dealing with criminals
- ☺ achievements and awards

**Ans.** Good morning, Mr. Pawar. Congratulations on your excellent work in finding the bank robbers. May I ask you a few questions about your life? Thank you.

- (1) When did you join the police department?
- (2) Which examinations did you have to clear for the post?
- (3) What were your reasons for joining the department?
- (4) Did you have to go through any special training sessions?
- (5) What type of criminals do you come across most in this area-thieves, killers, molesters, etc?
- (6) How do you identify or locate criminals?
- (7) Once you catch the culprit-say a thief how do you deal with him?
- (8) Can you tell me something about your achievements and awards?
- (9) How can you motivate others to join the force?
- (10) Any message to college students? Thank you, Sir, for sparing the time for this interview. It will be published in our school magazine. Good day.

**(A6) (i) Make a list of jobs which would give you an opportunity to help the society or serve the country. Also mention the different ways in which they can be beneficial to the people and also the country.**

**Ans.**

1) Joining the defence forces:

Protect the country's border from external threat and ensure the safety of its citizens.

2) Social Worker:

Help distressed and underprivileged people to cope with difficult situations and issues in their lives Connect the people who seek help with the right organisations.

3) Firefighter:

First responders in not just fire disasters but also for other calamities occurring around us.

4) Police Officer:

Enforce the law and patrol the neighbourhood to ensure the safety of the community.

**(ii) Go to your school/college library and read some other stories by O'Henry like, 'The Gift of the Magi', 'The Last Leaf' and 'After Twenty years'. Write the stories in short in your notebook.**

**Ans.** Do it yourself.