

**Value: “ Kindness, understanding , and giving someone a chance can be more powerful than punishment.”**

**1. Where and how did Mrs Luella Jones meet the young boy?**

Ans: Mrs Luella Jones met the boy on the streets about 11 o'clock at night when she was returning home from work.

**2. What was the woman's first reaction to the boy? How did it change?**

Ans: . Mrs Luella Jones was at first angry with the boy. She picked the boy up by his shirt from the ground and shook him until his teeth rattled. It changed when Mrs Jones learnt that the boy had no one in his home to tell him to wash his face. In other words, when she understood that the boy had no guardian and nobody to take care of him at home, her attitude towards the boy changed.

**3. What was the initial reaction of the boy to the woman? Did it change? How?**

**Ans:** The boy's initial reaction to the woman was that of mistrust and fear. Yes, it changed. As the woman treated the boy with care and affection, the boy's feelings towards the woman changed. She did not hand him over to the police or mistreat him in any way. Instead, she took care of him and fed him. Thus, the boy understood the woman's good intentions.

**4. What had made Roger try to snatch the lady's bag? Do you think that Roger's reasons justified his actions?**

Ans: Roger had tried to snatch the lady's bag because he wanted to buy a pair of blue suede shoes. I don't think Roger's reason justified his action. It is not okay to steal from people to fulfil your desires.

**5. What did the lady do for a living?**

Ans: For her living, the lady worked in a hotel beauty-shop that stayed open late.

**6. What did the lady tell Roger about herself?**

Ans: The lady told the boy that she was also young once and she also wanted things that she could not get. She confessed that she has also done wrong things but she would not share those secrets with anyone. She also shared that she worked in a hotel beauty-shop and met different kinds of women everyday.

**7. What advice did the lady give Roger?**

Ans: The lady advised Roger to behave well and not to steal things from others to fulfil his own desires. She told him that things bought with stolen money would only harm him and not give him any pleasure.

**Answer in brief :**

**1. What do you think were the socio-economic circumstances of the boy? Pick six phrases or sentences from the text to support your answer.**

Ans: 1. The boy belonged to the underprivileged section of society. He neither had a family nor money to support himself properly.

Six phrases from the text are:

- i) And your face is dirty.
- ii) "Ain't you got nobody home to tell you to wash your face?" "No'm,"
- iii) He looked as if he were fourteen or \_ fteen, frail and willow wild, in tennis shoes and blue jeans.
- iv) There's nobody home at my house.
- v) "I wanted a pair of blue suede shoes."
- vi) "You might run that comb through your hair so you will look presentable."

**2. The lady's feelings for the young boy underwent a complete change. Why do you think she was so compassionate and empathetic in the end?**

**Ans:** I think that the lady's feelings towards the boy underwent a complete change when she understood that the boy did not have any guardian or family member to take proper care of him. He was quite frail and thin and did not have any proper guidance in his life. She had been in his place once, and understood how hard that kind of life could be like.

**3. Some of the themes that "Thank You, Ma'am" explores are 'second chances', 'trust', 'poverty' and 'dignity'. Explain.**

Ans: **Second chances:** The prose "Thank you, Ma'am" explores the theme of second chances as the character Mrs Luella Jones gives the boy a second chance and

advises him to become a better person instead of handing him over to the police.

**Trust:** In the beginning of the prose, both the characters, Mrs Jones and Roger, had little trust in each other. Roger expected that he would be handed over to the police. However, as the story went on, we could see both the characters developed a relationship of trust which remained intact till the end of the text.

**Poverty:** Both the characters were dealing with poverty in their own way. Mrs Luella Jones worked hard in the hotel beauty-shop to earn her living whereas Roger tried to steal her purse to buy a new pair of shoes for himself.

**Dignity:** Though Roger was a thief, Mrs Luella Jones treated him with dignity and offered him food. It shows how every individual, no matter their social or economic position, should be treated with dignity.

**4. Do you think this brief meeting would have had an impact on Roger? What do you your answer.**

Ans: I think this brief meeting would have an impact on Roger. He would think twice before committing this kind of criminal activity. I think the most effective way to reform offenders like Roger is to treat them with kindness, empathy and compassion. It is important to make them understand the importance of living a just and honest life. I think being violent or too harsh on the offenders would push them away from the right path. Whereas compassion and empathy can help them grasp the importance of being a good human.

**5. Do you think that this story teaches us something important about compassion and giving second chances write and share your thoughts.**

ns: Yes, I think that this story teaches us that compassion and giving second chances are important. It can change the life of an individual. It also tells us that kindness and forgiveness are two essential human qualities. These positive practices can make the world a better place since the Rogers of the world would get a chance to change their path and become better human beings.

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