

- The Thief's Story Summary

## The Thief's Story Summary

"The Thief's Story" by Ruskin Bond is a narrative told from the perspective of Hari Singh, a skilled thief. The story begins with Hari Singh meeting a young man named Anil at a wrestling match. Hari Singh plans to befriend Anil with the intention of robbing him. However, Anil offers him work and food, and Hari Singh accepts, pretending to be a good cook despite his poor cooking skills.

Over time, Anil teaches Hari Singh to cook properly, as well as to read and write. Anil is a modest man who sometimes borrows money but repays it through his earnings from writing articles for magazines. Hari Singh notices Anil's trust and kindness, which gradually influence him.

One day, Anil sells a book and keeps the money under his mattress. Hari Singh, tempted by the money, steals it and runs away to the railway station. However, he feels guilty and realizes that Anil valued trust more than money. He decides to return the money and go back to Anil, who understands the situation but chooses not to confront him. Instead, Anil continues to teach Hari Singh, showing compassion and trust.

### Key Elements

- **Characters:** Hari Singh (the thief and narrator), Anil (the young man and writer)
- **Themes:** Trust and betrayal, transformation through kindness, the power of compassion, honesty versus temptation
- **Setting:** The story is set in a small town where Anil lives and works.

## Important Quotes

- "He had no desire to rob a careless person who trusted him blindly." – This shows the impact of Anil's trust on Hari Singh.
- "He thought and realised that he had let go a chance of being a respectable man." – Hari Singh's moment of self-realization.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Who is the narrator of the story?
- What job does Hari Singh do when he meets Anil?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how Anil's kindness influenced Hari Singh.
- Why did Hari Singh decide to return the stolen money?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the theme of trust and its significance in the story.
- Analyze the character of Hari Singh and his transformation throughout the story.

## Answer Key

- **Level 1**
  - The narrator is Hari Singh, the thief.
  - Hari Singh works as a cook and helps Anil with daily chores.
- **Level 2**

- Anil's kindness and trust made Hari Singh reconsider his life choices and inspired him to learn to read and write.
- Hari Singh felt guilty for betraying Anil's trust and realized the value of honesty, prompting him to return the money.
- **Level 3**
  - Trust is central to the story; Anil's blind trust in Hari Singh leads to a change in the thief's character, showing that trust can inspire goodness.
  - Hari Singh starts as a thief but transforms into an honest person due to Anil's compassion and trust, highlighting the power of kindness.

## Quick Reference

- **Hari Singh:** Narrator and thief who changes due to kindness.
- **Anil:** Young man who trusts and teaches Hari Singh.
- **Themes:** Trust, transformation, honesty, compassion.

## Glossary

- **Acquaintance:** Fellowship or intimacy with someone.
- **Temptation:** An attraction or appeal that can lead to wrongdoing.
- **Drenched:** Completely wet.