

Dear students, Good Morning.

This is your English teacher & host Baljeet Singh.

Yesterday we talked about format of formal letters and did an exercise of two letters. Today we shall start the text book Chinr-II .

The first topic is a story titled 'After Twenty Years ' written by O'Henry

Summary of the Story

The story 'After Twenty Years' by

O'Henry is about two friends who promise to meet each other after twenty years, which they think is good enough time to decide their future and destiny. Two friends Jimmy Wells, a twenty year old man and Bob, an eighteen year old chap are childhood friends. Bob is an overambitious character whereas Jimmy Wells is a very submissive & loyal to his nation and duty. Both resolve to meet each other after twenty years at Big Joe Bfady' Restaurant at the time and date when they part company with each other and narrate their journey of life in twenty years.

Bob goes to Europe where he becomes an underworld character and target of police. Jimmy, on the other hand becomes a police officer.

Both keep their promise. Bob travels a thousand miles at the risk his life. He waits for his friend Jimmy Wells who comes to meet the former but Bob is unable to recognize Jimmy as it is cold and dark there. But when Bob tries to light his cigar Jimmy recognizes him as the most wanted underworld character, he without disclosing his identity moves and sends a plainclothes man to arrest. In this way the story comes to a dramatic end

EXTRA QUESTIONS AND THEIR ANSWERS

Q 1 Discuss the theme of the story 'AFTER TWENTY YEARS'

The story 'After Twenty Years' by 'O Henry' revolves around two themes. These themes grow side by side as the story develops. One theme is about the performance of one's duty honestly and the second is how an individual's character, personality and aspirations grow over a period of twenty years.

To perform one's duty honestly should be the utmost priority of everyone. The two friends about whom the story is, were supposed to meet at a place decided twenty years ago. This was the place from where they had parted company with each other twenty years before.

Jimmy Wells, one of the two friends and now a policeman, came to meet his friend Silky Bob, who was already there at the decided place and fixed time. But once Jimmy Wells saw his friend's face in the light of the match stick, he realized that his friend was the same man who was wanted by Chicago Police. He did not allow his feelings to overcome his sense of duty and got him arrested.

The second theme reflects the growth of an individual's personality, character and aspirations. Two friends moved to their own worlds of aspirations. When Bob and Jimmy Wells were in New York, they were good friends and both were ordinary people. But once Bob went to Wild West, his aspirations & ambitions grew and to satisfy his aspirations and ambitions he started making money by every means. He got involved in underworld activities. He had become the most wanted criminal. Chicago Police was after him. The time had turned him into a criminal. On the other hand Jimmy Wells continued to stay in New York. He joined the police force. But with the passage of time he grew into a 'guardian of law' and performed his duty honestly. Thus the time led the two childhood friends to two extreme directions.

Q2 Sensational and dramatic arrest of Silky Bob

By Staff Reporter

Jammu_____ Silky Bob, the most criminal and notorious underworld character in Chicago was arrested in New York, late last night. His arrest was more dramatic than a perfectly executed police operation. His sensational arrest was made near a Hardware Store in New York. He was waiting there to meet his boyhood friend, Jimmy Wells.

Keeping the promise made twenty years ago, Bob was waiting to meet his friend. It was dark and the roads were deserted. Just then a policeman on petrol duty, walked up to him. Realizing that he might have been suspected, Bob told the policeman that he was waiting for his friend with whom he had made a promise twenty years before. It was then that Bob lit a match stick to light the cigar he was holding in his hand. This proved fatal for him as the light of the match stick exposed him to the man in uniform. The latter recognized Bob being the person wanted by the police in Chicago. Bob, who could not see the policeman as it was dark, could not guess the real identity of the policeman.

In fact, the man in uniform was none other than Jimmy Wells who keeping his promise had also come there to meet his friend. Jimmy's loyalty towards his profession and country encouraged him to hide his identity.

Jimmy wells could not arrest Bob himself but being a devoted and duty conscious citizen, he went away and sent a plain clothes policeman to arrest him. The sensational arrest was made by the policeman in plain clothes who approached Silky Bob in the disguise of Jimmy Wells

Q How will you characterize the story 'After Twenty Years' – Comic or Tragic?

The story 'After Twenty Years' is a tragic in nature and content. There is no element of fun or humour in the story, even then, the story keeps the interest of the readers alive because of its exciting, unexpected and surprise ending. It does not make us laugh at all. It is a tragic story with an unexpected ending and an anti climax. The ending touches the readers at their hearts.

Bob travels a thousand miles to meet his childhood friend Jimmy Wells. He keeps the promise given to his friend twenty years ago. He comes to the decided place at decided time. The Story takes a U-turn and becomes tragic. In order to make it big in the underworld and being over ambitious, Bob turns into a criminal. He is being chased by the police in Chicago. His friend Jimmy Wells grows into a 'guardian of peace'. He is an honest and responsible policeman, dedicated to his duty. When two friends, keeping their promise, meet each other after twenty years, Jimmy Wells comes to know that his childhood friend Bob is the same person who, for his involvement in the underworld activities, is wanted by the Chicago Police. He, therefore, as a responsible citizen and duty conscious fellow gets him arrested. He himself could not arrest him, so he sent a plainclothes man to arrest him. A long awaited happy meeting turns into a tragic moment and ends with the arrest of Bob. This makes the story a tragic one.

Q Do you app.rove of Jimmy Wells' action?

Ans: - Yes, I approve of Jimmy Wells' action of getting his friend Silky Bob arrested. By doing so Jimmy Wells on one hand shows his loyalty, sincerity and devotion towards his duty and on the other hand ensures the safety of his friend's life. Had he not got Bob arrested the latter would have been killed by the police that was on his trail. Even his rivals and enemies in the underworld would have killed him. This would have reduced his chances of reforming him. By arresting him Jimmy not only ensures the safety of his friend's life but also gives him a chance to reform himself and become a good citizen. Jimmy would never have been able to do so if he had allowed Bob to run away & would have not arrested him.

Read these topics thoroughly. Tomorrow we shall do textual questions and other exercises. Take care Stay home, stay safe